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## Educational Policies Committee Program Proposal, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, December 5, 2011

Utah State University

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## **Section 1: Request**

The present online Master of Dietetics Administration (MDA) degree offered by the Department of Nutrition, Dietetics, and Food Sciences, which is part of the College of Agriculture at Utah State University, is proposing to add a Plan C option. The Plan C option would be a coursework only option requiring 41 credits total.

## **Section II: Need**

Each year 60 students complete the Utah State University Dietetics Distance Internship. As graduates of that program they are eligible to complete the Master of Dietetics Administration degree. However, as the program currently offers only a Plan B option, enrollment is limited by the number of faculty available to serve on graduate committees. Currently only 27% of qualified applicants are accepted for the Plan B option. A recent demand survey of USU Dietetics Distance Internship graduates from the past 5 years indicated that 87% of distance internship graduates (equivalent to approximately 50 students each year) are interested in the MDA program. However, 69% cite the cap on enrollment and competition to get in as major hindrances to applying. The professional nature of the MDA degree is conducive to a Plan C option. The program is a unique professional degree offered in partnership with the USU Dietetics Distance Internship. Its goal is to prepare students to move into management positions in health care, food service, and community nutrition programs. A Plan C option would require more credits to complete with a focus on professional skill development as is consistent with other professional programs including MPA/MBA programs. It would be taught by adjunct faculty, currently working in the field of dietetics administration. With the elimination of the graduate committee, the Plan C option would also allow for higher enrollment.

## **Section III: Institutional Impact**

Utah State University Distance Internship graduates will be the source for enrollment in the Plan C option. Because of the specific pool of candidates, the Plan C option will not compete with enrollment in affiliated graduate programs. The opportunity to complete a graduate degree in distance format and using credits from the internship experience may also increase interest in the USU Distance Internship. The new option will include two additional electives; Advanced Dietetics Practicum and Entrepreneurial Skills in Dietetics and taught by currently appointed adjunct faculty working in dietetics administrative positions in the community. No new faculty assignments will need to be made and no physical facilities will be required. Program delivery via online format through Regional Campuses will continue as currently administered. The Plan C option will allow more students to be accepted without the burden on faculty for graduate committees.

## **Section IV: Finances**

The Plan C option will entail additional costs for adjunct faculty compensation and equipment/technology related to online delivery of the program estimated at approximately \$11,500 annually. Financial projections indicate that enrollment of 15 students each year will yield more than double the estimated additional costs.

## Course Requirements

### Plan B Project Track (Current Program)

#### Transfer Courses from USU DI

- NDFS 6350/ 6360 Food Service Intern I and II 12 credits
  - NDFS 6050/6060 Community Intern I and II 6 credits
  - NDFS 6250/6260 Clinical Intern I and II 8 credits
- 26 credits**

#### Courses Required for MDA

- NDFS 6770 Advanced Management of Dietetics I 3 credits
  - NDFS 6780 Advanced Management of Dietetics II 3 credits
  - NDFS 7800 Dietetics Graduate Seminar 1 credit
  - NDFS 6970 Project 2 credits
  - Quantitative/ Research Elective 3 credits
  - Skills Enhancement Elective 3 credits
- 15 Credits**

#### Quantitative/ Research Elective Course Options

- EDU 6010 Intro to Program Evaluation
- STAT 3000 Statistics for Scientists
- MGT 3700 Operations Management
- FIN 3400 Corporate Finance
- PUBH 4040 Fundamentals of Epidemiology

#### Skills Enhancement Elective Course Options

- INST 6760 Grant Writing
- PSY 5200 Introduction to Interviewing and Counseling

## Course Requirements

### Plan C – Course Work only Track (Proposed)

#### Transfer Courses from USU DI

- NDFS 6350/ 6360 Food Service Intern I and II 12 credits
  - NDFS 6050/6060 Community Intern I and II 6 credits
  - NDFS 6250/6260 Clinical Intern I and II 8 credits
- 26 credits**

#### Courses Required for MDA

- New Course: Entrepreneurial Skills in Dietetics 3 credits
  - NDFS 6750 Advanced Dietetic Practicum 3 credits
  - NDFS 6770 Advanced Management of Dietetics I 3 credits
  - NDFS 6780 Advanced Management of Dietetics II 3 credits
  - Quantitative/ Research Elective 3 credits
  - Skills Enhancement Elective 3 credits
- 18 Credits**

#### Quantitative/ Research Elective Course Options

- EDU 6010 Intro to Program Evaluation
- STAT 3000 Statistics for Scientists
- MGT 3700 Operations Management
- FIN 3400 Corporate Finance
- PUBH 4040 Fundamentals of Epidemiology

**Skills Enhancement Elective Course Options**

- INST 6760 Grant Writing
- PSY 5200 Introduction to Interviewing and Counseling