



Nutrition

Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Date: April 12, 2024

Location: Zoom

Start Time: 12:00pm

End Time: 1:15pm

Associate Professor, Nutrition: Solange Bushra Wasef

Members in Attendance: Orville Bigelow, Alexandra Dusenberry, Halle Elbling, Brenda O'Day, Melanie Moyer, Yumi Petrisko, Donna Wolf, Lindsay Yau

Career, Technical, and Extended Education Dean: Susan Wyche

Recorder: TBD

Agenda Items

- Introduction of Committee Members and Staff
- Statement of Purpose
- Program Updates
 - Enrollment
 - Program Updates/Lifelong Learning Changes in California
 - Labor Market Update
 - Actions Taken Since Last Meeting
 - Motivational Interviewing
 - Demo, practice, and newly added quiz in NUTR 100
 - Food Handler Card and ServSafe
 - This item was reopened by the committee. Questions were posed and additional information was added.
 - Is it a requirement or is it more to add as an achievement?
 - Does it apply all counties?
 - A committee member reported that directors prefer it.
 - SDSU has the same discussion as to require it or not as it might be redundant for some. Currently, it is strongly encouraged, highly rec.
 - There could be potential for students to teach the course to people pursuing the certification.
 - It could be incorporated into Service Learning at Palomar.
 - Based on the discussion above, Palomar NUTR will educate students about the certification and emphasize its importance without making it a

requirement. A vote of 8/8 members agreed for NUTR to create an in-class activity where students learn the process and faculty explain the significance.

- New and Emerging Topics - GI Health and the Microbiome, Integrative and Functional Medicine
 - NUTR Faculty CE
 - Meeting (Summer, 2024) to discuss key findings for incorporation into curriculum
- Community Education
 - Non-credit enrollment option for community members
 - Professional development offerings options
- Complete Questionnaires
- Adjournment

Next Meeting: March/April, 2025

Thank you for your input and participation!

Nutrition

Advisory Committee Questionnaire and Discussion Points

Name: _____

Organization/Title: _____

Email: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

May we recognize your contribution as a member of our committee by listing your name, title, and organization on our website? Yes ☐ No ☐

May we contact you to participate as a panelist for our Nutrition Info Session in future semesters? As a panelist, you will respond to student questions about your career path and experiences as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. Yes ☐ No ☐

1. Last year, we discussed Palomar's AS in Nutrition and the utility of certificates. While the industry and the Academy don't require or promote certificates at the lower division level, certificates can serve as tools that support student success and introduce students to nutrition as a major. Within your role in your organization, what, if any, positive or negative unintended impacts of students pursuing and acquiring certificates (whether in addition to or in lieu of the nutrition degree) do you foresee?

The committee overall suggested, if a certificate is offered, it should be a strategic one that has utility beyond Palomar. The committee was informed of the potential importance of certificates in program promotion.

Some suggestions included creating a certificate that combines certain classes to formally acquire a skill set perhaps in collaboration with other departments (i.e. nutrition, exercise, counseling), or building a certificate that fulfills the prereqs for existing industry recognized certificates (i.e. ACE, NBHWC, National Wellness Institute).

The committee mentioned keeping the rigor appropriate for community college level studies. For example, functional medicine/nutrition is continuing to be a hot topic but it's more of an advanced topic for experienced professionals.

Other student certificate interests can be identified via anonymous surveys to identify what else students want/need to learn. One committee member shared a multiple page list from the titled, “Common credentials held by RDNs and NDTRs” from CDR. There are a lot of certificates offered that are not recognized by the industry. A big concern from the committee was the lack of recognition a Palomar certificate would have outside the college and how students might be confused about its value outside of the college. As a result, NUTR students need to be educated about the utility of any particular certificate offered.

2. Since last year, what, if any, impact on job outlook, employee recruitment, job duties, student interns/enrollment or any other factors is your organization anticipating with the 2024 changes in degree requirements? Do you see any new opportunities or challenges for Nutrition majors?

This question is postponed until next year.

3. On a scale of 1-10 (10 = extremely important), how important do you think it is to have a general nutrition class available at a community college and why?

All committee members voted 9 or 10. The committee members stated the course might:

- Alleviate confusion in the general population
- Reduce the number of students pursuing NUTR as a field of study
- Improve community health and wellness
- Be some people’s only way to access and receive education from an RD

4. On a scale of 1-10 (10 = extremely important), how important do you think it is to have a general/basic MNT class available at a community college and why?

All committee members voted 9 or 10 as long as it is not equal to the level of the SDSU course or a practitioners’ knowledge. The committee members stated the course might:

- Serve as starter education for the community
- Promote health and make the college-age student aware of long-term disease

○ If this is course is created, some considerations discussed were:

- Making the name different from SDSU’s course title so there is no confusion
- Making it consumer/patient centered rather than provider centered (in terms of the level of knowledge)
- Emphasizing patient empowerment
- Considering additional audiences for the course – i.e. nurses?
- Considering how well it will thrive without intro to nutr as a prereq
 - Can the intro be included in the course – is that not enough?
 - Perhaps alleviate this with a wide variety of prereq options?