

NDFS strategic planning

Mission

The mission of the Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Sciences (NDFS) is to enhance the quality of life and well-being of our constituents in Utah, the nation, and internationally through our programs in education, research, and Extension.

Vision (developed spring 2022)

Our NDFS departmental vision includes: 1) robust student-focused programs strengthened by diversity, 2) identifying and implementing science-driven solutions to issues related to food, nutrition, and health, and 3) building reciprocal relationships about these science-driven solutions with the wider community. (Not in final form)

Long-term Goals:

1. Student Focused Programs

The NDFS department is proud of their student first mindset and approach. We strive to be known as a department with experiential learning opportunities, low faculty to student ratios, and faculty who care about the holistic development and long-term success of students.

Short-term Goals:

- Develop NDFS Alumni Newsletter
- Identify buzzwords that are important to students and student recruitment

2. Science Driven Solutions

We strive to examine local and global societal challenges and offer data-driven solutions that are realistic and thoughtful.

Short-term Goals:

- Identify societal changes that directly impact Utah and are passion projects for student and faculty

3. Reciprocal Relationships with the Wider Community

NDFS Department strives to create relationships throughout Utah that are mutually beneficial, providing solutions and support to societal challenges while recruiting and developing students from communities throughout Utah

Short-term Goals:

- Increase marketing and communication
- Consider website changes that meet the needs of student searches and bolster SEOs.
- Partner with President Cockett in her goal of promoting Health and Wellness

SWOT analysis

	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
2020	Supportive environment; supportive, hard work, and smart people	Fragmentation and working in silos; communication	Online teaching; Marketing of programs to new audiences; Re-design of dietetics	Changes to funding; low number in programs; budget cuts
2022	Dedication and diversity of faculty	Lack of TA/GA funding; lack of marketing/recruitment efforts; highly structured coursework makes it difficult for students to transfer into our programs; limitations in course offerings	Increased collaboration; New faculty members; Industry partnerships; Extension programming;	Low enrollment; expense of education; Inflation; Students are coming less prepared; Anti-science attitudes; Faculty are under performing
2023	Culture that is supportive and collegial; smart, experienced, diverse, and new people	Division – bias, lack of collaboration and respect, lack of common strategic goals; inadequate support and resources	Collaboration – industry, schools, each other; Change – new leadership, policies, dietetics; Research – expertise aligns with opportunities	Change – declining enrollment, ChaptGPT, are we keeping up? Economy/inflation; Lack of diversity; Academic rigidity