January 26, 2007

Dr. W. Randy Smith  
Vice Provost for Academic Programs  
203 Bricker Hall  
190 N. Oval Mall  
CAMPUS

Dear Randy,

This letter is written in support of increasing the GPA requirement from 2.00 to a minimum of 2.50 for undergraduate admission to the Human Nutrition program.

With the majority of students entering the program beyond their freshman year, it is important that they have a GPA of at least 2.50 in order to set a realistic goal of completing the degree and achieving a GPA of 3.00 which is necessary to be competitive for dietetic internships and admission to professional and graduate programs. In addition, our industry stakeholders have shared that the 3.00 GPA is a requisite for employment.

I join in the department’s unanimous support of this proposal. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

David W. Andrews, Dean  
College of Education and Human Ecology

DWA/lg

c: Mark Failla  
Anne Smith
October 13, 2006

W. Randy Smith  
Vice Provost for Academic Programs  
203 Bricker Hall  
190 N. Oval Mall  
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Randy,

The enclosed attachment is a proposal from the Department of Human Nutrition requesting an increase in the GPA Admission Requirement for the BS in Nutrition or BS in Human Ecology with a Human Nutrition Major. As explained in the proposal, this request is based on the standards and expectations of professional and graduate school programs, internships, and employers of students graduating from our program. It is our opinion that continuation of the present policy of admitting students with 2.0 or 2.2 GPA is a disservice to students. Because it is unlikely that these students will be able to increase their GPA to a competitive level (3.0 and above), we will not be able to recommend them for advanced training and meaningful employment in areas associated with the discipline. More detailed information for our position is discussed in the proposal.

The proposal has been approved by the faculty of the Department of Human Nutrition and by the Academic Studies Committee of the College of Human Ecology.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please let us know if you need any further information. We look forward to hearing you.

Sincerely,

Anne M. Smith, PhD, RD, LD  
Undergraduate Studies Chair
Proposal to Increase the GPA Admission Requirement
for BS in Nutrition or BS in Human Ecology with a Human Nutrition Major
October 2006

Proposal

The Faculty in the Department of Human Nutrition request approval to set a requirement of 2.5 GPA as a minimum for transfer into undergraduate programs leading to the BS in either Nutrition or Human Ecology with the major in Human Nutrition. This request is based on the standards and expectations of professional and graduate school programs, internships, and employers of students graduating from our program. It is our opinion that continuation of the present policy of admitting students with 2.0 or 2.2 GPA is a disservice to students. Because it is unlikely that these students will be able to increase their GPA to a competitive level (3.0 and above), we will not be able to recommend them for advanced training and meaningful employment in areas associated with the discipline. More detailed information for our position is discussed below.

Curriculum

Ohio State’s Department of Human Nutrition offers four programs that cover the breadth of the Nutrition discipline: Nutrition, Dietetics, Nutrition & Community Health, and Nutrition in Industry. Coursework in Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Biology are foundational to all of the programs in the Department of Human Nutrition. The Nutrition major is designed for students interested in the metabolism and functions of nutrients and other bioactive dietary compounds especially in relation to health and disease. The math and science requirements of this program meet the prerequisites for the health professional schools and graduate programs in the biomedical sciences. Dietetics meets the competencies in nutrition counseling and food service management established by the American Dietetic Association to prepare students to become Registered Dietitians. The Nutrition in Industry program combines coursework on the processes and regulations of the food and nutrition industry with the General Business Minor. Nutrition and Community Health focuses on behavior change and public health education regarding diet and includes a minor in either Exercise Science or Agricultural Education, or a specialization in Health Education. All four programs result in a Bachelor of Science and are designed to be completed in four years.

Outcomes
(also see attached flow chart)

The four programs in the department of Human Nutrition prepare students for a range of career options in the field of nutrition. Two of the undergraduate programs, Nutrition and Dietetics prepare students for required post-graduate training that is necessary to become licensed practitioners. Students completing the Dietetics track must go on to complete a post-graduate dietetic internship, which is necessary to become a Registered Dietitian. Many of graduates choose to combine their Dietetic Internship with a Master’s degree program. After completing the coursework and internship, students sit for the registration
exam. During the past five years (2001-2005), 90% of our students who took the Registration Examination to become Registered Dietitians passed successfully. Our dietetics graduates have pursued careers in nutrition counseling and therapy, sports nutrition, and food service management in settings that include hospitals, clinics, long term care facilities, food service, and fitness/wellness centers.

The Bachelor of Science in Nutrition program is designed for students interested in the metabolism and functions of nutrients and other bioactive dietary compounds at the whole body, cellular and molecular levels, and especially in relation to health and disease. This program of study is designed to prepare students for admission to medical, veterinary, dental, optometry, or pharmacy school. In addition, a number of our graduates enter graduate degree programs in nutrition and biomedical sciences. Admission to these post-graduate programs is highly competitive, requiring a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or better. For example The College of Medicine Admissions Committee at The Ohio State University published the academic profile of candidates admitted in 2005 which included a 3.7 grade point average and MCAT composite of 32. At Ohio State the College of Veterinary Medicine, which offers the DVM Degree, requires that Ohio residents must hold a minimum of a 3.00 GPA for admission consideration. Non-Ohio applicants are considered highly qualified if they possess a 3.4 GPA or better.

The Nutrition in Industry program is intended for students interested in careers in nutrition-related businesses and industries. Upon graduation students pursue careers in state and federal agencies that regulate product quality; consumer protection and education; nutrition product development; public relations; and pharmaceutical, food, and equipment sales. Colleagues in both the science and management tracks at a number of targeted employers of such students have shared that they expect students to have a B average (3.0) or better to be competitive for employment.

Nutrition and Community Health prepares students for careers in commodity food organizations, public health agencies, corporate wellness, community development, and nutrition education. Students who complete the Health Education specialization are eligible to take the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) Examination. Certified Health Education Specialists implement health education programs in communities, health care facilities, businesses, colleges, schools, and government agencies. Many of the likely employers for this area (e.g., state Extension agencies) now require the M.S. or M.P.H. for entry level positions. Thus, graduating students need to have performed at the level required for admission to post-baccalaureate positions.

Admission Requirements
Increasing required GPA will attract students whose academic performance is sufficient to be competitive for the advanced training required for the majority of meaningful career opportunities associated with the discipline of nutrition career goals. Current admission requirements for the B.S. Nutrition are completion of 15 credit hours with a 2.00 GPA and 15 credit hours complete. Admission requirements for the Dietetics, Nutrition in Industry and Nutrition and Community Health Programs presently are 2.20 GPA , completion of MATH 116,
130, or 148, ENGL 110, BIOL 113, CHEM 101 or 121, CHEM 102 or 122, and a personal statement.

A competitive GPA will be at least a 2.75, because students that graduate with a lower GPA after completion of the program are not competitive for dietetic internships. Applications are ranked according to 1) overall GPA, 2) grades in prerequisite courses (see above), 3) grades in any additional science courses that have been taken, and 4) strength of relevant experience and career goals as discussed in the personal statement. The number of students admitted each quarter is limited by the faculty and other resources available.