

APPENDIX 1

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION (LON)



TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SCIENCES

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH

MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) DEGREE PROGRAM

IN

NUTRITION AND WELLNESS

AT TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

August 2023

“Think. Work. Serve.”

Letter of Notification

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Section I: Overview

Program Information

Institutional Name: Tennessee State University

Proposed Academic Program: Master of Science in Nutrition and Wellness

with concentrations in:

- 1) Community Nutrition, 2) Human Nutrition, and
- 3) Dietetics

Degree Designation: Master of Science

Concentrations:

- Community Nutrition (Online, Hybrid, or Traditional)
- Dietetics (Traditional)
- Human Nutrition (Online, Hybrid, or Traditional)

Graduate Certificates:

- Nutrition Intervention, Policy, Systems, and Environments
- Food Justice & Nutrition Security
- Food Safety & Emergency Preparedness

Proposed CIP Codes and Titles: 19.05 (Foods, Nutrition, & Related Services),
and 51.3101(Dietetics and Clinical Nutrition)

Academic Program Liaison (APL) Name and Contact Information:

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Proposed Implementation Date: August 2024

Section II: Background

Background Concerning Academic Program Development

We developed our graduate concentrations using the competency-based standards of the ACEND Future Education Model Accreditation Standards for Graduate Degree Program ^[1] and by immersive education and training strategies that include competency-based

professional development ^[2]. With the help of the Human Sciences Department's advisory board members, we determined course objectives and student learning outcomes and created assignments to assess the student learning outcomes. For consistency, the benchmark for courses is at 75% and written as "100% of students [know, show, or do] with at least 75% accuracy on [assignment/activity]." While this is the benchmark, students must maintain a B average in the program and must not earn over two low passing grades (C or D) for a class. Rubrics for assignments are objective and created to determine standards of achievement. While this was a time-consuming process, it allowed faculty to determine how to assess accurately the performance of students and evaluate program outcomes with detail that guide program improvement plans. This increases the likelihood of having a successful graduate program that prepares food and nutrition professionals. By developing the curriculum in this methodical manner, faculty determined how the courses address core concepts and strategies for assessing student competency across domains. For the sake of making competency tracking easier on faculty, we use an Annual Planning and Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes Template to report student learning outcomes to Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. It also allows us to determine the extent to which the competency-based curriculum is "hands-on" and how we assess and track increases in students' competency levels.

Purpose and Nature of the Program

The mission of the Human Sciences Department at Tennessee State University is to prepare students for leadership roles in the field of Family and Consumer Sciences that empower individuals, strengthen families and enable communities through education, outreach (extension), and discovery (research). The Master of Science (MS) degree in the field of nutrition allows students to attain a research-based and experiential practice in helping people develop the knowledge and skills to live and work well in our complex world. The Human Sciences Department in the College of Agriculture at Tennessee State University (TSU) herewith submit to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission a Letter of Notification (LON) to establish the following graduate programs and certificates:

I. Master of Science (M.S.) Degree in Nutrition and Wellness

- a. Community Nutrition (Online or In-person)
- b. Human Nutrition (Online or In-person)
- c. Dietetics (In-person)
 - i. ACEND accredited program leading to RD credential
 - ii. Accelerated BS-MS track

II. Graduate Certificates:

- a. Nutrition Intervention, Policy, Systems, and Environments
- b. Food Justice & Nutrition Security
- c. Food Safety & Emergency Preparedness

The motivation for this effort includes (1) the lack of diversity in Human Sciences and Foods and Nutrition, (2) the need for workforce-ready professionals in food and nutrition, and (3) the increased interest in advanced credentialing by current and former students in the Department of Human Sciences. We request to establish the degree program with certificates as the program's content and delivery meet the workforce's current and future needs. Our request for approval is based on the following reasons:

1. The graduate programs support the needs of the workforce by providing opportunities for education and job skill readiness to students by providing a pool of qualified applicants to fill vacancies within Federal and non-Federal agencies throughout the nation in the following priority areas: a) Human health, obesity-related to nutrition, and human sciences; b) Food safety and security; c) Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources; and d) Human Services occupations.
2. Graduating students consistently request letters of support and recommendations for their applications to other graduate programs.
3. The nation's current state - dealing with the diabetes and obesity epidemics, food safety and nutrition security issues, and changing food environments - clearly shows the increased need for culturally diverse professionals and graduates with a solid background in nutrition.
4. The graduate program offers distance (online instruction) and in-person options making them appealing to traditional and nontraditional students, aligning with THEC's Adult Learner Initiatives by providing flexibility of an online learning community.
5. Options for students to matriculate completely online allow us to broaden the potential impact of preparing more workforce-ready professionals in the field of Human Sciences and satisfies an essential function of land-grant institutions, and is consistent with the University's mission of fostering scholarly inquiry, research, lifelong learning, and a commitment to service within the community.
6. The framework for our professional degree program aligns with the State's Complete College Tennessee Act (CCTA), State Master Plan for Higher Education. It corresponds with anticipated workforce needs as outlined in the Public Agenda for Tennessee Higher Education.
7. Specifically, this proposal responds to the need to supply the demand for human sciences, nutrition, and dietetics graduates and increase the current workforce's skills.

8. The graduate program includes experiential learning in (1) policy, systems, and environmental change methods; (2) community- and asset-based participatory research methods, (3) cultural competency training; and (4) community engagement and social capital building.
9. The accelerated track option saves money for students by allowing them to complete a B.S. and M.S. degree within five years and, thus, is very desirable.

I. Master of Science (M.S.) in Nutrition and Wellness Degree

There is a dire need for African Americans and other persons from historically disadvantaged and underrepresented populations to become leaders in human nutrition and wellness. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) provide a supportive and inclusive environment where African American and other minority students thrive academically and professionally. Tennessee State University (TSU), an HBCU, promotes lifelong learning, scholarly inquiry, and service to others. The Human Sciences Department currently houses the Food and Nutritional Sciences Concentration and the ACEND-accredited undergraduate Didactic Program in Dietetics. The objectives of Human Sciences (Family and Consumer Sciences) are to (a) empower individuals, (b) strengthen families, and (c) build communities. Having a human nutrition graduate program in the department aids in creating diversity in human nutrition and wellness.

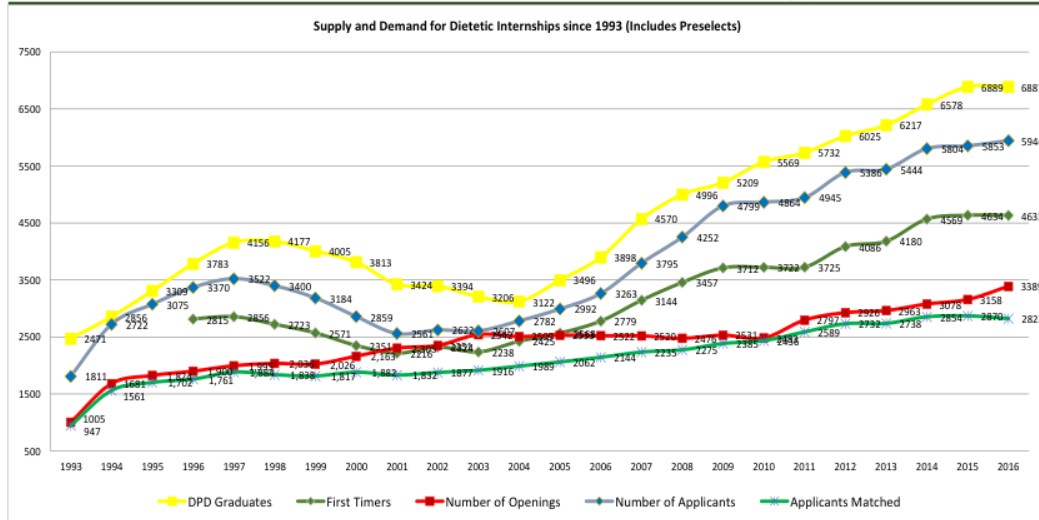
Eliminating health disparities remains one of the biggest challenges facing the United States government. If you look at any of the top health indicators like obesity or unemployment rates, undoubtedly, year after year, historically disadvantaged populations and communities are unequally burdened. Land-grant universities and Cooperative Extension have an inherent mission to improve the health of our citizens. Diversity is essential to increase access to healthcare, cultural competence, and patient satisfaction and adherence in vulnerable populations. Our graduate program will focus on intervention, policy and practice to address the lack of well-trained and workforce ready applicants capable of serving in Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Cooperative Extension and similar teaching and leadership positions.

In the early 2000's, literature started to appear in interdisciplinary journals and the mainstream media outlets calling for a resurgence in Family and Consumer Sciences (also known as Human Sciences) education focusing on life skills - particularly around basic cooking and food

resource management skills ^[3]. The call for such skills were made in response to the surging rates of obesity, hunger, food waste, and food cost ^[4-7]. The call also sounded the alarm regarding the access dichotomy between rural and urban populations further highlighting the gap between class and geography^[8]. From pediatricians to public health workers, the need for food resource management is clearly seen as a needed skill almost nearly forgotten in our technologically advanced world ^[9]. The COVID-19 pandemic and the mandate for social distancing and social isolation profoundly affected families' and communities' management of food and financial resources. These social conditions increasingly point to the need for competent practitioners in food and nutrition to teach sustainable health practices that improve the quality of life for families and consumers.

A review of the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) data indicates that the supply of accredited programs leading to an internship and MS degree to obtain the RDN credential are not keeping up with the demand. These results indicate that students currently enrolled in undergraduate Didactic Programs in Dietetics (DPDs) and considering becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) cannot get the education and experience required for credentialing. Since 2003, the demand for RDNs has risen faster than the number of available internship positions in accredited programs. As such, the Dietetics concentration will be in high demand based on the large number of applicants and the low number of internships available to accommodate the graduates of ACEND-accredited Didactic Programs in Dietetics (DPDs), such as our graduates. This means that our qualified dietetics students will serve as feeders into the graduate program.

Supply and Demand for Internship Sites



Tennessee State University applied to the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) to open an accredited graduate level dietetics program to prepare Registered Dietitian Nutritionists. Our eligibility application was accepted by ACEND and we are in the candidacy process for our proposed Future Education Model Graduate Program (GP) program. The program must be approved by the TSU Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) before accreditation status can be conveyed. (See the letter from the ACEND Board of Directors in Appendix A.) If approved, graduates will leave TSU eligible to sit for the examination of dietetics registration, fill positions as managers and program developers in jobs that provide primary and secondary preventative care, conduct epidemiological research, and implement health promotion programs and disease prevention in local, state, federal and international agencies.

As teaching faculty, extension practitioners, and researchers in the Human Sciences Department at Tennessee State University, we recognize the need to develop a premier graduate program that prepares students to use research-based information and technology to engage local communities to solve local problems. Applied and engaged learning will be undertaken within the program through a focused emphasis on the use of policy, systems, and environment change models.

To tackle these issues expeditiously, we developed a plan and curriculum for a graduate program in Nutrition and Wellness that offers thesis and non-thesis options, online and accelerated options for motivated students to earn a BS and MS degree within 5 years. Students can start the online program any semester. Online synchronous and asynchronous classes allow students to attend live classes or watch the recorded sessions at their convenience. These delivery options will work with the lifestyle of those in the workforce and those in different time zones worldwide.

A. Community Nutrition (Online or In-person)

Community nutrition professionals provide nutrition services through preventative measures using intervention, promotion and prevention strategies. Community nutrition professionals are needed to work with individuals, families and small targeted groups to strengthen their skills, knowledge and attitudes related to selecting, purchasing, preparing and consuming healthful foods. Community nutritionists are adept in designing individual and interpersonal interventions to facilitate behavior change and health outcomes in communities. Nutrition specialist working in communities strive to reduce food insecurity, obesity, and other health issues related to diet quality and nutrition practices. Students in this concentration take classes in nutritional biochemistry, physiology, epidemiology, intervention and policy, public health nutrition, and nutritional education and program evaluation. This option provides students the education and training to become qualified professionals delivering nutrition programs in community settings.

B. Human Nutrition (Online or In-person)

This option provides students with the education and training to become qualified professionals in nutrition, health, and wellness from the convenience of online learning. This program meets the need for specialized training for Tennessee, and the nation as obesity and chronic disease related to food and nutrition persist. The proposed program emphasizes how the nutritional professional can influence policies, systems, and environments to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities. Our program provides students the skills to work with a myriad and diverse collection of communities not limited to or bound by language, religion, culture, interest, health, gender, race, and social class to work in the public and private sectors. The online graduate program in Foods and Nutrition provides advanced knowledge and skills in nutritional science research and practice focusing on lessening health disparities affecting underserved and historically disadvantaged communities.

C. Dietetics (In-Person)

The proposed Dietetics concentration is for students desiring credentialing as a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN). The accrediting agency for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) conducted a site visit and program review of the proposed dietetic program April 10-

12, 2022. Their response was positive and supportive of the proposed curriculum and program as a Future Education Model that allow graduates to take the registered dietitian nutritionist examination upon completing the degree requirements. This option is a tremendous benefit to our current and potential students as the supply of accredited internships and graduate program is not keeping up with demand. As a result, many of our students completing our DPD have not been able to obtain admission to dietetic internships and coordinated programs to become registered dietitians. Starting this program aligns with TSU's mission of producing graduates with advanced training, knowledge, and proficiency at excelling in professional settings, that require the application of scientific and management skills.

The proposed program is unique from traditional dietetic programs as student success and progress are based on demonstrating required competencies via supervised experiential learning activities and simulations. Competency-based evaluations may improve the likelihood of students completing the program as it will allow many opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate their aptitude in nutrition and dietetics. Cohort progression through block course scheduling may increase a student's perceived social support, which could increase their likelihood of completing the program.

Students enrolled in the competency-based graduate program in dietetics will have immersive didactic experiences at Meharry Medical College, one of the nation's oldest and largest historically black academic health science centers dedicated to educating physicians, dentists, researchers, and health policy experts. We also have a memorandum of understanding in place with Metro General Hospital for current and future students to volunteer and gain hands-on experiences in the medical and auxiliary services. As an 1890 land grant institution, students have hands-on experiences with Extension Agents in rural and urban communities delivering nutrition education through 4-H, SNAP-Ed, FNEP and other government-sponsored programs. Students interact with health providers serving in both profit and non-profit organizations and medical facilities throughout Middle Tennessee and abroad.

The Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Nutrition and Wellness with a concentration in Dietetics will provide students experiential training in community nutrition by working with TSU Cooperative Extension and other community-based agencies such as Metro Public Health Department. Our program requires students to work with a myriad and diverse collection of "communities" not limited to or bound by language, religion, culture, interest, health, gender,

race and social class. Our location in Nashville lends itself to allowing us to partner with non-profit agencies, schools and businesses to allow students the opportunity to gain hands-on experiences delivering community nutrition.

D. Accelerated Track in Dietetics

This accelerated degree track requires students to attend summer courses to complete their undergraduate degree in three years. Student progress and successful completion of competencies will align with accreditation guidelines established by Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND®) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools™. Students will obtain their B.S. and M.S. degrees within 5 years. This allows students to not only complete their Master's degree in shorter time, it allows them the opportunity to become a registered dietitian, having the required master's degree, in a shorter period of time.

The goal of the accelerated track in the Dietetics concentration is to provide students interested in nutrition and dietetics an opportunity to earn a Master's degree and obtain a verification statement (enabling students to sit for the exam to become a registered dietitian) within a year of completing their undergraduate matriculation. The goal of the program is to give students experience in providing culturally appropriate and community-focused nutrition education while earning a Master's degree at a competency level that meets the criteria to take the registration examination in dietetics.

Highly motivated students have an opportunity to complete both the undergraduate and graduate program in Dietetics at an accelerated pace. Students in the Dietetics concentration, including the accelerated track, matriculate as a cohort. A student interested in the accelerated BS/MS program will complete a formal application reviewed by a selection committee. Accepted students sign a contract specifically attesting to their willingness to adhere to the rigors of the program including the code of conduct and attendance requirements.

The mission of our accelerated track in dietetics is to train and educate students to become registered dietitians exceptionally culturally competent to combat health disparities and committed to serving the underserved and uninsured. Diversity in dietetics is important to increase access to healthcare, cultural competence, and patient satisfaction and adherence in vulnerable populations ^[10, 11]. The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and

Dietetics reported that the number of Black dietitians is 3% which is lower than what it was in 1998 when it was approximately 3.57% ^[12].

II. Graduate Certificates:

To meet the needs of working professionals, we will offer graduate certificates in the following specialized areas:

- A. Nutrition Intervention, Policy, Systems, and Environments
- B. Food Justice & Nutrition Security
- C. Food Safety & Emergency Preparedness

Each area requires completion of 18-hours and students can take their courses completely online. Each graduate certificate coordinates with the curriculum of the corresponding Master of Science in Nutrition and Wellness. The courses needed to receive a graduate certificate are offered as part of the proposed graduate program. Our certificate programs require students to interact virtually with a myriad and diverse collection of “communities” not limited to or bound by language, religion, culture, interest, health, gender, race and social class.

A. Nutrition Intervention, Policy, Systems, and Environments

Along with the countless calls for a renewed focus on applied life skills in nutrition and wellness, there is a growing body of literature regarding using strategies to move beyond intervention with individuals to improve the policy, systems, and environment of local communities and increase access and availability of resources for the promotion of the global well-being ^[13, 14]. At the same time, communities are grappling with a meteoric rise in chronic health conditions across the lifespan, implications of caring for an aging population, housing affordability, crumbling public infrastructure, and growing swaths of the nation that contain health care, food and child care deserts. Therefore, policy, systems and environmental change models have become the pinnacle of evidence-based interventions recognized by federal, state, and local government and non-profit foundations to help communities address local problems that impede well-being and sustainability. The nutrition intervention, policy, systems, and environments certification provides the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed for changing food systems, food policies and food environments. Students learn to develop and deliver culturally appropriate and community-focused programs, interventions, and policies by providing an experiential education that focuses on community-based participatory methods, community social capital and civic engagement models and frameworks.

B. Food Safety and Emergency Preparedness

Certificates in this area are for persons working with communities and within organizations. This certification emphasizes the basics and specific food safety topics such as foodborne illness, proper food handling, cleaning and sanitation procedures, the safe handling of specific foods, such as seafood or poultry, and the safe preparation of specific types of food, such as buffets or catered events. In addition to preparing for an emergency, the program provides practitioners with the knowledge, skills, and ability to manage and meet the needs of the nation and other populations experiencing loss of utilities, drinking water, and other challenges faced during catastrophic incidents. Emergency preparedness also addresses how to prepare for and respond to food recalls and other food safety emergencies. Classes will include practical exercises where students can apply what they learn through hands-on food safety training, such as how to properly clean and sanitize a kitchen, or simulated emergency preparedness drills. The legal requirements such as the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and other regulations that govern food safety are covered. Students learn how to communicate food safety information to consumers and with other food safety professionals. The goal of this certificate program is to prevent the tragic loss of life by empowering and preparing leaders in emergency preparedness and prevention of foodborne illness/sickness. Students graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to work safely in the food industry and to respond to food safety emergencies.

C. Food Justice & Nutrition Security

This certification prepares students as professionals qualified to promote food security, advocacy, and access and interventions within community settings. Emphasis is placed on understanding how policies, environments and systems (PSE) can be improved to promote and advocate for food justice and food sovereignty in rural and underserved populations. Courses cover the origins, causes, and consequences of food insecurity. Students explore solutions to food insecurity and nutrition insecurity including food policy, community-based food security initiatives, and individual-level interventions.

Other topics on advocating for food justice, supporting community-based food security initiatives, and promoting healthy food choices are covered. In addition to these topics, classes cover the ethical dimensions of food justice such as the right to food and the moral implications of food insecurity, and the importance of food culture and the challenges of addressing food insecurity in diverse communities. The environmental dimensions of food justice such as the

impact of food production on the environment, the importance of sustainable food systems, and the role of food justice in addressing climate change are also covered in the curriculum. Students learn socially empowering leadership skills needed to promote change within food systems and are educated in the foundation of leadership and environmental justice. The Food Justice and Nutrition Security certificate equips students in the structural, historical, and cultural roots of our food system and cover issues surrounding disparities in food access, land ownership, agricultural practices, and the distribution of technology.

Alignment with State Master Plan and Institutional Mission

Thesis and Non-Thesis Options

Our proposed graduate program prioritizes the recommendation for the increased use of instructional technology and non-traditional instructional approaches. Our non-thesis option requires 36 semester credit hours to complete while the thesis track requires 33 hours of course work. Students in the in-person dietetics concentration graduate with 40 hours and the eligibility to take the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) credentialing exam to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN).

Students in the non-thesis track will complete coursework that presents the theoretical principles of each specific concentration, followed by their successful completion of mandatory internship hours / independent project under the immediate supervision of a qualified practitioner for the specific concentration. The curriculum design, course delivery method, and corresponding internship work experience allow students to observe, improve their work proficiency, and ultimately contribute to active projects where these skill-sets are used. The combination of formal coursework and applied knowledge in a project setting ultimately serves to produce qualified candidates ready to fill high-skill positions of employment in both the public and private sectors.

All concentrations and graduate certificates in the proposed Master's (M.S.) degree respond to THEC's recommendations to sustain the "growth of certificate and degree production," and improves the overall "quality of programs and services" by providing students the opportunity to receive credentialing in addition to obtaining degrees. Credentialing increases credibility by recognizing the coursework and experience of the individual and their ability as professionals in their discipline. In addition to the credentialing provided, students in Human Sciences receive theory and training in culinary arts, community and clinical nutrition, health

management and wellness, housing and resource management, human/child development and family relations, personal and family finance, retailing and entrepreneurship. The principles of sustainable practices, consumerism, education and leadership are woven throughout the human sciences curriculum.

Tennessee State University is committed to promoting life-long learning, scholarly inquiry and a commitment of service to others. Having a graduate program in the Human Sciences Department aligns with TSU's mission of producing graduates with advanced training, knowledge, and proficiency at excelling in professional settings, that require the application of scientific and management skills. Key recommendations in TSU's Academic Master Plan (AMP) 2008-2028 include the vision of preparing leaders for global service through signature academic programs in health and education, enterprise and leadership. This program responds to key recommendations in TSU's Strategic Plan (SP4, SP Goal 1.6, and SP Goal 1.3) that call for the greater use of online instruction, incorporation of features where students can explore career pathways that lead to high-demand, high-skill jobs, and offering programs for student that attract and retain more pupils from diverse backgrounds.

The College of Agriculture at TSU has recognized the need to continue the programmatic development that produces graduates qualified to lead programs in the many specialties within the family and consumer sciences discipline. This degree program aligns with TBR's key priority of promoting access to distance education. Additionally, this aligns with TSU's goal to "increase the number of students enrolled in online or hybrid degree programs."

Institutional capacity to deliver the proposed academic program

All faculty in the Human Sciences Department teach graduate courses based on their education, credentialing, and expertise as part of their assigned duties. Our Program Coordinators, Focus Group Leaders, the Early Learning Center Director and the Department Chair closely monitor the progress of students to ensure the success of the students and the program for accreditation purposes. Since we have an existing ACEND-accredited DPD, many of the undergraduate students will be admitted. Duties of the focus group advisory boards, established for each undergrad concentration, will also provide strategic advice for graduate coursework and internship experiences. This approach takes full advantage of the collective potential and synergy within the Human Sciences Department and experts in industry and other organizations.

Distance education classes are not handled differently from traditional sections with respect to calculation of faculty load, overload, and salary. Workloads of individuals selected to serve as instructors in the graduate degree program will be adjusted accordingly to maintain required credit hours equivalents without impacting the quality of current programs. The program will not affect other departmental programs and workloads. Program courses are considered a part of a regular workload and may occasionally contribute to an instructor's overload, requiring additional compensation. Any instructor's overload conditions will be voluntary and will be at the discretion of the Human Sciences Department Chair, the Dean of the College of Agriculture, and the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. Policies regarding overload conditions and compensation are no different from established TSU and TBR policies.

The Brown-Daniel Library provides excellent support for the M.S. in Nutrition and Wellness degree program by providing access to print and electronic resources, and traditional and online services so we have no reason to doubt the same will not be available for our program. The Library's resources and services are accessible at any time and any place for the enrolled students, faculty and staff. This includes printed books, electronic books, referred journals, traditional and online services, electronic document delivery, library orientation and bibliographic instruction, online reserves, interlibrary loan, online forms, and online surveys. The hours of operations for the library are given below.

	Fall and Spring Semesters	
	<i>Main Campus</i>	<i>Avon Williams</i>
Monday-Thursday	7:30 am-11:45pm	8:00am - 10:00pm
Friday	7:30 am - 4:30pm	8:00am - 4:30pm
Saturday	10:00 am - 6:00pm	8:00am - 4:30 pm
Sunday	2:00 pm - 11:45pm	2:00pm - 9:00 pm

During the Summer Semester the Library closes at 10:00pm rather than at 11:45pm. The Main Campus Library is open 24 hours for 5 days for final and 3 days for mid-term examinations.

The Nutrition and Wellness online concentrations are distance education graduate programs and minimize the use of traditional physical facilities. However, online instruction requires considerable investments in technology infrastructure. These investments include networking, computer and server resources, and software. TSU has developed a delivery system for distance education that provides sufficient technical resources and support for faculty and students. The TSU network that serves 9000+ students and 900+ faculty and staff with a fiber optic gigabit Ethernet backbone with 100 mbps to the desktop. The network connects 40+ university buildings to serve 45+ computer laboratories located in academic departments and residence halls housing more than 1,000 Windows-based computers and 175+ Macintosh computers. Software packages supported include the Microsoft Office suite, statistical analysis, programming languages, and many discipline-specific applications. Students are provided two computing accounts after admittance to TSU: 1) a web-based student information portal for class registration, grade lookup, account balances, and email; and 2) an on-campus account for internet access, software applications, email, and other network resources.

TSU's Communication and Information Technologies (CIT) division is a service organization with the core mission of providing technological leadership to the University for planning and management of the communication and computing resources needed to fulfill the mission of the academic and administrative units. The CIT division is organized into three service units - Client Support, Management Information Systems, and Systems Support. Computer support technicians and a help desk are provided to answer hardware and software questions. Resources are provided for the development and administration of eLearn courses according to TBR guidelines. Faculty and staff have desktop and laptop computers capable of teaching and managing eLearn content.

Faculty will have advisement responsibilities that include orientations at the beginning of each fall semester, personalized instruction, and guidance to enrolled students throughout their duration within the program. Students will receive structured mentoring and access to faculty by adopting requirements and guidelines prescribed by TSU's eLearn program and the TBR Online Degree Program. Students also will receive access to faculty and members of the advisory board (by telephone, appointment, e-mail, video-conferencing, etc.) on a regularly scheduled basis.

We will publish office hours, meetings, and all other contact between the students and the faculty and advisory board members that foster mentoring online (via course syllabi, emails, other documentation, etc.) for students. We will provide students unable to reach assigned faculty alternative departmental contacts who can aid in their mentorship. Student mentoring and advisement support will be provided to students, as related to completing the coursework, internship, comprehensive examinations, and other requirements for degree completion. The faculty and advisory board members approve the instruction/training, guidelines, and curriculum objectives.

The proposed program will have positive effects on existing degree programs and concentrations within the institution and the region. Students will benefit from taking courses as electives and thereby gaining some basic knowledge to apply in their respective fields. Other programs or concentrations that will benefit are: Agricultural Sciences, Food Technology, Biology, Health Sciences, and majors in College of Business and College of Public Service and Urban Affairs.

Existing programs offered at public and private Tennessee institutions

A search of Tennessee universities that offer graduate programs in 19.05 (Foods, Nutrition, & Related Services), and 51.3101 (Dietetics and Clinical Nutrition) found that two public and one private university offer graduate programs in these areas. The University of Tennessee at Knoxville offers a Doctor of Philosophy degree in two concentrations: Biomedical Nutrition or Community Nutrition and a Master of Science in Nutrition with a concentration in Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics. Lipscomb University, a private Christian institution, offers a Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetic Internship Program (MS DI).

The Master of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences (MSFCS) at the University of Tennessee at Martin is a 48-credit hour program. The program is offered completely online and is designed to be completed in two years. The program is divided into two concentrations: General Family and Consumer Sciences and Dietetics. In addition to advanced coursework, the dietetics concentration, designed to prepare students to become registered dietitians, incorporates a 10-month dietetic internship, which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics.

The Master of Science in Human Nutrition program at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville is a 36-credit program that prepares students for careers in research, teaching, and clinical practice. The Master of Science in Dietetics program at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville is a 48-credit program that prepares students to become registered dietitians. Pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, the Master of Science in Dietetics program at Belmont University will require 48-credits and prepare students to become registered dietitians. There are four other public and two private Tennessee universities that offer programs with the CIP 19.01 (Human Sciences) code; Austin Peay State University, Middle Tennessee State University, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and the University of Tennessee at Martin. The degrees offered at these universities are

Bachelor of Science degrees.

As a public university located in Nashville, we will provide a more affordable option than both private universities within Nashville. Human science-related professions are considered community and social service occupations. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts employment in this area will increase by 10% by 2024 with an additional 255,000 jobs ^[15]. Popular careers within the human sciences field include nutrition, child development, leadership development, and consumer sciences.

Accreditation

The department worked with the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) for guidance in developing a certified and accreditation worthy program for the Master of Science in Nutrition and Wellbeing with a concentration in Dietetics. (See the attached letter from the site visit March 2022.) ACEND accreditation standards for the graduate degree programs in nutrition and dietetics Future Education Model served as the guiding structure and format for the accelerated track and dietetics concentration. The dietetic concentration must meet the quality-assurance, oversight, organizational structure, financial stability, sufficient resources, program length and program management required by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). The CDR administers a rigorous, valid, and reliable credentialing processes to protect the public and meet the needs of CDR credentialed practitioners, employers and consumers. Upon approval of this proposed program, TSU will

notify the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). SACS will decide upon the need for substantive change.

The Human Sciences Department undergraduate program in Family and Consumer Sciences is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. The Didactic Program in Dietetics undergraduate program at TSU is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995, 312/899-0040 (ext. 5400), www.eatrightpro.org/acend. The DPD at TSU provides the necessary coursework to meet the academic requirements of the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). All students in the DPD program receive a DPD verification statement after completing all didactic coursework outlined in the curriculum with a minimum grade of a C. The verification statement allows students to take the **Nutrition and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (NDTRs) examination** upon graduation and to apply for a dietetic training program to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN).

Tennessee State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the Associate, Bachelor's, Master's, Specialist in Education, and Doctoral degrees. The University was first accredited in 1946 and reaffirmed in 2011. The next reaffirmation is in 2020. TSU has received national program recognition or approval from the following associations: Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology; Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education; Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education; Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs; American Chemical Society; American Psychological Association (APA); Association of University Programs in Health Administration; Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB); Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs in collaboration with the Council on Education of the American Health Information Management Association; Commission on Dental Accreditation; Council for Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences; Council of Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; Council on Social Work Education; National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences; National Association of Industrial Technology; National Association of Schools of Art & Design; National Association of Schools of Music; National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE); National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission; and National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA). See Appendix A Accreditations and Memberships.

Administrative Structure

No new organizational framework is required to bring this program online but is needed for the proposed accredited graduate program in dietetics that credentials students completing the program.

Section III: Feasibility Study

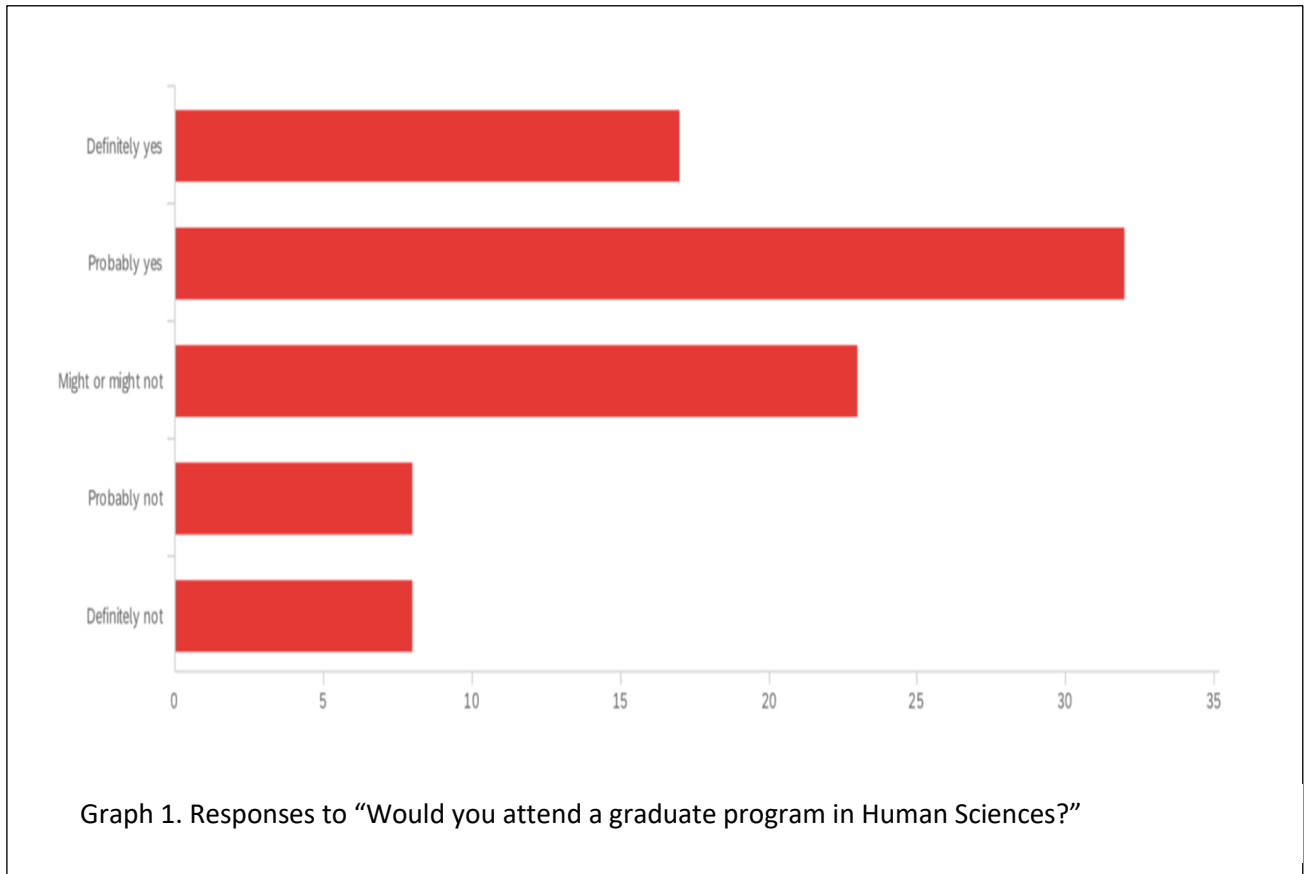
Student Interest

Each semester since Spring 2019, we have asked our majors to take an online survey to assess our faculty and facilities and get feedback to improve the program. We ask about their intention to attend graduate school, what study area, and other questions. More than half of the respondents replied they will attend a graduate program in Human Sciences (56%, N= 99) compared to 12.5% (11/99) that said they did not plan to attend (Graph 1). Graph 2 shows the top three areas of study students said they want to pursue: child development, family studies, and fashion merchandising. Combining dietetics with food and nutritional sciences yields a tie with child development. As an HBCU and the only public university in Nashville, Tennessee, we offer a more affordable education in a great locale for the students we serve, 85% of which come from underrepresented ethnic groups, disadvantaged communities, and/or low socioeconomic classes. Thus, TSU having a dietetic program increases the number of disadvantaged and underrepresented students achieving credentialing as registered dietitians.

Based on their responses and the number of students we successfully graduate each semester, we are confident that a graduate program will be successful in attracting students. Because of the population that we serve as a historically Black university, we are seeking funding from external sources to strengthen our efforts to recruit outstanding, qualified students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Our aim is to develop a premier graduate program that prepares students to use research-based information and technology to engage local communities to solve local problems.

The graduate program integrates applied and engaged learning activities that emphasize using policy, systems, and environment change models. The mission of the graduate program is to: (1) address the lack of diversity in the workforce and (2) fill the increased need for

professional practitioners within Cooperative Extension, family and consumer sciences, public health, and other professions. We desire to build and strengthen the skill set of individuals that want to work with the underserved and in disparate health communities to improve the quality of lives.

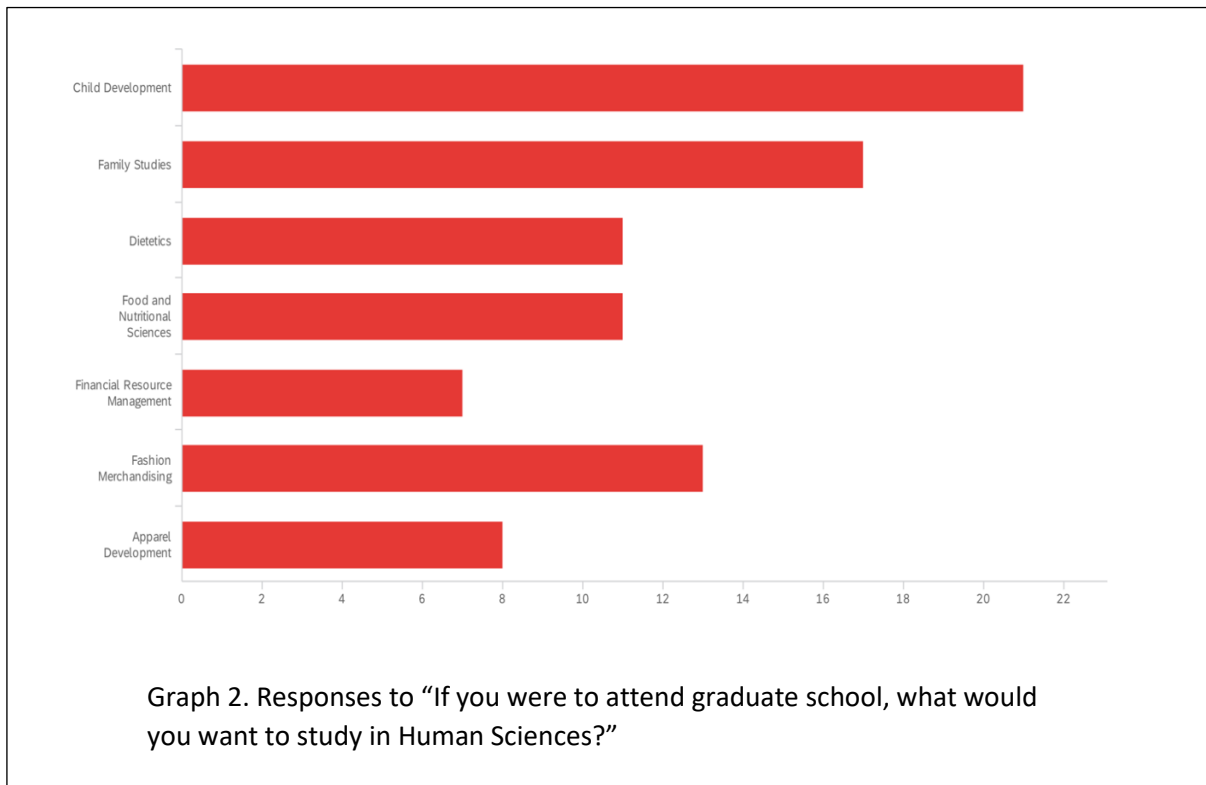


Local and Regional Need/Demand

The demand for Master’s-level programs in Human Sciences is high. In a survey of students, 2018-2020, as a part of the exit survey given to graduating students, approximately 72% (26/36) of them reported an interest in obtaining a Master’s degree in Family and Consumer Sciences. Nutrition students since 2008 have expressed the need for a dietetic internship in the department to increase their chances of admittance.

A survey of current students in preparing this proposal showed that over 90% (33/47) are interested in continuing their education to the Master’s level of human sciences. Every spring semester, an average of 20 students graduate, and an average of 8 graduate each fall. These

are potential clients the graduate programs will attract. Putting degree programs online makes TSU competitive with other universities in and outside of the state of Tennessee.



Because of the critical shortages and areas of disproportionate underrepresentation of diversity in nutrition and dietetics, there is a dire need to recruit, maintain, and graduate culturally diverse students in nutritional sciences and dietetics. There is a need to have registered dietitian nutritionists specializing in preventing and treating diseases that affect historically disadvantaged populations.

Employer Demand

Our proposed graduate programs offer career pathways for students and award levels of achievement through additional certifications that increase their employability. The Human Sciences Department prepares students for career pathways related to families and human needs, such as personal care, counseling, and consumer services. Our proposed graduate degree path options include coursework and skill development in areas expected to grow, such as science, technology, education, management, and health services. Many people are unaware of the strong science foundation and opportunities that Human Sciences provide. For

example, students in the nutrition concentration must take 16 hours of chemistry. Human Sciences prepares individuals for careers involving aspects of human needs socially, emotionally, and physically. Thus, our online graduate concentrations and certificates in Nutrition and housed within the Human Sciences Department is exceptionally vital for the future of the citizens in the State of Tennessee and across the globe. Online graduate programs are providing an ideal solution to the problem—effective, convenient, and affordable training that satisfies the needs of employers and employees. Online graduate programs at Historically Black Colleges or Universities (HBCUs) are growing in higher education.

Because of the critical shortages and areas of underrepresentation in the dietetics profession, there is a dire need to recruit, keep, and graduate culturally diverse students in nutritional science and dietetics. As of June 22, 2020, there were 104,667 registered dietitians/nutritionists. Only 2,548 (2.4%) were African American, 3,649 (3.5%) were Hispanic, 4,187 (4%) were Asian, 515 (0.5%) were Native American or Alaskan, and 904 (0.9%) were Pacific Islander ^[16]. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of dietitians is projected to grow 7% from 2019-2029 ^[17].

As of June 6, 2023, there were 2,930 licensed registered dietitians/nutritionists in the state of Tennessee. Of the 2,930, only 5.9% (N=175) are African American/Black, 5.6% (N=165) are Asian, 1.6% (N=48) are Hispanic and less than 1% (N=4) are Native American ^[18]. Our program will increase the number of registered dietitians from historically disadvantaged backgrounds. A study tracking college graduation rates from 2010 to 2016 found that African Americans' 6-year college completion rates averaged less than 40%^[19]. This is less than Asian, white, and Hispanic students and reaffirms the need for programs and initiatives to improve African American students' retention and enrollment rates. The structure of our competency-based program, with integrative co-curricular engagement, will help improve the completion rates of African Americans attending TSU.

The U.S. Department of Labor predicts that during 2018-28, healthcare and social services occupations that provide individual and family resources are among the fastest-growing groups ^[20]. Historically, most specialists in these fields diagnose and treat clients. As the population's diversity increases and healthcare costs rise, the trend is finally moving toward holistic, preventative interventions and program

development. This increases the demand for qualified graduates in human sciences with exposure to real-life project settings and skill sets.

Community and Industry Partnerships

Faculty in the department discussed the need and desire for a graduate program among many community and industry partners, students, and advisory board for over the last five years. Our Human Sciences Advisory Board includes individuals from Metro Action Alliance, Clarksville-Montgomery County Community Action Agency, Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee, St. Andrews, Metro General Hospital, Nashville Metro Schools, Goodwill Industries, the McNeilly Center for Children, Nashville State Community College, Ascension Saint Thomas, Fresenius, and other local and nationwide government and non-profit stakeholders. These Advisory Board members and stakeholders are interested in graduate degree programs to build and strengthen their organizations and the workforce. As our partnering organizations, they have helped with improving our current academic programs and developing this proposed graduate program. We developed the proposed Master of Science program in consultation with the advisory board and stakeholders over the last five years and reflect the changing demands and needs of students and the market since fall 2019.

The benefits of the degree program include developing professionals serving the public in positions that improve the quality of lives of others, such as teachers, researchers, policy makers, and leaders in government, community, and industry settings. Short-term benefits include providing educated, empowered, and competitive graduates able to succeed in human science careers. Long-term benefits include enhancing the Human Sciences Department's presence as a leader in research and experiential education that prepares students to serve in diverse communities. Having an accelerated dietetic and certificate tracks hastens the time and lowers the costs of students getting the advanced skills and entering the workforce. Tennessee State University has affiliation agreements with supervised experiential learning sites across Tennessee and with universities and other organizations in other states and countries. Affiliation agreements are specific for each site. Letters of support from invested parties are included in the Appendix A.

Section IV: Enrollment and Graduation Projections

Projections of the student enrollment and graduation of the first five years are based on several factors including the current enrollment and graduation trends in the Human Sciences

Department, the feasibility studies of the current and previously enrolled students (undergraduate), and research information gathered from stakeholders, potential employers, and enrollment and retention trends in human sciences. Reported projections for demand of college graduates are primarily based on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and derived from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the U.S. Department of Education ^[21]. The BLS predicted a 5.2% increase in the U.S. labor force between 2018 and 2028. An increase in employment opportunities in occupations related to food, agriculture, renewable natural resources and the environment estimated to grow 2.6% between 2020 and 2025 for college graduates with bachelor’s or higher degrees. This estimation includes students enrolled in the Department of Human Sciences, housed in the College of Agriculture.

Through marketing and advertising of the program, we expect to enroll no less than twenty students in the first year. Each year thereafter, we expect additional students enrolling during the second through fifth years as presented in Table 2. We project at least ten students to enroll in the dietetics concentration (in-person) and at least ten in the community and human nutrition concentrations (in-person and online) in the first year as Tennessee State University is one of the most affordable state funded universities in Tennessee. Attrition rates are projected at 20% or 4 students a year based on the Council of Graduate Schools data ^[22].

Table 2. Projected Enrollments and Graduates.

Year	Academic Year	Projected Total Fall Enrollment	Projected Attrition	Projected Graduates
1	2024-2025	20		0
2	2025-2026	30	-4	10
3	2026-2027	30	-4	12
4	2027-2028	36	-4	16
5	2028-2029	36	-4	16

Integrative Co-Curricular Engagement

We structured and designed our graduate classes for students to have ongoing mentoring and coaching from faculty. Each student will have at least one class taught by extension and research faculty. The graduate courses have experiential activities that include hands on, real-life opportunities. Graduate students complete supervised activities with assigned or approved preceptors. Preceptors at any non-profit, profit or government agency will provide students with as much hands-on experience as possible. Our graduate students attend year-round, as if they were in the workforce, and matriculate as a cohort to build a learning community and culture of learning from the onset. The cohort provides students with continuous and consistent mentoring. Our targeted student is African American, Hispanic, and other historically disadvantaged and underserved populations.

Students in the Dietetics concentration graduate once they fulfill 40 hours of graduate credit hours needed to earn a Master's of Science in Human Sciences with eligibility to become credentialed as a registered dietitian. Students completing the online concentrations will complete 33 or 36 hours of coursework depending on their selection of a non-thesis or thesis option. We recommend the non-thesis options for individuals who wish to pursue careers in professional settings other than research or academia, and who do not wish to pursue additional educational opportunities at the doctoral level.

Section VI: Projected Costs to Deliver the Proposed Program

We need no additional physical classrooms for the proposed M.S. degree and graduate certificate programs. A Program Coordinator position is desirable to work with students and organizations in locating supervised experiential learning (SEL) sites to get memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and Affiliation Agreements for students to fulfill their SEL requirements. Research, extension, and teaching faculty hired in the existing undergraduate concentrations will teach at least one graduate course a semester. The online course delivery method and the hybrid component (internships) allow for more refinement of professional skill sets from students with a well-grounded foundation in this field.

Faculty & Instructional Staff

Dr. Veronica Oates, a tenured professor, joined the Human Sciences Department on August 14, 2008. Dr. Oates has a Ph.D. degree in Nutrition from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Oates has over 17 years of nutrition, intervention, weight management, and dietetics. Since 2007, Dr. Oates has instructed nutrition courses online. Dr. Oates also

instructed online graduate courses as an adjunct professor for North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina, during 2011-13. Dr. Oates will oversee the proposed MS program as the Department Chair.

Dr. Brione Lockett, Assistant Professor and Interim Director of Community Nutrition Education Program Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension Program in the College of Agriculture will assist in teaching courses on wellness and emergency preparedness. Dr. Lockett will work with placement of students in extension field experiences and help with thesis and project development of master’s degree students. Dr. Lockett taught graduate courses at his previous university. Dr. Lockett has a doctorate in health education and a Master’s in public health. Experienced in working with indigenous communities and mental health advocacy, Dr. Lockett’s areas of expertise include qualitative methodology, community health, and policy.

Other faculty, such as Dr. Latasha Williams, RDN, LDN, an assistant professor and Director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics, will teach one graduate course a year. Dr. Hongwei Si, a tenured research professor with a doctorate in human nutrition, will teach at least one graduate class a semester. He will devote six (6) credit hours to the proposed Master’s degree. Dr. Agnes Kilonzo-Nthenge, a tenured microbiologist and food safety researcher, will teach one graduate course a year related to food safety. Dr. Fur-Chi Chen, a tenured professor of food science, will teach one graduate course a year related to his area of expertise. We currently have two unfilled faculty positions in Cooperative Extension that include a percentage of teaching courses in the department. Revenue generated by the proposed graduate degree program will cover the costs of one full-time (80%) teaching faculty position and a program coordinator within the first five years of operation.

Table 2. Projected faculty proposed credit hours and time (%) to MS in Human Sciences

Faculty	Credit Hours	Time Devoted to Program By Year (%)				
	Annually	1	2	3	4	5
Dr. Fur-Chi Chen	3-4	15	15	15	15	15
Dr. A. Kilonzo-Nthenge	3-4	15	15	15	15	15
Dr. Brione Lockett	3-4	15	15	15	15	15
Dr. Veronica J. Oates	3-4	15	15	15	15	15

Dr. Hongwei Si	3-4	15	15	15	15	15
Dr. Latasha Williams	3-4	15	15	15	15	15
MS Dietetics Director*	6-8	30	30	30	30	30
Program Coordinator**	3-4	15	15	15	15	15

*New position required for ACEND-accredited program

**New position requested if enrollment increases.

We are requesting a 12-month, full-time faculty position for a director of the graduate program in dietetics concentration as required by ACEND. Academic Affairs created a similar position for the DPD program at the department's request to improve the program during a probationary period between 2013 and 2015. This faculty member recommends and verifies the teaching credentials of adjunct and permanent faculty within the concentration as it relates to courses being taught for the dietetics concentration each semester. The Graduate Dietetics Program Director coordinates the experiential learning activities and site placement, collects preceptor reports, and reports data on the students as required for the ACEND accreditation and verification form at the completion of the master of science (M.S.) degree. As enrollment increases and when needed, we will hire a Program Coordinator, as support staff, to help coordinate the experiential learning activities and site placement of students. Table 2 shows the projected faculty credit hours and time percentage. Please see the attached curriculum vitas of each of the listed program personnel and chair of the Human Sciences Department within Appendix E.

We do not handle distance education classes differently from traditional sections regarding the calculation of faculty load, overload, and salary. The department chair adjusts the workloads of individuals serving as instructors in the M.S. degree programs to maintain 15 and 12 credit hours equivalents without affecting the quality of the current undergraduate programs. The program will not affect other departmental programs and workloads. Program courses are a part of a regular workload. Faculty volunteer for overload hours for compensation. Extra service pay is at the discretion of the Human Sciences Department Chair, the Dean of the CAHNS, and the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. Policies regarding overload conditions and compensation do not differ from established TSU and TBR policies.

Non-Instructional Staff

Our department, faculty and students are fully supported by the organizational departments that facilitate daily operations at TSU including the Budget Office, Bursar, Facilities Management, Accounting and Payroll, Financial Services, Human Resources, Payroll, Procurement, Travel Office, and Accounts Payable. The Financial Services Office strives to provide timely and courteous service to members of the university community and help to transact business under applicable Federal and State Laws, the TSU Board of Trustees, and university policies and procedures. The team handles cash receipting, student accounts and loans receivable, accounts payable and budget development and monitoring. In addition, this unit assists departments with fiscal issues and questions and handles a variety of reports for internal and external uses.

Resources for students include dedicated offices and units, such as our centralized One Stop student center. Services include academic advising and academic resources, including free in-person and 24/hour online tutoring, two libraries, and a testing center. Students also have access to a fully staffed writing center. Writing Center staff help students locate and write for scholarships and grants. The TSU Career Development Center helps students discover a career that matches their skills and interests and prepares them to get their dream job by providing various online resources and technology for students. The Office of Financial Aid administers federal, state, institutional, and private sources of aid following federal and state laws. This office informs students and parents about the distinct financial aid available and helps them in securing the financial resources to reach their educational aspirations. The College of Agriculture and the Human Sciences Department provide opportunities for students to receive financial aid through scholarships, work aid, research grants, and fellowships.

Graduate Assistants

The College of Agriculture provides two research assistantships for each graduate faculty. A graduate program allows us the ability to offer graduate students research, teaching, and extension opportunities with faculty to help provide a sense of community and professional development. The Department of Human Sciences will help graduate students by providing mentorship from faculty, alumni, and other graduate students in the program. The department will provide financial aid to graduate students through external grants scholarships, fellowships, teaching assistantships, and research assistantships. We estimate one graduate assistantship the first year of \$18,000. We estimate an offer of three assistantships of \$18,500

in year two, five assistantships of \$19,000 in the third year, seven assistantships of \$19,500 in the fourth year, and nine assistantships of \$20,000 in the fifth year. Grants and fundraising efforts will provide graduate assistantships.

Accreditation

The accreditation fee for the Dietetics graduate program is paid annually. The fee for 2024 is \$2,680 but will be prorated after accreditation is granted. Every five to seven years, the program will conduct a self-study for reaffirmation that the program is meeting the accreditation standards. This fee costs \$7,100 for a team of two reviewers for visits that occurs between June 2021-May 2024.

Consultants

Two independent program reviewers with the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) reviewed our self-study report and conducted a site visit of our proposed graduate program to determine if the program meets the ACEND Future Education Model Graduate Program Accreditation Standards. The ACEND Board's decision is contingent on the approval of the program from THEC. Per the THEC policy, consultants also will review the program. The estimated cost is \$500 per consultant, plus the cost of lodging and housing for one night. We expect having two consultants complete the review for an estimated cost of \$4,000.

Equipment

No new equipment is needed.

Information Technology

The Office of Technology Services provides faculty, staff and students reliable services. This unit provides university-wide support in the areas of academic computing, university-wide email communications, enterprise-wide applications (Banner, email, etc.), hardware and software purchases, networking, phone and communications, tech support (PC, mac, printer, hardware, software). They use technology in the offering for degrees and courses offered at the University for distance learning. Distance Education (DE) at Tennessee State University (TSU) is flourishing, with over twenty online programs allowing students to get undergraduate

and graduate degrees and certificates in diverse areas. We offer credit granting classes through various delivery methods, including interactive video instruction (ITV/VOIP), online, and hybrid/blended online. The TSU Office of Technical Services provides technical and IT support for electronic devices for faculty and students. They also support the computer labs across campus, including the lab specifically for use of the Human Sciences Department. The office offers technical training for faculty and students.

Library Resources

The Brown-Daniel Library provides support for the M.S. in Human Sciences degree program by providing access to print and electronic resources, and traditional and online services. The Library's resources and services are accessible for the enrolled students, faculty and staff. This includes printed books, electronic books, referred journals, traditional and online services, electronic document delivery, library orientation and bibliographic instruction, online reserves, interlibrary loan, online forms, and online surveys.

Off-Campus Library Services provide immediate access to library resources, which include delivery of journal articles by mail, fax or Inter-Library Loan. Library users access online databases, the online catalog, and information on the Library's homepage from remote sites. Library staff provides services that are pertinent to the unique needs of off-campus students and faculty, including database searching, answers to quick reference questions, and instruction in using appropriate sources via e-mail, telephone, fax, and mail. In addition, the library assists students via the Embedded Librarian program within online, hybrid, and on ground courses. The "Ask Us" reference service is also available via e-mail.

Marketing

The plan for marketing the program includes placing information about the program on the university's website and accreditation organizations, which are no cost options. Both the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) and the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) annual accreditation fees include a web listing of member programs.

Facilities

Except for dietetics concentration, the M.S. in Human Sciences programs are completely distance education programs. The nature of online instruction itself minimizes traditional physical facilities. However, online instruction requires considerable investments in technology infrastructure. These investments include networking, computer and server resources, and software. TSU has developed a delivery system for distance education that provides sufficient technical resources and help for faculty and students as mentioned earlier.

Travel

The anticipated travel costs associated with establishing the graduate program are related to visiting experiential sites and meetings with preceptors for the Dietetics concentration.

Other Resources

There are no anticipated additional resources needed by students that are not provided by the university.

Section VII: Projected Revenues for the Proposed Program

Tuition

The tuition rate at TSU is based on the number of credit hours taken. Students in our accelerated BS-MS track take 18 hours fall and spring and six to eight credit hours each summer. Some semesters require students to pay additional fees for specific experiential activities. In spring 2023, in-state graduate tuition for 15 hours totaled \$5,639, including a \$604 program service fee. Out-of-state graduate tuition total cost was \$12,039. Students pay \$30 per course for science laboratory fees. We require students to pay a book bundle fee for general education courses and a non-refundable reservation fee of \$250. We credit this fee to tuition upon enrollment into the program. Each year, we collect lab fees to cover costs of recitation, practicums, and lab supplies.

Certificate Program estimates are based on the costs of credit hours taken. There is an application fee that is paid to the university's graduate school. Please see THEC Financial Projection Form showing the revised THEC Financial Estimate Form for TSU's proposed M.S. degree in Human Sciences.

Graduate Program Estimates:

Credit Hours	Maintenance fees	Program Service Fee	Total Graduate In-State	Graduate Out-of-State	Total Graduate In-State
1	\$458	\$75	\$533	\$582	\$1,115
2	\$916	\$150	\$1,066	\$1,164	\$2,230
3	\$1,374	\$225	\$1,599	\$1,746	\$3,345
4	\$1,832	\$300	\$2,132	\$2,328	\$4,460
5	\$2,290	\$375	\$2,665	\$2,910	\$5,575
6	\$2,748	\$450	\$3,198	\$3,492	\$6,690
7	\$3,206	\$525	\$3,731	\$4,074	\$7,805
8	\$3,664	\$604	\$4,268	\$4,656	\$8,924
9	\$4,122	\$604	\$4,726	\$5,238	\$9,964
10	\$4,580	\$604	\$5,184	\$5,820	\$11,004
11	\$4,671	\$604	\$5,275	\$5,936	\$11,211
12	\$4,762	\$604	\$5,366	\$6,052	\$11,418
13	\$4,853	\$604	\$5,457	\$6,168	\$11,625
14	\$4,944	\$604	\$5,448	\$6,284	\$11,832
15	\$5,035	\$604	\$5,639	\$6,400	\$12,039

*Estimated costs

**Fee applied toward tuition if student attends

***Optional learning opportunities

(\$) Estimated costs per semester

Revenue

Using the cost of attendance for academic year 2023-2024, the chart below shows the projection for the next 5 years for the in-person Dietetics concentration. Please refer to the attached Excel spreadsheet (Appendix B) for the THEC Financial Estimate Form regarding TSU's proposed M.S. degree in nutrition. Our financial projection estimates that 25% of the students will pay out-of-state tuition rates. In the first year of the dietetics concentration, we expect only 10 students, with 3 spots available at the out-of-state tuition rate. The estimated tuition and fee revenues for the Dietetic concentration are \$117,194 + \$69,18 for \$186,212. We conservatively estimated the tuition and fee revenues for the Community and Human Nutrition concentrations using an in-state tuition rate for 10 students, taking nine (9) credit hours each semester for \$94,520. This brings the total estimated revenue for year one to \$280,732. Year two estimates are conservatively based on the same for the Dietetics students at \$186,212 and an increase of 10 additional students enrolled in the Community and Human concentrations for a revenue of \$189,040. Conservatively, the revenue projected for year two is \$375,252. We use the same estimate for the third year. Fourth- and fifth-year estimates include an additional \$9,452 for three (3) part-time students seeking certificates for \$384,704. It does not factor tuition rates increases in the projections.

Dietetic & Accelerated Dietetic Program Estimates:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total Fees
In-State Tuition	(\$6,321) \$12,642	(\$6,406) \$12,812	(\$6,493) \$12,986	(\$6,582) \$13,164	(\$6,672) \$13,344	\$64,948
Out-of-State Tuition	(\$11,253) \$22,506	(\$11,478) \$22,956	(\$11,707) \$23,414	(\$11,941) \$23,882	(\$12,180) \$24,360	\$117,118
Laboratory fees	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	
Reservation Fee*	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	NA*
Experiential Fees**	Service Learning Africa \$3,600	Global Nutrition in Brazil \$4,995	PRISM Capstone Jamaica \$2,000	Research Abroad \$TBD		Varies
In-State Total	\$16,742	\$17,807	\$15,486			
Out-of-State Total	\$23,006	\$18,307	\$25,914	\$24,382	\$24,860	

*Fee applied toward tuition

**Students are required to participate in at least one study abroad experience before graduation while in the Dietetics and Accelerated BS-MS program.

(\$) Estimated costs per semester

Grants

Faculty in the department have various grants that help provide support for graduate students. We are also submitting grants to provide fellowships and stipends to students interested in nutrition and dietetics.

Other

There are no anticipated additional revenue sources associated with establishing the graduate program.

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Appendix A Letters of Support

AE3 (Aspire to Educate, Empower, Encourage)

Non-Profit Corporation

1705 Rivergate Meadows Drive
Goodlettsville, Tennessee 37072

May 20, 2023

Dr. Veronica J. Oates Department
of Human Sciences College of
Agriculture Tennessee State
University

3500 John A. Merritt Blvd Box 9598 Nashville, TN
37209-1561

Dear Dr. Oates,

Please let me extend my support of the proposed graduate program in Human Sciences. It is much needed to provide training for the next generation of [FCS, nutrition or dietetic] professionals in both academic, federal, and private agencies. I have never seen more challenges and opportunities in these areas in my twenty plus years of experience as a Community Health Education professional. I think that having a MS degree in Human Sciences and offering graduate certificates in Community Nutrition, Food Safety & Emergency Preparedness, and Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change is needed to meet the current and future needs of our communities.

With the advancement of technologies, having online graduate programs can provide affordable and accessible advanced education opportunities for working individuals. In-depth knowledge and skills in human development, nutrition, systems, and environmental change, or emergency preparedness are critically needed. The endeavor that Tennessee State University is considering in establishing a MS program focusing on Human Sciences is going to further provide the advanced learning opportunity to the student with the ambition to excel in their career path.

At AE3, we offer positions that require MS degrees. Employees are encouraged to continue their education and employers are encouraged to support diversity in the workforce. The ability of Tennessee State University to help supply graduate-level training to professionals already in the workforce with additional transdisciplinary training aligns with many of our organization's goals. Therefore, I support the Department of Human Sciences' effort in establishing a MS program in Human Sciences with

concentrations in Family & Consumer Sciences, Human Nutrition, and Dietetics. I look forward to seeing such a program at Tennessee State University, referring potential students to the program, and identifying internship and job opportunities for the students in your program.

Sincerely,



Barbara J. Canada, D. Min., PhD, MSSW

CEO/Founder, AE3~Aspire to Educate -Empower-Encourage Email:
favoredandfocused3@gmail.com

Mobile: 865.202.0039



P.O. Box 487

Clarksville, TN 37041

(931) 896-1800

www.cmcaa.com

June 9, 2023

Dr. Veronica J. Oates Department
of Human Sciences College of
Agriculture Tennessee State
University
3500 John A. Merritt Blvd Box 9598 Nashville,
TN 37209-1561

Dear Dr. Oates,

Please allow me to extend my support of the proposed graduate program in Human Sciences. It is considerably necessary to provide training for the next generation of Family & Consumer Science professionals in both the academic and federal area and private agencies. I have seen the challenges and opportunities in this area of 20+ years' experience as an Early Childhood Professional, with 3 years as the Head Start Program Director. I truly trust by having the means to complete a MS degree in Human Sciences and offering graduate certificates would help with the need to meet all current and future requirements of our growing communities.

Having online graduate programs will provide accessibility and affordable advanced education opportunities for those who are in the workforce. I truly believe with Tennessee State University taking into consideration to provide a MS program that focuses on Human Sciences, is going to provide countless advanced learning opportunities for the student to move forward in their career path.

Here at Clarksville Montgomery Community Action Agency, employees are encouraged to continue their education and support great diversity in the workforce. Tennessee State University along with this program will support not only a plethora of trainings for individuals, but will assist with our programs philosophy: Staff must be qualified, nurtured, encouraged and rewarded as they enhance their skills and educational levels to provide the quality services deserved by families and their children. I unanimously support the Department of Human Sciences' with establishing a MS program in Human Sciences with concentrations in Family & Consumer Sciences. I look forward to seeing such a program at Tennessee State University to refer potential students to this program and work along as a mentorship and job opportunities for students in your

program. As a Tennessee State Alumni, I look forward to excelling with an advanced degree such as this, which is truly encouraging.

Sincerely,

Paris Carnell

Paris Carnell – CMCCAA Head Start Program Director Clarksville/Montgomery
County Community Action Agency pcarnell@cmccaa.com
931-896-1806



***Public Health, Health Administration
and Health Sciences***

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Health Sciences

330 10th Avenue North, Suite D400
Nashville, TN 37209-1561

Phone: (615) 963-7367 • Fax: (615) 963-7011

June 20, 2023

Dr. Veronica J. Oates
Department of Human Sciences
College of Agriculture
Tennessee State University

3500 John A. Merritt Blvd Box 9598
Nashville, TN 37209-1561

Dear Dr. Oates,

This letter is provided in support of the proposed graduate program in the Human Sciences. The expansion of the program to include master-level degrees is essential to supporting the professional workforce's need for leadership, especially in nutrition. This is true for positions within academic, government, and private agencies. Providing training for individuals who can serve at the local, state, and national public health levels is essential to the nation's future needs as more than 40% of the public health nutrition workforce is expected to retire within the next 5 years. These are just some of the challenges that I know of as a public health professional. With more than 25 years of experience in public health, we acknowledge the contributions of the nutrition sciences to support healthier outcomes across the disciplines. I know that an MS degree in Human Sciences and offering graduate certificates in Community Nutrition, Food Safety & Emergency Preparedness, and Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change are required for our communities to meet the needs of the public health workforce.

We are excited that you are considering on-line programming for working adults. Online graduate programs are both accessible and affordable educational opportunities for working adults already in public health careers. They contribute to providing the competencies needed for a workforce that is moving into leadership roles in areas such as Maternal & Child Health, Geriatric Sciences, and affordable options for many sectors of our populations. These programs that equip professionals with in-depth knowledge and skills in human development or nutrition or policy, systems, environmental change, or emergency preparedness are critically needed. Tennessee State University establishing a master's program in Human Sciences is a guaranteed contributor to learning opportunities for students seeking an academic experience that can propel their career path in public health and other disciplines.

I serve on the Consortium of African American Public Health Programs (CAAPHP) as vice-president of the association. We represent 15 HBCUs that support the diversity and equity of a public health workforce. CAAPHP acknowledges the need for employers to continue to increase diversity and inclusion at every level of public health. The addition of your master level programming will allow Tennessee State University to help supply graduate-level training to professionals already in the workforce with additional transdisciplinary training aligns with many of CAAPHP's vision. I support the Department of Human Sciences' effort in establishing a MS program in Human Sciences with concentrations in Family & Consumer Sciences, Human Nutrition, and Dietetics. Such a program at TSU is an essential component of providing career opportunities for students within your program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wendelyn Inman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wendelyn Inman, Ph.D.

Interim Public Health Program Director
Vice-President of CAAPHP



Ascension

May 19, 2023

Dr. Veronica J. Oates
Department of Human Sciences
College of Agriculture
Tennessee State University

3500 John A. Merritt Blvd Box 9598
Nashville, TN 37209-1561

Dear Dr. Oates,

Thank you for the timely updates regarding development of graduate programs in Human Sciences. I am honored to express support for this training. Our community will need leaders with Master's Degrees in Human Sciences or Graduate Certificates in Community Nutrition, Food Safety & Emergency Preparedness, or Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change to address challenges we face keeping people safe and healthy.

Online graduate programs will provide a more flexible, affordable and accessible educational opportunity for already working in these areas. By offering such pathways, Tennessee State University will advance learning opportunities and allow these individuals to continue to serve their communities, benefiting those they serve with a more in-depth knowledge of their professions.

Ascension Saint Thomas Midtown (ASTM), the largest non-profit community hospital in Middle Tennessee, where I have worked thirty years, as a clinician and manager of clinical dietitians, is constantly trying to address the challenges of natural disaster, pandemic responses, and general well-being of our community. Our future will need highly trained individuals to address these issues as well as currently unknown problems that may negatively impact the health and well-being of the people we serve.

ASTM Clinical Nutrition Services offers positions that will require MS degrees; clinicians are encouraged to continue their education. An on-line graduate program through Tennessee State University will provide an opportunity to continue employment while seeking advanced training that aligns with Ascension's goals. I fully support the Department of Human Sciences' effort to establish a MS program in Human Sciences with concentrations in Family & Consumer Sciences, Human Nutrition, and Dietetics. I look forward to seeing this program at TSU, referring potential students to the program, and identifying internship and job opportunities for the students in your program. Please let me know how I can support this valuable opportunity.

Sincerely,

ChrystieTurner | TouchPoint | RD, LDN



May 20, 2023

Dr. Veronica J. Oates
Department of Human Sciences
College of Agriculture
Tennessee State University
3500 John A. Merritt Blvd Box 9598
Nashville, TN 37209-1561

Dr. Oates,

Please let me extend my support to the proposed graduate program in Human Sciences. I believe it is much needed to provide training for the next generation of professionals in family and consumer sciences, human nutrition, and dietetics, both academic federal, and private agencies. I have never seen more challenges and opportunities in these areas in my twenty years of experience as a Marketing Professor. I think having a Master of Science degree in Human Sciences and offering graduate certificates in Community Nutrition, Food Safety & Emergency Preparedness, and Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change is needed to meet our communities' current and future needs.

With the advancement of technologies, having online graduate programs can provide affordable and accessible advanced education opportunities for professionals. In-depth knowledge and skills in human development and environmental change are critically needed. The endeavor that Tennessee State University Department of Human Sciences is considering in establishing a Master of Sciences program focusing on Human Sciences is going to further provide the advanced learning opportunity to students with the ambition to excel in their career path.

Therefore, I support the Department of Human Sciences' effort to establish a Master of Science program in Human Sciences with concentrations in Family & Consumer Sciences, Human Nutrition, and Dietetics. I look forward to seeing such a program at Tennessee State University, referring potential students to the program, and identifying internship and job opportunities for the students in your program.

Sincerely,

Vaidas Lukosius

Dr. Vaidas Lukosius
Associate Professor of Business Administration – Marketing
College of Business
Tennessee State University



August 7, 2023

Veronica J. Oates, PhD, RDN, LDN
Department Chair
Department of Human Sciences
Tennessee State University

Dear Dr. Oates:

This letter extends Nashville General Hospital's commitment to support the proposed Master's of Science program in Nutrition and Wellness. We agree to partner with your department to provide students in the Department of Human Sciences the opportunity to gain hands-on experiences in nutrition in a clinical, culinary, and community setting served by the hospital.

Nashville General Hospital remains committed to helping students advance their knowledge and skills by offering internship opportunities in the hospital's food pharmacy as well as the Nutrition Services Department of the hospital. Nashville General Hospital welcomes feedback from the students by way of ongoing evaluative commentary on the students' educational experience to constantly improve on the quality of internship rotations at the hospital. As a proud alum of Tennessee State University, I know the program will produce food and dietetic professionals equipped to alleviate disease and promote health through nutrition.

If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Webb', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Joseph Webb, D.Sc., MSHA, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer

Appendix B THEC Financial Projections Form

**Tennessee Higher Education Commission
Appendix A: THEC Financial Projections Form
Tennessee State University**

Master of Science Degree Programs in the Department of Human Sciences

Seven-year projections are required for doctoral programs.

Five-year projections are required for baccalaureate and Master's degree programs
Three-year projections are required for associate degrees and undergraduate certificates.
Projections should include cost of living increases per year.

Planning year projections are not required but should be included when appropriate.

	Planning Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
I. Expenditures								
A. One-time Expenditures								
New/Renovated Space ¹	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Library	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Consultants	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Travel	\$ -				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sub-Total One-time	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
B. Recurring Expenditures								
Personnel								
Administration								
Salary	\$ -						\$ -	\$ -
Benefits	\$ -						\$ -	\$ -
Sub-Total Administration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Faculty								
Salary		\$ 25,000	\$ 25,750	\$ 26,523	\$ 27,319	\$ 28,139		
Benefits		\$ 8,750	\$ 9,013	\$ 9,283	\$ 9,562	\$ 9,849		
Sub-Total Faculty	\$ -	\$ 33,750	\$ 34,763	\$ 35,806	\$ 36,881	\$ 37,988	\$ -	\$ -
Support Staff								
Salary	\$ -		\$ 14,420	\$ 14,853	\$ 15,299	\$ 15,758		
Benefits	\$ -		\$ 5,047	\$ 5,198	\$ 5,355	\$ 5,515		\$ -
Sub-Total Support Staff	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,467	\$ 20,051	\$ 20,654	\$ 21,273	\$ -	\$ -
Graduate Assistants								
Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Tuition and Fees* (See Below)	\$ -	\$ 54,000	\$ 92,500	\$ 152,000	\$ 175,500	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -
Sub-Total Graduate Assistants	\$ -	\$ 54,000	\$ 92,500	\$ 152,000	\$ 175,500	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -
Operating								
Travel	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -
Printing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other		\$ 7,100	\$ 2,680	\$ 2,680	\$ 2,680	\$ 2,680	\$ -	\$ -
Sub-Total Operating	\$ -	\$ 8,100	\$ 3,680	\$ 3,680	\$ 3,680	\$ 3,680	\$ -	\$ -
Total Recurring	\$ -	\$ 95,850	\$ 150,410	\$ 211,537	\$ 236,715	\$ 262,941	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENDITURES (A + B)	\$ 4,000	\$ 95,850	\$ 150,410	\$ 211,537	\$ 236,715	\$ 262,941	\$ -	\$ -

*If tuition and fees for Graduate Assistants are included, please provide the following information.

Base Tuition and Fees Rate	\$ 18,880.00	\$ 18,580.00	\$ 19,990.00	\$ 19,600.00	\$ 20,990.00	\$ -	\$ -
Number of Graduate Assistants	\$ 4,000	\$ - ³	\$ 3,510	\$ (23,479)	\$ (27,678)	\$ (30,829)	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Planning Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

II. Revenue	BALANCED BUDGET	\$	88,140	\$	150,410	\$
	LINE		4,			
Tuition and Fees ²		000	\$			
Institutional Reallocations ³						
Federal Grants ⁴						
Private Grants or Gifts ⁵						
Other ⁶						

211,537	\$	236,715	\$	262,941	-	\$
				\$		-

Notes:

(1) Provide the funding source(s) for the new or renovated space.

We are working on a fundraising and grant writing campaign to secure funding to update and renovate the laboratories.

We project being able to do renovations based on tuition by year 3 if no other funding is allocated to update the laboratories.

(2) In what year is tuition and fee revenue expected to be generated? Tuition and fees include maintenance fees, out-of-state tuition, and any applicable earmarked fees for the program. Explain any differential fees.

Tuition and fees will be generated starting in year 1.

Projections are based on half in-state and half out-of-state tuition enrollment numbers.

Students in the Dietetics concentration are assessed a non-refundable reservation/program \$125 program fee each fall/spring semester.

(3) Identify the source(s) of the institutional reallocations, and grant matching requirements if applicable.

Some funds will come from external grants. We anticipate having an inaugural class of 6 students with estimates of 3 in-state and 3 out-of-state tuition and fees.

(4) Provide the source(s) of the Federal Grant including the granting department and CFDA(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance) number.

Grant proposals are being prepared for submission to provide graduate funding for students. Students will start the graduate program in year 4. A capacity building grant was submitted to USDA in 2023.

(5) Provide the name of the organization(s) or individual(s) providing grant(s) or gift(s).

USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture

(6) Provide information regarding other sources of the funding.

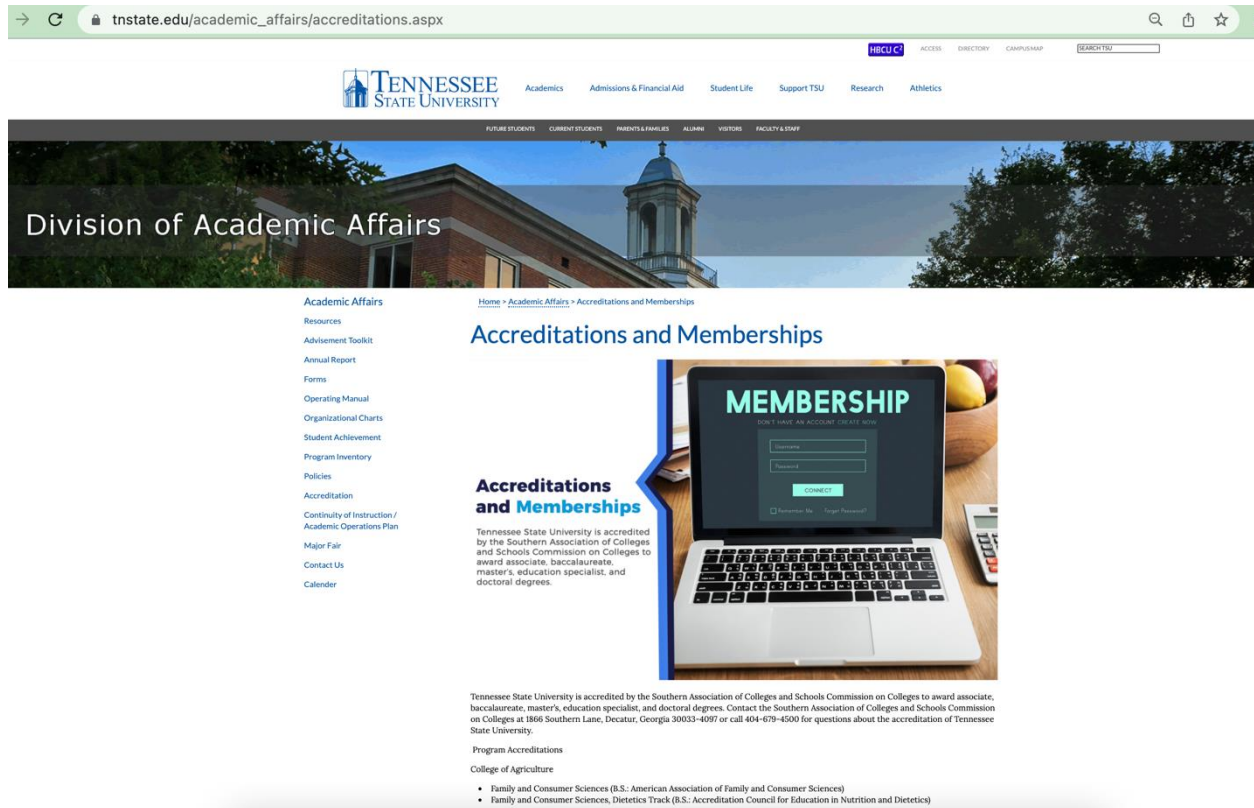
We are requesting support from the dean of our college to help in securing funding for building renovations, hiring of faculty, and recruitment of students for the program. Dean Reddy allocates funding received by Evans Allen and Cooperative Extension and is at his discretion as it is part of the Dean's budget.

The dean has used this funding to support graduate Research Assistships (GRAs) annually in the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

Appendix C TSU Accreditations and Memberships

- https://www.tnstate.edu/academic_affairs/accreditations.aspx

Website link to Tennessee State University's Accreditations and Memberships



The screenshot shows the Tennessee State University website. The browser address bar displays [tnstate.edu/academic_affairs/accreditations.aspx](https://www.tnstate.edu/academic_affairs/accreditations.aspx). The website header includes the university logo and navigation links: Academics, Admissions & Financial Aid, Student Life, Support TSU, Research, and Athletics. Below the header is a banner for the Division of Academic Affairs. The main content area is titled "Accreditations and Memberships" and features a laptop displaying a "MEMBERSHIP" login form with fields for Username and Password, and a "CONNECT" button. Text on the page states: "Tennessee State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, master's, education specialist, and doctoral degrees. Contact the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Tennessee State University." Below this, it lists "Program Accreditations" for the College of Agriculture, including Family and Consumer Sciences (B.S.: American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences) and Family and Consumer Sciences, Dietetics Track (B.S.: Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics).

- https://sacscoc.org/institutions/?institution_name=tennessee+state+university&results_per_page=25&curpage=1&institution=0011N00001h9EGQA2

Website link and screenshot of U.S. institutional accrediting body and the institution's current accreditation status.

[Back to Results](#)

Tennessee State University

As of 1/5/2022

Former Name: Tennessee A. & I. State College (1946 - 1951); Tennessee A. & I. State University (1951 - 1968)

The information on this page describes the accreditation relationship between this institution and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. General information about the Commission and the accreditation process is provided at the end of this document. In addition, links to definitions are provided for many of the terms used.

General Information

<p>+ CEO Name Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover</p> <p>+ Address 3500 John A. Merritt Boulevard Nashville, TN 37209-1561</p> <p>+ Country United States</p> <p>+ Institutional Phone (615) 963-5000</p>	<p>+ Approved to Offer Associate's Degree Baccalaureate Degree Master's Degree Education Specialist Degree Doctoral Degree</p> <p>+ View Available Programs</p> <p>+ View Student Achievement Data</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Accreditation Information

<p>+ Status Accredited</p> <p>+ Public Sanctions</p> <p>+ Candidacy Date</p> <p>+ Accreditation Granted 01/01/1946</p> <p>+ Reaffirmation 2021</p> <p>+ Distance Education Approval Date 12/05/2003</p>	<p>+ Next Reaffirmation 2030</p> <p>+ Next Fifth-Year Review 2026</p> <p>+ Degree Level VI ⓘ</p> <p>+ Control Public</p>
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SACSCOC Staff Member

Crystal Baird
(404) 994-6576 [Email](#)

Institution Search

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State

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- [Common Names versus Official Names Guide](#)
- [Name Change Cross Reference List](#)
- [Accredited and Candidate List](#)

Appendix D TSU Organization Chart



Appendix E Faculty Curriculum Vitae