

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST FOR NEW PROGRAM AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY:  
MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN DIETETICS**

**Action Requested:** Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University (ISU) to establish a Master of Professional Practice in Dietetics (MPPD) in the department of Food Science and Human Nutrition in the College of Human Sciences.

**Executive Summary:** The proposed MPPD creates a non-thesis graduate degree. Currently, ISU offers a Dietetics Internship Graduate Certificate (DI). The credentialing agency announced that by 2024 a master's degree will be required to take the national credentialing exam. Demand for the MPPD program is high among current graduate certificate students. It will be offered exclusively online, and ISU already has all of the necessary faculty to support the program initially. The Council of Provosts and the Board office support approval of this program.

**Background:**

- ◇ Description of proposed program. This proposal creates an online, non-thesis (coursework only) Master's of Professional Practice in Dietetics (MPPD). The primary audience for the program will be students completing the Dietetic Internship (DI) Graduate Certificate. Graduate credits awarded in the Graduate Certificate will be applied towards the master's degree. The Commission on Dietetics Registration, the credentialing agency for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, announced a master's degree will be required to take the national registration exam to become a Registered Dietitian (RD) beginning in 2024. Initiating this program prior to the 2024 mandate will positively position the ISU dietetics programs for an efficient and effective transition to the new Commission on Dietetics Registration requirements. The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics will determine appropriate graduate level competencies and educational requirements that will be used by accredited educational programs when educating students to become RD and we will adapt our program according to these standards.
  
- ◇ Academic objectives.
  - Demonstrate an in-depth and accurate knowledge and understanding of the field of nutrition/dietetics
  - Apply evidence-based guidelines, systematic reviews, and scientific literature in the nutrition care process and model other areas of dietetics practice
  - Evaluate emerging research for application in dietetics practice
  - Apply theoretical information to solve practical problems
  - Justify programs, products, services and care using appropriate evidence or data
  - Conduct projects using appropriate research methods, ethical procedures and data analysis
  - Prepare and communicate discipline-specific information in written and oral forms to scientific and lay audiences
  - Apply leadership skills to achieve desired outcomes
  - Use current informatics technology to develop, store, retrieve and disseminate information and data

- ◇ Need for proposed program. The Commission on Dietetics Registration has announced a master's degree will be required to take the national registration exam to become an RD beginning in 2024. Thus, students enrolled in the ISU DI program (n=180 annually) will need to complete a master's degree prior to becoming eligible for the national registration exam. A survey of the current dietetic intern class (n=111; 74 responses, 67% response rate) suggests 90% of interns would be interested in pursuing a master's degree where credits earned in the internship were applied to the master's degree. Approximately two-thirds (64%) were planning to pursue a master's degree within 3 years.
- ◇ Link to institutional strategic plan. ISU prepares dietetic leaders for the nation and the world. In fact, it is home to the only didactic program in dietetics (DPD) in the state. The ISU DI program is the largest program in the nation (180 interns annually), and is the only DI program offering an international experience. The ISU DPD and DI programs are administered in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN). The Department of FSHN is fully engaged in outcomes driven education, which focuses on student-centered education. Graduates of the program will play an integral role in producing and delivering safe and nutritious food, and protecting human health.

**ISU and College of Human Sciences Strategic Plan:**

- The proposed master's degree, in combination with the DI, will continue to attract outstanding students seeking education and training preparing them to impact human lives. The ISU DI currently receives approximately 300 applications to fill the 180 internship spots annually. Nationwide, the match rate for DI programs is 50%. Thus, there continues to be a demand for the DI, and ultimately the master's degree when it becomes a mandate in 2024. Graduates of the program will be equipped to solve complex, multi-dimensional problems relative to food systems and human health.
  - The Department of FSHN is well-known for both dietetics and food science programs. The proposed program will attract outstanding new faculty to provide instructional support to both online and on-campus programs.
  - The Department of FSHN is uniquely positioned to address one of the most significant challenges of the 21st century – food safety, food security, and protection of human health. The proposed program will play a crucial role in the dissemination of transformational applied research and creativity to ensure a safe and secure food system and advance the understanding of nutrition in human health and disease.
  - The proposed program will continue the current goal of the DI Graduate Certificate to prepare and make interns eligible for the national registration examination and become a RD. As the only Didactic Program in Dietetics program in the state, the largest DI in the nation, and the only DI offering an international component, the ISU Dietetic programs are a treasured resource for Iowa, the nation, and the world.
- ◇ Relationship to existing programs at the institution. The proposed program will provide students/interns completing Didactic Program in Dietetics and DI Graduate Certificate, the opportunity to complete a master's degree. The online delivery of the program will accommodate those students/interns who elect to pursue employment and/or reside off-campus the opportunity to complete the master's degree prior to the 2024 Commission on Dietetics Registration mandate.

After the 2024 Commission on Dietetics Registration mandate, online delivery of the program will accommodate the interns in the DI to complete the master's degree in a timely manner. Timeliness is critical because the master's degree will be required to be eligible for the national registration examination and become a RD.

The proposed program does not duplicate existing programs at the university. The proposed program is an online, coursework only master’s degree.

- ◆ Relationship to existing programs at other colleges and universities. The University of Iowa (UI) has an on-campus DI program that serves a maximum of 12 students annually. Students may elect to stay on-campus and complete a Masters of Public Health (MPH) program after completing the DI. Thus, the proposed program differs from the UI DI program in that:
  - 180 vs 12 students are served annually
  - A MPP degree is awarded vs a MPH
  - Degree uses online delivery, vs an on-campus degree

The goals and objectives of the programs at ISU and UI are significantly different in scope. The UI program is an on-campus Masters of Public Health program, whereas the ISU program is an online MPPD. As additional online courses are developed, UI students interested in graduate nutrition curricula would be encouraged and welcome to enroll.

- ◆ Unique features. The ISU DI has offered its entire program via distance education delivery since 1996. The program received accreditor approval to offer the program fully off-campus nationwide in 2000. ISU is currently the only DPD program in the state, the largest DI program nationally and the only DI with an international experience. The Department of FSHN already has a critical mass of faculty that hold both the PhD and RD credential that can contribute graduate coursework for the degree.
- ◆ Resources to establish a high-quality program. The Department and Faculty of FSHN are renowned and recognized in the areas of dietetic education as well as food science and nutrition research. On the FSHN faculty there are 13 tenure-track faculty with PhDs in nutrition-specific areas and 5 also are RDs. Additionally, there are 7 non-tenure eligible faculty in the Clinician or Senior Clinician rank with MS and RD degrees in the department. Thus, faculty are well-equipped to provide instruction at the master’s level for this professional master’s program. The College of Human Sciences provides support in distance education delivery through the Office of Distance Education and Educational Technology (ODEET).
- ◆ Student demand. According to the Commission on Dietetics Registration a master’s degree will be required to sit for the national registration examination to become a RD starting in 2024. Therefore, all 180 interns served annually will require a master’s degree by then.
- ◆ Workforce need/demand. According to Occupational Outlook Handbook, the job outlook for dietitians/nutritionists is anticipated to grow. Between 2014 and 2024, the number of positions will grow by 11,000 (16%).

◆ Cost.

	<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	<b>TOTAL NEW COSTS</b>
Year 1	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$5,000 stipend</b>
Year 2	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Year 3	<b>\$60,000 + FB</b>	<b>\$55,000 (clinician) +</b>
Year 4	<b>\$60,000 + FB</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Year 5	<b>\$60,000 + FB</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Year 6	<b>\$60,000 + FB</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Year 7	<b>\$60,000 + FB</b>	<b>\$0</b>

FB= Fringe benefits

◇ Projected enrollment.

Graduate	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7
Majors	5	15	30	50	75	125	180
Non-Majors	n/a						

◇ Anticipated sources of students. These students will be coming from the DI Graduate Certificate program.

◇ Articulation agreement. None are planned.

◇ Accreditation. The program will apply for programmatic accreditation through ACEND as a pilot program during its 10 year accreditation visit in 2018. If not accepted into the pilot program, we will apply for a ‘major change’ after the accreditation visit, likely 2020-2022. Full accreditation will be pursued at the next accreditation visit in 2025.

The current DI program is accredited by ACEND through 2018 and has been accredited since 1988 with successful accreditation review every 10 years.

◇ Opportunities for internships. This program encompasses the DI Graduate Certificate, which already includes an accredited, required internship component that prepares graduates for the national registration examination to become a RD.

◇ Evaluation plan. The program will participate in a systematic process of planning, implementation, and evaluation of all components of the program and its effectiveness on a regular and continuing basis. Advisement and input is sought from various stakeholders, both inside and outside the DPD and DI. Additionally, members of departmental faculty, outside of DI faculty, participate in program planning, implementation, and evaluation through faculty meetings and committee meetings (e.g. outcomes assessment and curriculum committees). The program will also participate in continual learning outcomes assessment as part of the Department of FSHN’s outcomes driven education outcome assessment programs. Graduates of the program will be surveyed annually and current students complete faculty and course evaluations at the conclusion of each course. Employers of graduates are surveyed also.

◇ Date of implementation. Upon approval by the Board of Regents, ISU will establish the MPPD degree.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Department of Biology



June 1, 2017

Ruth Litchfield, PhD, RD, LD  
Professor/Associate Chair,  
Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition  
State Nutrition and Wellness Specialist, Human Sciences Extension and Outreach

Dear Ruth,

Thank you for consulting with the Department of Biology at the University of Northern Iowa regarding the proposed Master's of Professional Practice – Dietetics (MPP-D) program at Iowa State University. Based on our review of the proposal, we do not see any duplication of existing majors between the proposed program and current programs within the Department of Biology at the University of Northern Iowa. Our faculty are supportive of your efforts and new proposed Master's of Professional Practice – Dietetics Program at Iowa State University.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David K. Saunders".

David K. Saunders, Professor and Head  
Department of Biology

**From:** Snetselaar, Linda G [<mailto:linda-snetselaar@uiowa.edu>] **Sent:** Friday, May 26, 2017 12:23 PM

**To:** Litchfield, Ruth E [FSHNH] <[litch@iastate.edu](mailto:litch@iastate.edu)> **Subject:** Re: letter of support

Ruth,

I would be happy to supply a letter of support. I am currently traveling for work and vacation. Please let me know when you will need the letter. I know the COP and BOR meet the first week in June. I will be out-of-town on those days.

It is my honor to provide my full support.

Linda

On May 26, 2017, at 11:03 AM, Litchfield, Ruth E [FSHNH] <[litch@iastate.edu](mailto:litch@iastate.edu)> wrote:  
Dr. Snetselaar –

The proposed MPP-D (Master's of Professional Practice - Dietetics) program is on an upcoming agenda of the Board of Regents. Before that review, we would very much like to have a letter of support from the UI for our program. Per Iowa State University (ISU) procedures, the proposal has been approved at all levels (department, college and university). It has also been shared previously with the University of Iowa (UI).

Our department offers the Dietetic Internship curriculum for over 180 students per year, which is offered completely online. As you are aware, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics has announced a change in the standard effective in 2024 that a Master's degree will be required for all Registered Dietitians. Hence, the development of the MPP-D to be offered solely online and focus on health promotion and technology. The program will be integrated into the Dietetic Internship. The proposed program is significantly different from the campus-based dietetic internship offered by the UI, which focuses on Medical Nutrition Therapy and will be offering a Master's of Clinical Nutrition.

We have a long tradition of support and collaboration in dietetics education across our institutions. There have been multiple conversations including Laurie Kroymann, Joan Dolezal, Dr. Asprey, Executive Dean Pat Winokur and yourself. Based on these conversations, we are fully confident that both ISU and UI are moving in the right direction to establish graduate degree programs that will support the changing requirements of the AND and meet the needs of future dietetics professionals. There will be many opportunities for our programs to collaborate across these degree offerings into the future. Because these programs will be offered via different formats (ISU online, UI on campus) with different foci, we see the programs as not competitive.

I am asking if you might be willing to provide us with a letter of support that acknowledges the mutual benefits of these programs? Please let me know if you would like additional information about our proposal or programs.

Thank you, Ruth