

**Degree: MS Nutrition**  
2023-2024 Assessment Report

	<b>Student Learning Outcome #1</b>	Research Process - Graduate students in NUTR 5303, Nutrition Research, will develop a professional paper using evidence-based practice. Rationale: This objective is measured to meet the program goal that program graduates will be able to interpret and evaluate nutrition research literature.
<b>PLAN</b>	<b>Assessment Method(s)</b>	Research Process - Nutrition graduate students in NUTR 5303, Nutrition Research, will demonstrate appropriate writing skills in a writing intensive course. Data for this outcome will be collected following completion of the Spring and Summer semesters when the course is taught. A rubric will be used for measuring research writing skills in NUTR 5303, Nutrition Research.
	<b>Proficiency</b>	Score of 80% on Professional Paper assignment using the grading rubric
<b>DO</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	75% of graduate students in NUTR 5303, Nutrition Research, will score at least 80% on the Professional Paper assignment using the grading rubric.
	<b>Results of Assessment</b>	Only 32% (48 of 105 students) scored 80% or higher on the Professional Paper assignment using the grading rubric.
<b>S T U D Y</b>	<b>Analysis of Results</b>	<p>The target was not met.</p> <p>Overall, students continue to struggle with writing professionally. In examining the rubric, improvements have been made in the overall format of the paper and in formatting references. In 2023-24, a new discussion assignment somewhat helped students with skill-development in writing technically; however, synthesizing literature remains a struggle. Also, in examining the rubric, the quality of reference</p>

**Commented [JAR1]:** Beginning in the 2023-24 AY, we have transitioned to requiring 2 assessment methods for each SLO, these assessment methods could both be direct measures of student learning, such as a rubric based written assignment or standardized test. Or one could be direct and the other could be indirect, such as a student exit survey.

**Commented [AS2R1]:** Thank you for reminding me of this. I addressed this in the Study and ACT sections of this Report and will also include the (2nd) assessment methods added to the Plan in the Fall.

		choices was often poor, which directly results in low rubric scores on the literature review. Written communication skills are important for our graduates to succeed professionally in the field of Nutrition and Dietetics; therefore, it is important to keep this assessment method. Also, to be compliant with university policy, a second assessment method is needed.
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<p><b>ACT</b></p>	<p><b>Improvement Plan for 2024-2025</b></p>	<p>To help students be more effective in writing professionally, the following will be incorporated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will be made aware of Lamar’s Writing Center during the first module of the class.</li> <li>• Instructors will continue to use the discussion assignment previously developed to assist students in developing the literature review outline.</li> <li>• Brief videos regarding synthesizing information for a literature review will be incorporated into the course.</li> <li>• During an instructional webinar, instructors will “visit” the LU library (CardinalOne, etc.) to show students how to find original research, peer-reviewed articles appropriate for the paper.</li> </ul> <p>Assessment Methods for 2024-25:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 75% of graduate students in NUTR 5303, Nutrition Research, will score at least 80% on the Professional Paper assignment.</li> <li>2. 75% of graduate students in NUTR 5389, Nutrition Capstone, will select “Strongly Agree” to the statement, “The MS in Nutrition Program at Lamar University provided me with strong skills in writing at a technical level” on the Self Critique of Skills Learned in the MS in Nutrition.</li> </ol>
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**Degree:**  
2023-2024 Assessment Plan

	<b>Student Learning Outcome #2</b>	Professional Presentation - Graduate students in NUTR 5389, Nutrition Capstone, will provide a professional audio presentation using appropriate evidence-based nutrition guidelines. Rationale: This objective is measured to meet the program goal of evaluating and presenting appropriate nutrition guidelines to individuals with unique nutrition needs.
<b>PLAN</b>	<b>Assessment Method(s)</b>	Professional Presentation - Nutrition graduate students in NUTR 5389, Nutrition Capstone, will present a professional presentation using evidence-based practice. The audio presentation will be delivered to an audience of peers and faculty. Data for this outcome will be collected following completion of each semester. A rubric will be used for measuring professional presentation skills in NUTR 5389, Nutrition Capstone.
	<b>Proficiency</b>	Score of 85% on Professional Audio Presentation assignment using the grading rubric
<b>DO</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	90% of graduate students in NUTR 5389 will score at least 85% on the Professional Audio Presentation assignment.
	<b>Results of Assessment</b>	70% (66 of 94 students) scored 85% or higher on the Professional Audio Presentation assignment using the grading rubric.
<b>S T U D Y</b>	<b>Analysis of Results</b>	<p>The target was not met.</p> <p>This SLO and target were newly implemented in the 2023-24 AY. Previously, a similar SLO was used measuring presentation skills. However, with the 2023-24 AY, we developed a new SLO to reflect our new curriculum. The content of the</p>

		<p>presentation assignment for the new SLO was more rigorous than the previous presentation assignment since the 2023-24 AY year assignment was based on a research proposal students develop for a hypothetical nutrition intervention rather than a presentation addressing food, culture, and health. In examining the rubric, an area of improvement needed deals with teaching students to focus more on the proposed intervention, including nutrition guidelines for the target audience, with less focus on the work of others (the literature review). Oral communication skills, particularly those dealing with the development of nutrition interventions, are important for our graduates to succeed professionally in the field of Nutrition and Dietetics. Since the target was not met, and because the 2023-34 AY was the first year to collect data on this assessment, this assessment method will be kept. Again, to be compliant with university policy, a second assessment method is needed.</p>
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<b>ACT</b>	<b>Improvement Plan for 2024-2025</b>	<p>To help students be more effective in presenting a professional proposal presentation that showcases presentation skills in discussing a nutrition intervention, instructions for this assignment, as well as the instructional webinar, will be improved to better address the need to devote most of the presentation to the proposed intervention, including nutrition guidelines for the target audience, while justifying the need for the study with a very brief literature review. Also, for the 2024-25 AY, a second assessment will be added to measure this SLO.</p> <p>Assessment Methods for 2024-25:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. 90% of graduate students in NUTR 5389 will score at least 85% on the Professional Audio Presentation assignment.</li><li>4. 85% of graduate students in NUTR 5389, Nutrition Capstone, will select “Strongly Agree” to the statement, “The MS in Nutrition Program at Lamar University provided me with strong skills in developing presentations for sharing appropriate nutrition guidelines” on the Self Critique of Skills Learned in the MS in Nutrition.</li></ol>
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Degree: 2023-2024 Assessment Plan		
	<b>Student Learning Outcome #3</b>	Culminating Experience - Graduate students in NUTR 5389, Nutrition Capstone, will develop a Professional Portfolio. Rationale: This objective is measured as one assignment designed to meet the program goal of developing marketable and lifelong learning skills.
<b>PLAN</b>	<b>Assessment Method(s)</b>	Culminating Experience Graduate students in NUTR 5389, Nutrition Capstone, will demonstrate appropriate marketable and lifelong learning skills in the development of a professional portfolio. Data for this outcome will be collected following completion of each semester. A rubric will used for measuring professional portfolio skills in NUTR 5389, Nutrition Capstone.
	<b>Proficiency</b>	Score of 80% on Professional Portfolio assignment using the grading rubric
<b>DO</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	85% of graduate students in NUTR 5389, Nutrition Capstone, will score at least 80% on the Professional Portfolio assignment using a grading rubric.
	<b>Results of Assessment</b>	86% (80 of 93 students) scored 80% or higher on the Professional Portfolio assignment using the grading rubric.
<b>S T U D Y</b>	<b>Analysis of Results</b>	<p>The target was met.</p> <p>While the target was met, only 86% of students in the 2023-2024 AY met the target compared to 93% in the 2022-23 AY. The development of a professional portfolio is a culminating experience needed for our graduates to succeed professionally in the field of Nutrition and Dietetics. It is important to keep this assessment method and current target to ensure a pattern of success exists, especially since the success rate</p>



		fell from the previous year. To be compliant with university policy, a second assessment method is needed.
<b>ACT</b>	<b>Improvement Plan for 2024-2025</b>	<p>A major change that occurred with this assignment was that Portfolium (available through Blackboard) was required to be used by all students in developing the professional portfolio. Students experienced some confusion in including a resume with the assignment. There were a few other problems with the Portfolium platform. While Portfolium will be the platform used in Summer 2024, we are currently investigating other approved options for this assignment. It will be helpful to compare the scores next year of students using Portfolium vs other another approved option(s) for the assignment. In addition to investigating new platforms, instructions for the assignment will be reviewed and revised to clarify the resume component and more time will be devoted to this in the Instructional Webinar. Finally, for the 2024-25 AY, a second assessment will be added to measure this SLO.</p> <p>Assessment Methods for 2024-25:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. 85% of graduate students in NUTR 5389, Nutrition Capstone, will score at least 80% on the Professional Portfolio assignment using a grading rubric.</li> <li>6. 85% of graduate students in NUTR 5389, Nutrition Capstone, will select “Strongly Agree” to the statement, “The MS in Nutrition Program at Lamar University provided me with strong skills in developing an electronic portfolio” on the Self Critique of Skills Learned in the MS in Nutrition.</li> </ol>



Degree: 2023-2024 Assessment Plan			
	Student Learning Outcome #4		
PLAN	Assessment Method(s)		
	Proficiency		
DO	Benchmark		
	Results of Assessment		
S T U D Y	Analysis of Results		

ACT	Improvement Plan for 2024-2025	
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Degree: 2023-2024 Assessment Plan			
	Student Learning Outcome #5		
PLAN	Assessment Method(s)		
	Proficiency		
DO	Benchmark		
	Results of Assessment		
S T U D Y	Analysis of Results		

ACT	Improvement Plan for 2024-2025	
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Degree: 2023-2024 Assessment Plan			
	Student Learning Outcome #6		
PLAN	Assessment Method(s)		
	Proficiency		
DO	Benchmark		
	Results of Assessment		
S T U D Y	Analysis of Results		

ACT	Improvement Plan for 2024-2025	
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