

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

The Department of Dietetics & Human Nutrition (formerly 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 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 Dietetics & Human Nutrition and the recently hired Department of Dietetics & Human Nutrition 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 & dietetics 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 Dietetics & Human Nutrition. 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 dietetics degree programs is necessary in order to be granted a baccalaureate degree from the Department of Dietetics & Human Nutrition. Students who have attained a 2.8 or higher grade-point average in the pre-major component required for all students in the Department of Dietetics & Human Nutrition will be assured admission.

To be considered for upper-division admission to either the human nutrition or dietetics 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, DHN 212, and DHN 241) required for all students within the Department of Dietetics & Human Nutrition with a minimum pre-major coursework grade-point average of 2.8.\*
3. Submission of an application form to the Department of Dietetics & Human Nutrition Academic Coordinator.

\*A student can repeat a pre-major course to meet this GPA requirement. If a student repeats the course as one of their three University-accepted repeat options only the repeat grade will be factored into the pre-major coursework GPA. If a student repeats the course outside of the University-accepted repeat options then the course grades will be averaged and then factored into the pre-major coursework GPA.

Applications from students outside the University of Kentucky seeking admission to the Human Nutrition or Dietetics 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 Dietetics & Human Nutrition 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 2.8 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 Dietetics & Human Nutrition, 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.