Department of Behavioral Health and Nutrition

Program Type: 

Degree Type: 

Program Name:\* 

Nutrition and Dietetics/Dietetics Internship (MS/DI)

Provide a brief summary of the proposed program changes and describe the rationale for the change(s):

The Department of Behavioral Health and Nutrition (BHAN) is seeking to implement a combined Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics with Dietetic Internship (MS/DI) program at the University of Delaware (UD). The proposed MS/DI program will leverage resources already in place within BHAN, namely the Master of Science in Human Nutrition (MSHN) program and the Dietetic Internship (DI) program. While the department plans to keep these two successful and long-standing programs as options, the MS/DI program will offer students a third option, where they complete a Master’s degree and Dietetic Internship in one seamless program.

The MS/DI program will consist of 39 credits, and is designed to be completed on a full-time basis.

List new courses required for the new curriculum. How do they support the overall program objectives of the major/ minor/ concentrations)?

NTDT812: Current Topics in Nutritional Sciences

Graduate-level training in methods to systematically review, interpret, and summarize literature on a given topic is essential for all aspects of nutrition practice, including academic, research, clinical, industry, and government positions. Currently, there are no courses in the Department of Behavioral Health and Nutrition that focus on current controversies in nutritional science, and the skills to methodically evaluate the evidence base and render a scientific conclusion. This course is designed to be taken by PhD students and MS students in the department, and will be a required course for student in the PhD in Nutrition Science program and students in the newly proposed Master of Science/Dietetic Internship (MS/DI) program.  We do not expect that the addition of this course will impact the enrollment in other courses across the University. Instead, this course will fill a curricular void in the Department of Behavioral Health and Nutrition graduate programs.

The course will teach students how to critically evaluate and summarize a body of work on a current nutritional topic. To teach students the process used to conduct a systematic literature review, all students will start with a common topic and work through the process together (common topic will be nutritional genomics).  Thereafter, each student will: (1) be responsible for a specific current topic (conduct a systematic literature review that culminates with an oral presentation/slide deck summary), and (2) actively participate/summarize information learned from their classmate’s topics.

NTDT608: Nutrition Program Planning and Evaluation

A focus of the graduate programs in Nutrition requires students be familiar with nutrition program development and evaluation.  Currently, no course exists that meets the needs of students who have a background in science, clinical and community nutrition, but no formal undergraduate training in program planning and evaluation. This course is specifically tailored to meet the needs of students in the graduate programs in nutrition, and specifically satisfies the new standards implemented by ACEND (Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics), the accrediting body for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs). We do not expect that the addition of this course will impact the enrollment in other courses across the University. Instead, this course will fill a curricular void in the Department of Behavioral Health and Nutrition graduate programs.  
Provides an overview of health behavior theories, models and frameworks that are used as the foundation for nutrition program development and evaluation. A PRECEDE-PROCEED approach in conjunction with health behavior theory will be used as a framework for nutrition program planning and evaluation.

NTDT810: Nutrition Informatics

To succeed in today’s highly technical world, those entering the field of dietetics and nutrition require skills in nutrition informatics (defined as “the effective retrieval, organization, storage, and optimum use of information, data, and knowledge for food- and nutrition- related problem solving and decision-making”). According to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, “core curricula of dietetics education should include computer literacy as well as information literacy skills”. The proposed Nutrition Informatics course will be taken by students in the MS/DI (MS in Dietetics and Nutrition/Dietetic Internship program), and can be taken by students in the MS in Human Nutrition and PhD in Nutritional Sciences program. We do not expect that the addition of this course will impact the enrollment in other courses across the University. There are no courses currently offered in nutrition informatics and this course will fill a curricular void in the Department of Behavioral Health and Nutrition.

The course provides students with proficiency in nutrition informatics, an emerging area in the field of nutrition and dietetics. The principles covered in this course are relevant to those in clinical nutrition, private practice, food service management or manufacturing, nutrition education and public health/community nutrition.

New Core

Description

Students must take the following:

Courses

NTDT 550 Dietetics Practicum I (1 to 4cr.)

NTDT 551 Dietetics Practicum II (1 to 4cr.)

NTDT 608 Nutrition Program Planning and Evaluation (3cr)

NTDT 611 Advanced Macronutrient Metabolism (3cr.)

NTDT 650 Current Perspectives in Dietetics I (2cr.)

NTDT 651 Current Perspectives in Dietetics II (2cr.)

NTDT 665 Seminar (1 to 3cr.)

NTDT 669 Field Project or Theoretical Paper (1 to 6cr.)

NTDT 810 Nutrition Informatics (3cr)

NTDT 812 Current Topics in Nutritional Sciences (3cr)

NTDT 822 Research Methods in Nutrition Assessment (3cr)

Students must choose 1 NTDT (3cr) elective and 1 (3cr) free elective

Courses

ELEC N/A Free Elective

Students must choose 1 (3cr) statistics course.

Courses

Statistics N/A Statistics Course

ELEC - N/A - Free Elective

NTDT - N/A - Elective

NTDT - 550 - Dietetics Practicum I (1 to 4cr.)

NTDT - 551 - Dietetics Practicum II (1 to 4cr.)

NTDT - 608 - Nutrition Program Planning and Evaluation (3cr)

NTDT - 611 - Advanced Macronutrient Metabolism (3cr.)

NTDT - 650 - Current Perspectives in Dietetics I (2cr.)

NTDT - 651 - Current Perspectives in Dietetics II (2cr.)

NTDT - 665 - Seminar (1 to 3cr.)

NTDT - 669 - Field Project or Theoretical Paper (1 to 6cr.)

NTDT - 810 - Nutrition Informatics (3cr)

NTDT - 812 - Current Topics in Nutritional Sciences (3cr)

NTDT - 822 - Research Methods in Nutrition Assessment (3cr)

Statistics - N/A - Statistics Course

Expected Outcomes

The MS/DI program will prepare graduates to successfully pass the Registration Examination for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDN). RDNs are recognized by hospitals, medical centers, health care providers and companies, as nutrition experts. RDNs are employed in many settings including academia, non-governmental organizations (business and non-profit), allied health fields, public service at all levels of national government, and international organizations such as the World Health Organization. The curriculum will provide students with the graduate-level training needed to interpret and implement nutrition science, and advance the field of nutrition through research, clinical, management or community areas of practice.

​