

New Program Proposal

CGS Agenda Item: 09-19 Effective: Fall 2010
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REQUEST:

The School of Family and Consumer Sciences proposes to the Council on Graduate Studies that the name of the graduate dietetic program be changed from Master of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences: Dietetic Option to **Master of Science in Dietetics**.

The effective date for this change is requested as Fall Semester, 2010.

RATIONALE:

The graduate faculty of the School of Family and Consumer Sciences voted and approved the name change from M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences: Dietetic Option to M.S. in Dietetics, based on the following differences and rationale:

Entrance into the Program

Program entrance is highly competitive. Students applying to the proposed **M.S. in Dietetics** go through a three step process. First, they apply for admission to the EIU Graduate School, which involves an online application. Second, they complete and submit the American Dietetic Association standardized dietetic internship application and GRE scores to apply for a match with Eastern Illinois University. The Graduate Dietetics Selection Committee reviews the applications and ranks the students for placement. The American Dietetic Association oversees the candidate match process, which occurs in the fall and spring each year, through use of D&D Digital match systems. On match day, EIU is informed of the students who matched with the **M.S. in Dietetics**. The match process occurs over two months. The third match occurs during the first semester of course work. This match involves placement at one of the nine hospitals that are a part of the EIU program. In contrast, the students applying for the **M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences** apply only for admission to the EIU Graduate School, which involves an online application.

Curriculum

- The **M.S. in Dietetics** requires 36 semester hours with a thesis and 38 semester hours without a thesis. In contrast, the **M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences** requires 30 semester hours with a thesis and 32 semester hours without a thesis.
- The curriculum for the **M.S. in Dietetics** is very prescriptive with set courses for the fall and spring semester. As a result, the dietetic students' coursework is concentrated within the dietetics area. In contrast, the **M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences** students develop an individualized graduate program with approved selection of courses in human development and family life, consumer studies, textiles and nutrition.
- The **M.S. in Dietetics** curriculum includes 1, 2, and 3 semester hour courses to increase the breadth and depth of dietetic topics covered in the classroom. The curriculum provides integrative learning for students, which supports the program's nutrition education emphasis. In contrast, the **M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences** offers primarily 3 semester hour courses to students, with a few 1 semester hour electives.

- The students in the **M.S. in Dietetics** complete an 8-month, 1280-clock hour dietetic internship after all coursework on campus is finished. In contrast, the students in the **M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences** have the option to complete an internship, which is generally 360 clock hours.

Student and Employer Expectations

Students and employers are often confused with the current lengthy title of M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences: Dietetic Option. Changing the program name to an **M.S. in Dietetics**:

- clearly articulates that the course of study is dietetics
- better meets student and employer degree expectations
- reflects the professional practice of Registered Dietitians, which is promoted through the discipline by the American Dietetic Association
- minimizes student's and employer's confusion
- enhances marketability of students for future employment

Accreditation

The **M.S. in Dietetics** is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Dietetics Education, sponsored by the American Dietetic Association. In contrast, the **M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences** is accredited by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Administrative Structure

Currently, both the **M.S. in Dietetics** and the **M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences** are managed by two separate coordinators. Each coordinator is responsible for managing all aspects of each program, such as student recruitment, admissions, program assessment and curriculum.

As noted above, the admission process, program curriculum, student and employer expectations, accrediting body and administrative structure between the two graduate programs are vastly different. The programs have been functioning as two separate graduate programs for years. Changing the name to an **M.S. in Dietetics** will reflect the current practice, while keeping the **M.S. in Dietetics** under the umbrella of **Family and Consumer Sciences**.

APPROVALS:

Date approved by the department or school: 4/30/2009 Faculty Meeting

Date approved by the school curriculum committee: 9/9/2009

Date approved by the college curriculum committee: 11/09/2009

Date approved by CGS: 11-17-09

Proposal for M.S. in Dietetics

Need and benefits of M.S. in Dietetics

History of the program

Although state and institutional fiscal constraints limited development of new programs in the late 1970's, it was possible to implement the combined master's/supervised practice program as a pilot program in 1979, with final approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education in November 1981. Two students graduated during pilot program status, and 61 graduated between December 1981 and November 1987.

Building on this successful record, a Pre-professional Practice Program (AP4) application was developed and submitted in November 1987, which was approved by the Council of Education in April 1988. In 1994 the program was granted developmental accreditation status as a Dietetic Internship, full accreditation in 1997 and reaccreditation in 2007. From 1981 through June 2009 over 350 graduates have completed the dietetics M.S. degree.

Just as the program designation has evolved and changed over the years, similar changes have occurred with entrance into the program, the curriculum, student and employer expectations, accreditation, and administrative structure. Collectively, these changes have resulted in a program that is clearly more than an option of a bigger entity. Hence, this document will highlight the differences between the proposed M.S. in Dietetics as opposed to the M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences, which support the evolution of a separate major.

Entrance into the Program

Program entrance is highly competitive. Students applying to the proposed **M.S. in Dietetics** go through a two step process. First they apply for admission to the EIU Graduate School, which involves an online application. Second, they complete and submit the American Dietetic Association standardized dietetic internship application to apply for a match with Eastern Illinois University. The Graduate Dietetics Selection Committee reviews the applications and ranks the students for placement. The American Dietetic Association oversees the candidate match process, which occurs in the fall and spring each year, through use of D&D Digital match systems. On match day, EIU is informed of the students that matched with the **M.S. in Dietetics**. The match process is very time consuming and occurs twice each year over two months.

In contrast, the students applying for the **M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences** apply for admission to the EIU Graduate School, which involves an online application.

Curriculum

- The **M.S. in Dietetics** requires 36 semester hours with a thesis and 38 semester hours without a thesis.
In contrast, the **M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences** requires 30 semester hours with a thesis and 32 semester hours without a thesis.
- The curriculum for the **M.S. in Dietetics** is very prescriptive with set courses for the fall and spring semester. As a result, the dietetic students' coursework is concentrated within the dietetics area.
In contrast, the **M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences** students develop an individualized graduate program with approved selection of courses in human development and family life, consumer studies, textiles and nutrition.
- The **M.S. in Dietetics** curriculum includes 1, 2, and 3 semester hour courses to increase the breadth and depth of dietetic topics covered in the classroom. The curriculum provides integrative learning for students, which supports the programs nutrition education emphasis.
In contrast, the **M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences** offers primarily 3 CU courses to students, with a few 1 semester hour dietetic electives.
- The students in the **M.S. in Dietetics** complete a required 8 month, 1280 clock hour dietetic internship after all coursework on campus is finished.
In contrast, the students in the **M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences** have the option to complete an internship, which is a generally 360 clock hours.

Student and Employer Expectations

Student and employers are often confused with the current lengthy title of MS in Family and Consumer Sciences: Dietetic Option. A program name change to an **M.S. in Dietetics**:

- clearly articulates what the course of study is...dietetics
- better meets student and employer degree expectations
- reflects the professional practice of Registered Dietitians, which is promoted through the discipline by the American Dietetic Association
- minimizes students and employers confusion
- enhances marketability of students for future employment

Accreditation

The **M.S. in Dietetics** is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Dietetics Education, sponsored by the American Dietetic Association.

In contrast, the **M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences** is accredited by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences

Administrative Structure

The **M.S. in Dietetics** and the **M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences** are managed by two separate coordinators. Each coordinator is responsible for managing all aspects of each program, such as student recruitment, admissions, program assessment, curriculum, etc.

As noted above, the admission process, program curriculum, student and employer expectations, accrediting body and administrative structure between the two graduate programs is vastly different. The programs have been functioning as two separate graduate programs for years. Changing the name to an **M.S. in Dietetics** will reflect the current practice. However, the **M.S. in Dietetics** will remain under the umbrella of **Family and Consumer Sciences**.

Program Structure:

The M.S. in Dietetics will be housed within the School of Family and Consumer Sciences. The catalogue listing for the School of Family and Consumer Sciences will include:

- Master of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences
- Master of Science in Dietetics
- Master of Arts in Gerontology

Faculty

- Dietetic faculty will continue to teach dietetic and core FCS courses.
- FCS faculty will continue to teach two FCS core courses (FCS 5460 Issues and Trends in FCS and FCS 5900 Research Methods in FCS) to MS in Dietetic students
- FCS faculty may serve on MS in Dietetics student committees
- Dietetic faculty may serve on MS in FCS student committees
- Dietetic faculty will continue to attend, participate in and be a member of the FCS Graduate Faculty Committee and FCS Curriculum Committee
- MS in Dietetics curriculum changes will go through the FCS Curriculum Committee
- The role of the Dietetic Program Area will remain the same

Link to University Goals

By changing the M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences: Dietetic Option to M.S. in Dietetics we are supporting the University strategic objectives, which include:

- *Upholding excellence in all we do* - as the name change will reflect the discipline of dietetics.

- *Strengthening the EIU personal experience for all members of the EIU community and all whom we serve* - as the name change will enhance marketability of students for future employment and better meets student and employer degree expectations.
- *Enhance accessibility and affordability of an EIU education* - as the program name change will not result in any additional costs.
- *Support service to each other and to our community, region, state, nation, and world.* - as the students will continue to apply their integrative knowledge in practice throughout their graduate studies.

M.S. in Dietetics Curriculum

FCS Core (6 sh)

FCS 5460 Issues and Trends in FCS
FCS 5900 Research Methods in FCS

Dietetics Core (12 sh)

Fall FCS 5150 Medical Nutrition Therapy-Fall (2 sh)
FCS 5153 Nutrition in the Life Cycle (2 sh)
FCS 5155 Principles of Nutrition Education (3 sh)
Spring FCS 5152 Readings in Nutrition Research (2 sh)
FCS 5154 Medical Nutrition Therapy-Spring (2 sh)
FCS 5156 Nutrition Services Management (1 sh)

Internship (12 sh) Dietetic Internship

FCS 5981 Dietetic Internship (3 sh)
FCS 5982 Dietetic Internship (3 sh)
FCS 5983 Dietetic Internship (3 sh)
FCS 5984 Dietetic Internship (3 sh)

Electives (6-8 sh): Non-thesis: 8 sh electives

Thesis: 3 sh thesis + 3 sh elective, such as independent study,
statistics, additional thesis
hours or a course.

Potential Undergraduate Deficiency Courses: FCS 1800 & FCS 3300

Program Requirements: 36 sh with thesis

38 sh without thesis

Approvals:

Date approved by the department or school: 4/30/2009 Faculty Meeting

Date approved by the college curriculum committee: 11/09/2009

Date approved by CGS: 11-17-09