

**Curricular Affairs Committee  
of the Faculty Senate**

**MEMO**

**To:** The UVM Faculty Senate  
**From:** Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Laura Almstead, Chair  
**Date:** April 1, 2021  
**Re:** Item approved by the Curricular Affairs Committee that does not require a Faculty Senate vote

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Proposal to establish three new concentrations in the existing Nutrition and Food Sciences major

The Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) submitted a proposal to establish three new concentrations in the existing Nutrition and Food Sciences major: 1) Dietetics, 2) Food Sciences, and 3) Nutrition, Sustainability and Society. Descriptions of each concentration and the requirements begin on page 2 of this report. The request to establish the concentrations was accompanied by a request for a no-contest termination of the Dietetics, Nutrition and Food Sciences major (DNFS; see separate memo) as the current DNFS requirements will serve as the requirements for the proposed new Dietetics concentration. The concentration in Nutrition, Sustainability and Society will complement the new Dietetics concentration, and is aimed at preparing students for careers in nutrition for which it is not necessary to be a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN), including policy, public health, and community programming. The new Food Sciences concentration provides students with an interest in food science a more thorough grounding in that area while also capitalizing on the department's strength in food safety and food quality, and will help strengthen connections with careers in food industry.

The decision to establish the three proposed concentrations and associated no-contest termination request are the outcome of a departmental strategic process aimed at improving recruitment and retention as well as creating clearer and more dynamic pathways for students looking to major in the areas of nutrition and food sciences. A single major with three concentrations will provide students with more structure and direction. Other institutions offering a Nutrition or a Nutrition and Food Sciences major follow the model of one major with multiple concentrations. Examples of regional competitors given in the proposal included the University of New Hampshire, the University of Maine, and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

The proposed new concentrations were approved by department faculty, the CALS Curriculum Committee, CALS faculty, and Dean of CALS, Leslie Parise. Letters of support were also provided by the individuals below.

- Scott Thomas, Interim Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences,
- Nancy Matthews, Dean of the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources
- Jane Kolodinsky, Food Systems Undergraduate Steering Committee

All NFS majors will need to complete Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Anatomy & Physiology, Biochemistry, Advanced Nutrition, and Food Microbiology, a foundation of science courses that is quite distinctive when comparing to other related majors at UVM. All majors will also be required to take Introduction to Psychology and Anthropology (or Sociology) and Farm to Table: Our Contemporary Food System. The shared requirements for the major will continue to reflect the departmental commitment to the life sciences while fostering crucial intersections with the social sciences.

As noted above the Dietetics concentration reflects the requirements of the current DNFS major. A majority of the courses for the two other concentrations are already included in the Nutrition and Food Sciences major as requirements or electives. Three new courses are noted in the tables below; all have been previously taught as Special Topics courses. In the proposal, the department noted two new upper-level courses are being developed, How to Survive a Third Party Audit and Sustainable Diets, that will be included in the Food Science and Nutrition, Sustainability and Society concentrations, respectively. These courses are not included in the tables below, and the major can be completed through all three concentrations without launching the planned courses.

#### Major Requirements and Concentration Descriptions

All Nutrition and Food Science (NFS) majors must take courses that encompass the breadth of knowledge of the department, develop a set of relevant research and/or technical skills, and then choose a concentration in order to master a depth of knowledge.

| <b>Basic Science and Social Science Foundation Courses (21 credits total)</b> |   |
|---|---|
| CHEM 023  | Outline of General Chemistry  |
| CHEM 042  | Intro to Organic Chemistry  |
| ANPS 019<br>ANPS 020  | Anatomy & Physiology  |
| ANTH 021*   | D2:SU: Cultural Anthropology  |
| PSYS 001  | Introduction to Psychology  |
| NFS 183   | Introduction to Biochemistry  |
| <b>Breadth of Knowledge Courses (17 credits total)</b>                        |   |
| NFS 043   | Fundamentals of Nutrition   |
| NFS 044   | Survey of the Field   |
| NFS 073   | D2:SU: Farm to Table: Our Contemporary Food System  |
| NFS 053 –or–<br>NFS 072   | Basic Concepts of Foods ( <i>Dietetics; Nutrition, Sustainability and Society</i> )<br>Kitchen Science ( <i>Food Sciences</i> ) |
| NFS 203/213   | Food Microbiology with Lab  |
| NFS 243   | Advanced Nutrition  |

\*other relevant courses such as SOC 001 or POLS 021 with advisor approval

### **Food Sciences Concentration (23 credits)**

The vision of the food sciences concentration is to provide graduates with a solid foundation in the field in order to be key contributors to the food and beverage industry in Vermont and nationally. Graduates will obtain knowledge in nutrition, food chemistry and analysis, food microbiology and safety and food functionality. Students pursuing this concentration will be provided with hands-on learning experiences in-house through a food industry practicum.

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|---------|-------------------------------|
| NFS 113 | U.S. Food Policy and Politics |
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| NFS 153/154 | Principles of Food Technology with Lab |
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| NFS 156 | Deadly Food: Outbreak Investigations** |
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| NFS 286 | NFS Senior Seminar |
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| NFS 296 | Internship (Food Industry) |
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#### *Upper-Level Seminars (choose three)*

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| NFS 205 | Functional Foods |
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| NFS 253 | Food Regulation |
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| NFS 283 | HACCP: Theory & Application |
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| NFS 254 | Global Food Safety |
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*\*\*Previously taught as Special Topics course; proposal for a permanent number submitted in Courseleaf*

### **Dietetics Concentration (23 credits)**

This concentration reflects the current Dietetics, Nutrition and Food Sciences major, and encompasses the requirements to become a dietitian. Students graduating with this major concentration could go on to become Registered Dietitians without taking additional undergraduate coursework. The need to align with external accreditation requirements explain the greater overall number of required courses than the concentration in Food Sciences or the concentration in Nutrition, Sustainability and Society. This concentration retains the Dietetics program accreditation, and importantly provides the only pathway in Vermont for students to complete their didactic requirements to become a dietitian.

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| BSAD 060 –or–<br>BSAD 009 –or–<br>CDAE 158 | Financial Accounting<br>Personal Finance & Investing<br>Personal Financial Literacy |
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| NFS 143 | Nutrition in the Life Cycle |
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| BSAD 120 | Leadership and Organizational Behavior |
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| HLTH 003 | Medical Terminology |
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| NFS 034 | Servsafe Certification Course |
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| NFS 262 | Community Nutrition |
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| NFS 263 | Nutritional Biochemistry |
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| NFS 286 | NFS Senior Seminar |
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| NFS 244 | Nutrition in Health and Disease Prevention |
| NFS 260 | Diet and Disease                           |
| NFS 223 | Nutrition Education and Counseling         |
| NFS 250 | Foodservice Systems                        |

| <b>Nutrition, Sustainability and Society Concentration (23 credits)</b>  |  |
|--|--|
| This concentration capitalizes on our department's expertise to provide a deeper focus on nutrition in public health, food policy and sustainability. The sustainability focus in this concentration will be on human health, food security and the intersection with the environment. It will allow students who are not interested in becoming a dietitian but are interested in other aspects of nutrition to complete a nutrition-focused major. This concentration will differ from Food Systems because of its underpinning in nutrition science and emphasis on impacts of our contemporary food system on nutrition at the level of individual or population health. |  |
| NFS 113  | U.S. Food Policy and Politics              |
| NFS 114  | Human Health in the Food System            |
| NFS 143  | Nutrition in the Life Cycle                |
| NFS 286  | NFS Senior Seminar                         |
| <i>Upper-Level Seminar (choose four)</i>   |  |
| NFS 245**  | Nutrition for Global Health                |
| NFS 285**  | Food, Exchange and Culture                 |
| NFS 244  | Nutrition in Health and Disease Prevention |
| NFS 254  | Global Food Safety                         |
| NFS 262  | Community Nutrition                        |
| NFS 198 –or–<br>NFS 296  | Undergraduate Research<br>Internship       |

*\*\*Previously taught as Special Topics course; proposal for a permanent number submitted in Courseleaf*