

## MDA Assessment Report

Fall 2020

### Program Numbers

1. Demand for the MDA continues to be high. This year (2020), there are 26 in the cohort. While cohort size fluctuates year to year, the average cohort size since the professional practice (plan C) option became available is 28.3. This is approximately twice the size of the cohort target when the professional practice option was established. The total number of MDA students from fall 2012 through fall 2020 is 202. TA support continues to be critical to support these student numbers and is funded from tuition generated by the increased student numbers. See spreadsheet below for yearly numbers.

MDA Cohort start	# students	Years to Completion							% graduating at 1 year	% graduating within 2 years
		1	1.33	1.67	2	2.33	2.67	3+		
Fall 2012	9	6	1	1	0	0	1	0	67%	89%
Fall 2013	12	8	1	1	1	1	0	0	67%	92%
Fal 2014	11	5	3	1	2	0	0	0	45%	100%
Fall 2015	31	17	7	4	1	1	1	0	55%	94%
Fall 2016	25	13	5	6	0	0	0	1	52%	96%
Fall 2017	19	6	3	3	4	1	1		32%	84%
Fall 2018	33	18	4	2	3				55%	82%
Fall 2019	36	16							44%	
<b>Total/ave (2012-2019)</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>51%</b>	
Fall 2020	26									
		<b>202 Total # students including current cohort</b>								
		<b>149 Total # grads (2012 cohort thru 2019 cohort graduates)</b>								

2. Completion rates and time frame continue to be very good. For cohorts that began in 2012 through 2019, there is a total of 149 graduates with:
  - a. 51% completing within 1 year
  - b. Approximately 90% completing within 2 years

The remaining students are continuing and almost all anticipate graduation under or around the 2-year mark. There is somewhat of a trend for the average time to completion to be longer than several years ago. This is likely a reflection of the greater percentage of students are coming directly from the USU dietetic internship. These students often need an extra semester or two to complete coursework or the MDA project since they are beginning jobs as dietitians at the same time they are starting the MDA.

### Program Quality

1. I conducted exit interviews with 5 MDA graduates in fall 2020. This was a lower number than typically sign up for exit interviews, perhaps because I had been in closer contact with students at the end of the year because of the pandemic and they felt they had already provided significant feedback. Feedback from the exit interviews was very positive along with some good

ideas for making some minor changes. Graduates continue to emphasize the practicum projects as being a highlight of the program and report not only impacts of the project on their workplace, but also in their development of leadership and management skills. Graduates continue to appreciate the electives they are able to select from. I appreciate the number of online electives now available to MDA students, including those from NDFS, which has increased tremendously since I began directing the program in 2012.

2. IDEA ratings remain high and feedback from these evaluations along with mid-course student surveys continue to be used to improve coursework.
3. Focus groups with MDA students and USU Dietetic interns were conducted in June 2020, in collaboration with Lacie Peterson (USU Dietetic Internship Director) and Mitchell Colver (Director of the USU Center for Student Analytics). The purpose of the focus groups was to gain insights on student experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and their perspectives regarding how faculty responded to adapting coursework and individual student needs during this time. The data is currently being analyzed, but appear to be positive for how MDA students perceived faculty response and preparation by the MDA coursework for navigating the pandemic.
4. Review of coursework for two of the core MDA courses, NDFS 6770 Advanced Management of Dietetics 1 and NDFS 6780 Advanced Management of Dietetics 2 was done by two outside professionals that are leaders in dietetics. This review yielded overall very positive comments about the course topics and assignments and some helpful suggestions for minor improvements.