

The Nutrition program is proposing a change in the admission procedure to the BS in Nutrition.

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Currently, any student with a 2.3 overall GPA is allowed to declare nutrition as a major and they may choose from either our accredited dietetics track or the non-accredited nutritional sciences track.

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We propose:

That the admission requirement remains as is but that all students admitted into nutrition would default into the nutritional sciences track.

Those students wishing to gain admittance to the accredited dietetics track would have to apply for admission after completing 15 hours from the nutrition core: six hours of natural science and at least 9 hours of nutrition coursework with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in these 15 hours.

Our Rationale:

The accredited dietetics track is designed to prepare students for a career pathway to become a Registered Dietitian. Once academic coursework is complete, students must apply to a supervised practice program (dietetic internship) in order to qualify to sit for the credentialing exam to be a registered dietitian.

Currently, nationally less than 50% of students applying to dietetic internships are admitted. Our accreditation now requires that we provide adequate information and counseling to prospective students to inform them of the very real possibility that they will go all the way through the program and ultimately be unsuccessful in attaining their career goals. At this point, the nutrition program requires that all of our students in the dietetics track have a 3.0 average GPA in nutrition core coursework to obtain a verification statement which is the necessary document to apply to dietetic internship so the GPA requirement is not a substantial change from current policy.

The nutritional sciences track meets the requirement for pre-med and would also meet the requirements for students preparing for dental, PT, OT, ST, nursing etc. The main differences in the two tracks is that the dietetics track requires 13 hours of food prep, food science and food production labs that are not required in the nutritional sciences track. These food labs are a bottleneck for scheduling and at this point, we are having a very difficult time getting all students through all of these courses in a timely manner.