

## Brothers, Sheila C

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**From:** Raphael Finkel [raphael@cs.uky.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 05, 2012 2:28 PM  
**To:** Brothers, Sheila C  
**Cc:** Davis, Alison F; Lowry, Regina; Prats, Armando; Graf, Gregory A; Hayes, Robert Z; Raphael Finkel; Stanley, Aaron D; Rachel McMahan; Lewis, Wayne D; Provost, University of Kentucky; Witt, Don  
**Subject:** SAASC item: Human Nutrition and Dietetics Undergraduate Programs

The SAASC has voted to approve the proposal by the Department of Nutrition & Food Science to enact an admissions policy to control undergraduate enrollment in (a) the dietetic program and (b) the human nutrition program.

Reference:

[http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/curricular\\_proposals/files/Human%20Nutrition%20&%20Dietetics%20Admission%20Policy.pdf](http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/curricular_proposals/files/Human%20Nutrition%20&%20Dietetics%20Admission%20Policy.pdf)

Summary of the proposal: The Department has a large increase in enrollment that it must control. It proposes a GPA policy for admission to the upper division based on performance in lower-division (pre-major) courses.

1. Pre-major courses are: CHE 105, CHE 107, CHE 111, CHE 113, BIO 152, NFS 212, and NFS 241.
2. GPA of at least 2.8 overall and in the pre-major guarantees admission. The wording is a bit unclear what happens if the overall GPA is lower, but the pre-major GPA is adequate.
3. Yearly review to see if 2.8 is still reasonable, but never below 2.4; new rates to be effective May 1 of any year.
4. Transfers into the program must meet deadlines.
5. There is an appeals process with a deadline.
6. Justification is quality of instruction, advising resources, and chance of getting admitted to an internship during the program and to a professional program after graduation. Of these, the most important is chance of getting admitted to a professional program. Students with lower than 2.8 in the pre-major courses generally do not succeed in this field.
7. The expected impact is about a 20-25% decrease in enrollment in both programs without loss of quality; students can still go to ECU, Murray State, and WKU. ECU has a requirement: 2.5 GPA (with B or better in elementary nutrition); WKU has a requirement: 3.0 GPA. Murray State has no entrance requirement.

Comments from the SAASC:

1. This policy looks perfectly reasonable. Engineering and Nursing have a pre-major requirement, not so much to control enrollment, but rather to maintain quality, avoid trying to teach advanced courses to students with low ability, and to direct students early on to fields where they can succeed. Students who are not strong in the basic sciences will not be successful in this field. Better they learn that early than after several years of study.
2. The downside to pre-major requirements is that it displaces low-performing students into majors with no requirements, hurting those programs. The Department representative informs us:

Our undergraduate degrees are heavily science-based and many students do not have the background or the study skills to be successful in the sciences. Our concern is to give these students another opportunity for a career. Dietetic students must have an internship to sit for the registration exam. Our accrediting body shows that very few students receive these internships with a GPA under 3.0. Same with human nutrition. Most students aspire to professional schools of PA, PT, MD, PharmD, etc. and they are not competitive with a low GPA. Our accrediting body also assesses our exam pass rate; if they don't ever get an internship and don't take the exam, we won't have a viable undergraduate degree to offer. All students should be able to pursue their dreams but if grades are a component of their success, it is unfair for them to spend their money, time and efforts on something that may be impossible to obtain. Our Department is trying to be proactive.

Most of our students with GPA below 2.8 have a lack of success in the hard sciences. If students leave our department, they usually go to Psychology, Family Sciences, Communications, Education, or Kinesiology - not Biology. When students leave our department, it is because they realize that science is not their strong suit and they go to a department that highlights their strengths rather than their weaknesses; then they are successful.

3. There are minor presentation glitches, which could be corrected before this proposal goes to the University Senate.

The policy mentions both overall GPA and pre-major GPA. It might be clearer if the overall GPA is not mentioned at all. The intent of the policy seems to be that the same level (currently 2.8) apply both to overall GPA and pre-major GPA, but that point is not completely clear.

Justification 1 (Instruction): Please specify whether 110-120 students is the normal size of one given section of a capstone in any one given semester, or several sections taught by the same instructor. Is it over 100 students per section?

(b) Justification 2 (Advising resources): perhaps include the hope that there should be more faculty. Minor punctuation suggestion: "junior" should be "junior-".

(c) Justification 3 (Quality of students): Minor punctuation suggestion: Replace ">" with "higher than" or "above"; replace "<" with "lower than" or "below".

(d) Impact: How can we expect a drop of 20-25% when the introduction says the program have seen "exponential" growth (which is surely hyperbole)? Be clear that this drop is expected under the new policy.

(e) Impact: change the jargon "enrollment management strategies" to something meaningful here.

## **DIETETICS and HUMAN NUTRITION ADMISSION POLICY & JUSTIFICATION**

The Department of Nutrition & Food Science is proposing an admissions policy to control undergraduate enrollment in the dietetic and human nutrition programs. These programs have experienced exponential student growth in the past five years, particularly in human nutrition. In one year (Fall 2010 to Fall 2011), undergraduate enrollment in human nutrition increased by 22% and in dietetics increased by 4%. As of Fall 2011, 446 students have declared dietetics or human nutrition as a major (245 human nutrition and 201 dietetics). To maintain the quality education expected by our students, while operating with limited resources, the department must control enrollment in these programs. An admission policy, using a sliding GPA model, has been developed based on the policies of other undergraduate programs at the University of Kentucky. Upper-level admission to the dietetic or human nutrition programs will be granted based on GPA after completion of set pre-major courses. The Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Nutrition & Food Science and the recently hired Department of Nutrition & Food Science Academic Coordinator will facilitate the admissions process for the Department. The goal of the department is not to significantly reduce majors, but to prevent further growth in human nutrition and dietetics. As well, it is the department's goal to ensure that students who are graduating from the dietetics and human nutrition programs are competitive as they apply for dietetic internships, graduate school, and professional programs.

### **Admission Policy**

Admission to the University is sufficient for lower-division admission to the Human Nutrition & Dietetic majors. However, lower-level admission to the majors or any admission to the University does not guarantee upper-division admission to either of the degree programs in the Department of Nutrition & Food Science. In general, admission depends upon the qualifications and preparation of applicants, as well as the availability of resources for maintaining quality instruction.

Upper-division admission into the Human Nutrition or Dietetic degree programs is necessary in order to be granted a baccalaureate degree from the Department of Nutrition & Food Science. Students who have attained a 2.8 or higher cumulative grade-point average overall and in the pre-major component required for all students in the Department of Nutrition & Food Science will be assured admission.

Annually the Department of Nutrition & Food Science will review the admission requirements and determine the cumulative grade-point average (Annual Admission GPA), if any, that would be acceptable, below the 2.8 standard. The Annual Admission GPA (both overall and in the pre-major component) will be not be lower than 2.4 (See "Appeal Process" below for special circumstances.) This GPA will be posted in the School of Human Environmental Sciences Advising Resource Center and in the Department of Nutrition & Food Science Academic Coordinator's office by October 15 of each year. This GPA will be effective the following May 1 for any student applying for upper-division admission to the Department of Nutrition & Food Science, regardless of the time of his/her enrollment in the University.

To be considered for upper-division admission to either the Human Nutrition or Dietetic undergraduate degree programs, an applicant must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Enrollment in the University of Kentucky. (Students are considered for acceptance by the Department only after acceptance by the University of Kentucky.);
2. Completion of the pre-major component (Pre-major courses include: CHE 105, CHE 107, CHE 111, CHE 113, BIO 152, NFS 212, and NFS 241) required for all students within the Department of Nutrition & Food Science with a minimum grade-point average of 2.8 or the minimum current Annual Admission GPA, whichever is lower.
3. Submission of an application form to the Department of Nutrition & Food Science Academic Coordinator.

Applications from students outside the University of Kentucky seeking admission to the Human Nutrition or Dietetic degree programs, whether for upper-division or lower-division status, must be received by the University Admissions Office no later than April 15 (first summer session); May 15 (second summer session); August 1 (fall semester); and December 1 (spring semester).

Students enrolled in other UK programs on campus should apply for admission prior to the priority registration period. (The appropriate deadlines are listed in the University calendar for approved times to change major.)

Lower-division students enrolled in the Department of Nutrition & Food Science should apply for upper-division admission to the Human Nutrition Program or Didactic Program in Dietetics during the semester they are completing the pre-major course work. The application for upper-division admission should be made before the priority registration period for the upcoming semester.

### Appeal Process

Students with a GPA below the Annual Admission GPA and who have completed all pre-major requirements may appeal for admission into the Human Nutrition or Dietetic programs. If the Appeals Committee feels that there is persuasive evidence that personal, academic or professional circumstances have affected a student's grades and the student shows promise for successful completion of a degree in the Department of Nutrition & Food Science, acceptance may be granted. Materials and information necessary for the appeals process will be available in the School of Human Environmental Science Advising Resource Center. The deadline for submission of the appeals is generally 45 days prior to the beginning of the semester; however, appeals materials are not accepted for the first summer session.

## **Admission Policy Justification**

Student enrollment in the Department of Nutrition & Food Science has increased steadily over the past five years. Enrollment in the department was 321 students in 2009, 381 students in 2010, 423 students in January 2011, and 446 students (245 human nutrition and 201 dietetics) in October 2011. Table 1 summarizes enrollment and graduation numbers for human nutrition and dietetics over the past ten years. The rapid rise in students is of concern to the department for several reasons.

1. **Instruction** – Class sizes have increased significantly. Enrollment in junior- and senior-level capstone courses has reached 110-120 students. Faculty members have had to change pedagogy to accommodate this large number of students. Faculty doubt that this provides the best education to our students with upper-level sections of over 100 students. In addition, the department is experiencing difficulty obtaining adequate lecture space and having adequate laboratory space to accommodate large numbers of students at one time.
2. **Advising Resources** – Prior to Fall, 2011 faculty advised all dietetic and human nutrition students. As of October, 2011 a full-time Academic Coordinator in Nutrition & Food Science has been hired. The Academic Coordinator will be advising all freshman and sophomore-level human nutrition and dietetic students. Faculty members continue to advise junior and senior-level majors. Even with the Academic Coordinator, faculty members continue to have heavy advising loads. This has placed an enormous burden on faculty who are spending significantly more of their time advising, leaving less time for research, teaching, and other scholarly work.
3. **Quality of Students** – Students majoring in dietetics complete a supervised internship following completion of required coursework. Nationally, competition for internships has increased significantly over the past five years with only 51% of the 4000+ who apply for an internship succeeding. The nationally competitive computer match for an internship determines that students who do not hold a GPA > 2.8 rarely qualify for a spot. The Department has 20 internship spots available per year and, like national counterparts, competes for excellent students who will pass the national registration exam

Human nutrition is a pre-professional program. Most students in human nutrition plan on applying to medical school, pharmacy school, dental school, physician assistant school, optometry school, or graduate school in nutrition or a related field. Admission to graduate or professional school is unlikely with a GPA < 2.8.

As of January, 2011 (see Table 2), 17% of students had a cumulative GPA less than 2.6 and 27% had a cumulative GPA less than 2.8. Of seniors, 12% had a cumulative GPA less than 2.6 and 22% less than 2.8. Internship and professional/graduate school options are limited for these students. To become competitive these students must take remedial class work and/or gain relevant work experience.

## **Impact of Admission Policy**

- Based on the current number of students in our majors it is anticipated that student enrollment will drop by approximately 20-25% in both majors. Based on Fall 2011 enrollment of 446 students and a GPA cut-off of 2.8, we anticipate student enrollment of approximately 350 students, equally divided between human nutrition and dietetics. The department wishes to maintain student enrollment at 350-400 students; the proposed sliding GPA (2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, or 2.8 determined annually) will allow for such control.
- Students per teaching FTE will drop from 54:1 to 44:1. While this ratio still exceeds teaching resources, enrollment control will allow faculty to have more time to devote to recruiting, advising, teaching, retaining students, and ensuring quality graduates.
- Students will be admitted to the dietetic and human nutrition majors early in their college career. If students do not meet the minimum GPA requirement, this will allow them ample opportunity to pursue work in a major that better fits their interests and strengths. Students interested in health and wellness may pursue work in several majors, including kinesiology, health promotion, or education.
- We do not anticipate students not attending, or leaving, the University of Kentucky because of enrollment management strategies. Eastern Kentucky University, Murray State, and Western Kentucky Universities offer undergraduate dietetic degrees. ECU and Murray State also have internship programs. These three programs are all much smaller than the program at UK with ECU and WKU also having program admission requirements (see Table 3). UK is a leader in dietetic education in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and is the first choice for students seeking a major in dietetics.

**Table 1: Enrollment and graduation rates in Dietetics and Human Nutrition over the past ten years.**

Academic Year (August, Dec, May)	Dietetics	Human Nutrition*	TOTAL	Total # of Students in Human Nutrition & Dietetics
2000	22	0	22	
2001	32	1	33	
2002	37	2	39	
2003	33	10	43	153
2004	20	17	37	154
2005	23	11	34	205
2006	22	23	45	247
2007	30	19	49	282
2008	40	26	66	312
2009	45	22	67	321
2010	29	41	70	381
2011 (Spring)				423 (199 diet, 224 hunu)

\*Human Nutrition evolved from the former Food Science and Human Nutrition program in the Department. In 2000 the program was changed to Human Nutrition.

**Table 2: Impact of GPA requirement on student numbers in dietetics and human nutrition.**

	<b>Total</b>		<b>Freshman</b>		<b>Sophomore</b>		<b>Junior</b>		<b>Senior</b>	
	<b>Current</b>	<b>Predicted</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Predicted</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Predicted</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Predicted</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Predicted</b>
All Students	<b>423</b> GPA < 2.6 = 70 GPA < 2.8 = 113	<b>GPA &lt; 2.6 = 353</b> <b>GPA &lt; 2.8 = 310</b>	90 GPA < 2.6 = 21 GPA < 2.8 = 27	<b>GPA &lt; 2.6 = 69</b> <b>GPA &lt; 2.8 = 63</b>	84 GPA < 2.6 = 14 GPA < 2.8 = 21	<b>GPA &lt; 2.6 = 70</b> <b>GPA &lt; 2.8 = 63</b>	119 GPA < 2.6 = 20 GPA < 2.8 = 36	<b>GPA &lt; 2.6 = 99</b> <b>GPA &lt; 2.8 = 83</b>	130 GPA < 2.6 = 15 GPA < 2.8 = 29	<b>GPA &lt; 2.6 = 115</b> <b>GPA &lt; 2.8 = 101</b>
Dietetics	<b>199</b> GPA < 2.6 = 33 GPA < 2.8 = 55	<b>GPA &lt; 2.6 = 166</b> <b>GPA &lt; 2.8 = 144</b>	36 GPA < 2.6 = 9 GPA < 2.8 = 12	<b>GPA &lt; 2.6 = 27</b> <b>GPA &lt; 2.8 = 24</b>	36 GPA < 2.6 = 7 GPA < 2.8 = 12	<b>GPA &lt; 2.6 = 29</b> <b>GPA &lt; 2.8 = 24</b>	53 GPA < 2.6 = 10 GPA < 2.8 = 16	<b>GPA &lt; 2.6 = 43</b> <b>GPA &lt; 2.8 = 37</b>	74 GPA < 2.6 = 7 GPA < 2.8 = 15	<b>GPA &lt; 2.6 = 67</b> <b>GPA &lt; 2.8 = 59</b>
Human Nutrition	<b>224</b> GPA < 2.6 = 37 GPA < 2.8 = 58	<b>GPA &lt; 2.6 = 187</b> <b>GPA &lt; 2.8 = 166</b>	54 GPA < 2.6 = 12 GPA < 2.8 = 15	<b>GPA &lt; 2.6 = 42</b> <b>GPA &lt; 2.8 = 39</b>	48 GPA < 2.6 = 7 GPA < 2.8 = 9	<b>GPA &lt; 2.6 = 41</b> <b>GPA &lt; 2.8 = 39</b>	66 GPA < 2.6 = 10 GPA < 2.8 = 20	<b>GPA &lt; 2.6 = 56</b> <b>GPA &lt; 2.8 = 46</b>	56 GPA < 2.6 = 8 GPA < 2.8 = 14	<b>GPA &lt; 2.6 = 48</b> <b>GPA &lt; 2.8 = 42</b>

Data from: UK Business Warehouse Report, January 2011 (cumulative GPA at the end of the Fall 2010 semester)

**Table 3: Dietetic Programs in the Commonwealth of Kentucky**

	Didactic Programs in Dietetics - # of students *	Dietetic Internship	Admission Requirements
Eastern Kentucky University	38	Yes	GPA of at least 2.5 on at least 45 college credit hours. "C" or better in basic chemistry classes and "B" or better in introductory nutrition classes.
Murray State University	14	Yes	None.
Western Kentucky University	47	No	GPA of at least 3.0 on at least 30 college credit hours, including biology and chemistry.

*\*Data from CADE, American Dietetic Association [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org)*