

CURRICULUM VITAE

Liz Combs MS, RD, LD

Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition, Lecturer, August 15, 2013

80% Instruction, 20% Special Assignment (Coordinated Program Director), October 9, 2016

NARRATIVE STATEMENT

I serve as Director of the UK DHN Coordinated Program, which includes the close advising and mentoring of 28 students each year. The UK DHN Coordinated Program is a nationally accredited program that combines didactic work with a supervised practice that prepares undergraduate students to take the registered dietitian exam upon graduation. There has been a recent increase in the first-time pass rate for this exam. This statistic is how the national accrediting body, ACEND, measures program success. For several years before I was program director the CP had been on a “pass rate improvement plan” since the pass rate was not as high as the national standard. However, since I started as the director the program pass rate has steadily increased and it is no longer under the pass rate improvement plan because of this positive change. Currently, for the past two years the one-year registered dietitian exam pass rate is 100% (26 out of 26 students to date), which is an incredible feat and is a testament to the strength and the organization of the program.

The concentration of the UK DHN Coordinated Program is “Leadership and Service Learning”. I take this concentration seriously and encourage all of the students to embody these two principles. I continually try to represent leadership and service learning in my work life. To that effect, I am an active member of multiple professional organizations, including the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics, the Nutrition and Dietetics Educators and Preceptors group, the Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and the Bluegrass Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. I was also elected and am currently serving on the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment’s Faculty Council for a two year two. I regularly attend annual meetings for each of these organizations to further enhance my nutrition and health knowledge as well as improve my teaching skills. I currently serve as the Tellers Committee Chair of the Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and have served as President, President-Elect, Honors and Awards Chair, and two years as Secretary of the Bluegrass Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. These experiences allow me to demonstrate true professional service to my students, and I hope that it encourages them to do the same in their professional careers.

In addition to leadership, I have tried to really instill the concept of service learning in the students. To this effect, I have organized several volunteer efforts for the students. These include: UK Coordinated Program Service Learning Experience 2016 and 2015, both of which include collaborating with God’s Pantry to provide grocery store tours to underserved populations and cooking classes to low-income youth; nutrition education presentations to GreenHouse17, a home for those trying to escape abusive situations; the UK Coordinated Program Service Learning Experience 2014 at the Jessamine Senior Citizens Center, which was a collaborative effort to develop comprehensive nutrition lessons for senior citizens. Additionally, the UK Coordinated Program completes an annual service project in January of each year. These service-learning opportunities provide students with the chance to hone their nutrition knowledge while also providing real world application by serving the public.

RESEARCH

Extramural:

Children’s Miracle Network Grant, Regionally Competitive, \$10,000, *Nursing Mama: A Smartphone Application for Breastfeeding Continuation*. Co-Principle Investigator, Dr. Collin, Dr. Giannone, and Katharine Macmillan. April 2016- current.

Internal:

The Tanglewood Trail Farmers Market: Engaging Undergraduate Students in Service Learning and Research to Promote Health of Low-Income Kentuckians in Whitesburg, Kentucky

(Co-PIs Dawn Brewer and Elizabeth Combs)

Funding Source: HES Research Activity Award

Amount Requested: \$3,000 Amount Awarded:

Influences on Mothers of Toddlers Feeding Decisions: Focus Group Findings, Principal Investigator
January 2016-current.

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Additional information can be found in the Teaching Portfolio.

Summary of Course and Teaching Evaluations as assessed by University of Kentucky.

Overall Quality of CLASS / Overall Quality of TEACHING (note class is listed first and teaching second)

	DHN 212	DHN 312	DHN 480	DHN 518	DHN 514	DHN 374	HES 300	DHN 800/808	DHN 810/816
Spring 2015						4.0/4.0			
Summer 2015								Not received	Not received
Fall 2015		3.8/3.9			3.5/3.9				
Spring 2016				3.6/4.0					
Summer 2016								Not received	Not received
Fall 2016		4.81/4.88	4.70/4.80		4.83/4.97				
Spring 2017						4.45/4.90	4.05/4.77		
Summer 2017	5.00/5.00							4.91/5.00	
Fall 2017		4.74/4.80			4.03/4.68				

Administration and Advising

- Director of the Coordinated Program in Dietetics, 2012 – current
- Fall 2016- 50 undergraduate student advisees
- Spring 2016- 60 undergraduate student advisees
- Fall 2015- 63 undergraduate student advisees
- Spring 2015- 71 undergraduate student advisees

Activities Outside the Classroom

- Participate in weekly College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Faculty Learning Community meetings, led by Dr. Larry Grabau.
- UK Coordinated Program Service Learning Experience 2016, God's Pantry
 - A collaborative effort to provide grocery store tours to underserved populations that receive assistance from God's Pantry. Additionally, cooking classes were provided to low-income high school students.
- Provided 20 minute presentation to College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's new freshmen orientation program, August 2015
- Participated in Living Learning Community Faculty Panel for new freshmen, September 2015
- UK Coordinated Program Service Learning Experience 2015, God's Pantry
 - A collaborative effort to provide grocery store tours to underserved populations that receive assistance from God's Pantry. Additionally, cooking classes were provided to low-income high school students.
- UK Supervised Practice Program Service Learning Experience 2016, God's Pantry
- UK Supervised Practice Program Service Learning Experience 2015, God's Pantry
- Undergraduate Honors mentor to 3 DHN Students, Fall 2016
- Undergraduate Honors mentor to 1 Human Nutrition Student, Fall 2015
- Undergraduate Honors mentor to 2 Dietetics Student, Spring 2015
- Undergraduate research mentor- 8 students in the UK DHN Supervised Practice Program 2016 and 10 students in the UK DHN Supervised Practice Program 2015.
- Attended HES Welcome Breakfast August 2015 & 2016
- Attended HES Welcome Cookout September 2015 & 2016
- Planned social events for Coordinated Program students, including cookouts, bonfires, volunteer opportunities, and service learning.

Activities to Improve Teaching and Learning

Currently participating in the University of Kentucky's Faculty Fellows teaching program. This program provides help for designing instructional lessons and assignments, as well as preparing and using rubrics to evaluate and assess student work.

Participated in College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Faculty Learning Community, Spring and Fall 2016 and Spring 2017. A group of faculty members that meet weekly to read and discuss teaching philosophies and ways to better the students' classroom experiences.

Attended the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo, October of each year. At the conference, attended numerous events held by the Nutrition and Dietetics Educators and Preceptors group and the Nutrition Educators of Health Professionals group.

Attended the Nutrition and Dietetics Educators and Preceptors Conference, March of each year. At the event, attended numerous sessions involving teaching methods, evaluation methods and service learning.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

During this two year period, 20% of the DOE is related to an administrative appointment where I serve as Director of the UK DHN Coordinated Program, which includes the close advising and mentoring of 28 students each year. The UK DHN Coordinated Program is a nationally accredited program that combines didactic work with a supervised practice that prepares undergraduate students to take the registered dietitian exam upon graduation. There has been a recent increase in the first-time pass rate for this exam. This statistic is how the national accrediting body, ACEND, measures program success. For several years before I was program director the CP had been on a “pass rate improvement plan” since the pass rate was not as high as the national standard. However, since I started as the director the program pass rate has steadily increased and it is no longer under the pass rate improvement plan because of this positive change. Currently, for the past two years the one-year registered dietitian exam pass rate is 100% (26 out of 26 students to date), which is an incredible feat and is a testament to the strength and the organization of the program.

Throughout this 20% assignment, the following duties are completed:

- Development of policies and procedures for effectively managing all components of the program and to ensure fair, equitable and considerate treatment of prospective and enrolled students (such as program admission, retention and completion policies)
- Maintenance of program accreditation, including timely submission of fees, reports and requests for major program changes
- Maintenance of the program’s student records, including student advising plans and verification statements; verification statements must be kept indefinitely
- Maintenance of complaints about the program received from students or others, including disposition of the complaint
- Facilitation of processes for continuous assessment of program and student learning outcomes
- Student recruitment, advisement, evaluation, and counseling
- Curriculum development
- Communication and coordination with program faculty, preceptors and others involved with the program
- Continuous internal and external review of program’s curriculum to meet the accreditation standards
- Alumni-survey development, administration, soliciting, tracking alumni

- Other advising – review transcripts of incoming students, transfer students, requests for program information
- Liaison to ACEND-continuing education on ACEND requirements, Annual Report, update and maintain student files and continuous contact with program accrediting agency
- Systematic evaluation of program achievement – Review of curriculum, syllabi, student evaluations and portfolio.
- Accreditation Reports: Periodic program reviews and evaluations – self-study, 5 year report
- Preceptor Recruitment and Training
- Student selection for program – application review, interviews, etc. and acceptance of applicants (in consultation with committee and Chair)
- Writing recommendations for scholarships, internships, jobs, etc
- Research, teaching and service to the program, the University, the Department, and community
- Committee activity, staff meetings
- Communicate effectively with community faculty, clients and program managers
- Demonstrate a commitment to professionalism, lifelong learning, ethical practice
- Marketing program through documentation, description, recruiting, etc.
- Correspondence with applicants and orientation of accepted students
- Progress and evaluation of students through the program
- Acquisition of clinical training sites (in conjunction with pertinent faculty)
- Recruitment and documentation of preceptors
- Budget development (in consultation Chair)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo, October 2016

Nutrition and Dietetics Educators and Preceptors Conference, March 2016

Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Annual Conference and Expo, March 2016

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo, October 2015

Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Annual Conference and Expo, April 2015

Nutrition and Dietetics Educators and Preceptors Conference, March 2015

PUBLICATIONS

Hieronimus LB, **Combs LM**, Coleman EC, Ashford KB, Wiggins AT. Evaluation of an education intervention in Hispanic women at risk for Gestational Diabetes Mellitus. *Diabetes Spectrum*. 2016 [in press].

Combs LM, Hieronimus LB. Navigating the Nutrition Facts Label. *Weight Self-Management*. 2016 March/April 2016.

Hieronimus LB, **Combs LM**, Gómez M. Educational model in prenatal care to manage Gestational Diabetes Mellitus among Spanish speaking women. *AADE In Practice*. 2015, 3:26-32.

Stephenson T, Mayes L, **Combs E**, and Webber K. Developing Communication Skills of

Undergraduate Students Through Innovative Teaching Approaches. Journal of the North American Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA Journal), December 2015.

OTHER DOCUMENTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Successfully completed 10-year accreditation report and visit from the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics for the UK DHN Coordinated Program in April 2013. The program is now nationally accredited for the next 10 years.

SERVICE AND RECOGNITION

Outreach and Service

University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment Faculty Council
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Bluegrass Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Past-President, President, President-Elect, Honors and Awards Committee Chair, and Secretary.

Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, current Tellers Committee Chair

Nutrition and Dietetics Educators and Preceptors Practice Group

Administrative Assignments

Director of the UK DHN Coordinated Program

Awards and Honors

Patricia Brantley Todd Award of Excellence in Teaching in Human Environmental Sciences 2017

University of Kentucky Provost's Outstanding Teaching Award 2016

Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Emerging Dietetic Leader Award 2015

Bluegrass Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Emerging Dietetic Leader Award 2015

Committees

University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment Faculty Council 2016-2017

University of Kentucky, College of Health Sciences, Undergraduate Certificate in Nutrition for Human Performance Advisory Board, 2016-current.

Curriculum Committee, Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition 2011-current