

**MARSHALL UNIVERSITY
DIDACTIC PROGRAM IN DIETETICS
YEARLY ASSESSMENT REPORT
AY 2006-2007**

I. Assessment Activities:

A. Program Goals:

During the 2006-2007 academic year, the Didactic Program in Dietetics revised and updated program goals, as well as program and student learning outcome measures. While the previous three program goals remain, two additional goals were created to better reflect the DPD mission. Faculty members meet frequently throughout the revision process and the Dietetics Advisory Committee, composed of alumni, administrators, and preceptors, was consulted at the annual Advisory Committee Meeting in April.

Current program goals with outcome measures are as follows:

Goal 1: To encourage, motivate, and support students to complete the DPD (new)

- 100% of pre-dietetics and dietetics majors will receive faculty advising.
- 90% of Dietetics majors will complete the degree upon admission to the DPD.

Goal 2: Provide graduates with the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to successfully compete for dietetic internship positions.

- 100% of graduates will complete the DPD with a GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- 85% of graduates applying for dietetic internship positions will gain acceptance to a program.

Goal 3: Provide graduates with the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to successfully complete a dietetic internship.

- 90% of DPD graduates participating in dietetic internships will respond either *strongly agree* or *agree* that the program prepared them for the internship.
- 90% of Dietetic Internship Directors will rate Marshall DPD graduates *satisfactory* or higher with regard to overall academic preparation for supervised practice.
- 90% of Dietetic Internship Directors will rate DPD graduates as *about the same* or *better prepared* when compared to students from other programs.

Goal 4: Adequately prepare graduates to pass the Registration Examination.

- The DPD will achieve a minimum pass rate for program graduates of 80% on the Registration Examination over a five year period.
- 90% of students in DTS 476 (Senior Seminar) will score 80% or higher on the practice RD examination.

Goal 5: Adequately prepare graduates to pursue individual interests in nutrition and dietetics. (new)

- 90% of DPD graduates will respond either *strongly agree* or *agree* that the program prepared them for graduate education.
- 90% of DPD graduates will respond either *strongly agree* or *agree* that the program prepared them for entry into work.
- 90% of DPD graduates will respond either *strongly agree* or *agree* that they are satisfied with the program.

B: Learning Outcomes/Data Collection:

The Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE), the program's accrediting body, has rigorous assessment guidelines that must be followed. Because of this, it was determined that a chart representing program goals and outcomes, in addition to an amended version of the University's Assessment of Student Outcomes Chart would better fit program needs. Both the Programmatic Assessment Plan and the Student Learning Outcomes Plan are included for your review and summaries of assessment and evaluation strategies are discussed in the following paragraphs.

The attached Programmatic Assessment Plan outlines outcome measures, expected outcomes, data collection responsibilities, time frames, and progress toward goals (expected outcomes). The program has attempted to measure progress toward achieving program goals through a variety of methods.

Both qualitative and quantitative assessments were utilized to examine program outcomes. In the spring, the Dietetics Advisory Committee gathered to discuss program goals, achievements, and areas for improvement. Additionally, informal focus group discussions took place with December 2006 and May 2007 graduates to discuss similar issues during Assessment Day activities. Data gathered from these meetings were used to make improvements to the program.

A confidential survey was also given to program graduates to address their satisfaction with the program and the degree to which their goals were achieved. Internship Director Surveys were used to assess MU DPD graduate competence in the field and classroom, as well.

Finally, to assess program goals and outcomes, student GPA and scores on the Registration Examination were monitored in accordance with recommendations of the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education.

With regard to student learning outcomes, the Department developed three primary outcomes, which are as follows

- Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
- Students will demonstrate their understanding of the role of nutrients and food in the achievement and maintenance of human health and well-being.
- Students will demonstrate their ability to use efficiently and effectively the techniques and tools for managing food service systems.

A matrix containing information including outcome measures, assessment methods, and timelines is attached. Because these learning outcomes have been newly created, at this time, data is not available for assessment of the desired outcomes.

C. Results

Results of program outcome measures are identified in the “progress toward goal” column of the Programmatic Assessment Plan. During the past year, the program has identified several areas for improvement that are described below.

First, the most recent five-year summary data on the Registration Examination passage rates indicated that Marshall’s DPD percentage was 74.0%, which falls below the expected outcome. Data showed that 25 of 34 students taking the exam passed on the first attempt. It should be noted that most of those failing on the first attempt passed upon retaking the exam. However the Commission only acknowledges the pass rate of first time test takers, even if they successfully complete the examination at a later date.

One issue affecting pass rates is the relatively low number of students taking the exam annually. One person failing can drop the pass rate significantly. Another challenge is that DPD students generally do not take the exam until one to one-and-a half years after they have graduated. During this time, most graduates complete a supervised practice requirement since eligibility to sit for the registration exam requires completion of both a didactic program and supervised experience.

With the guidance of the Advisory Committee, course requirements were updated and several new courses were added as others were deleted. As a

result, the program has and will be able to address emerging issues in the field of dietetics.

A second area of improvement with regard to measuring outcomes is the graduate survey. As mentioned before, qualitative data is obtained from informal discussions with program graduates and more information is requested in the form of a quantitative survey. Response rates to the survey have historically been poor and faculty have discussed when the most appropriate time would be to distribute the survey. Graduates need time in the supervised experience to be able to assess their knowledge gained in the DPD; however if too much time passes the likelihood of having the incorrect contact information increases. Because of this, surveys will be sent via mail and e-mail 18 months following their graduation to increase the chance of reaching the graduate.

Finally, the Senior Practicum course has undergone a major revision. In the past, students had to spend a set number of hours with a dietitian or supervisor in the areas of clinical and community nutrition and foodservice management. Feedback from students revealed the “hands on” experiences were not being actualized as they were usually only able to shadow individuals. Furthermore, evaluations were not being returned by preceptors. Because one of the objectives of the class is to assess the students’ abilities to synthesize knowledge gained throughout the DPD experience, the direction of the course has changed.

Instead of shadowing dietitians, students are divided into small groups to design, implement, and evaluate a one hour nutrition education program to be presented to the public. In order to do this, they must pull together their knowledge of basic nutrition, community nutrition, food science, marketing, education, and foodservice management. Throughout the process, students reflect on past courses and describe their reflections through journaling and class discussion. All DPD professors are asked to participate in the evaluation of the presentation, as well as the community members in attendance.

The department hopes to better assess student learning as data pertaining to the newly created student learning outcomes are collected.

II. Plans for the current year:

The program will continue will all the outcome measures identified in the programmatic assessment plan and we will continue to revise the student learning outcomes in order to collect the most appropriate information to assess the quality of learning experiences provided at Marshall. In addition, we will continue to evaluate progress on the plan to improve scores on the Registration Examination.

We will also continue to share the outcomes of our assessment with students, faculty, preceptors, and Advisory Committee members through the Student Dietetic Association, departmental meetings, site visit reports, and the annual meeting of the Advisory Committee. Moreover, we will seek the feedback of constituents regularly in an effort to continually improve the program.

III. Assistance Needed:

Feedback from the University Assessment Committee on the appropriateness and usefulness of the assessment plan will be beneficial in future strategic planning for the program. This is an area of some confusion for faculty and any input to improve the plan would be much appreciated. Because this is the first time the Department has had an assessment plan for student learning outcomes, the appropriateness of the plan is unknown. As it stands, there is an abundance of data to collect, and it may be too much. It should be noted, however, that guidelines established from CADE were used to create the student learning outcomes.

It may be beneficial to hold a workshop in which a member of the Office of Assessment or other designated person assist the Department in modifying existing outcome measures to more appropriately collect the desired data.

IV. What one most important thing has the department/program learned through this process?

Having just recently written a self-study for accreditation and experienced a site visit, the importance of assessing student learning outcomes has been brought to light. The Department of Dietetics is committed to providing quality education for students and identifying and measuring learning outcomes is viewed as an important component of this process.

**Marshall University Didactic Program in Dietetics
 Programmatic Assessment Plan Student Learning Outcomes**

Communication

Student Learning Outcomes for Communication						
Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.						
DPD Mission						
To provide the depth and breadth of food and nutrition knowledge and skills that prepare students to enter a supervised practice program in dietetics.						
Marshall's Mission Reference						
Provide services and resources to promote student learning, retention, and academic success.						
Outcome Measures	Data Needed	Data Available	Group to be Assessed	Assessment Methods	Who will conduct Assessment?	Timeline
Graduates will have knowledge of interview techniques and counseling theory and methods.	Evidence of student progress	No	Students in Assessment & Education Strategies in DTS	Role play, exams	Williams	Spring of even years
		Yes	Students in Medical Nutrition Therapy I	Role play	Gould	Every Fall
Graduates will have demonstrated the ability to work effectively as a team member.	Evidence of student progress	Yes	Introductory Foods	Lab reports, observations, & exams	Gannon	Every Spring
		Yes	Students in FS Safety and Systems Mgt. II	FS Facility Planning & Design Assignment	Williams	Spring of odd years
		Yes	Students in Senior Seminar in DTS	Nutrition Education Project	Gould	Every Fall
Graduates will have knowledge of lay and technical writing.	Evidence of student progress	Yes	Introductory Nutrition	Fad diet assignment & lab reports	Gannon	Every Fall
		Yes	FS Safety and Systems Mgt. II	Lab reports	Williams	Spring of odd years

		Yes	Medical Nutrition Therapy I & II	Case studies, exams	Gould	Every Fall
		Yes	Senior Seminar	Nutrition Education Project	Gould	Every Fall
Graduate perceptions of meeting Foundation Knowledge & Skills in Communication	Perceptions of Seniors	No	Graduating Seniors	Focus groups	Graduate Assistants	Annually on Assessment Day
	Assessment of DPD Graduates	No	Alumni	Surveys	Program Director	18 months after graduation
	Assessment of DI Director	Yes	DI Directors	Surveys	Program Director	18 months after student graduation

Food and Nutrition

Student Learning Outcomes for Food and Nutrition

Students will demonstrate their understanding of the role of nutrients and food in the achievement and maintenance of human health and well-being.

DPD Mission

To provide the depth and breadth of food and nutrition knowledge and skills that prepare students to enter a supervised practice program in dietetics.

Marshall's Mission Reference

Enhance the quality of health care in the region.

Outcome Measures	Data Needed	Data Available	Group to be Assessed	Assessment Methods	Who will conduct Assessment?	Timeline
Graduates will have working knowledge of organic chemistry, biochemistry, physiology, nutrient metabolism, pathophysiology related to nutrition care, and fluid and electrolyte requirements.	Evidence of student progress	Yes	Advanced Nutrition	Minimum score of 80% on standard exam in DTS 403	Gould	Every Spring
		Yes	Advanced Nutrition	Exams & Quizzes	Gould	Every Spring
		Yes	Medical Nutrition Therapy I and II	Case studies, exams, research summaries	Gould	Every Spring

Graduates will have knowledge of food technology and food safety and sanitation.	Evidence of student progress	Yes	Microbiology	Final grade, lab reports	University faculty	Annually
		Yes	Introductory Foods	Lab reports, observations, & exams	Gannon	Every Spring
		Yes	Foodservice Safety and Systems Management I	Observations & exams	Williams	Fall of even years
		Yes	Chemistry of Foods	Lab reports, exams, & research experiment	Gannon	Every Spring
Graduates will measure, calculate, and interpret body composition data and determine nutrient requirements for individuals across the lifespan.	Evidence of student progress	Yes	Introductory Nutrition	Body Fat Lab & MyPyramid Assignment	Gannon	Every Fall
		Yes	Life Span Nutrition	Current Research Assignment	Gannon	Spring of odd years
		Yes	Medical Nutrition Therapy I and II	Case studies, presentations, & exams	Gould	Every Spring
Graduates will have knowledge about outcomes based research	Evidence of student progress	Yes	Intermediate Nutrition	V/M Project & Therapeutic Diet Assignment	Gannon	Every Fall
		Yes	Research in DTS	Article summaries & discussion	Linnenkohl	Every Fall
		Yes	Medical Nutrition Therapy I and II	Research summaries on disease states	Gould	Every Spring

		Yes	Chemistry of Foods	Lab reports, exams & research experiment	Gannon	Every Spring
Graduate preception of meeting FKS in this area	Perceptions of Seniors	Yes	Graduating seniors	Focus groups	Graduate Assistants	Annually during Assessment Day
	Assessment of DPD graduates	Yes	Alumni	Survey	Program Director	18 months after graduation

Management

Student Learning Outcomes for Management Students will demonstrate their ability to use efficiently and effectively the techniques and tools for managing food service systems.						
DPD Mission To provide the depth and breadth of food and nutrition knowledge and skills that prepare students to enter a supervised practice program in dietetics.						
Marshall's Mission Reference Provide services and resources to promote student learning, retention, and academic success.						
<i>Outcome Measures</i>	<i>Data Needed</i>	<i>Data Available</i>	<i>Group to be Assessed</i>	<i>Assessment Methods</i>	<i>Who will conduct Assessment?</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
Graduates will have knowledge of food delivery systems	Evidence of student progress	Yes	Foodservice Safety and Systems Mgt. I & II	Exams & FS Facility Planning & Design Project	Williams	Spring of odd years
Graduate will have knowledge of food production systems	Evidence of student progress	Yes	Foodservice Safety and Systems Mgt. I & II	Exams	Williams	Spring of odd years
Graduates will have knowledge about management theories and accounting principles.	Evidence of student progress	Yes	Students in Foodservice Safety and Systems Management I	Score of at least 80% on standard examination	Williams	Fall of even years
Graduate preception of meeting FKS in this area	Perceptions of Seniors	Yes	Graduating seniors	Focus groups	Graduate Assistants	Annually during Assessment Day
	Assessment of DPD graduates	Yes	Alumni	Survey	Program Director	18 months after graduation
	Assessment of DI Directors	Yes	DI Directors	Survey	Program Director	18 months after student graduation

**Marshall University Didactic Program in Dietetics
Programmatic Assessment Plan**

Goal I

Program Goal I. To encourage, motivate, and support students to complete the DPD.							
DPD Mission To provide the depth and breadth of food and nutrition knowledge and skills that prepare students to enter a supervised practice program in dietetics.							
Marshall's Mission Reference Provide services and resources to promote student learning, retention, and academic success.							
Outcome Measure	Data Needed	Data Available	Group(s) to be Assessed	Assessment Methods	Individual Responsible	Time Frame	Progress Toward Expected Outcomes
100% of Pre-Dietetics and Dietetics majors will receive faculty advising each semester.	No	Yes	Pre-Dietetics and Dietetics majors	Student advising list generated from MU BERT	Undergraduate student advisors	Fall and Spring semesters	100% (n=47) Pre-Dietetics and Dietetics majors received advising prior to registration
85% of Dietetics majors will complete the degree upon admission to the DPD	Yes	No	Dietetics Majors	Comparison of DTS majors list to graduation list	Program Director	Annually	New outcome measure.

Goal II

Program Goal							
II. Provide graduates with the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to successfully compete for dietetic internship positions.							
DPD Mission							
To provide the depth and breadth of food and nutrition knowledge and skills that prepare students to enter a supervised practice program in dietetics.							
Marshall's Mission Reference							
Provide services and resources to promote student learning, retention, and academic success.							
Outcome Measure	Data Needed	Data Available	Group(s) to be Assessed	Assessment Methods	Individual Responsible	Time Frame	Progress Toward Expected Outcomes
100% of graduates will complete the DPD with a GPA of 2.5 or higher.	No	Yes	Program graduates	Student transcript/ MU BERT	Program Director and COHP Records Officer	End of Fall and Spring semesters	100% (n=11) Dec. 2006, May 2007, and July 2007 graduates completed the program with GPA in excess of 2.5
85% of graduates applying for dietetic internship positions will gain acceptance to a program.	No	Yes	Dietetics Majors	Graduation list and D&D Digital's Match/ No Match list	Program Director	Annually	100% (n=11) Dec. 2006, May 2007, and July 2007 graduates who applied for internships were accepted to programs

Goal III

Program Goal							
III. Provide graduates with knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to successfully complete a dietetic internship.							
DPD Mission							
To provide the depth and breadth of food and nutrition knowledge and skills that prepare students to enter a supervised practice program in dietetics.							
Marshall's Mission Reference							
Provide services and resources to promote student learning, retention, and academic success.							
Outcome Measure	Data Needed	Data Available	Group(s) to be Assessed	Assessment Methods	Individual Responsible	Time Frame	Progress Toward Expected Outcomes
90% of DPD graduates participating in dietetic internships will respond either <i>strongly agree</i> or <i>agree</i> that the program prepared them for the internship.	No	Yes	Program graduates attending internships	DPD Graduate Survey	Program Director	18 months following graduation	All graduates (n=5) returning 2006-2007 surveys indicated they <i>strongly agreed</i> the DPD prepared them for entry into an internship.
90% of Dietetic Internship Directors will rate DPD graduates <i>satisfactory</i> or higher with regard to overall academic preparation for supervised practice.	No	Yes	DI Directors outside of Marshall University	DI Director Survey	Program Director	12 months following graduation	One of 2 surveys returned; Director rated DPD graduate as <i>satisfactory</i> in preparation for DI
90% of Dietetic Internship Directors will rate DPD graduates as <i>about the same</i> or <i>better prepared</i> when compared to students from other programs.	No	Yes	DI Directors outside of Marshall University	DI Director Survey	Program Director	12 months following graduation	One of 2 surveys returned; Director rated DPD graduate as <i>better prepared</i> when compared to interns from other programs.

Goal IV

Program Goal IV. Adequately prepare graduates to pass the Registration Examination.							
DPD Mission To provide the depth and breadth of food and nutrition knowledge and skills that prepare students to enter a supervised practice program in dietetics.							
Marshall's Mission Reference Provide services and resources to promote student learning, retention, and academic success.							
<i>Outcome Measure</i>	<i>Data Needed</i>	<i>Data Available</i>	<i>Group(s) to be Assessed</i>	<i>Assessment Methods</i>	<i>Individual Responsible</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Progress Toward Expected Outcomes</i>
The five-year average pass rate on the Registration Examination for graduates of the DPD will be 80% or higher.	No	Yes	Program Graduates completing a Dietetic Internship	CDR Report	Program Director	Annually	Pass rate for years 2002-2006 at 74%; plan to improve has been agreed upon by faculty and implemented in didactic courses.
90% of students in DTS 476 (Senior Seminar) will score 80% or higher on the practice RD examinations.	Yes	No	DTS 476 students	RD practice examination	Instructor of DTS 476	Annually	New outcome measure; results will not be available until December 2007

Goal V

Program Goal							
V. Adequately prepare graduates to pursue individual interests in nutrition and dietetics.							
DPD Mission							
To provide the depth and breadth of food and nutrition knowledge and skills that prepare students to enter a supervised practice program in dietetics.							
Marshall's Mission Reference							
Enhance the quality of health care in the region; Allow students to undertake intensive graduate-level education in their chosen fields upon admission to graduate school, giving them solid foundations for becoming competent professionals.							
Outcome Measure	Data Needed	Data Available	Group(s) to be Assessed	Assessment Methods	Individual Responsible	Time Frame	Progress Toward Expected Outcomes
90% of DPD graduates will respond either strongly agree or agree that they are satisfied with the program.	Yes	No	Program Graduates	DPD Graduate Survey	Program Director	18 months following graduation	The graduate survey has been revised to include a question regarding satisfaction with the program.
90% of DPD graduates will respond either strongly agree or agree that the program prepared them for entry into their chosen field of practice.	No	Yes	Program Graduates	DPD Graduate Survey	Program Director	18 months following graduation	One (n=5) graduate agreed and 4 strongly agreed the DPD prepared them for entry to work.
90% of DPD graduates will respond either strongly agree or agree that the program prepared them for graduate education.	No	Yes	Program Graduates	DPD Graduate Survey	Program Director	18 months following graduation	Two (n=5) graduates agreed and 3 strongly agreed the DPD prepared them for graduate education.
18 months after graduation, 80% of graduates will be employed in the profession or pursuing graduate education.	No	Yes	Program Graduates	DPD Graduate Survey	Program Director	18 months following graduation	88% (n=9) Dec. 2004 and May 2005 graduates are employed. 4 have Masters, 2 in graduate school.