



Brooks
College of Health

February 10, 2011

UNF Flagship Committee
University of North Florida
1 UNF Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32224

Dear Flagship Committee Members:

As chair of the Department of Nutrition & Dietetics, I am pleased to provide an enthusiastic letter of support for the undergraduate and graduate nutrition program's flagship candidacy. Since last applying in 2007, the Nutrition & Dietetics Programs have become a Department within the College of Health and made significant progress in program development and national recognition. The faculty have worked to attain grant support for their research endeavors including collaborative work in obesity and chronic disease prevention and treatment and are also published in the areas of transdisciplinary health care, nutrigenomics, health disparities, and cultural diversity. Community leaders report their desire to continue working with the nutrition programs and faculty on future grants, health and nutrition assessment and intervention projects throughout the life cycle as well as providing supervised practice experiences for UNF Master's interns and potentially with flagship status, expanding to undergraduate and doctoral students as well.

The goals of this flagship proposal are aligned with the new department mission and vision which were revised in 2008 through a strategic planning process. Also in 2008, the House of Delegates of the American Dietetic Association (ADA) formed an education task force and charged it to review the current system of dietetics education and the roles of the Registered Dietitian (RD). The dietetics practitioners of the future will be expected to serve as leaders in a wide range of evolving and changing roles essential to improving the nutrition and health of society. Advanced practice training is listed under Recommendation #8 in the 2008 ADA Phase Two Education Task Force Report and will be implemented at UNF with the proposed flagship changes to the Master's program and the addition of a Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition (DCN).

The UNF Undergraduate and Graduate Programs in Nutrition and Dietetics are well positioned to further collaborate with local, state, national and international community initiatives in obesity prevention and treatment, public health and chronic disease and to be a leader in nutrition education initiatives. A Flagship designation would greatly enhance these opportunities as we continue our education of future health professionals and collaborative scholarship in prevention and treatment of significant public health issues.

Sincerely,

Catherine Christie, PhD, RD, LD/N, FADA
Associate Dean, Brooks College of Health and
Chair, Department of Nutrition & Dietetics

Executive Summary

The Brooks College of Health proposes that its Undergraduate and Graduate Programs in Nutrition & Dietetics be awarded candidacy for flagship status. This proposal strategically positions the Nutrition & Dietetics Programs to reach national prominence in two areas; the community based transformational learning at the undergraduate and graduate level and the proposed Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition which would be only the second such program in the United States. The profession of nutrition and dietetics is currently recommending a career laddering in degree programs with additional programs in advanced and specialty practice. The UNF Nutrition & Dietetics Programs are well positioned to attain this professional model as it has a reputation for academic excellence supported by its high first time pass rates on the Registered Dietitian Exam and by national accreditations at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The UNF Nutrition & Dietetics Programs are also recognized in the national, state, and local professional communities for their collaborative and innovative efforts in obesity related research initiatives and leadership in professional service activities. The Programs seek to further expand these efforts through its flagship candidacy proposal.

Goal I: Expand collaborations and involve undergraduate students in needed community based learning activities in partnership with appropriate community agencies and public health initiatives.

Goal II: Prepare advanced-level and specialty practice dietetic practitioners (Master's and Doctoral level) who apply nutrition science and evidence based practice to promote health and prevent/treat obesity as well as resultant chronic disease while addressing the nutritional needs of increasingly diverse community populations.

Goal III. Convert the current Master's coursework to distance learning formats in order to provide additional pathways to advanced practice for RD's who must after 2013 obtain either a Master's degree or a specialty certification within 5 years of obtaining the RD credential.

Goal IV: Prepare a new degree application for the addition of a Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition (DCN) and achieve a sustainable clinical doctoral program and expanded master's program which provide the advanced and specialty practice needed and continue the high standards and national recognition established for current programs.

The 2008 ADA Phase Two Education Task Force was asked to review the option(s) for preparing both entry level and advanced level dietetics practitioners and explore additional pathways. The key charge for the Task Force, to develop a vision for the dietetics practitioner of the future, is tied to the expectation that dietetics education will both prepare for and lead direction in the creation of new practice roles. The practitioners of the future will be expected to serve as leaders in a wide range of evolving roles essential to improving the nutrition and health of society. The new practitioner roles will require accountability in a variety of employment settings and a greater role in prevention/treatment of significant public health issues through the specialty areas of consultation, management, community nutrition, research, food management, food science, sports nutrition, lifecycle nutrition, nutrition support, and medical nutrition therapy.

The process to implement these recommendations at UNF began in 2009-2011 with approval of two new degree proposals. Advanced practice training is Recommendation #8 in the 2008 ADA Phase Two Education Task Force Report and will be implemented at UNF with the proposed changes to the Master's program and the addition of a Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition (DCN). This Flagship proposal integrates these recommendations to result in the placement of the UNF Department of Nutrition & Dietetics at the forefront of undergraduate and graduate nutrition and dietetics education.

Brief Overview of Current Programs

Through a strategic planning process in 2009, the Nutrition & Dietetics Programs adopted a joint new mission and vision. The new vision is: The Nutrition & Dietetics Programs engage and transform students into effective nutrition and health professionals who make significant contributions to their communities through discovery of new knowledge and commitment to service. The new mission is: The Nutrition & Dietetics undergraduate and graduate programs are committed to transforming students into valued professionals through the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors essential for lifelong learning.

Baccalaureate Program

The BS degree in Nutrition & Dietetics (new in fall, 2011) is approximately a four year program of study for full time students, or a total of 120 credits. It includes general education requirements, nutrition related prerequisites, and the contextual (science and practice related) courses. Some of the CADE accreditation Didactic Program in Dietetics requirements are met through the University's general education courses (e.g., CHM 2045C, General Chemistry I, STA 2014 Elementary Statistics for Health Sciences, and POS 2041, Introduction to American Government). Until this year, students received a bachelor of health science degree, with an emphasis in nutrition. With the new degree proposal which was approved in 2010, the undergraduate program offers a BS degree in nutrition and dietetics. The majority of the program's classes are held in the Brooks College of Health building providing continuity in the delivery of the program. When the Nutrition programs applied for flagship status in 2007, there were 149 undergraduate students enrolled compared to the 202 currently enrolled. The Nutrition Lab is a valuable resource in the college where all of the food related courses are taught. This lab

has not been updated since the building was constructed and is in need of renovation. The program is also fortunate to have a nutrition assessment lab which is used as a graduate classroom and a nutrition resource room for use by all nutrition program students.

Master's Program

The newly approved MS degree in nutrition and dietetics prepares students to apply advanced nutrition science in community, clinical, food service or entrepreneurial environments that promote health and/or treat disease. The **MS/Nutrition thesis** program allows students to pursue an independent research project as a culminating experience in their Master's program. The students in this program are Registered Dietitians who seek advanced degrees, and/or research experience, or persons who are interested in later pursuing a doctoral degree in nutrition. The **MS Nutrition/Non-thesis** program allows students to complete 12 pre-approved credits through a series of project, field experience, and independent study courses in addition to the core coursework. This option is typically of interest to Registered Dietitians in clinical settings or persons working in public health settings who would like to "bridge" their work and academic learning. There are currently a small number of students enrolled in the latter two options but the numbers are expected to significantly rise after 2013 with a new requirement that all Registered Dietitians must obtain either a Master's degree or a specialty certification within five years of obtaining the RD credential. This flagship proposal includes a distance Master's Program option to fulfill this advanced practice need.

The UNF MS Dietetic Internship program provides 1200 hours of supervised practice experience that is coordinated with related graduate coursework. The new program emphasis area is evidence based practice in clinical and community nutrition and integrates theoretical and experiential learning in a variety of management, clinical and community settings to prepare

dietitians in conjunction with a four semester Master of Science in Nutrition & Dietetics degree. Expansion of internship program opportunities is a professional priority as currently there are only enough internship slots for approximately 50% of undergraduate students nationwide. In 2009, the number of students accepted to the program was increased from 12 to 15 after an appeal from the Commission on Accreditation of Dietetics Education to increase the number of dietetic internship/supervised practice slots for students.

Currently, the MS/Dietetic Internship supervised practice program is the largest of the three Master's programs, with an annual enrollment of 30 students (the 15 existing students and incoming class of 15 additional students). Fifteen students are admitted each fall semester to the program through a national rigorous application and selection process similar to that used for medical residencies. The MS/Dietetic Internship supervised practice program curriculum was designed to exceed the core competencies required by accreditation through the supervised practice rotations. The program is four semesters in length (Fall year 1 through Fall year 2). In general, each cohort of 15 students completes 9 credits of coursework and 3 credits of dietetic internship/supervised practice per semester. The program is designed such that students take three to four classes on Mondays and do their supervised practice experience Tuesday through Friday (25 hours week) each semester.

The UNF Nutrition & Dietetics programs at both the graduate and undergraduate level currently meet all accreditation standards and are accredited through 2013.

Faculty Achievements since Previous Flagship Application in 2007

The commitment to quality and leadership by the UNF Nutrition & Dietetics program faculty is evident by the nationwide election in 2009 of three faculty members to national leadership positions in the American Dietetic Association which currently has approximately

71,000 members, faculty service in the Florida Public Health Association and continued accreditation of the undergraduate and graduate programs by the Commission on Accreditation of Dietetics Education (CADE). In addition, faculty have been highly productive in research publications. In the last two years, nutrition faculty have published 19 peer reviewed journal articles, three books, 19 book chapters and received eight grants. Nutrition faculty are currently recognized for their collaborative work in obesity and chronic disease research and are also published in the areas of obesity prevention/treatment, chronic disease prevention/treatment, transdisciplinary health care, nutrigenomics, and cultural diversity. Faculty have assisted in the development of public policy with the Governor's Task Force on Obesity, Healthy Jacksonville, The Duval County Childhood Obesity Prevention and Treatment Coalition, and the Duval County Evidence Based Policy Development for the Prevention of Childhood Obesity. In addition, one faculty was invited and attended the National Institute of Health's Dietary Supplement Research Practicum in 2010. Three faculty members received the Florida Dietetic Association President's Mentor Award in 2010. One faculty received the American Dietetic Association 2010 Award for Excellence in Dietetic Education which is awarded nationally to one educator each year. Nutrition & Dietetics faculty are also frequently called on by the media for whom nutrition, chronic disease and obesity prevention are major topics of interest, to provide expert comments on nutrition related issues. Nutrition faculty also write a monthly column in the Florida Times Union called "The Goods on....(particular foods).

With the increasing prevalence of obesity and the need for trained practitioners to work in prevention and treatment, the Nutrition & Dietetics programs have seen continued growth in recent years. The programs currently have eight full time faculty positions (Drs. Christie, Correa-Matos, Rodriguez, Perkin, Sealey-Potts and Instructor Jackie Shank) and will include two more

full time faculty in Fall, 2011 due to two searches. There are numerous part time instructors who serve as adjuncts and many are graduates of the UNF Nutrition & Dietetics Master's program.

Nutrition Student Performance Outcomes

The overall UNF pass rate on the Registered Dietitian Exam for the undergraduate program is 85% and the graduate program is 94% compared to the national average of 75%. First time pass rates are 78% (majority of students complete their internship elsewhere) and 90% for the undergraduate and graduate programs respectively. Program graduates are working in all of the major hospitals in the community, in public health, and in the private sector. Many have assumed professional leadership roles such as President of the Jacksonville Dietetic Association, Chief Clinical Dietitian, Department Head, and Wellness Director.

Rationale for Flagship Status

The Brooks College of Health proposes that the University award Flagship Program Candidacy to its Nutrition & Dietetics Programs. The Nutrition & Dietetics Programs merit this designation because of their **1)** proposed response to an identified need in dietetics education to produce advanced level nutrition practitioners; **2)** leadership in community nutrition obesity and chronic disease prevention/treatment initiatives; **3)** prominence nationally in leadership positions for the profession; **4)** community based transformational learning experiences including the receipt of an Engaged Department Grant and several years of TLO's in Belize and recently Puerto Rico; and **5)** capacity and desire to offer a Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition which will place the UNF Department of Nutrition & Dietetics at the forefront of nutrition and dietetics education in advanced practice to address significant nutrition issues such as obesity and chronic disease prevention/treatment. All of these strengths would be expanded with flagship candidacy status.

Preparing advanced level nutrition practitioners will meet the increasing demands for dietitians in the workforce, as employment of dietitians is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2018 as a result of increasing emphasis on disease prevention through improved dietary habits. A growing and aging population will also boost demand for nutritional counseling and diet therapy in hospitals, residential care facilities, schools, prisons, community health programs, and home health care agencies (Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed January 31, 2011). Federal and Florida state regulations specify that a RD must be on staff for the facility/program to be licensed and to be certified for government payment. All dialysis units must have qualified RDs on staff; hospitals, nursing homes, and organ transplant centers all require RD staffing. The Bureau of Labor Statistics Fact Sheet on Dietitians and Nutritionists states “Applicants with specialized training, an advanced degree, or certification beyond the particular state’s minimum requirement should enjoy the best job opportunities”. The advanced practice aspects of this flagship proposal directly address this need. Public interest in food and nutrition and increased emphasis on nutrition education leading to healthy lifestyles will spur demand. Program graduates seek jobs as health educators and with further credentials as registered dietitians can be promoted to public health nutritionists with Women, Infant and Children’s (WIC) Programs. In August 2008, the President signed the Higher Education Opportunity Act that grants loan forgiveness to WIC nutrition professionals. In addition to employment growth, job openings will result from the need to replace experienced workers who leave the occupation. Faculty positions in nutrition and dietetics are becoming harder to fill as doctoral prepared nutritionists retire. Employment is expected to grow rapidly in nontraditional areas such as contract providers of food services, outpatient care centers, and offices of physicians and other health practitioners. With increased public awareness of obesity and

diabetes, Medicare coverage has been expanded to include medical nutrition therapy for renal and diabetic patients. Advanced practitioners are needed because they have the ability to transcend the boundaries of formal education to explore a problem such as obesity prevention/treatment, form a hypothesis, and reach a defensible evidence based conclusion. The Nutrition & Dietetics programs are preparing to meet these future challenges by focusing on advanced level practice at the Master's and Doctoral levels and supervised practice in the undergraduate curriculum through this flagship proposal.

Flagship Candidacy Goals

Goal I: Expand collaborations and involve undergraduate students in needed community based learning activities in partnership with appropriate community agencies and public health initiatives. To achieve this goal, the UNF Nutrition & Dietetics Undergraduate program will involve students in partnerships with additional affiliated regional organizations to design, deliver, and evaluate obesity and chronic disease prevention/treatment programs for a variety of audiences including diverse and/or high risk populations.

Accomplishments to date that support Flagship Goal 1:

- ✓ Receipt in 2010 of an engaged Department Grant to begin to provide supervised practice in the undergraduate curriculum using five sites; War on Poverty, 2nd Harvest Food Bank, Sulzbacher Homeless Shelter, Catholic Charities Immigrant Resettlement Program, and Eldersource.
- ✓ To expand the opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in supervised practice, established nutrition counseling delivered by our Master's students at Volunteers in Medicine (a health clinic staffed by volunteers and serving the uninsured working population) and Shand's Family Medicine Center (Lem Turner Site) in

Jacksonville as well as Health Promotion on campus could also provide supervised practice in nutrition education and counseling for undergraduate students.

Benchmarks and Assessment Activities to Achieve Goal I:

- Provide a one-time course release time for one or more faculty to assess other community agencies for supervised practice and establish competencies and assessment strategies for student work.
- Expand Undergraduate Program Director to a 12-month faculty position to direct student placement and assessment and hire one additional instructor to cover foods courses.
- Search for and hire a University Nutritionist who will teach two courses a semester in the undergraduate program and supervise students in delivery of on-campus nutrition counseling at the Student Health Center, the Fitness Center, and in the Athletic Programs (none of these entities currently have access to nutrition counseling and all have identified it as a critical need). The University Nutritionist will also collaborate with Health Promotion and other campus entities to deliver nutrition information as needed.
- Search for and hire an Instructor/Community Preceptor to teach undergraduate classes and supervise students in community programs/agencies.
- Provide one workshop each year for community preceptors working with undergraduate students. This preceptor training will focus on identified needs from preceptors and other professional issues.

Goal II: Prepare advanced-level dietetic practitioners (Master's and Doctoral level) who apply nutrition science and evidence based practice to promote health and prevent/treat obesity as well as resultant chronic disease while addressing the nutritional needs of increasingly diverse community populations. To achieve this goal, the UNF Nutrition & Dietetics graduate curriculum will integrate clinical and didactic subject matter that emphasizes the competencies delineated as

advanced practice by the ADA Phase 2 Future Practice and Education Task Force guided by (a) a public health approach to disease prevention in diverse cultural and ethnic populations, (b) an individualized approach using nutrigenomics research to tailor nutrition advice based on genetic or family history risk, (c) a transdisciplinary approach to promote individual and population-based behavior change for disease prevention and management in concurrence with other health care providers, and (d) a methodology employing outcomes research and the dissemination of evidence-based nutrition information. In addition, the UNF Nutrition & Dietetics graduate program will (a) partner with additional local and national organizations to increase visibility and recognition of the program, (b) increase student learning experiences in the development of consumer education materials and activities related to obesity prevention/treatment for varying population groups (c) involve students in a range of obesity prevention/treatment initiatives for a variety of audiences that reflect generational, cultural/ethnic/racial, and other socio-demographically diverse characteristics.

Accomplishments to date that support Flagship Goal II:

- ✓ Faculty have established numerous collaborative relationships which resulted in significant obesity prevention/treatment, education, and research initiatives such as serving as evaluators on a federal HRSA grant: Body & Soul, Effectiveness of Faith-Based Health Improvement Groups in Achieving Short-Term Weight Loss, Increasing Physical Activity and Improving Eating Habits in African Americans; and leading a BCBS community grant: An Evidence-Based Transdisciplinary Approach to Pediatric Obesity Prevention and Treatment.
- ✓ Cultural competency through transformational learning opportunities have included a graduate student trip to Belize in 2006 and faculty development grant to support faculty

travel in 2007 to develop additional contacts and strengthen potential student experiences to gain cultural competency skills, attitudes, and knowledge. Nutrition graduate and undergraduate students also received a TLO for a trip to Belize in 2009. In addition, the Doctorate in Physical Therapy students and the nutrition graduate students participated in a TLO in 2010 in Belize.

- ✓ Faculty received a TLO I 2011 to expand international work to Puerto Rico.
- ✓ Two BodyGem calorimeters were purchased in 2009 for use in nutrition assessment training with the graduate students.

Benchmarks and Assessment Activities to Achieve Goal II:

- Obtain needed equipment for teaching the latest skills in nutrition science and nutrition assessment such as indirect calorimetry using the BodPod calorimeter for use in research and assessment instruction with graduate and doctoral students.
- Renovate nutrition food lab to improve delivery of food science coursework
- Update nutrition analysis software program for use in research and teaching.
- Apply for further transformational learning opportunity grants in other countries and with other departments in the university.
- Continue dissemination of outcomes data at conferences and in peer-reviewed journals.
- Expand collaborations with local, state, national, and international organizations to increase visibility and recognition of the UNF nutrition programs.

Goal III. Convert the current Master's coursework to distance learning formats in order to provide additional pathways to advanced practice for RD's who must after 2013 obtain either a Master's degree or a specialty certification within 5 years of obtaining the RD

credential. This goal will be achieved through the use of course releases for current faculty to work with CIRT to develop high quality distance based learning for the current Master's curriculum.

Accomplishments to date that support Flagship Goal III:

- ✓ Two graduate level courses were converted to DL in Fall, 2010.
- ✓ Evaluation of those courses is being completed as they are taught for the first time in Spring, 2011.

Benchmarks and Assessment Activities to Achieve Goal III:

- Provide course release time for two faculty with expertise teaching DL to convert their graduate level courses to DL each semester until all are converted.
- Develop DL and update current courses that enable current practitioners and future practitioners to pursue advanced level studies in a more flexible, but rigorous, format.
- Published research in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association by UNF nutrition faculty comparing the efficacy of traditional versus DL instruction for HUN 2201, Principles of Nutrition.

Goal IV: Prepare a new degree application for the addition of a Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition (DCN) and achieve a sustainable clinical doctoral program and expanded master's program which provide the advanced and specialty practice needed and continue the high standards and national recognition established for current programs.

This goal will be achieved using faculty experienced in writing and receiving approval for the new undergraduate and graduate degree proposals approved in 2009 and 2010. Those changes were in line with the vision provided by the 2008 ADA Final Report of the Phase 2 Future Practice and Education Task Force (Dr. Rodriguez from the department served on this national

task force). In that report, “the Task Force recommends that ADA define and recognize advanced practice... which will create opportunities for the development of clinical doctorate degree programs in higher education institutions”. Achievement of this goal would provide national recognition as it would be only the second such doctoral program in the United States with many more to follow. The first program is at the University of Medicine and Dentistry in New Jersey School of Health Related Professions.

The Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition (DCN) program is an advanced clinical practice doctoral program whose emphasis at UNF would be particularly in evidence based practice chronic disease prevention and treatment in underserved populations. Graduates will gain expertise and skills in chronic disease prevention and treatment, cultural competency, critical thinking, and outcomes research to become advanced level nutrition and dietetics practitioners and researchers. The curriculum will integrate evidence-based practice in nutrition and dietetics to provide the foundation for completion of an outcome based research project. The significance of developing an advanced practice Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition is evident from the increasing prevalence of dietary-related chronic diseases (such as heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, obesity, certain cancers, and renal disease). Graduates of the program will be rigorously trained to provide dietary prevention, intervention, and treatment of these diseases both at the individual and population level.

The need for this expertise has emerged over the last twenty years as the incidence of obesity has doubled or tripled for particular populations. Obesity and even moderate weight gain pose a significant risk for developing obesity-related co-morbidities such as coronary heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, renal disease and of particular concern is its impact on minority and other at risk populations. The DCN degree would prepare graduates for leadership roles in public

health organizations, health care provider organizations, government agencies, international health organizations, universities or the private sector. To achieve this goal, the UNF Graduate Nutrition & Dietetics Program will (a) recruit a DCN program director and faculty with relevant expertise (b) enhance faculty development in relevant areas of expertise, and (c) continue the Florida Dietetic Association Manual of Medical Nutrition Therapy editing to provide faculty and students an opportunity to write professionally and publish contributing to the distribution of new knowledge in the field. Achieving sustainability for the DCN will require ‘institutionalization’ of all components which include resources such as faculty support, administrative staff, equipment and supplies, marketing, student support, and evaluation. The goal is to ensure that the DCN program is effective, positively impacts the health of the public over time, and leads the future of dietetics education.

Accomplishments to date that support Flagship Goal IV:

- ✓ A new faculty with a DCN degree was hired to start in August, 2011. To develop a practice Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition, the UNF Graduate Nutrition & Dietetics Program must expand and integrate new courses and concepts into the graduate curriculum. The new DCN faculty will lead the curriculum development and search for clinical faculty needed in the development and implementation process.
- ✓ Faculty successfully completed the undergraduate and graduate new degree proposals in 2009 and 2010 and received approval.
- ✓ An analysis of the current DCN curriculum is underway and a list of needed new courses has been developed. This doctorate would be for students with Master’s degrees in nutrition or a closely related field and the Registered Dietitian credential. If the proposed curriculum of 51 credit hours is adopted, of the 13 core classes, 30 credit hours or 10

courses will be needed in addition to the outcomes research project supervision which will entail 9 credit hours. Three 3-credit electives could come from the two other doctoral programs in the college thus facilitating transdisciplinary collaboration among students.

- ✓ Two successful clinical doctorate programs currently exist in the Brooks College of Health; the Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT) and the Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP).

Benchmarks and Assessment Activities to Achieve Goal IV:

- Receive approval from the BOG for a new degree proposal for a Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition (DCN).
- Complete successful searches for two faculty, one a Director for the Doctoral Program another a clinical nutrition specialist.
- Recruit first class of ten students in 2014.
- Develop Nutrition & Dietetics Doctoral Program promotional materials including a website to appeal to specific student populations and implement recruitment strategies.
- Provide graduate student stipends for ten students in the first year class.
- Seek a culturally diverse pool of preceptors, faculty, and adjuncts.
- Initiate a variety of funding strategies that will align with the program's mission and strategic plans to provide funds to enhance and provide support for flagship activities.

Four Criteria for Flagship Candidacy

Criteria 1. The program is deeply committed to, embedded within, and enhances the ideals of liberal education central to the University of North Florida's mission and embodied in the general education curriculum. The Nutrition & Dietetics Programs are committed to liberal education in that they require a range of courses in the liberal arts, natural, social and

health sciences, technology, business and professional content area. Science courses provide the foundation to understand and apply nutrition science at both the individual and population level. The intended outcome is that students will use evidence based science to think critically, practice ethically, communicate effectively with diverse audiences, and apply information technology in professional practice.

Embedding ideals of liberal education in the Nutrition & Dietetics Program curricula

Students majoring in nutrition take a range of courses that emphasize critical thinking such as the synthesis of research for a literature review on a nutrition topic in HUN 4221; interpretation of body composition data in DIE 3213 Medical Nutrition Therapy 1; provision of medical nutrition therapy for health conditions addressed by health promotion/disease prevention activities or uncomplicated instances of chronic diseases of the general population, e.g. hypertension, obesity, diabetes, and diverticular disease in DIE 3213 Medical Nutrition Therapy 1 and DIE 3246 Medical Nutrition Therapy 2; and translation of nutrition needs into food choices and menus for people of diverse cultures and religions in HUN 3403 Lifespan Nutrition.

Ethical practice is integrated throughout the professional practice courses including DIE 3213 and 3246 Medical Nutrition Therapy 1 and 2, DIE 3310 Community Nutrition, and HUN 3403 Lifespan Nutrition. Effective communication is achieved in HUN 3601 Nutrition Education and Counseling, HSA 4111 US Health Care Systems, and HUN 3403 Lifespan Nutrition. Technology skills are utilized in FOS 4041 Food Science and HUN 3601 Nutrition Education and Counseling.

Contribution to overall value of liberal education for all University students

The UNF Nutrition & Dietetics Programs contribute to the overall value of liberal education for all students by offering a course in the general education curriculum, HUN 1001 Introduction to Nutrition Science as well as electives such as HUN 1003C Weight Management through Nutrition and Fitness and HUN 2000 Contemporary Nutrition Issues. Nutrition faculty also taught a nutrition course in fall, 2010 in the new UNF Venture Studies Program which was very well received and will continue in fall, 2011. Requirements for other health majors are also met through courses such as HUN 2201 Basic Principles of Nutrition (Nursing, Community Health, Exercise Science and Athletic Training), HUN 4414 Sports Nutrition for Athletic Training and HSC 4572 Nutrition and Health for Community Health.

Criteria 2. The program is consistent with the college's strategic plan and moreover, is important to the overall achievement of the college's strategic goals. This flagship proposal is also aligned with the vision of the Brooks College of Health which is "To gain national recognition as a leader in the study of health and the preparation of health professionals through outstanding teaching, scholarship, and service". The Brooks College of Health mission is "To develop competent and caring health professionals for the 21st century who are diligent in the pursuit of knowledge, make significant contributions to the communities and individuals that they serve, and become leaders of their chosen professions".

The proposed Nutrition & Dietetics programs flagship candidacy directly addresses the BCH Strategic Plan to broaden the scope and assure quality of academic programs in the health professions in order to meet the changing needs of the health care industry (Nutrition Flagship Goal I, II, III and IV); recruit and support a diverse community of students, faculty and staff, who will contribute to and benefit from the College's mission (Nutrition Flagship Goals II, III,

IV); support and recognize research and career development as essential College functions (Nutrition Flagship Goal II, III, and IV) and enhance and expand outreach initiatives and partnerships providing opportunities for the BCH faculty, staff and students to impact health issues and provide service (Nutrition Flagship Goal I and II) . The proposed clinical doctorate degree program supports all the following SUS Strategic Plan Goals; Goal 1: Access to and production of degrees; Goal 2: Meeting statewide professional and workforce needs; Goal 3: Building world-class academic programs and research capacity; and Goal 4: Meeting community needs and fulfilling unique institutional responsibilities in addition to expanding the number of doctoral degrees awarded.

Criteria 3. The program can effectively leverage Flagship resources to attract outside funding and/or resources appropriate to its discipline. Even without flagship funding, the Nutrition & Dietetics Programs have been successful in applying for and receiving support for research, contracts and grants. This includes awards from the American Dietetic Association (ADA Diversity Grant), the Florida Dietetic Association (Manual of Medical Nutrition Therapy), the BCBS Community Grant, the US grant and collaboration with the community to apply for federal and state grants such as the RWJF and work with the nutrition foundation to obtain support from local companies (Publix). Trust funds have been secured to provide nutrition scholarships from the North Florida Frozen Food Association and an endowment from the Doughty/Panides family for nutrition scholarships. Faculty will continue to work with the BCH and UNF Development Directors to obtain future support for the nutrition programs.

Criteria 4. The program is responsive to and engaged with significant issues within various communities- local, regional, national and international- that the University of North Florida serves. Individual nutrition faculty are making significant contributions in

nutrigenomics, health and nutrition risks in underserved populations, transdisciplinary health care, international nutrition issues, and collectively have worked on a range of activities that impact overall public health especially obesity prevention/treatment research.

Summary

The Nutrition & Dietetics Programs in the Brooks College of Health are uniquely positioned to achieve flagship candidacy goals including becoming the second program in the U.S. to offer a Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition while expanding its undergraduate presence in community based transformational learning and national collaborations related to obesity prevention and treatment. The 2008 ADA Phase Two Education Task Force Report has stated a vision for the dietetics practitioner of the future, with the expectation that dietetics education will both prepare for, and lead in the creation of new advanced practice roles. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have reported seven of the top ten causes of death in the United States can be positively impacted through nutrition education and interventions. The relevance of nutrition to the community has never been greater in light of the epidemic rates of nutrition related chronic disease. The future dietetics practitioners will be expected to serve as leaders in a wide range of evolving and changing roles essential to improving the nutrition and health of society. These nutrition and dietetics practitioners will have more influence in a variety of employment settings and a larger role in prevention/treatment of significant public health issues. The UNF Nutrition & Dietetics Undergraduate and Graduate Programs have made significant progress since the last flagship candidacy application to further their position of helping to lead the future of nutrition and dietetics education through a record of excellent teaching, extensive scholarship, and national, state and local professional service. We look forward to the future work outlined in this application if awarded candidacy for flagship status at UNF.

Budget for Nutrition & Dietetics Flagship Proposal

		2011-2012 Flagship Funding			Future Flagship Funding 2012-2016			
Flagship Goal	Activity	Recurring Amount	Nonrecurring Amount	Other Funding Sources	Initial Funding Year	Recurring Amount	Non-recurring Amount	Other Funding Sources
Goal I: Expand collaborations and involve undergraduate students in community based learning activities in partnership with appropriate community agencies and public health initiatives.	Course releases for existing faculty to continue work from engaged department grant with additional regional agencies		\$10,765 inc/ FICA		2012-2013		\$10,765 inc/ FICA	
	Expand undergraduate program director position to 12-months	\$17,650 inc/benefits			2012-2013			
	Search for University Nutritionist/Instructor		\$3,000					
	Hire University Nutritionist/Instructor				2012-2013	\$65,650 inc/ benefits	\$4,800 furniture, equipment	
	Search for Instructor/Community Preceptor				2012-2013		\$3,000	
	Hire Instructor/Community Preceptor				2013-2014	\$65,650 inc/benefits	\$4,800 furniture, equipment	
	Preceptor Training			\$2,000		2008-2012		\$8,000
Goal II: Prepare advanced-level dietetic practitioners (Master's and Doctoral level) who apply nutrition science and evidence based practice to promote health	Obtain Nutrition Assessment Equipment- BodPod and nutrition analysis software/maintenance		\$45,000 BodPod Calorimeter \$55,000 UNF Food Lab renovation	Florida Association of Family Practice Physicians Grant- Healthy Grocery Shopping Choices. \$5000	2012-2015	\$1,500 software maintenance fee		BCBS Community Grants- \$20,000 (applied for) Florida Diet Manual contract. \$32,0000

Budget for Nutrition & Dietetics Flagship Proposal

and prevent/treat obesity as well as resultant chronic disease while addressing the nutritional needs of increasingly diverse community populations.				Florida Diet Manual contract. \$8000				
Goal III. Convert the Masters coursework to distance learning to capture the market for RD's who must after 2013 obtain either a masters degree or a specialty certification within 5 years of obtaining the RD.	Course releases for existing faculty to develop DL courses		\$10,765 inc/ FICA		2012-2013		\$10,765 inc/ FICA	
Goal IV. Prepare a new degree application for the addition of a Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition (DCN) and achieve a sustainable Doctoral program and expanded Masters programs which continue the high standards and national recognition established for	Course release for existing faculty to complete new degree application		\$2,153 inc/ FICA					
	Search for Associate Professor to direct doctoral program				2012-2013		\$4,000	
	Search for Associate Professor with clinical specialty				2012-2013		\$4,000	
	Hire Associate Professor to direct doctoral program (12 month faculty)				2014-2015	\$105,040 inc/ benefits	\$4,800 furniture, equipment	
	Hire Associate Professor with clinical specialty (12				2014-2015	\$105,040 inc/ benefits	\$4,800 furniture,	

Budget for Nutrition & Dietetics Flagship Proposal

current programs.	month faculty)						equipment	
	Doctoral program administrative assistant				2014-2015	\$36,764 inc/benefits		
	10 Graduate student stipends				2015-2016		\$20,000	
Subtotals		\$17,650	\$128,683	(+\$13,000)		\$379,644	\$79,730	(+\$32,000)
Total			\$146,333				\$459,374	