



Academic Affairs
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

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Date: February 28, 2017
To: Statewide Academic Council
From: Samuel Gingerich, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Through: Thomas Case, Chancellor
Subject: Proposed MS Dietetics and Nutrition

In response to changing professional requirements and to continue to meet state needs, the College of Health is proposing a Master of Science in Dietetics and Nutrition. Dietetics professionals are listed in the priority one category of the 2010 Alaska Health Workforce Development Plan. This proposal is put forward so UAA can continue to address that priority. The Commission on Dietetic Registration mandated that, beginning in 2024, a graduate degree will be the standard for entry-level work in the field of Dietetics and Nutrition. If approved by the BOR and NWCCU, the MS will be implemented immediately, allowing students to progress through undergraduate and graduate studies to meet the new entry-level requirement by the 2024 deadline.

Graduates of the program will be eligible to take the national registration examination and will be prepared to work as registered dietitian nutritionists. A second student population will be current registered dietitian nutritionists already working within Alaska.

The MS builds from the existing Bachelor of Science in Dietetics and the Graduate Certificate in Dietetic Internship, both accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). The MS will be delivered mostly online, with some short-term face-to-face instruction required, and with primary residency in Anchorage for the internship portion of the graduate degree. To meet its statewide mandate, the program has intentionally incorporated practicum opportunities across the state, in both rural and urban communities.

This proposal is fully supported by the program advisory committee, composed of industry representatives from 30 sites across the State of Alaska.

At full capacity, tuition revenue is projected to cover all program costs, which include one new faculty member. TVEP funding will be requested for the start-up years, and the College of Health is committed to reallocating funds, in the case that TVEP funds are not available.

The program proposal has been approved by the faculty, dean, and appropriate UAA curriculum committees and Faculty Senate. As UAA offers the only Dietetics and Nutrition programs in the UA system, no other coordination was required.



Board of Regents Program Action Request
University of Alaska
 Proposal to Add, Change, or Delete a Program of Study

1a. UA University (choose one) UAA	1b. School or College College of Health	1c. Department or Program Dietetics and Nutrition	
2. Complete Program Title M.S. Dietetics and Nutrition			
3. Type of Program			
<input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Associate <input type="checkbox"/> Baccalaureate <input type="checkbox"/> Post-Baccalaureate Certificate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Master's <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Doctorate			
4. Type of Action		5. Implementation date (semester, year)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Add <input type="checkbox"/> Change <input type="checkbox"/> Delete		<input type="checkbox"/> Fall <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spring <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Year 2018	
6. Projected Revenue and Expenditure Summary. Not Required if the requested action is deletion. (Provide information for the 5 th year after program or program change approval if a baccalaureate or doctoral degree program; for the 3 rd year after program approval if a master's or associate degree program; and for the 2 nd year after program approval if a graduate or undergraduate certificate. If information is provided for another year, specify (1st) and explain in the program summary attached). Note that Revenues and Expenditures are not always entirely new; some may be current (see 7d.)			
Projected Annual Revenues to the University in FY 20		Projected Annual Expenditures in FY 20	
Unrestricted		Salaries & benefits (faculty and staff)	\$104,943
General Fund	\$0	Other (commodities, services, etc.)	\$11,000
Student Tuition & Fees	\$138,528	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$115,943
Indirect Cost Recovery	\$0	One-time Expenditures to Initiate Program (if >\$250,000)	
TVEP or Other (specify):	\$	(These are costs in addition to the annual costs, above.)	
Restricted		Year 1	\$0
Federal Receipts	\$0	Year 2	\$0
TVEP or Other (specify):	\$0	Year 3	\$0
TOTAL REVENUES	\$138,528	Year 4	\$0
Page # of attached summary where the budget is discussed, including initial phase-in: 4			
7. Budget Status. Items a., b., and c. indicate the source(s) of the General Fund revenue specified in item 6. If any grants or contracts will supply revenue needed by the program, indicate amount anticipated and expiration date, if applicable.			
Revenue source		Continuing	One-time
a. In current legislative budget request		\$	\$
b. Additional appropriation required		\$	\$
c. Funded through new internal UA university redistribution		\$	\$
d. Funds already committed to the program by the UA university ¹		\$	\$
e. Funded all or in part by external funds, expiration date		\$	\$
f. Other funding source Specify Type: Student tuition and fees		\$138,528	\$
8. Facilities: New or substantially (>\$25,000 cost) renovated facilities will be required. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
If yes, discuss the extent, probable cost, and anticipated funding source(s), in addition to those listed in sections 6 and 7 above.			
9. Projected enrollments (headcount of majors). If this is a program deletion request, project the teach out enrollments.			
Year 1: 10	Year 2: 20	Year 3: 24	Year 4: 24
Page number of attached summary where demand for this program is discussed: 3			

¹Sometimes the courses required by a new degree or certificate program are already being taught by a UA university, e.g., as a minor requirement. Similarly, other program needs like equipment may already be owned. 100% of the value is indicated even though the course or other resource may be shared.

10. Number* of new TA or faculty hires anticipated (or number of positions eliminated if a program deletion):

Graduate TA	0
Adjunct	0
Term	0
Tenure track	1

11. Number* of TAs or faculty to be reassigned:

Graduate TA	0
Adjunct	0
Term	0
Tenure track	0

Former assignment of any reassigned faculty: 0
For more information see page 6 of the attached summary.

12. Other programs affected by the proposed action, including those at other MAUs (please list):

Program Affected	Anticipated Effect
Health Sciences	Coordination has confirmed that the Health Sciences program can accommodate the students from the M.S .Dietetics and Nutrition program in HS A625 Biostatistics for Health Professionals.

Page number of attached summary where effects on other programs are discussed: 4

13. Specialized accreditation or other external program certification needed or anticipated. List all that apply or 'none': The dietetic internship (practicum courses) will need ongoing accreditation with the Accreditation Council for Education in Dietetics and Nutrition (ACEND).

14. Aligns with University or campus mission, goals, core themes, and objectives (list): Supports workforce development in a high-demand health service area; collaboration with healthcare industry for practicum placement for dietetic internship.

Page in attached summary where alignment is discussed: 1-2

15. Aligns with Shaping Alaska's Future themes:

Page in attached summary where alignment is discussed: Supports workforce development in a high-demand health service area, adapting to meet state needs, p. 1-2

16. Aligns with Academic Master Plan goals:

Page in attached summary where alignment is discussed: Addresses unmet need for entry-level registered dietitian nutritionists for Alaska's rural and urban health care workforce, p. 2

17. State needs met by this program (list): Healthcare workforce development, specifically Registered Dietitian Nutritionist


Page in the attached summary where the state needs to be met are discussed: 1-3

18. Program is initially planned to be: (check all that apply)

- Available to students attending classes at campus(es).
- Available to students via e-learning.
- Partially available students via e-learning.

Page # in attached summary where e-learning is discussed: 5

Submitted by the University of Alaska Anchorage.
(choose one above)


Provost

2/29/2017
Date


Chancellor

25 Feb 20 17
Date

Consensus Support of SAC

Not Supported by SAC

Recommend Approval by VPAAR


4/7/17

Recommend Disapproval by VPAAR

UA Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date

*Net FTE (full-time equivalents). For example, if a faculty member will be reassigned from another program, but his/her original program will hire a replacement, there is one net new faculty member. Use fractions if appropriate. Graduate TAs are normally 0.5 FTE. The numbers should be consistent with the revenue/expenditure information provided.

Attachments: Summary of Degree or Certificate Program Proposal

Other (optional)

Revised: 04/20/2015

Master of Science in Dietetics and Nutrition Prospectus

Program Overview

The College of Health is proposing the development of a graduate degree, M.S. Dietetics and Nutrition. Dietitians and nutritionists are in the priority one category of the Alaska Health Workforce Development Plan. This proposal was initiated in response to a national mandate from the Commission on Dietetic Registration (credentialing body for the dietetics profession) for the advancement of entry-level dietetics education to a graduate degree. Beginning in 2024, Registered Dietitian Nutritionists will be required to have a graduate degree to work in the field. The timely development and implementation of this program is critical, since it will take seven years for a student to complete the undergraduate and graduate degrees.

The program advisory committee, referred to as the Preceptor Council, also supports the development of this graduate degree. The Preceptor Council is composed of industry representatives from 30 sites across the State of Alaska (i.e., Anchorage, Fairbanks, Palmer, Wasilla, Kenai, Sitka, Kodiak, Bethel, Kotzebue and Nome). The Preceptor Council is involved in supervising the practicum rotations of students in the graduate certificate dietetic internship. The Preceptor Council representatives employ program graduates and offer feedback that guides program development. Collaboration with the Preceptor Council is ongoing and an essential partnership in planning the M.S. Dietetics and Nutrition.

UAA, the health campus in the UA system, is the exclusive education and training program provider of registered dietitian nutritionists in Alaska. Currently, a bachelor's degree in dietetics and a graduate certificate dietetic internship, both available at UAA, are the pathway to eligibility for the national registration exam. The existing graduate certificate dietetic internship program requirements will be incorporated into the proposed M.S. Dietetics and Nutrition, which will combine didactic and internship requirements. The undergraduate degree in dietetics will be retained to prepare students for admission to the graduate degree. Both the graduate certificate and the undergraduate degree are externally accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

Each of these programs were developed at UAA in response to industry requests for assistance with recruitment and retention of dietetics professionals within Alaska. Students are able to complete approximately the first 60 credits of the undergraduate degree pre-requisites and GERs at any UA location. The remaining 60 credits of Dietetics and Nutrition coursework is offered by UAA via progressive distance education modalities to meet the education needs of students across Alaska.

Mission and Strategic Alignment

The M.S. Dietetics and Nutrition is designed to provide education and training for workforce development in high demand dietetics and nutrition careers, thus aligning with UAA's mission to serve the higher education needs of the State of Alaska. Without the addition of a graduate degree the needs of the dietetics workforce in Alaska will no longer be met. This proposal will establish a new and relevant program that is needed to maintain the current dietetics education within Alaska, due to changes in national credentialing requirements, reflecting the depth and breadth of current and future practice. The development of the M.S. Dietetics and Nutrition reflects the UAA 2017 Strategic Plan Priorities A (Strengthen and Develop the Total UAA Instructional Program), B (Reinforce and Rapidly Expand our Research Mission) and C (Expand Educational Opportunity and Increase Student Success).

Each of the five goals of the UA Academic Master Plan are reflected in the development of the M.S. Dietetics and Nutrition. In this program students will receive the necessary education for current and future dietetics workforce opportunities within Alaska (goal 1), apply and participate in research (goal 2),

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New Program Proposal Prospectus

meet the lifelong education needs of the dietetics workforce who are interested in pursuing graduate studies in dietetics (goal 3), maintain a currently successful education program that meets the needs of the dietetics workforce in Alaska and adapt to meet future educational needs (goal 4) and coordinate the provision of a program statewide via the completion of some program requirements at a preferred MAU (i.e., science courses) combined with online modalities (goal 5).

The M.S. Dietetics and Nutrition will support Shaping Alaska's Future Theme 1: Student Achievement and Attainment, Issue F, Alaska's serious unmet need for advanced degree graduates in this field. The future supply of entry-level registered dietitian nutritionists to meet the needs of Alaska's rural and urban health care workforce will only be generated through the completion of a graduate degree in Dietetics and Nutrition. Graduates of the current graduate certificate dietetic internship are employed in hospitals and clinics throughout Alaska, foodservice management roles, private practice and consultant settings. Dietetics professionals already working in Alaska will also benefit from access to a graduate program to meet their professional development needs.

Student Demand and State Needs

Demand for the Proposed M.S. Dietetics and Nutrition

- The 2010 Alaska Health Workforce Development Plan lists dietetics professionals in the priority one category ("most critical, requires immediate attention"). The UA System will only be able to continue to provide registration-eligible Dietetics and Nutrition program graduates if graduate education in this field is available.
- The 2012 Alaska Health Workforce Vacancy Study (published in August 2014) by the Alaska Center for Rural Health estimates there is a 13% statewide vacancy rate (10% rural, 14% urban; 16 vacancies in 128 positions) for dietitians and nutritionists in Alaska. This report refers to the vacancies in dietetics and nutrition as a "high vacancy rate."
 - The vacancy rate in this report is a reflection of the current dietetics education available through UAA and the program graduates. Without the advancement to a graduate degree to meet credentialing requirements, this vacancy rate will be significantly higher.
- The 2015 Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook report estimates that at the national level, 11,000 new dietetics professionals will be needed between 2014 and 2024, representing a job growth of 16% which is referred to as "much faster than average." The national average job expected growth rate from 2014-2024 is estimated to be 7%.

State Needs Met by the Proposed M.S. Dietetics and Nutrition

- The 2012 Alaska Health Workforce Vacancy Study acknowledges the shortage of healthcare professionals in Alaska, especially in rural communities. Many changes have been implemented within the current UAA dietetics education program to address this need including the development of a specialty emphasis in the graduate certificate dietetic internship on "Alaska Native culture and healthcare delivery system" (including a rotation in rural Alaska) to prepare future dietetics professionals for rural specific dietetics practice. The expansion of rotation sites in various rural and urban settings throughout Alaska in 2014 has expanded the future practice opportunities that students are exposed to. The online delivery of the didactic portions of the program allows students in urban or rural communities to complete their education primarily in the geographic location of their choice.
- The ability to "grow our own" dietetics professionals within Alaska, through an accredited dietetics education program, is an important strategy for producing and retaining qualified healthcare professionals, per the 2012 Alaska Health Workforce Vacancy Study.
- Additional needs for healthcare professionals, and specifically dietetics professionals, are anticipated due to aging population. The forecasted increase in Alaska's senior population, whom uses a higher

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New Program Proposal Prospectus

percentage of healthcare services, and a growing recognition of the economic value and gains in quality of life related to preventive healthcare, will also create a higher demand for dietetics and nutrition professionals according to the 2012 Alaska Health Workforce Vacancy Study.

Enrollment Projections

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
FTE Enrollment	10	10	12	12	12
Enrollment Headcount	10	20	24	24	24
Graduates	0	10	12	12	12

Student Opportunities and Student Success

The first student population for the proposed M.S. Dietetics and Nutrition will be students interested in entry-level careers as registered dietitian nutritionists. Due to the online delivery of the didactic portion of the program students in any region of Alaska can complete a degree in dietetics through UAA's dietetics education program. Some travel is required for the internship portion of the program, as is typical with healthcare training in Alaska. The new requirement for a graduate degree for entry-level practice will better provide the depth of knowledge and skills registered dietitian nutritionists will need for current and future dietetics practice.

The second student population will be current registered dietitian nutritionists within Alaska. Anecdotal evidence indicates current dietetics professionals, prepared at the baccalaureate level, have an interest in the completion of a graduate degree for their own continuing professional education. A didactic only track will be included to meet the needs of this second student population.

The application of, and participation in, research will be a requirement for students in the M.S. Dietetics and Nutrition. Program graduates will be prepared to be evidence-based practitioners who are capable of answering complex practice-based questions. Students and interns have been actively engaged in research through the UAA Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship, UAF's Center for Alaska Native Health Research, International Circumpolar Health Studies program and Providence Alaska Medical Center's Pediatric Subspecialty Clinic. Community engagement for the current students is an essential component of the graduate certificate dietetic internship, where students work with preceptors to provide patient care and nutrition services at each rotation site. The graduate certificate dietetic internship also works with the National Resource Center to provide nutrition education and expertise to statewide Title VI programs in the Older Americans Act.

The School of Allied Health provides student success support and assistance for students enrolled in other allied health programs including the current baccalaureate degrees in dietetics and nutrition, and graduate certificate in dietetic internship. These same support services will be provided to future graduate students in this program. Academic advising will be provided by dietetics program faculty. During the internship, advising and technical support for the completion of the required competencies and 1200 hours of supervised practice will be provided by dietetics program faculty and preceptors who are members of the Preceptor Council (advisory committee).

Current Capacity and Quality

In summer 2015 the Dietetics and Nutrition program moved to the College of Health, School of Allied Health. The Dietetics and Nutrition program is fully integrated into the College of Health. Administrative support for the program remains strong.

The Consortium Library provides funds to purchase learning resources such as nutrition and dietetics books, DVDs/CDs, and database subscriptions that benefit faculty, adjunct faculty, students, and healthcare professionals in Alaska. The UAA library subscribes to the Nutrition Care Manual, the Pediatric Nutrition Care Manual, and the Sports Nutrition Care Manual.

The online delivery of the dietetics and nutrition courses is fully and adequately supported through Academic Innovations and eLearning. Services provided include instructional design, professional development, exam proctoring and the IT help desk.

Resource Implications

Approximately 40% of the proposed curriculum credits comes from existing UAA coursework (i.e., seminar and practicum courses for the dietetic internship). Delivery of the proposed M.S. Dietetics and Nutrition will require the addition of only one full-time faculty (salary and benefits: \$104,943). TVEP funds will be requested for the initial start-up years until the program is at full capacity. If TVEP funding is not able to be secured, the College of Health Dean's office is committed to providing funding for the new faculty FTE.

The current library resources provided for the UAA dietetics education program are adequate to meet the needs of the M.S. Dietetics and Nutrition.

Affected Programs

UAA will continue to be the only provider of graduate level dietetics and nutrition coursework in the state of Alaska with the implementation of the M.S. Dietetics and Nutrition. The required pre-requisite degree program (B.S. Dietetics) is also only offered at UAA.

One course will be required from the Health Sciences program, HS A625 Biostatistics for Health Professionals. Coordination has confirmed that the Health Sciences program can accommodate the students from the M.S. Dietetics and Nutrition program in this course.

Coordination with the Alaska Center for Rural Health and Health Workforce has been completed.

Program Accreditation and Special Certifications

The dietetic internship and undergraduate degree are accredited through the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). This external accreditation will be maintained. The dietetic internship's external accreditation combined with the institutionally accredited graduate degree will meet the national credentialing requirements for the new graduate degree.

Program Student Learning Outcomes and Plan for Assessment

Student Learning Outcome

Plan for Assessment

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Integrate and apply scientific information and research into professional dietetics and nutrition practice. [Professional practice skills]</p> | <p>Evidence Based Practice Manuscript
Clinical Case Study
Management Capstone
Thesis or Project</p> |
| <p>2. Exhibit beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviors that are at the professional dietitian level of practice. [Professional practice skills]</p> | <p>Clinical Case Study
Rural Rotation Capstone Project</p> |
| <p>3. Provide clinical and customer services by developing and delivering information, products and services to individuals, groups and populations. [Client Care Skills; Public/Population Health and Community Nutrition Skills]</p> | <p>Clinical Case Study
Management Capstone
Outpatient Disease Management Presentation</p> |
| <p>4. Utilize strategic application of principles of management and systems in the provision of food and nutrition services to individuals and organizations. [Organizational Leadership/Management Skills; Food and Food Systems Skills]</p> | <p>Management Capstone</p> |
| <p>5. Demonstrate an understanding of Alaska Native culture and Alaska's unique healthcare delivery system. [Concentration area: Alaska Native culture and Alaska's unique healthcare delivery system]</p> | <p>Rural Rotation Capstone Project</p> |

Schedule for Implementation of the Program

Critical Milestone

Date

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| National search, hire new FTE faculty member | Fall 2017 |
| Admissions to the program opens | Spring 2018 |
| Instruction commences | Fall 2018 |
| First program graduates | Spring 2020 |

E-learning Options

The required DN courses are delivered primarily online in an asynchronous format using the UAA learning management system (i.e., independent learning via Blackboard) and synchronous format (i.e., webinars via Collaborate). Some face-to-face instruction in Anchorage (a maximum of one week per semester) may be required. Primary residency in Anchorage will be necessary for the internship portion of the new graduate degree with some required intrastate travel, as is typical with healthcare training in Alaska.

Faculty and Staff

There are three full-time, doctoral-level, faculty members in the Dietetics and Nutrition program at UAA. The faculty members represent diverse areas of dietetics practice. The diversity is a good match for preparing generalist entry-level registered dietitian nutritionists needed for the Alaska healthcare workforce. One faculty member has been with the program for 15 years. A second was hired in July of 2009. This second faculty member now directs the undergraduate degree in dietetics UAA. A third faculty member (the current dietetic internship director) was hired in July 2010. The pool of preceptors has been essentially consistent for the past five years. The preceptors who are involved in the program are very dedicated and passionate about educating interns. The Dietetics and Nutrition program currently uses registered dietitian adjunct faculty for assistance with special projects such as the development of expert content and lectures in the didactic setting.

The M.S. Dietetics and Nutrition will be supported by the current School of Allied Health director, administrative staff, student success coordinator and fiscal professional. There will be no additional staff requirements.

Upon program approval, a national search will be conducted for the fourth FTE faculty member, who is preferably at the doctoral level and has teaching experience.



December 15, 2016

Board of Regents
University of Alaska

Dear Board Members,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Alaska Dietetic Association. The current president, Carrie King, is a UAA faculty member who is working on developing a new graduate degree, M.S. Dietetics and Nutrition. It is my honor to offer support for the development of a graduate degree program in Dietetics and Nutrition at the University of Alaska. As an immediate Past President of the Alaska Dietetic Association, former UAA adjunct instructor, UAA Dietetic Internship alumni, and Alaska-based dietitian it is personally important for me to see a Master's level program developed in-state. Soon, all aspiring dietitians will need an advanced degree to become a registered dietitian through the Commission on Dietetic Registration. Educating and retaining qualified dietitians in Alaska has undoubtedly strengthened the healthcare delivery system. Without an advanced degree program this strength would certainly be comprised.

Dietitians working from Barrow to Ketchikan have attended University of Alaska Anchorage programs to gain experience, access, and insight into the unique system of healthcare offered. Because of the strength of the nutrition and dietetic programs offered, Alaskan born dietitians stay and those moving from the lower 48 call Alaska their home (myself included). This is because of the vast demand for competent dietitians, who remain the foremost experts in food and nutrition.

In conclusion, I fully support the development of a graduate degree program in Dietetics and Nutrition at the University of Alaska. You have a more than qualified team of food and nutrition experts to craft a program that meets the specific needs of Alaska. I have nothing but confidence that this program will be successful. Please let me know if you have any comments, questions, or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M DiFilippo', written over a white background.

Michael DiFilippo, MS, RD, LD
Immediate Past President, Alaska Dietetic Association
Registered Dietitian, Alaska VA Healthcare System (2014-Current)
Adjunct Instructor, University of Alaska Anchorage (2013-2015)
Graduate student in Dietetic Internship, University of Alaska Anchorage (2009-2010)



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of
Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Section of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

3601 C St, Suite 722
Anchorage, AK 99503
Main: 907.269.2020
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December 19, 2016

Board of Regents
University of Alaska

Dear Board Members,

I am writing on behalf of the UAA Dietetic Internship Preceptor Council to state our support for the development of a UAA Master of Science Degree in Dietetics and Nutrition. The Preceptor Council is comprised of preceptors and site coordinators for community and clinical site rotations for dietetic interns. Preceptors are dietetic/nutrition professionals who volunteer to provide quality experiences for dietetic interns to develop required professional skills and competencies. The Preceptor Council also serves as the advisory group to assist and make recommendations to the Program Director. We believe it is vital to our healthcare system, economy and communities to invest in educating and training Alaskans in Alaska.

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) is requiring new graduate level standards to prepare generalist dietitians. Preparation for practice as a generalist dietitian nutritionist at the master's level is needed to meet the increasingly expanding scope of work and skills required for effective healthcare professionals. Alaska needs well-prepared dietitians to fill the demands for these skills. Without a master's program at UAA, students will be forced to look outside of Alaska. This leads to a weaker Alaska workforce with qualified Alaskans not returning and short-term, out of state dietitians replacing them.

The UAA Dietetic and Nutrition Program has provided excellent leadership in educating and training qualified dietitians through the Dietetics Undergraduate Program and the Dietetic Internship Program. We are confident that the Program will continue their outstanding efforts to develop a Master's level program that will meet the needs of Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Peck".

Diane Peck, MPH, RDN
Public Health Nutritionist
Division of Public Health

MS, Dietetics and Nutrition Catalog Copy

Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) are trained dietetics and nutrition professionals who have met the strict educational and experiential standards set forth by the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. RDNs work in a wide variety of settings, including health care, business and industry, community/public health, education, research, government agencies and private practice. In order to be successful in their field, RDNs need a strong science foundation including courses in food and nutrition sciences, biochemistry, physiology, microbiology, anatomy, chemistry, foodservice systems, business, medical nutrition therapy, behavioral social sciences and communication.

The mission of the UAA Master of Science (MS) in Dietetics and Nutrition is to guide and advance the practice of dietetics and nutrition in Alaska. The MS in Dietetics and Nutrition combined with the dietetic internship prepares program graduates to sit for the national registered dietitian nutritionist exam.

Unique experiences are provided as the program places an emphasis on preparing advanced generalist RDNs for the cultural diversities of Alaska and how they affect the practice of dietetics.

The Dietetics and Nutrition (DN) didactic courses are delivered primarily online to facilitate access to the MS in Dietetics and Nutrition degree statewide. There will be a minimal (a maximum of one week per semester) face-to-face, Anchorage-based meeting requirement in some courses. Supervised practice (practicum) course (DN A695C, DN A695D, DN A695E, DN A695F) rotation sites are located throughout the state of Alaska. Most supervised practice rotations are located in health care settings. Expenses beyond tuition generally include, but are not limited to, travel and housing in Anchorage for face-to-face course requirements (fall and spring), travel and housing for supervised practice (practicum) rotations, activity fees, lab fees, student organization membership, immunizations, fingerprinting and criminal background checks, cost of Serv Safe certification and food/supplies for some DN courses.

Admission Requirements

Satisfy the Application and Admission Requirements for Graduate Degrees.

Departmental Admission Requirements

- There is a competitive application process for admissions to the MS in Dietetics and Nutrition. Contact the Dietetics and Nutrition Program for application information.
- The application deadline for the MS Dietetics and Nutrition is February 15 (annually). The application form and full requirements can be found on the UAA dietetics program website.
- Applicants transferring credit from another institution should apply to UAA no later than November 1 (prior to spring application to the dietetics program) to allow sufficient time for application processing and transcript evaluation of potential

transfer courses. Spring enrollment in another institution may postpone transcript evaluation and therefore affect program acceptance.

Criteria for Admission to the MS Dietetics and Nutrition

1. Baccalaureate degree (minimum).
2. Didactic Program in Dietetics verification statement within the past five years. For more information about verification statements see: <http://www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/content.aspx?id=66>. Completion of remedial education requirements (available upon request) if no coursework or work experiences in dietetics in the five years prior to program admission.
3. Documentation of an advising session with a dietetics and nutrition program advisor regarding application and program admission requirements prior to application. For an advising appointment, call (907)786-1276.
4. MS Dietetics and Nutrition admissions application (found on the dietetics program website: <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-health/departments/school-of-allied-health/academics/dietetics-nutrition/index.cshml>).
5. Prior work or volunteer experience, with evidence of ability and willingness to work productively documented in letters of reference.
6. Current resume and three letters of recommendation (one must be from an employer and one must be from a professor or academic advisor).
7. Documentation of all necessary immunizations required to work in hospitals and other health care facilities.
8. Documentation of all necessary security background checks to meet state and federal requirements.
9. Documentation of necessary insurance coverage required to work in hospitals and health care facilities.

Advising

1. Call the Dietetics and Nutrition Program at (907) 786-1276 for an appointment with a dietetics and nutrition program advisor to plan a personal program of study.
2. All students in the MS Dietetics and Nutrition program are required to participate in a dietetics advising session a minimum of one time per semester.

Academic Requirements

In order to progress within the MS Dietetics and Nutrition, students must earn a satisfactory grade (B or P grade) and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 for all required courses.

Transfer Credits

Up to 9 semester credits from a graduate program or dietetic internship accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics may be transferred to UAA and counted toward degree completion. Quarter credits will be converted to semester credits by multiplying quarter credits by two-thirds.

Submission of verification of registered dietitian/registered dietitian nutritionist status from the Commission on Dietetic Registration can be used to waive the required practicum courses. In this situation, students will still need to successfully complete the MS Dietetics and Nutrition didactic coursework to fulfill program requirements.

Graduation Requirements

- Satisfy the General University Requirements for Graduate Degrees.
- Complete all required academic coursework specified on the graduate studies plan, with a minimum of a B or P grade.
- Complete all of the program requirements below.

Program Requirements

Students enrolled in the MS Dietetics and Nutrition must complete all of the following courses.

DN A601: Professional Practice in Dietetics and Nutrition	2 credits
DN A612: Advanced Nutrition Counseling	2 credits
DN A615: Public Health Nutrition	3 credits
DN A630: Applied Research in Nutrition and Dietetics	3 credits
DN A641: Clinical Nutrition Assessment and Intervention	3 credits
DN A642: Advanced Clinical Nutrition	3 credits
DN A650: Dietetics Organizational Leadership and Management	3 credits
DN A692A: Seminar: Current Issues in Dietetics Clinical and Community Nutrition	2 credits
DN A692B: Seminar: Current Issues in Dietetics Community Nutrition and Foodservice Administration	1 credit
DN A695C: Practicum in Clinical Nutrition	4 credits
DN A695D: Practicum in Community Nutrition	2 credits
DN A695E: Advanced Practicum in Community Nutrition	2 credits
DN A695F: Practicum in Foodservice Administration	4 credits
DN A698: Dietetics & Nutrition Graduate Project (3 credits)	3 credits
OR	
DN A699: Dietetics & Nutrition Graduate Thesis (3 credits)	
HS A625: Biostatistics for Health Professionals	3 credits
Elective coursework (minimum three credits)	3 credits

A total of 43 credits is required for this degree. If a student provides evidence of Registered Dietitian/Registered Dietitian Nutritionist credential to waive practicum course requirements as outlined above, a minimum of 30 credits is required for this degree.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of MS Dietetics and Nutrition the graduate will be able to:

- A. integrate and apply scientific information and research into professional dietetics and nutrition practice. *[Professional Practice Skills]*

- B. defend beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviors that are at the professional dietitian level of practice. *[Professional Practice Skills]*
- C. provide clinical and customer services by developing and delivering information, products and services to individuals, groups and populations. *[Client Care Skills; Public/Population Health and Community Nutrition Skills]*
- D. utilize strategic application of principles of management and systems in the provision of food and nutrition services to individuals and organizations. *[Organizational Leadership/Management Skills; Food and Food Systems Skills]*
- E. demonstrate an understanding of Alaska Native culture and Alaska's unique healthcare delivery system. *[Concentration area: Alaska Native Culture and Alaska's Unique Healthcare Delivery System]*

MS, Dietetics and Nutrition Course Descriptions

DN A601: Professional Practice in Dietetics and Nutrition

Prepares students to be effective dietetics and nutrition practitioners, operating with professional ethical standards and scope of practice. Trains students on health care systems within which they will work and processes for payment for services. Assists students in engaging in professional organizations for professional advancement and lifelong learning.

DN A612: Advanced Nutrition Counseling

Examines and applies theoretical models as the basis for nutrition counseling and behavior change. Utilizes evidence-based interviewing, counseling and nutrition intervention strategies in the nutrition care of clients with complex medical conditions (e.g., renal disease, obesity, eating disorders).

DN A615: Public Health Nutrition

Analyzes current societal issues around public health nutrition and health promotion. Engages students in critical thinking as it relates to nutrition-related policies. Examines environmental and societal levels of influence on dietary intake, food choices and related health outcomes. Integrates nutrition-related public policy initiatives with grant writing and program development to affect public health.

DN A630: Applied Research in Nutrition and Dietetics

Applies the critical interpretation of dietetics and nutrition research findings to professional practice. Builds on prior didactic coursework in research methodologies. Focuses on evidence-based resource development, translational research, outcomes research, program evaluation and nutrition surveillance.

DN A641: Clinical Nutrition Assessment and Intervention

Provides students with skills to conduct nutrition-focused history and physical exams incorporating lifestyle, culture, and principles of nutritional genomics. Addresses underlying contributors to disease. Covers the appropriate use of laboratory data and dietary supplements. Addresses specific topics in pediatric and geriatric nutrition.

DN A642: Advanced Clinical Nutrition

Provides the opportunity to apply nutrition assessment principles to complex health conditions. Engages students in the use of current literature and clinical practice guidelines to develop nutrition care plans incorporating principles of nutritional genomics, pharmacology, integrative and functional nutrition, and dietary supplements.

DN A650: Dietetics Organizational Leadership and Management

Presents functions and principles of management for the administration of dietetics and nutrition services in various settings. Examines best practices in strategic planning, leadership styles, and the management of financial, human, material and facility resources in dietetics practice.

DN A692A: Seminar: Current Issues in Dietetics Clinical and Community Nutrition
Seminar in current dietetics and clinical and community nutrition issues/topics intended for dietetic interns. Provides theoretical and conceptual learning along with practicum coursework necessary to meet American Dietetic Association accreditation standards and to prepare future dietitians for professional practice as Registered Dietitians.

DN A692B: Seminar: Current Issues in Dietetics Community Nutrition and Foodservice Administration

Seminar in current dietetics, community nutrition, foodservice administration issues/topics intended for dietetic interns. Provides theoretical and conceptual learning along with practicum coursework necessary to meet American Dietetic Association accreditation standards and to prepare future dietitians for professional practice as Registered Dietitians.

DN A695C: Practicum in Clinical Nutrition

Practicum experience in clinical nutrition for dietetic interns, necessary to meet American Dietetic Association accreditation standards and to prepare future dietitians for professional practice as Registered Dietitians.

DN A695D: Practicum in Community Nutrition

Practicum experience in community nutrition for dietetic interns, necessary to meet American Dietetic Association accreditation standards and to prepare future dietitians for professional practice as Registered Dietitians.

DN A695E: Advanced Practicum in Community Nutrition

Advanced practicum experience in community nutrition for dietetic interns, necessary to meet American Dietetic Association accreditation standards and to prepare future dietitians for professional practice as Registered Dietitians.

DN A695F: Practicum in Foodservice Administration

Practicum experience in foodservice administration for dietetic interns, necessary to meet American Dietetic Association accreditation standards and to prepare future dietitians for professional practice as Registered Dietitians.

DN A698: Dietetics & Nutrition Graduate Project

The project serves as the basis for evaluating the capability of its author in the areas of applied community-based nutrition project and professional practice. The student's work is reviewed by her/his project committee to judge the author's scholarship and professional presentation and to ascertain that the student has demonstrated their knowledge and ability to receive the Master's Degree.

DN A699: Dietetics & Nutrition Graduate Thesis

The thesis serves as the basis for evaluating the capability of its author in the areas of applied nutrition research and professional practice. The student's work is reviewed by her/his thesis committee to judge the author's scholarship and professional

presentation, and to ascertain that the student has demonstrated their knowledge and ability to receive the Master's Degree.

HS A625: Biostatistics for Health Professionals

Reviews principles of statistical reasoning and quantitative skills for analyzing health data. Illustrates descriptive and inferential statistics. Addresses multivariate parametric and nonparametric testing of health data. Compares methodological techniques and the choice of appropriate statistical methods to answer health research questions. Emphasizes interpretation of statistical results.