



ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL FORM

(Revised May 2014)

DIRECTIONS: Use this form when proposing a new major or primary field of study, new emphasis, or new degree program.

DATE SUBMITTED: October 2016

Date of AAC Approval:

January 27, 2017

INSTITUTION: University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)

REQUEST TYPE: New Degree
 New Major or Primary Field of Study
 New Emphasis

Date of Board Approval:

DEGREE (i.e. Bachelor of Science): Master of Science (M.S.)

MAJOR (i.e. Animal Science):

EMPHASIS (i.e. Equine Studies): Nutrition Sciences

CREDITS TO DEGREE: 33

PROPOSED SEMESTER OF IMPLEMENTATION: Fall 2017

Action requested:

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas requests approval of a Master of Science, Nutrition Sciences

A. Brief description and purpose of proposed program

Beginning in 2017, students wishing to pursue the credential Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) must complete a master's degree. The M.S. in Nutrition Sciences would provide a logical choice for Bachelor of Science in Nutrition Sciences students to meet this new accreditation requirement to sit for the Registration Examination for Dietitians and become a Licensed Dietitian (LD) in Nevada, which is required for practice. If a master's degree plan is not available at the institution, students must be informed before they enter at the B.S. level so they fully understand that they cannot complete the process of becoming an RDN at UNLV. Currently, there are twenty two students enrolled in the dietetic internship program each year who need a master's degree program.

B. Statement of degree or program objectives

The mission of the UNLV M.S. in Nutrition Sciences is to provide program graduates with the skills and knowledge to be competent nutrition and dietetics professionals capable of providing excellent nutrition and dietetic services in numerous community, food service, management, and clinical

settings. The program will provide an evidence-based curriculum with a translation to clinical/professional practice. Program goals and student learning outcomes are described below.

C. Plan for assessment of degree or program objectives

I. Program Goals and Objectives

Program Goal #1 - The program will prepare graduates for a nutrition and dietetics career utilizing the knowledge and skills gained during the program.

Program Objectives for Goal 1:

1. At least 80% of graduating candidates will rate themselves as being prepared to seek their first job in the nutrition and dietetics related field. (Rating scale: well-prepared, prepared, not well prepared).
2. For students who enter the program without the RDN credential who wish to obtain a Dietetic Internship/Supervised Practice Program, at least 80% of those applying will be accepted within 12 months of graduation.
3. For students who enter the program without the RDN credential (such as those who aspire to a higher position and/or pay grade) and wish to become eligible for this exam, at least 80% of these graduates will pass the registration examination on the first try.
4. At least 80% of graduates will rate that they were at least satisfied with the overall knowledge gained during the program (Rating Scale: “highly satisfied”, “satisfied”, or “dissatisfied”).
5. At least 80% of graduates will be employed (or have attempted employment) in a nutrition or dietetics-related field, enrolled in a dietetic internship program, or enrolled in additional graduate/professional school following graduation from the program.
6. At least 80% of graduates will rate themselves as being prepared for their dietetic internship or their first dietetics or nutrition-related job (Rating scale: well-prepared, prepared, not well prepared).
7. At least 80% of the time employer/preceptor rankings of graduates’ entry level knowledge will be “satisfactory” or above. (Rating scale: excellent, good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory).
8. At least 80% of students will pursue an active and growing involvement in their discipline by achieving advanced certification and/or membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, one of its affiliates, or a related professional organization.

Program Goal #2 - Recruit and retain a diverse population of students. Program Objectives for Goal 2:

1. At least 25% of the program applicants will be from an out of state university.
2. At least 80% of the students who begin the program will graduate from the program.
3. At least 25% of the students will be from a minority ethnic or non-traditional age group (based on UNLV’s student database).

II. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and Assessment

General Principles to Achieve Student Learning Outcomes

- Learning activities will prepare students for professional practice with patients/clients with various conditions and in various settings.
- Learning activities will prepare students to implement the Nutrition Care Process with various populations and diverse cultures.

- Learning activities will use a variety of educational approaches (such as professional shadowing, role-playing, simulations, hands-on practice, problem-based learning, classroom and web-based instruction, laboratory experiences).
- Learning activities will provide opportunities for students to learn professional and ethical behaviors and expectations including ways to contribute to the nutrition and dietetics profession such as serving as future preceptors and mentors.

Area 1. Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice: Integration of scientific information and research into practice. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be able to:

SLO 1.1. Demonstrate how to locate, interpret, evaluate, and use professional scientific literature to make ethical, evidence-based practice decisions.

SLO 1.2. Use current information technologies to locate and apply evidence-based guidelines and protocols.

SLO 1.3. Analyze data for assessment and evaluate data to be used in decision-making. SLO 1.4. Apply critical thinking skills.

SLO 1.5. Demonstrate understanding of human physiology. SLO 1.6. Demonstrate understanding of nutrient metabolism. SLO 1.7. Demonstrate an understanding of research methods. SLO 1.8. Demonstrate an understanding of research statistics.

Area 2. Professional Practice Expectations: Beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviors for the professional RDN level of practice. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be able to: SLO

2.1: Demonstrate effective and professional oral and written communication and documentation.

SLO 2.2: Describe the governance of nutrition and dietetics practice, such as the Scope of Nutrition and Dietetics Practice and the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Nutrition and Dietetics; and inter-professional relationships in various practice settings.

SLO 2.3. Identify and describe the roles of others with whom the registered dietitian nutritionist collaborates in the delivery of food and nutrition services.

SLO 2.4. Demonstrate an understanding of cultural competence.

SLO 2.5. Demonstrate identification with the nutrition and dietetics profession through activities such as participation in professional organizations and advocating for issues impacting the nutrition and dietetics profession.

SLO 2.6. Describe the role of a professional in mentoring and precepting others.

Area 3. Clinical and Customer Services: Development and delivery of information, products and services to individuals, groups and populations. Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

SLO 3.1. Use the Nutrition Care Process in decision making and patient/client care. SLO 3.2.

Develop nutrition interventions in diverse individuals and groups.

SLO 3.3. Develop an educational session or program/educational strategy for a target population.

SLO 3.4. Demonstrate counseling and education methods to facilitate behavior change for diverse individuals and groups.

D. Plan for assessment of student learning outcomes and the use of this data for program improvement

See attached student learning outcomes assessment plan.

III. Closing the Loop

Program goals and student learning outcome data will be collected and analyzed annually (May).

Annual assessment (short-term assessment) will examine whether outcomes were met and, if not, the plausible reasons. Long-term assessment will involve deciding whether current program goals/outcomes and student learning outcomes are still relevant to the program and the profession. If outcomes are not being met, the following steps will be taken:

1. We will first try to identify the reason as to why the outcome was not met.
2. If outcomes are not met, a plan needs to be developed to strengthen the program (or aspect of the program that is deficient) and curriculum to meet the demands of the profession. Both short-term and long-term plans must be developed. Much of the specific actions will depend on the data collected in our graduate and employer surveys.
3. If program goals are not being met, feedback from both graduates, employers, and the advisory board will be required to identify the weak areas and suggestions for improvements. If SLOs are not being met, the curriculum must be re-evaluated to determine the appropriateness of the course content and/or the assessment method.

Assessment data will be shared with program faculty, department and school administrators, the UNLV Office of Academic Assessment, and the Nutrition Sciences Advisory Board. Our Advisory Board consists of professionals in the community along with graduates of our programs. With our other programs, input from these stakeholders has been invaluable. Eventually we plan for this program to become accredited, at which time all assessment plans and data will be shared with the accrediting body, the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics.

E. Contribution and relationship of program objectives to

i. NSHE Master Plan

Initiative #1: Increase Student Retention and Success

This proposed program will be a requirement to sit for the National Registration Examination for Dietitians. Based on our program data of those who completed their supervised practice, 100% of the students have completed their program. We anticipate similar enthusiasm for this new program.

Initiative #2: Increase Transparency, Accountability and Performance

Establish institutional protocols for reviewing student performance and determining the extent to which they are pursuing and completing educational programs and acquiring the skills demanded of Nevada employers. Coming from an accredited healthcare profession, this is inherent and a requirement for student success and competency.

Develop and implement institutional assessment plans and effective measures of student learning outcomes for all academic programs—these plans should define student learning outcomes, assess student performance and be used to improve teaching and learning. Coming from an accredited healthcare profession, this is inherent and a requirement for student success and competency. This is already being done and will continue.

Develop incentives for recruiting and retaining high performing and innovative faculty. A master's degree program will help attract quality faculty. This has been a limitation in previous faculty searches. Quality faculty desire to mentor graduate students.

Initiative #3: Continuous Review and Revision of Programs to Support Innovation and Responsiveness

Develop new degree and certificate programs to provide students with career and technical options consistent with current and forecasted economic development and workforce goals of the state. Nevada needs RDNs. This degree program will help prepare future practitioners.

Develop appropriate public/private partnerships with community, businesses, and K-12 to support innovation connectivity, including enhanced collaborative R&D efforts between industry and higher education research institutions. We currently have a strong community presence since students must complete supervised practice experience in the real healthcare setting. These partnerships will grow with the students in an advanced degree setting.

Align overarching research and workforce development priorities with the state plan for economic development. This degree will allow students to obtain their practice credentials.

- Strengthen degrees and certificates that link to identified future jobs sought by Nevada in its economic development plan. This degree will allow students to obtain their practice credentials.

Initiative #4: Ensure that Higher Education is Accessible and Affordable for All Nevadans. While differential tuition is an intriguing prospect, it would eliminate many current local professionals from obtaining their degree at UNLV.

ii. Institutional mission

UNLV Mission: UNLV's diverse faculty, students, staff, and alumni promote community well-being and individual achievement through education, research, scholarship, creative activities, and clinical services. We stimulate economic development and diversification, foster a climate of innovation, promote health, and enrich the cultural vitality of the communities that we serve.

This proposed program is a clinical healthcare program, serving the healthcare needs of the community. Based on the data from our recent self-study report, our program is far more diverse in both race/ethnic and gender than the national average for nutrition and dietetics programs. Clinical nutrition and dietetics is a profession that both promotes health and prevents disease and clinically treats those with nutrition-related diseases and conditions. All accredited healthcare facilities must have RDNs employed in their facilities.

iii. Campus strategic plan and/or academic master plan

The proposed M.S. in Nutrition Sciences supports the UNLV Core Themes:

- Core Theme 1: Promote Student Learning and Success. This program will eventually be an accredited healthcare program producing competent healthcare clinicians.
- Core Theme 2: Advance Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity. Students in this proposed clinical program must conduct clinical research or complete clinical case studies, benefiting patients in the community.
- Core Theme 3: Foster a Diverse Campus Population and Engagement with the Community. Students will be completing clinical case studies in the community (providing patient care) and the hospitals and healthcare organizations will further value UNLV for producing RDN/LD credentialed professionals to fulfill their employment needs.

This proposed clinical healthcare program supports the UNLV Academic Master Plan, specifically:

- As a comprehensive, doctoral-degree-granting research university, UNLV supports research, scholarship, and creative activity in all of its academic programs.
- Our Top Tier initiative requires that only well thought-out and focused programs be developed, creating a synergy of a stronger curriculum, stronger research, and a stronger engagement with the community. This program will fulfill a community need of producing RDN/LDs. Our community looks to UNLV Nutrition Sciences to be leaders in producing competent practitioners that serve our unique and diverse community.
- Stimulate research and scholarship in regionally relevant and emerging areas that build the institution's national and international reputation. A M.S. program in Nutrition Sciences will stimulate both research and knowledge generation through clinical case studies/patient care.
- Contribute to economic development and diversification of the community, state, and region. A M.S. program in Nutrition Sciences will stimulate both research and knowledge generation through clinical case studies/patient care.
- Increase research funding, technology transfer, and economic outreach. More research can be produced with increased graduate students.
- Enhance awareness of the value of research in the community and state. This program will fulfill a community need of producing RDN/LDs. Our community looks to UNLV Nutrition Sciences to be leaders in producing competent practitioners that serve our unique and diverse community. Research and patient care case studies contribute to enhanced clinical practice.
- A top priority for UNLV at this time is the creation of an allopathic medical school; it is anticipated that the school, once established, will have tremendous impact on the university research endeavor as well as the economy of southern Nevada. RDN/LDs must complete supervised practice in a medical setting and work with physicians. Currently our students complete this required experience at all of the hospitals in Las Vegas. Students may be able to also work with the UNLV medical school as it grows and provides services to the community.

iv. Department and college plan

Department Mission: Graduates of this program will be capable of critical thinking, devoted to a lifetime of learning, committed to the ethical standards of their profession, and highly sought after by employers. This proposed program has a mission and SLOs consistent with the department mission. Specifically, Program Goal 1 supports employment and SLO 1.3. (Analyze data for assessment and evaluate data to be used in decision-making), SLO 1.4. (Apply critical thinking skills), and SLO 2.2 (Describe the governance of nutrition and dietetics practice, such as the Scope of Nutrition and Dietetics Practice and the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Nutrition and Dietetics; and inter-professional relationships in various practice settings) are consistent with the mission.

College Plan:

GOAL #2: Provide quality educational opportunities for students interested in becoming allied health care professionals. Strategy #1: Enhance graduate programs. Action #1: Establish baseline data from which to assess and refine graduate programs in a way to recruit high quality graduate students. Baseline data will be gathered into an annual report format including: Academic measures (e.g., GPA, GRE) of applicants. Number of GPSA applications and awards. Number of graduate students funded via external awards. Associate Dean Department Chairs Action #2: Explore collaborative master and doctoral level degree programs and develop these programs where appropriate (e.g., Nuclear Engineering & Health Physics, M.S. Kinesiology – Nutrition).

v. Other programs in the institution

There is no related program in the institution.

vi. Other related programs in the System

The only other M.S. in Nutrition program in the system is at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). That program has different coursework and different research areas of expertise. Our program integrates exercise physiology, sports nutrition, and clinical nutrition and dietetics. Our research opportunities include community outreach in the UNLV Nutrition Center and the study of nutrition and human performance.

F. Evaluation of need for the program

i. Intrinsic academic value of program within the discipline

Our accrediting body, the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) and its stakeholders indicated the need for a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) who has a more complex and deeper breadth of knowledge, stronger critical thinking ability, and additional clinical skills to address an expanding scope of practice. Areas of the curriculum such as research, management and leadership, patient assessment, prescriptive authority, inter-professional work, counseling, critical thinking and behavior change will need to be addressed. This cannot be completed in a bachelor's degree curriculum and therefore the entry-level degree will be the master's degree. Without this degree program, students enrolled in undergraduate education at UNLV will not be able to complete the process to become an RDN at UNLV and gain employment in Nevada.

ii. Evidence of existing or projected local, state, regional, national and/or international need for program

A needs assessment was conducted with both current undergraduate junior and senior students enrolled in the Nutrition Sciences Program and with Registered Dietitian Nutritionists in Southern Nevada. 75 current students responded to the survey and 81% were "very interested" in enrolling in the proposed M.S. in Nutrition Sciences and 13% were "interested". These data support the persistent inquiries by students about this program. 98 RDNs working in Southern Nevada responded and 44% were "very interested" and 35% were "somewhat interested" in this proposed program. Obtaining a M.S. degree with their existing RDN credential will enhance the pay scale for practicing RDNs and hopefully keep them working in Nevada.

iii. If this or a similar program already exists within the System, what is the justification for this addition

The only other M.S. program in Nutrition in Nevada is at UNR. Our program has a different emphasis in clinical nutrition and applied physiology.

Within the Mountain West region, there are 8 other universities offering M.S. degrees in Nutrition. One is currently not accepting applications (Fresno State), Hawaii is too far to relocate, San Diego State University is an expensive endeavor with tuition and living expenses, and the other four programs have a food science emphasis. Nutrition Sciences currently has a high number of students who are returning as a second career and are not of traditional age. Many of our prospective students are currently working in Las Vegas and will not relocate/relinquish a good job to pursue an M.S. degree. Many others have families in Las Vegas, hold deep roots in the community, and cannot relocate to pursue an M.S. degree in Nutrition.

iv. Evidence of employment opportunities for graduates (state and national)

According to the Academy's 2015 Dietetics Compensation and Benefits survey, among all RDNs in all positions, the median hourly wage as of April 1, 2015, was \$30.62 per hour, equating to a full-time salary of \$63,700 per year. Median total cash compensation for RDNs employed in the position full time for at least one year was \$65,000. As with any profession, salaries and fees vary by region of the country, employment settings, scope of responsibility and supply of RDNs. Salaries increase with years of experience and RDNs.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of dietitians and nutritionists is projected to grow 16 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. In 2014 there were 66,700 jobs, with this expecting to grow by more than 11,000. The role of food in preventing and treating illnesses, such as diabetes, is now well known. More dietitians and nutritionists will be needed to provide care for patients with various medical conditions and to advise people who want to improve their overall health because of the increased emphasis on disease prevention, a growing and aging population and public interest in nutrition. Employment in hospitals is expected to show little change because of anticipated slow growth and reduced lengths of hospital stay. Faster growth, however is anticipated in nursing homes, residential care facilities and physician clinics.

As part of an accreditation requirement, we are required to complete annual reports pertaining to the gaining of employment. Over the past three years, of students who completed a supervised practice program, 100% completed the program and approximately 75% obtained employment within 12 months of graduation. The remaining 25% are not necessarily unemployed, they just did not respond to the survey. From an anecdotal standpoint, several of the graduates of our program now serve in leadership roles and positions within our community and many serve as mentors for current students.

v. Student clientele to be served (Explain how the student clientele is identified)

Currently, there are about twenty-two students who enroll in the dietetic internship program each year and who would need a master's degree program. The M.S. in Nutrition Sciences would provide a vehicle for these interns to meet the accreditation requirements to sit for the Registration Examination for Dietitians and become a Licensed Dietitian (LD) in Nevada (required for practice).

As stated in F, ii, a needs assessment was conducted with both current undergraduate junior and senior students enrolled in the Nutrition Sciences Program and with Registered Dietitian Nutritionists in Southern Nevada. 75 current students responded to the survey and 81% were "very interested" in enrolling in the proposed M.S. in Nutrition Sciences and 13% were "interested". These data support the persistent inquiries by students about this program. 98 RDNs working in Southern Nevada responded and 44% were "very interested" and 35% were "somewhat interested" in this proposed program. Obtaining a M.S. degree with their existing RDN credential will enhance the pay scale for practicing RDNs and hopefully keep them working in Nevada.

With the growth of Nutrition Sciences and the newly established partnership with UNLV Athletics, we anticipate attracting graduate student applicants from various institutions nationwide. Those with an interest in sports nutrition will have the ability to work with faculty trained in that area and conduct research with the athletic population.

G. Detailed curriculum proposal

i. Representative course of study by year (options, courses to be used with/without modification; new courses to be developed)

Year 1:

KIN 750 Research Methods (Current course- no modification) KIN 751 Statistics (Current course- no modification)

KIN 740 Advanced Exercise Physiology (Current course- no modification) KIN 745 Human Energy Metabolism (Current course- no modification)

NUTR 753 Experimental Techniques in Nutrition & Metabolism (Current course- change prefix from KIN to NUTR)

NUTR 705 Advanced Sports Nutrition Seminar (New course to be developed)

Year 2:

NUTR 727 Advanced Clinical Nutrition (New course to be developed)

NUTR 748 Professional Paper/Clinical Case Study (3 cr)- (New course to be developed)
or

NUTR 749 Thesis (6 cr)- (New course to be developed)

6-9 Credits of electives from:

KIN 691 Exercise Physiology (Current course- no modification)

NUTR 605 Advanced Sports Nutrition- (Current course- change prefix from KIN to NUTR)

NUTR 607 Complementary & Integrative Medical Nutrition Therapy- (Need to cross list with current NUTR 407)

NUTR 652 Nutrition & Metabolism II- (Need to cross list with current NUTR 452)

NUTR 720 Lifestyle Modification for Chronic Disease- (New course to be developed)

NUTR 700 Special Problems in Nutrition- (New course to be developed)

NUTR 791 Independent Study in Nutrition Sciences- (New course to be developed)

NUTR 796 Supervised Practice: Community Nutrition (2 cr)- (Current course- change prefix from KIN to NUTR)

NUTR 797 Supervised Practice: Food Service Management (2 cr)- (Current course- change prefix from KIN to NUTR)

NUTR 798 Supervised Practice: Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics (2 cr)- (Current course- change prefix from KIN to NUTR)

ii. Program entrance requirements

3.00 GPA. To be admitted to the M.S. in Nutrition Sciences, an applicant who is a non-native English speaker must provide proof of English language proficiency. A non-native speaker is an individual whose primary language in the home was a language other than English (or a non-English language) or who received K-12 (or equivalent) education in schools where English was not the medium of instruction. Prospective students must take the TOEFL iBT (Internet) exam and earn a minimum score of 100 to be eligible for this program. No other exam will be accepted.

Undergraduate Prerequisites (UNLV courses or equivalent). Preference given to students completing an ACEND accredited Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics (DPND). This is the undergraduate program that provides all of the pre-requisite courses and is the current required program until this M.S. degree is in effect.

CHEM 108 or CHEM 121/122/241

BIOL 223/L/224/L BIOL 241

MATH 124

NUTR 223

NUTR 370

NUTR 451

iii. Program completion requirements (credit hours, grade point average; subject matter distribution, preprogram requirements)

33 credit hours. 3.00 GPA. Pre-requisite requirements listed above.

iv. Accreditation consideration (organization (if any) which accredits program, requirements for accreditation, plan for attaining accreditation - include costs and time frame)

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is the organization for this program. We will not be seeking accreditation immediately, as the standards for this newly required M.S. degree as the entry-level degree for the profession have not been fully established. A goal would be to obtain accreditation by 2020. Estimated costs include: \$3000 eligibility fee and a \$7000 self-study report and site visit fee. NOTE: over time this program can be combined with the current undergraduate program and then fees will decrease.

v. Evidence of approval by appropriate committees of the institution

Graduate College New Programs and Program Revisions committee approved.

H. Readiness to begin program

i. Faculty strengths (specializations, teaching, research, and creative accomplishments)

The currently proposed program has an emphasis in clinical nutrition, sports nutrition, and physiology. Faculty in the department hold the RDN credential and have teaching, research interests, and creative accomplishments in those areas. More specifically:

1) The Nutrition Sciences Director is a Board Certified Specialist in Sports Dietetics and has co-authored the Standards of Practice for Sports Dietetics. She has extensive experience working in the areas of sports nutrition, weight management, and clinical dietetics. She played an integral role in obtaining licensure for the practice of nutrition and dietetics in Nevada.

2) The other two faculty have expertise in clinical nutrition and exercise physiology with research interests in performance and chronic disease management.

3) We are searching for a new faculty member to complement our current program mission.

ii. Contribution of new program to department's existing programs (both graduate and undergraduate) and contribution to existing programs throughout the college or university

The department has existing M.S. programs in Kinesiology and Exercise Physiology. While some of the core courses will be shared, this program will specifically prepare students for the field of nutrition and dietetics and allow them to become eligible to sit for the National Registration Examination for Dietitians. Research areas overlap so many of the existing facilities will be shared among students in both disciplines.

No similar program exists at UNLV. This program will specifically prepare students to become Registered Dietitian/Nutritionists.

iii. Completed prior planning for the development of the program (recent hires, plans for future hires, securing of space, curricular changes, and reallocation of faculty lines)

1) A new Assistant Professor was hired in Fall 2015. She is eager to accept Masters Students into her research lab. She will teach in the proposed program (NUTR 700 & 720).

2) A new Assistant Professor position is currently under search. This person will teach in the proposed program and will supervise master's students.

3) A plan is in place to hire one or two more lecturer positions for the undergraduate program. This will allow other faculty to teach in the newly proposed graduate program.

4) A search is ongoing for one faculty position and this person will need an office. Curricular changes will be submitted concurrently with this proposal. Faculty lines do not need to be reallocated.

iv. Recommendations from prior program review and/or accreditation review teams

Our undergraduate program underwent a site visit in March 2015. These site visitors reiterated the requirement for a M.S. program since this degree will be entry-level degree and required to sit for the National Registration Examination for Dietitians.

This proposal was presented at our department faculty meeting on March 18, 2016. There was a unanimous vote for the need of the program and for approval of this proposal.

v. Organizational arrangements that must be made within the institution to accommodate the program

N/A

I. Resource Analysis

i. Proposed source of funds (enrollment-generated state funds, reallocation of existing funds, grants, other state funds)

Enrollment-generated state funds.

ii. Each new program approved must be reviewed for adequate full-time equivalent (FTE) to support the program in the fifth year. Indicate if enrollments represent 1) students formally admitted to the program, 2) declared majors in the program, or 3) course enrollments in the program.

a. (1) Full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment in the Fall semester of the first, third, and fifth year.

1st Fall semester 7.5

3rd Fall semester 11

5th Fall semester 15

(2) Explain the methodology/assumptions used in determining projected FTE figures.

See Section F,v. A needs assessment survey was conducted. In addition, the M.S. degree will be the required degree to obtain the RDN credential and license to practice in Nevada.

b. (1) Unduplicated headcount in the Fall semester of the first, third, and fifth year.

1st Fall semester 10

3rd Fall semester 15

5th Fall semester 20

(2) Explain the methodology/assumptions used in determining projected headcount figures.

See Section F.v. A needs assessment survey was conducted. In addition, the M.S. degree will be the required degree to obtain the RDN credential and license to practice in Nevada.

- iii. **Budget Projections – Complete and attach the Five-Year Budget Projection Table.**
See separate document.

J. Facilities and equipment required

- i. **Existing facilities: type of space required, number of assignable square feet, space utilization assumptions, special requirements, modifications, effect on present programs**
Faculty offices space for new hires. There is one faculty search underway and one office will be needed for this person.
- ii. **Additional facilities required: number of assignable square feet, description of space required, special requirements, time sequence assumed for securing required space**
None at this time.

- iii. **Existing and additional equipment required**

Existing:

Discipline specific computers

Nutrition Center for supervised practice educational experiences. Center is fully stocked with educational materials.

Cooking demonstration station and full equipment Wet lab with equipment for biochemical assays Exercise physiology laboratory

DEXA scanner (bone density & body composition analysis)

Metabolic kitchen (currently being planned for construction)

Additional Equipment: None

- K. **Student services required – Plans to provide student services, including advisement, to accommodate the program, including its implications for services to the rest of the student body**
Nothing additional.

- L. **Consultant Reports – If a consultant was hired to assist in the development of the program, please complete subsections A through C. A copy of the consultant’s final report must be on record at the requesting institution.**

- i. **Names, qualifications and affiliations of consultant(s) used**
N/A

- ii. **Consultant’s summary comments and recommendations**
N/A

- iii. **Summary of proposer’s response to consultants**
N/A

M. Articulation Agreements

- i. **Articulation agreements were successfully completed with the following NSHE institutions. (Attach copies of agreements)**

N/A

ii. Articulation agreements have not yet been established with the following NSHE institutions. (Indicate status)

N/A

iii. Articulation agreements are not applicable for the following institutions. (Indicate reasons)

N/A

N. Summary Statement

The M.S. Nutrition Sciences is a necessary degree in order to ensure that students entering UNLV in Fall 2017 have the ability to be eligible to obtain the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) credential and to become licensed to practice in Nevada. Based on our needs assessment from graduating students and RDNs in the Las Vegas community there is great interest in and demand for this degree program. Based on assessment data from our current program and from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for RDNs will increase in the near future. The needs of healthcare professionals is growing both locally and nationwide.

**New Academic Program Proposal
Five-Year Program Cost Estimate
(Revised December 2015)**

Institution: UNLV Program: M.S. Nutrition Sciences Semester of Implementation: _____

DIRECTIONS: Complete the Student FTE and following cost estimates for the first, third, and fifth for the proposed new program in Section A. Any "new" costs in year one must be noted by source in Section B.

STUDENT FTE: Year 1: 7.5 Year 3: 11 Year 5: 15

| Section A. | Year 1/Start-up | | | | Year 3 | | Year 5 | |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| | Existing ¹ | New ² | Total | FTE | Total | FTE | Total | FTE |
| PERSONNEL | | | | | | | | |
| Faculty (<i>salaries/benefits</i>) ³ | 91,434 | 31,632 | 123,066 | 1.5 | 162,061 | 2.0 | 162,061 | 0.5 |
| Graduate Assistants | 27,331 | 0 | 27,331 | 1.5 | 45,675 | 2.5 | 64,220 | 3.5 |
| Support Staff | 7,858 | 0 | 7,858 | 0.2 | 7,858 | 0.2 | 7,858 | 0.2 |
| Personnel Total | \$126,623 | \$31,632 | \$158,255 | 3.1 | \$215,594 | 4.7 | \$234,139 | 4.2 |
| OTHER EXPENSES | | | | | | | | |
| Library Materials (<i>printed</i>) | 370 | | | | 0 | | 0 | |
| Library Materials (<i>electronic</i>) | 0 | 2,688 | 2,688 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| Supplies/Operating Expenses | 0 | 5,100 | 5,100 | | 9,300 | | 13,500 | |
| Equipment | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| Other Expenses | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| Other Expenses Total | \$370 | \$7,788 | \$7,788 | | \$9,300 | | \$13,500 | |
| TOTAL | \$126,993 | \$39,420 | \$166,043 | | \$224,894 | | \$247,639 | |

Section B.

| EXPLANATION OF "NEW" SOURCES ² | Amount | | % |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---|
| | | | |
| Tuition/Registration Fees | 39,420 | 100.0% | |
| Federal Grants/Contracts | 0 | | |
| State Grants/Contracts | 0 | 0.0% | |
| Private Grants/Contracts | 0 | 0.0% | |
| Private Gifts | 0 | 0.0% | |
| Other (<i>please specify</i>) | 0 | 0.0% | |
| TOTAL | \$39,420 | 100.0% | |

¹Resources allocated from existing programs to the proposed program in Year 1 should be noted in the "Existing" column.

²Any "New" resource utilized to fund a new program must include the source to be provided in the "Explanation of New Sources" section. Total "New" sources for the first year must equal the total under "Explanation of New Sources."

³Budget estimates for faculty salaries and benefits must include estimated merit and COLA increases in Year 3 and Year 5.

EXPLANATION

See backup tab for explanations.

Date: September 7, 2016

From: Ronald T. Brown, Dean, School of Allied Health Sciences

Proposed Program Strengths:

- 1) **There has been consistent leadership in the nutrition program at UNLV since Fall 1999.** There has been a successful accredited undergraduate program in Nutrition Sciences as well as the accredited Post Baccalaureate Supervised Practice Program/Dietetic Internship. The faculty are very familiar with the education, credentialing, and licensure process required for Nutrition and Dietetics.
- 2) **This program is essential for credentialing and licensure.** In order for students entering UNLV to be able to ultimately become credentialed and licensed to practice in Nevada, they will need the M.S. degree to sit for their board exam. The Masters degree will be required to be eligible to sit for the National Registration Examination for Dietitians in 2024. Students entering UNLV as a PRE-NUTRITION major in Fall 2017 must have the ability to complete all education at UNLV; if not, they will be informed prior to admission that they cannot complete the nutrition and dietetics education at UNLV to be credentialed and licensed. They would need to be notified that they would need to complete their education elsewhere if they wish to earn the RDN credential and be eligible for a license to practice in Nevada. Timeline: 4 year undergraduate program + post baccalaureate supervised practice (1200 hours minimum) + M.S. degree (2 years). These students would be eligible in 2024 to sit for the exam.
- 3) **The faculty members in Nutrition Sciences are knowledgeable and extremely dedicated to the program and its students.**
- 4) **Based on our needs assessment, there is a strong demand for the program in our community and in the region.** This assessment was conducted both with current undergraduate junior and senior students enrolled in the Nutrition Sciences Program and with Registered Dietitian Nutritionists in Southern Nevada. Seventy-five of those currently enrolled responded to the survey and 81% (n=61) were “very interested” in enrolling in the proposed M.S. in Nutrition Sciences and 13% (n=10) were “interested”. These data support the persistent inquiries by students about this program. Additionally, 98 RDNs working in Southern Nevada responded to the survey, and 44% were “very interested” and 35% were “somewhat interested” in this proposed program. Obtaining the M.S. degree with their existing RDN credential will enhance the employment viability for RDs in Nevada and will allow practicing RDs in

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the State of Nevada to receive compensation consistent with other health care providers at the masters' level. Finally, it is anticipated that an advanced educational degree will keep these providers working in Nevada.

- 5) **Students graduating from our program are securing employment in the field.** As part of an accreditation requirement, we are required to complete annual reports pertaining to the employment of our graduates. Over the past three years, of students who completed a supervised practice program, 100% completed the program and approximately 75% obtained employment within 12 months of graduation. The remaining 25% are not necessarily unemployed; they simply did not respond to the survey. Several of the graduates of our program now serve in leadership roles and positions within our community and many serve as mentors for our current students.
- 6) **There is a strong demand for RDNs in Southern Nevada and this trend is predicted to increase.** According to the Academy's 2015 Dietetics Compensation and Benefits survey, among all RDNs in all positions, the median hourly wage as of April 2015 was \$30.62 per hour, equating to a full-time salary of \$63,700 per year. Median total cash compensation for RDNs employed in the position full time for at least one year was \$65,000. As with any profession, salaries and fees vary by region of the country, employment settings, scope of responsibility and supply of RDNs. Salaries increase with years of experience and RDNs. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment opportunities of dietitians and nutritionists is projected to grow 16 percent from 2014 to 2024, much more rapidly than the average growth for other occupations. In 2014 there were 66,700 jobs, with this expecting to grow by more than 11,000. The role of diet in precipitating, preventing and treating illnesses, such as diabetes, is now well known. As individuals survive diseases that previously have had high mortality and as individuals live longer with greater attention to nutritional needs, more dietitians and nutritionists will be needed to provide care. They will also advise people who want to improve their overall health because of the increased emphasis on disease prevention, an increasing elderly population, and a general interest in nutrition with the implementation of the *Affordable Care Act*. Employment in hospitals is expected to show little change because of reduced lengths of hospital stay, leading to slow growth of nutritionists in inpatient settings. Faster growth, however is anticipated in nursing homes, residential care facilities, and physician clinics.
- 7) **Nutrition Sciences is a lower cost/FTE program on campus.**

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Proposed Program Weaknesses:

1. Graduate Assistants will be needed (see proposal).
2. Additional office space will be needed for new faculty (see proposal).
3. Additional reassigned time will be needed for administration of the program
4. A new faculty member will be required. There is an approved search for this position and it will be underway this academic year.
5. The department currently has two Administrative Assistant positions- one Administrative Assistant III and one Administrative Assistant IV. The Administrative Assistant III position is vacant and interviews are underway.

Priority of this Program within your College/School's Strategic Plan:

According to the School of Allied Health Sciences Strategic Plan, Goal 2 is to provide quality educational opportunities for students interested in becoming allied health care professionals. The strategy for this goal is to enhance graduate programs and to increase enrollment within the University as well as within the Division of Health Sciences. The action for this goal is to establish baseline data from which to assess and refine graduate programs in a way to recruit high quality graduate students. Baseline data have been gathered and presented in the report. The M.S. Degree in Nutrition Sciences is mentioned by name in this plan and is a high priority for the school. It is expected that upon completion of the master's degree, students may eventually matriculate into the interdisciplinary doctoral program which would thereby increase doctoral degree at the University. This increase in doctoral degrees will contribute to one of the University's goals of becoming a top tier university.

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