

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA  
ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE  
REPORT TO  
THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
AP-003-190

New Fully Online Master of Science in Dietetics (Self-Support)

Academic Programs Committee

Date: 10/16/2019

Executive Committee  
Received and Forwarded

Date: 02/12/2020

Academic Senate

Date: 02/19/2020  
First Reading

**BACKGROUND:** The Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture (COA) offers a MS in Agriculture with options in Agricultural Science, Plant Science, Animal Science, and Nutrition and Food Science. The MS in Agriculture with an emphasis in Nutrition and Food Science, with an emphasis in either Nutrition or Food Science is a two-year program, with small classes (5-20 students) that allows for applied learning, and skill development to promote life-long learning and critical thinking. Additionally, the College of Agriculture offers a Dietetics Internship (DI) Certificate Program, which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics. The DI program is a well-rounded internship program that enables students to obtain practical experience in many different dietetic settings, as required before interns can sit for the registration exam. Starting in 2024, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics will require a Master's degree to obtain the Registered Dietitian/Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RD/RDN) credential.

In collaboration, the Colleges of Agriculture and Extended University have proposed an accessible, online program in Dietetics at the Master's level. This proposed program has been developed to meet the needs of working professionals who will need to satisfy upcoming changes in credentialing procedures. The online Dietetics MS program will be the first completely online degree at CPP and will be the only online MS Dietetics program offered by a west coast university.

**RESOURCES CONSULTED:**

Deans, all colleges

Associate Deans, all colleges

Department Chairs

Graduate Coordinators

Academic Senate Budget Committee

Dr. Victoria Bhavsar, Faculty Center Director

John McGuthry, VP and CIO of Information Technology

**DISCUSSION:**

After receiving this referral, the Academic Programs Committee conducted campus-wide consultations. Because this will be the first completely online degree offered at CPP, the committee felt it was important to complete our own review of the program. During the initial review, concerns of faculty workload and IT infrastructure were raised. The Interim Dean of Agriculture (Dr. Lisa Kessler) informed the committee that the online courses will be offered to the faculty as extra work for extra pay. The funding for this comes from the student tuition since it is a self-support program and a budget between the Colleges of Agriculture and Continuing Education has been developed and approved. In addition, the Faculty Center Director (Dr. Victoria Bhavsar) reassured the committee that the online courses have been established, designed and are accessible. During consultation with the VP and CIO of Information Technology (John McGuthry), he stated that he is comfortable with supporting the program and has no concerns. After these consultations, the Academic Programs committee is satisfied that the concerns

raised have been addressed. During the campus-wide consultation, no concerns were raised. All interactions with individuals involved with the program indicates that everyone understands that this is a fully online program.

This program will serve a need for both the dietetics profession and our students/alumni who want to maintain or obtain the RD/RDN credential. The graduates of this program will increase the number of nutrition professionals who are qualified to provide nutritional services to diverse populations, including those that are currently underserved, by offering a high-quality online program that enables students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and academic background to apply to become an RD/RDN.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of the New Fully Online Master of Science in Dietetics (self-support).