

GPIDEA Master's in Dietetics

General Plan Information

Institutional Mission Linkages: The mission of the Great Plains IDEA is to extend the reach of graduate education through the development and online delivery of inter-institutional graduate programs. The program provides an opportunity for practicing Registered Dietitians to achieve a Master's degree and focus on a specialty.

The following institutions are partners in the MS in Dietetics program: Kansas State University, the Kansas University Medical Center, the University of Nebraska, Iowa State University, North Dakota State University, South Dakota State University, Colorado State University, and Oklahoma State University.

Program Purpose:

The Great Plains IDEA Masters of Science in Dietetics is a 36-credit hour program for Registered Dietitians (RDs) who have been credentialed through the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association. The program will also accept individuals who are "registration-eligible" meaning ready to sit for the national credentialing examination.

The program is designed to prepare RDs to practice dietetics at an advanced level and/or to pursue doctoral study. The program seeks to provide up-to-date knowledge in foods, nutrition, and foodservice/business management; stimulate independent thought; and, develop research skills. The program prepares individuals to integrate and apply the principles from the biomedical sciences, human behavior, and management to design and lead effective food and nutrition programs in a variety of settings. The program allows individuals to tailor a degree to fit their current area of dietetics practice or to retool for new career opportunities in the field.

Program Administration of Assessment Process:

For the purpose of program evaluation and improvement, assessment which parallels that used in on-campus assessment will be continually conducted. Selected assignments from core courses will be used to track progress of students toward meeting the objectives of the program. Core courses are currently taught annually and the assessment process will be conducted when the course is taught (some courses in fall semester, others in spring). Key assignments from core courses will be reviewed by an assessment committee (comprised of selected members of the Coordinating Committee) using a rubric developed for the purpose. The chair of the assessment committee will be responsible for inputting data into the PRISM system. Data collected from the previous year will be reviewed by the program's coordinating committee each spring at the annual GPIDEA conference. The Coordinating Committee will use the information to determine future directions for the program and for program improvement.

Student Learning Outcome 1

Students will demonstrate the ability to identify issues in dietetics and provide effective written discussion explaining the issues and their controversies.

Strategy for Students to Learn the Outcome

Artifacts from two core courses will be collected. Research Methods, a course taken early in the student's program and Current Issues, a course taken at the end of the student's program will have written assignments which require the student to identify and explain an important issue in dietetics including identification of controversies. Our expectation is that issue identification and written discussion will improve from the early course to the later course.

Assessment Method(s)

Common rubrics to be selected or created by the leadership of the MS in Dietetics will be used by a team of at least three members to assess how well the students meet the outcome goal and how much change has taken place from the beginning to the end of the program.

Expected Performance Level

We expect upon completion of the program the students will be able to identify issues using appropriate sources that are correctly cited, to describe the impact or potential impact of the issue, to identify controversies and alternative viewpoints, to provide suggestions for resolution and to describe recommendations for action steps to resolve the issue.

All students will score at a 3.5 or above on a 5-point Likert Scale for every learning characteristic. About 80 percent of students will score at 4 or above for every learning characteristic.

Student Learning Outcome 2

Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct evidence-based analysis and apply it to their work settings to enhance their practice of dietetics

Strategy for Students to Learn the Outcome

The required course, Research Methods, will focus on the evidence-based analysis process. The students will learn the methods for conducting evidence-based analysis and will develop an evidence-based analysis as the major assignment for the course. The final assignment will require the student to identify a critical issue in their work setting and apply the evidence-based analysis process to determine means of resolving the issue.

Assessment Method(s)

A rubric will be created to assess understanding of the evidence-based analysis and its application

Expected Performance Level

Students will successfully complete an evidence-based analysis of an issue including: 1. Description of Planning Design; 2. Definition of Problem; 3. Literature Review; 4. Data Gathering Method; 5. Analytic Skills; 6. Solutions, 7. Conclusion; and 8. Documentation. All students will score at a 3.5 or above on a 5-point Likert Scale for every learning characteristic. About 80 percent of students will score at 4 or above for every learning characteristic.