Expected Outcomes: Satisfaction with BS degree

Graduates earning a BS degree, dietetics option, will be satisfied with the quality of the education they received in the nutrition field and other domains of learning related to dietetics.

Related typical general education outcomes:

- 2 Analytical and Critical Reading
- 6 Ability to Solve Open-Ended Problems
- 7 Written Communication
- 8 Oral Communication
- 11 Scientific Literacy

Assessment methods

Method: Alumni Survey

Alumni surveys are sent electronically to nutrition graduates. The response to the satisfaction question: ‘What is your overall satisfaction with your Auburn education?’ is in the form of a Likert scale (1=poor to 5=excellent). In addition, alumni are asked about their current status of employment or enrollment in other professional / graduate programs.

Findings:

Electronic surveys were sent out to 36 2011 graduates including those who completed an internship and those who did not apply to an internship; 18 (50%) responses were received. On the 5-point scale, the mean satisfaction rating was 4.7. Of the 18 responses, 7 were from graduates who did not go through an internship; the mean satisfaction rating from this subset of graduates was 4.75.

How did you use findings for improvement?

The nutrition faculty are re-evaluating the courses in the nutrition curriculum and the assignments in the courses to ensure that we continue to provide our students with an excellent education.

Additional comments:

None

Method: Dietetic Internship Directors’ Survey

Electronic surveys are sent to directors of dietetic internships where AU graduates are accepted. Directors evaluate AU graduates’ knowledge, skills, and professionalism.

Findings:

Electronic surveys were sent to 12 directors of dietetic internships. Responses were received from at least 9 program directors who, between them, had 24 AU graduates. On a 5-point Likert scale (1=poor to 5=excellent), the overall mean rating was 4.2.
How did you use findings for improvement?

We continue to reevaluate the dietetics curriculum and instructional approaches to ensure the students are provided with the knowledge and skills needed for dietetics practice. We also try to instill a strong work ethic and professionalism into the students.

Additional comments:

None

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected Outcomes: Acceptance to dietetic internships</th>
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<tr>
<td>At least 60% students who graduate in the dietetics option and who apply to dietetic internships will be accepted into competitive dietetic internships.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Related typical general education outcomes:</th>
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<th>Assessment methods</th>
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<td>Method: Dietetic Internship Acceptance</td>
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The Director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics keeps an annual report of the number of applications to dietetic internships that are submitted by students and alumni, and of the number of Auburn applicants accepted into these highly competitive internships. Since internship selection committees are highly selective, the acceptance rate is a measure, in part, of the quality of the education received by Auburn students.

Findings:

In 2011, 18 AU seniors and 2 alumni applied for a dietetic internship. Nationwide, in 2011, 4945 dietetic students applied for dietetic internships; only 2589 applicants were matched (52%). Thirteen (65%) of the AU students were matched, a percentage that is above the national average.

How did you use findings for improvement?

In 2011, the number of graduates from Didactic Programs in Dietetics nationwide was 5732, yet only 2589 dietetic students (less than 50%) were matched in an internship. Students are informed of this situation and urged to gain experience and to work to improve their academic records to make themselves as competitive as possible. An additional curriculum option for nutrition majors in wellness also will be available in the next year to provide an alternative career pathway for students with an interest in nutrition but not in dietetics.

Additional comments:

None

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<th>Expected Outcomes: Passage rate on National Examination for RD's</th>
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Tuesday, February 05, 2013, Office of Institutional Research and Assessment
At least 80% of AU graduates completing dietetic internships will pass the National Examination for Registered Dietitians (RD) on their first attempt.

Related typical general education outcomes:

1. Information Literacy
2. Analytical and Critical Reading
5. Ability to Use Mathematical Methods
7. Written Communication
10. Intercultural Knowledge and Diversity Awareness
11. Scientific Literacy

**Assessment methods**

**Method:** RD Examination Reports

ACT, the testing contractor for the RD Examination, provides our department with an Institutional Report for AU graduates twice a year. In addition, the Commission on Dietetic Registration provides a 5-year Summary Report for AU graduates once a year.

**Findings:**

In 2011 (the most recent year for which statistics are available) 18 AU graduates took the National Examination for Registered Dietitians for the first time and 16 passed the examination. The AU passage rate was 89% compared with the national passage rate of 86%. AU’s 5-year passage rate for those taking the examination for the first time is 93%; the national passage rate for the same 5 years is 81.8%.

**How did you use findings for improvement?**

We urge students and graduates to study for the examination and to take the examination seriously.

**Additional comments:**

None

**Method:** RD Examination Statistics

Statistics provided by the administrators of the National Examination for Registered Dietitians include comparisons of AU candidates’ mean test scores to mean national scores. Our objective is that mean test and individual domain scores of AU candidates will meet or exceed the national means.

**Findings:**

In 2011 (the most recent year for which data are provided) the mean scaled test score for AU candidates was 28.4 compared to 28.0 nationally. On the nutrition subscale, the mean score for AU candidates was 17.0 versus 16.7 nationally. On the foodservice subscale, the mean score for AU candidates was 17.1 versus 16.9 nationally.

**How did you use findings for improvement?**

The faculty continue to make sure course content is up-to-date and relevant to practice. We also strongly urge graduates to study and to be thoroughly prepared before taking the registration examination.
Expected Outcomes: Post-baccalaureate employment or graduate degree

Graduates earning a BS degree will be prepared to obtain entry-level positions in the field or to enter graduate or professional programs.

Related typical general education outcomes:

1. Information Literacy
2. Analytical and Critical Reading
3. Ability to Use Mathematical Methods
4. Ability to Solve Open-Ended Problems
5. Written Communication
6. Oral Communication
7. Intercultural Knowledge and Diversity Awareness
8. Scientific Literacy

Assessment methods

Method: Alumni Survey

Alumni surveys are sent electronically to nutrition graduates. The response to the satisfaction question: ‘What is your overall satisfaction with your Auburn education?’ is in the form of a Likert scale (1=poor to 5=excellent). In addition, alumni are asked about their current status of employment or enrollment in other professional/graduate programs.

Findings:

Electronic surveys were sent to 16 graduates of the 2011 class who did not apply to dietetic internships. Seven (44%) responses were received. Four of the seven were employed in public health nutrition, and one of these four has been accepted into an internship. Two graduates indicated they were in graduate programs (one in nursing and one in an unrelated discipline). The other graduate is employed in a health-related area.

How did you use findings for improvement?

We are encouraged that most AU graduates who did not go through a dietetic internship (and who responded to the survey) are finding employment in nutrition. We are continuing to evaluate and redesign options in the curriculum to provide alternative career paths for nutrition students.

Additional comments:

None