

## PROGRAM FEE REQUEST

University: University of Arizona College/School: College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
 Department: Nutritional Sciences Program: Undergraduate

Circle one: Graduate Undergraduate  
 Circle one: Upper Division Lower Division Both

New \$ 250/term \$ Fall 2015  
 (Proposed) (Effective Date)  
 Existing \$ NA \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Proposed) (Current) (Year Approved)

Program will be offered through:  Main Campus  Outreach College  Both  
 Proposed fee to be applied as:  Per Term  Per Unit--Total \_\_\_Units/Program  
 Proposed fee to be applied:  Fall  Spring  Summer  Winter  
 Date Submitted: March 26, 2015

**Rationale for Request**

The proposed fee would add to the student experience by funding additional advising staff to counsel on dietetic internship preparation and post-graduate education and career planning through multiple venues. Advising staff would facilitate experiential learning opportunities in an attempt to reach the 100% engagement goal outlined in the Never Settle strategic plan through the development of various educational materials and programs for students in the Nutritional Sciences (NSC) major. Additionally, to prepare the most competitive employable graduates, the undergraduate program aims to increase offerings of specialized instruction in more diverse areas of nutrition. Along with this specialized instructional space, equipment, computer technology (hardware and software), and trained technical staff are required.

There is a high demand for Nutritional Sciences graduates in the food, supplement and pharmaceutical industries, community nutrition programs, government and public policy, research, academia, and the medical field. Many of these positions are specialized and require specialized education, credentials, and undergraduate preparation to be eligible at the entry level, which necessitates additional advising and training at the undergraduate level.

**Compliance with Board Guidelines**

There are two options in the NSC major- Nutrition and Dietetics. Beginning in fall 2014, the Nutrition option now allows students to determine a set of electives with advisor assistance based on their academic and professional goals. This design requires additional advising input and course offerings compared to a pre-prescribed plan but we believe this flexibility will a) prompt more students to begin planning for their future earlier and b) allow more students to tailor their education to be more competitive for graduate/professional schools and job markets post-graduation. The Dietetics option of the major is the first step in the professional track to becoming a Registered Dietitian (RD). Dietetic internships are required after graduating in order to obtain RD credential, and are extremely competitive with a national placement rate of ~50%, and a UA placement rate which varies between ~40-50%. With additional advising related to internship preparation we hope to increase our placement rate to at or above the national average, resulting in a higher number of our graduates eligible to work as RD's. The average salary of a registered dietitian in the U.S. is \$52,000 but varies vastly depending on the highest degree earned, location, years on the job, and the sector of employment. In comparison, a Diet Technician Registered (DTR) earns ~\$37,000. The DTR is a credential which graduates of a dietetic undergraduate program may obtain without completing a dietetic internship and has a much lower salary range.

**Justification and Quality of Experience**

The current advisor to student ratio in the NSC major is approximately 520:1 with an additional ~85 students in the nutrition minor. The number of students in the major is projected to grow continuously and to exceed 700 by fall 2015. Additionally, students inquiring about adding NSC as a major or minor have access to the NSC advisor year round. This current advisor to student ratio does not allow for enough time to be allocated for post-graduate planning. Increasing advising staff was also a recommendation of the APR committee after the 2014 review. With additional staff, advisors will also implement programs to track NSC graduates including education, occupation, credentials and certifications, and salary information.

**Access and Affordability:** The recommended 14% of the fee will be set aside for students who need financial assistance.

**Accountability Details:** Funds that are generated also may be used as to fund events such as workshops, host guest speakers open to all NSC majors to attend, gain access to paid databases with career information. Additionally, the NSC Department proposes to use any remainder to fund opportunities for student to attend professional conferences and workshops to facilitate experiential learning.

**STUDENT CONSULTATION**

Students were consulted by two methods: Online survey and focus group.

**Online Survey:** Students were emailed a link requesting their participation in the survey. Forty two responses were received.

1. 57% of students reported they would seek advising more often if there were more advisors available.
2. 90% of students reported that it would be beneficial to increase accessibility by hiring an additional advisor, in order to advise on career exploration, preparation needed for graduate school, and assistance identifying undergraduate opportunities (research, volunteer, internships, etc.)
3. 57% of students reported that do not feel well informed regarding relevant graduate and professional schools, nutrition related jobs, and dietetic internships.
4. 65% of students agreed that they would approve of the implementation of a program fee to provide advising on the topics listed in #3.
5. 75% of students reported that they would not consider changing to a different major based on the implementation of a program fee.

**Focus Group:** Comprised of ~15 Nutritional Sciences students. Questions in the online survey were discussed in the group setting, and the consensus closely aligned with the results of the online survey (outlined above).

**MARKET PRICING**

The undergraduate nutrition programs at the peer institutions listed do not charge a program fee similar to what we are requesting; however, most nutrition programs listed on the peer institution comparison table we surveyed by our staff in 2014 and reported a significantly lower advisor to student ratio than our program, almost all with less than 400:1. The ratio recommended at UA by the Academic Advising Task Force was 400:1. In the 2014 APR for the Nutritional Sciences department, additional advising staff was a recommendation of the APR committee. ASU charges an annual fee of \$800 (\$400/semester) to all students in the undergraduate nutrition program and was added to the chart for comparison.

**2015-16 Tuition & Mandatory Fee Projections  
Undergraduate - Resident**

	Tuition & Fees	FY 2016 Projected Tuition & Fees @ 2%	Differential Tuition or Program Fee	Total (Sort high to low)
1 Pennsylvania State U	17,502	17,852	0	17,852
3 U California-Davis	13,896	14,174	0	14,174
6 U California-Los Angeles	12,701	12,955	0	12,955
<b>8 University of Arizona</b>	<b>10,600</b>	<b>10,812</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>11,312</b>
<b>Arizona State University</b>	<b>10,157</b>	<b>10,361</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>11,160</b>
9 U Wisconsin-Madison	10,410	10,618	0	10,618
14 U North Carolina-Chapel Hill	8,346	8,513	0	8,513
16 U Florida	6,313	6,439	0	6,439

**ACCOUNTABILITY: Financial Aid Set-Aside Amount: 14%****Proposed Annual Revenue**

Program Fee	\$	500
Number of Students	#	650
<b>Total Revenue</b>	=	<b>325,000</b>

**Proposed Annual Expenditures**

Financial Aid Set Aside (14%)	\$	45,500
Administrative Charge (10%)	\$	32,500
Institutional and Advising Personnel (1.5 FTE advisor + ERE, 1.0 FTE instructor + ERE)	\$	133,744
Support Staff Expense (0.5 FTE staff + 0.6 FTE student)	\$	31,430
Operating Expenses (i.e. rent, equipment, student materials and activities, curriculum development, experiential learning)	\$	81,826
<b>Total Program Costs</b>	=	<b>325,000</b>