

**DIETETIC INTERNSHIP
AND
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN DIETETICS
YEARLY ASSESSMENT REPORT
2006 – 2007**

The Dietetic Internship and MS in Dietetics are different, yet related, programs. Graduates of the Dietetic Internship Certificate Program accrue 21 graduate credit hours, which they may apply toward a Master's in Dietetics. The programs are closely linked and share many of the same goals, objectives, and assessment plans. Due to the many similarities, University Assessment recommended that a combined assessment report be completed for both programs. Such an assessment is presented below.

I. Assessment Activities:

A. Program Goals:

Faculty members meet annually to review missions, goals, and objectives for both programs and determine their appropriateness. After gathering input from key stakeholders, faculty determined that the current goals for the Master's program were appropriate for continued use without revision. The Dietetic Internship, however, initiated a project to revise its mission, goals, and program outcomes during the past year. These are identified below.

Current Dietetic Internship goals are as follows:

- Goal 1: Recruit, retain, and graduate excellent students.
- Goal 2: Provide comprehensive and diverse experiences in community nutrition, long term care (LTC), foodservice management, and clinical practice.
- Goal 3: Prepare graduates who are competent entry-level practitioners.
- Goal 4: Provide skills and knowledge for an advanced degree.

The mission of the MS in Dietetics is to prepare graduates to practice in advanced level professional positions in the fields of clinical nutrition, community nutrition, and/or food and nutrition management. The mission and corresponding objectives build upon those of the Dietetic Internship. The objectives for the MS program are as follows:

- Acquire knowledge and skills required for entry-level and advanced positions in clinical nutrition, community nutrition, and food/nutrition management programs and for participating in food and nutrition research.

- Demonstrate competencies for entry-level and advanced positions in dietetics programs for effective delivery of food/nutrition services and for conducting food and nutrition research.
- Engage in collaborative relationships to further develop competencies for management level practice in food and nutrition programs and to pursue rural healthcare research initiatives.
- Develop knowledge and skills as a dietetic professional to assume leadership roles in clinical nutrition, food/nutrition management, community-based nutrition programs, and food and nutrition research.
- Use effective oral and written communication skills in providing nutrition counseling and education to individuals, groups, and communities for health promotion, maintenance, treatment, and rehabilitation.
- Apply food and nutrition research findings toward the practice of nutrition programs in the clinical, community, and foodservice environments in both urban and rural settings.

B. Learning Outcomes/ Data Collection:

Previously, both programs have focused on programmatic outcomes rather than student centered ones. During the past academic year, faculty and other key stakeholders recognized the need to identify specific student learning outcomes. Based upon accreditation standards and guidelines, program faculty recently identified four specific student centered outcomes, which will enhance measurement of student learning. These are closely tied to the competency statements for entry-level practice in the field of Dietetics and are included below.

1. Students will demonstrate ability to use efficiently and effectively the techniques and tools for managing foodservice systems.
2. Graduates will be able to provide appropriate, comprehensive nutrition care, including assessment and education.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively.
4. Students will demonstrate ability to use efficiently and effectively the techniques and tools for community assessment and program planning.

For each outcome statement, four to five outcome measures were identified, and appropriate assessment methods and timelines determined. It should be noted that the project remains in its infancy, and there plans to review and enhance these outcomes and outcome measures during the current academic year.

C. Results:

As previously discussed, the student learning outcomes are newly established; therefore, supporting data and documentation are not currently available. Data will be reviewed and compiled during the current academic year, and results will be described in next year's assessment report.

II. Plans for the Current Year:

The program director and faculty will begin working with the newly implemented student learning outcomes by collecting, analyzing, and compiling results of various assessment measures.

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 both programs. Any input to improve the programs or assessment activities would be much appreciated.

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

Participating in this process illuminates the importance of assessment for the continued growth and development graduate programs in Dietetics.

Assessment Plan for Marshall University Dietetic Internship- Student Learning Outcomes Management

Student Learning Outcome:

I. Students will demonstrate ability to use efficiently and effectively the techniques and tools for managing foodservice systems.

Outcome Measures	Data Needed	Data Already Available	Groups to be Assessed	Assessment Methods	Who Will Conduct Assessment?	Timeline
CD22. Supervise the integration of financial, human, physical, and material resources and services.	Assessment by Preceptors and Program Director	Yes	Interns	Weekly Reports	Program Director and Preceptor	Weekly during Management Rotation
				Preceptor Evaluation	Preceptor	Mid-Point and Final in Management Rotation
CD26. Supervise design of menus as indicated by the patient's/client's health status.	Assessment by Preceptors and Program Director	Yes	Interns	Weekly Reports	Program Director and Preceptor	Weekly during Management Rotation
				Preceptor Evaluation	Preceptor	Mid-Point and Final in Management Rotation
				Modified Menus and Analysis	Preceptor	During Management Rotation
CD28. Supervise procurement, distribution, and service within delivery systems.	Assessment by Preceptors and Program Director	Yes	Interns	Weekly Reports	Program Director and Preceptor	Weekly during Management Rotation
				Preceptor Evaluation	Preceptor	Mid-Point and Final in Management Rotation
CD29. Manage safety and sanitation issues related to food and nutrition.	Assessment by Preceptors and Program Director	Yes	Interns	Weekly Reports	Program Director and Preceptor	Weekly during Management Rotation
				Preceptor Evaluation	Preceptor	Mid-Point and Final in Management Rotation
				Sanitation Audit	Program Director and Preceptor	During Management Rotation