

APR 13 2005

**MS in Human Nutrition
Assessment of Student Learning Outcome Plan
Kansas State University**

A. College, Department, and Date of this Submission

College: Human Ecology
Department: Human Nutrition
Date of Submission: October 2004

B. Contact Person(s) for the Assessment Plans

Denis M. Medeiros, PhD, RD; Professor and Head

C. Program-degree, minor, or certification

M.S. in Human Nutrition

D. Assessment of Student Learning Three-Year Plan

1. Student Learning Outcomes

- For a selected focus area, learners will be able to:
- Describe and discuss the knowledge base, including that from pertinent related disciplines,
 - Develop knowledge-driven research questions or hypotheses,
 - Use research, dissemination, or technological processes essential for subject area mastery,
 - Apply data analysis techniques including statistical assessments, appropriately and competently,
 - Present, with accuracy, research activities and outcomes and respond to audience questions and comments,
 - Compose written documents (e.g. reports, manuscripts, papers) using scientific and technical writing principles correctly,
 - Demonstrate a professional identity through professional conduct, ethics and, as much as fiscally possible, through attendance at professional meetings and events and participation in professional organizations.

The Department of Human Nutrition will focus on 3 student learning outcomes in its 3-year assessment plans:

- For a selected focus area, learners will be able to:
- a. Develop knowledge-driven research questions or hypotheses,
 - b. Apply data analysis techniques including statistical assessments, appropriately and competently
 - c. Present, with accuracy, research activities and outcomes and respond to audience questions and comments

Rationale for electing the above SLOs: Many students use the MS degree to prepare to enter a PhD program. These learning outcomes are important as they give the Department of Human Nutrition and indication or readiness to go to the next level in the student's ability to ask the appropriate research questions and learn how to handle data from research activities. These student learning outcomes are more universal for our students in terms of expectations.

Program SLOs	University-wide SLOs (<u>Graduate Programs</u>)			Program SLO is conceptually different from university SLOs
	Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes and Professional Conduct	
1. Describe and discuss the knowledge base, including that from pertinent related disciplines,	X			
2. Develop knowledge-driven research questions or hypotheses	X	X		
3. Use research, dissemination, or technological processes essential for subject area mastery		X		
4. Apply data analysis techniques including statistical assessments, appropriately and competently		X		
5. Present, with accuracy, research activities and outcomes and respond to audience questions and comments	X	X	X	
6. Compose written documents (e.g. reports, manuscripts, papers) using scientific and technical writing principles correctly		X		
7. Demonstrate a professional identity through professional conduct, ethics and, as much as fiscally possible, through attendance at professional meetings and events and participation in professional organizations			X	

2. How will the learning outcomes be assessed? What groups will be included in the assessment?

Learning Outcomes	Course(s)	Measures			Who will be assessed?
		Direct	Indirect	Unsure	
1 Develop knowledge-driven research questions or hypotheses	HN 899 or 898	Introduction, review of literature, and research plan using a Likert scale rubric to be developed	Discussion with graduate advisors		MS Thesis or Report students
2. Apply data analysis techniques including statistical assessments, appropriately and competently	HN 899	Results section of theses using a rubric to be developed	Discussion with graduate advisors		MS Thesis students upon completion
3. Present, with accuracy, research activities and outcomes and respond to audience questions and comments	HN 880 HN 899 or 898	HN 880 Seminar (ability to make a scientific presentation within a specified time allotment with a grade of B or better) HN 880 seminar (completion of critical questioning component of class using a 10 point scale)	Theses or Special Problems defense 50% of students will make presentations (oral and poster) at national and/or regional meetings Manuscript(s) developed by student from their research		All MS students All MS students All MS students

3. When will these outcomes be assessed? When and in what format will the results of the assessment be discussed?

Learning Outcomes	Timetable for Assessment for Learning Outcomes			Baseline Created?
	2005	2006	2007	
1 Develop knowledge-driven research questions or hypotheses	Develop rubrics		Chapters 1 and 2 of thesis or the entire master's report	2007

2. Apply data analysis techniques including statistical assessments, appropriately and competently	Develop rubrics	Assess theses completed in previous two years		2006
3. Present, with accuracy, research activities and outcomes and respond to audience questions and comments	HN 880 presentation and ability to ask questions	HN 880 presentation and ability to ask questions	HN 880 presentation and ability to ask questions	2005

4. What is the unit's process for using assessment results to improve student learning?

Learning Outcome	Improvement Plan
1 Develop knowledge-driven research questions or hypotheses	We will use this formation to determine if specific courses are warranted to help students develop knowledge-driven research questions, or to add different criteria for admitting students to the graduate program capable of achieving this learning outcome.
2. Apply data analysis techniques including statistical assessments, appropriately and competently	This information will be used to determine if different statistical training is needed or additional course work is required for all MS students
3. Present, with accuracy, research activities and outcomes and respond to audience questions and comments	The department currently requires all students to enroll in this seminar. Whether this requirement is sufficient or whether additional development of a class or other experiences are warranted will be considered based upon results.