Mission, Goals and Objectives of the CPD

**Mission:** The University of Cincinnati Coordinated Program in Dietetics is dedicated to preparing entry-level registered dietitians who are qualified to successfully practice in diverse settings in an evolving field. It is a comprehensive program of didactic and experiential opportunities that fosters the attainment of knowledge and competence as well as professional skills. The Program encourages students to strive for continued excellence in practice through a commitment to those they serve and to lifelong learning.

*The following data is from the Program Assessment Report (PAR) which was submitted to the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics in October 2013.*

**Program Goal 1: Prepare graduates to be professional, competent, entry level registered dietitians**

This goal relates to the program’s mission. It is measured by the objectives below. Responses are obtained from the graduate survey and from pass rate information provided directly to the program director by graduates and also through data provided by CDR. **Results of the program objectives for Goal 1 indicate that this program goal has been met.**

**Program Objectives for Goal 1:**

- Over a five year period, **80%** of first-time test takers will pass the RD registration exam within one year of graduation from the program. (Guideline 6.1) First-time pass rate (not first-year pass rate) for the period from 2009-2013 is **85.48%**. **Objective met.**
- **90%** of students initially accepted into the Coordinated Program will complete the program and receive their verification statement within 3 years of entry into the program, or 150% of the time of the program’s length. (Guideline 6.2) **100%** of students initially accepted into the Coordinated Program have met this objective in the period from 2009-2013. **Objective met.**
- Over a five-year period, **70%** or more of graduates seeking employment in dietetics or a related field will be employed within 12 months of program completion. (Guideline 6.3) Of 22 responses received from program graduates from the classes of 2008-2012, **20 (91%)** indicated that they found work within 12 months. **Objective met.**
- Over a five-year period, **70%** or more of graduates indicate that they are members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. (Guideline 6.4) Of 26 responses received from program graduates from the classes of 2009-2013, **21 (81%)** indicated that they were members of the Academy. **Objective met.**
- This fourth required objective (Guideline 6.4) is a change from the previous objective of “When surveyed, all employers rate graduates as competent entry-level dietitians by giving a mean score of “satisfactory” or higher (3 or above on a 5 point scale) on related questions.” This change was made due to the poor response rate to the Survey Monkey from employers. The poor response rate may have been attributed to the fact that the Survey Monkey link was sent to the program graduates with the request that the graduates email the survey to their employers. Results: 2008 – No response. 2009 – Score of 5 (2 responses/10 graduates). 2010 – Score of 4.5 (1/10). 2011 – Score of 4.6 (2/10). 2012 – No response. Overall average – Score of **4.74 (5/54)** **Objective met** although response sample is very small.

**Program Goal 2: Prepare dietitians who adopt a commitment to excellence in practice and life-long learning**
This goal also relates to the program’s mission. It is measured by graduates’ responses on the alumni survey to the following questions.

“Since completing the CP, have you assumed a leadership role in your profession? This could be a paid or volunteer position.”

“Since completing the CP, have you obtained any specialty certification(s)?”

“Since completing the CP, have you earned an advanced degree?”

“If you have not earned an advanced degree since completing the CP, have you taken any advanced level college coursework?”

Results of the program objectives for Goal 2 indicate that this program goal has not been met. It is felt that the small group of alumni (only 19 alumni after a five year period for graduation years 2006-2008) may have some bearing on the outcome. In addition, not many surveys were returned. The CP Director used her knowledge of the whereabouts of local graduates and the jobs they currently hold to supplement survey information, since only 1 former intern from this group of 19 returned the survey.

In the future, supplemental methods of obtaining data from alumni will be utilized. These may include LinkedIn, emailed requests from the program director to alumni, and/or phone surveys. The target outcomes of 30% will remain intact, at least initially, during the next 5 year reporting period.

Program Objectives for Goal 2:

- Five years following graduation, 30% or more of alumni indicate that have completed a specialty certification, advanced degree, or advanced level college coursework. Of the 19 alumni from the classes of 2006 through 2008, 15.8%, at least 3 of the 19 are known to have earned a certification (2 alumni) or advanced level coursework (1 alumna), although this was not reported by survey. Objective not met.

- Five years following graduation, 30% or more of alumni indicate that have assumed a leadership role in their profession. Of the 19 alumni from the classes of 2006 through 2008, 15.8%, at least 3 of the 19 are known to hold management positions in their areas of work, although this was not reported by survey. Objective not met.