Expected Outcomes: Critical thinking and problem solving skills

Doctoral students will demonstrate critical thinking and problem solving skills

Assessment methods

**Method:** Evaluation of scholarly paper / preliminary exams

Doctoral students will analyze refereed, scientific literature, and or answer questions on complex, discipline-specific issues, as part of the written preliminary examinations and/or as part of at least 1 graduate class. For the graduate class, evaluation will be completed by the course instructor, based on specific criteria. For preliminary examination, at least two departmental faculty will conduct an evaluation, based on specific criteria.

**Findings:**

100% of doctoral students passed the written preliminary examinations. 100% of doctoral students earned an A on a scholarly paper in NTRI 8970 - Advanced Topics in Nutrition, Dietetics, and Hospitality Management; and 86% earned an A (6 students out of 7) and 14% (1 student out of 7) earned a D on a scholarly paper in HRMT 6570 and 6576 (distance version) - Global Hospitality.

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

Not applicable

**Additional comments:**

The low grade in HRMT 6570 and 6576 was due to submission of a poorly-written project report. To improve outcomes, course instructors will monitor progress of the project report periodically, and a percentage of the grade will be allocated for making fair-to-good progress until the project is submitted.

**Method:** Alumni survey

An alumni survey will be sent to doctoral students 6 to 12 months after graduation asking them about (a) preparedness for employment or pursuit of further education (eg., postdoc, medical school, etc.), (b) what aspects of the graduate program helped them the most, (c) what suggestions they have for improvement of the program, and (d) to rate achievement of each of the learning goals (critical thinking / problem solving, oral communication skills, scientific / professional writing).

**Findings:**

50%, 25%, and 25% of alumni from the doctoral program indicated that they were extremely well, very well, and not very well prepared, respectively, in critical thinking and problem solving skills upon graduation from the department.

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

Not applicable

**Additional comments:**
Expected Outcomes: Scientific/professional writing skills

Doctoral students will demonstrate proficiency in scientific / professional writing skills

Assessment methods

Method: Evaluation of scholarly paper / preliminary exams

Doctoral students will analyze refereed, scientific literature, and or answer questions on complex, discipline-specific issues, as part of the written preliminary examinations and/or as part of at least 1 graduate class. For the graduate class, evaluation will be completed by the course instructor, based on specific criteria. For preliminary examination, at least two departmental faculty will conduct an evaluation, based on specific criteria.

Findings:

100% of doctoral students passed the written preliminary examinations. 100% of doctoral students earned an A on a scholarly paper in NTRI 8970 - Advanced Topics in Nutrition, Dietetics, and Hospitality Management; and 86% earned an A (6 students out of 7) and 14% (1 student out of 7) earned a D on a scholarly paper in HRMT 6570 and 6576 (distance version) - Global Hospitality.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Not applicable

Additional comments:

The low grade in HRMT 6570 and 6576 was due to submission of a poorly-written project report. To improve outcomes, course instructors will monitor progress of the project report periodically, and a percentage of the grade will be allocated for making fair-to-good progress until the project is submitted.

Method: Alumni survey

An alumni survey will be sent to doctoral students 6 to 12 months after graduation asking them about (a) preparedness for employment or pursuit of further education (eg., postdoc, medical school, etc.), (b) what aspects of the graduate program helped them the most, (c) what suggestions they have for improvement of the program, and (d) to rate achievement of each of the learning goals (critical thinking / problem solving, oral communication skills, scientific / professional writing).

Findings:

33%, 33%, and 33% of alumni from the doctoral program indicated that the graduate program enhanced their proficiency in scientific/professional writing skills extremely well, very well, and adequately well, respectively.

How did you use findings for improvement?

None

Additional comments:

None

Method: Evaluation of seminar
As part of seminar (NTRI 8850), doctoral students will search and analyze refereed, scientific literature to develop a professional abstract and presentation for departmental faculty and graduate students. Evaluation of the abstract and presentation will be completed by attending faculty and graduate students using specific criteria to identify strengths and weaknesses.

Findings:

100% of doctoral students earned an A for the abstract portion of seminar.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Not applicable

Additional comments:

None

Method: Research Publications

Doctoral students will publish their research in a refereed journal

Findings:

75% of the doctoral students who graduated in the last year have published their dissertation findings in a refereed journal. The other 25% of doctoral students who graduated last year have presented their research at a professional meeting(s), and have manuscripts in preparation for submission.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Not applicable

Additional comments:

None

Expected Outcomes: Oral communication skills

Doctoral students will demonstrate effective oral communication skills

Assessment methods

Method: Alumni survey

An alumni survey will be sent to doctoral students 6 to 12 months after graduation asking them about (a) preparedness for employment or pursuit of further education (eg., postdoc, medical school, etc.), (b) what aspects of the graduate program helped them the most, (c) what suggestions they have for improvement of the program, and (d) to rate achievement of each of the learning goals (critical thinking / problem solving, oral communication skills, scientific / professional writing).

Findings:

100% of alumni from the doctoral program indicated that they were extremely well prepared in oral communication skills upon graduation from the department.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Not applicable

Additional comments:
Nutrition, PHD, 2012

Method: Evaluation of seminar
As part of seminar (NTRI 8850), doctoral students will search and analyze refereed, scientific literature to develop a professional abstract and presentation for departmental faculty and graduate students. Evaluation of the abstract and presentation will be completed by attending faculty and graduate students using specific criteria to identify strengths and weaknesses.

Findings:
79% of doctoral students earned an A and 21% earned a B for the oral presentation of seminar.

How did you use findings for improvement?
Not applicable

Additional comments:
None

Expected Outcomes: Preparedness
Doctoral students will be prepared for a professional position or for further education (eg., postdoc, medical school, etc.,)

Assessment methods
Method: Alumni survey
An alumni survey will be sent to doctoral students 6 to 12 months after graduation asking them about (a) preparedness for employment or pursuit of further education (eg., postdoc, medical school, etc.,), (b) what aspects of the graduate program helped them the most, (c) what suggestions they have for improvement of the program, and (d) to rate achievement of each of the learning goals (critical thinking / problem solving, oral communication skills, scientific / professional writing).

Findings:
25%, 50%, and 25% of alumni from the doctoral program indicated that they were extremely well prepared, very well prepared and not well prepared, respectively, for employment/further education upon graduation from the department.

How did you use findings for improvement?
Not applicable

Additional comments:
Alumni of the doctoral program were asked to rate the overall satisfaction of their graduate studies on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). The average score was 5.