

## PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

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TITLE: Converting the graduate *options* in Food Science (FS) and Human Nutrition (HN) into *concentrations*.

SPONSORS: Nicki Engeseth (244-6788; engeseth@illinois.edu) and Tim Garrow (333-8455; tagarrow@illinois.edu). Questions pertaining to the proposed FS concentration should be directed to Dr. Nicki Engeseth, whereas questions regarding the proposed HN concentration should be directed to Dr. Tim Garrow.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: At present we confer one graduate degree in FOOD SCIENCE AND HUMAN NUTRITION, however, students choose to follow either a Food Science (FS) or Human Nutrition (HN) option and these options differ substantially in required course work. This proposal outlines our desire to convert our "*options*" into "*concentrations*", the latter as defined by the Graduate College (<http://www.grad.uiuc.edu/policies/concentrations.htm>). Our proposed graduate *concentrations* in FS and HN can be found in Appendix I.

JUSTIFICATION: Many assume that food science and nutrition are highly related disciplines, but in reality these academic fields differ substantially in both formal training and career opportunities. Our graduate students have always expressed concern that their degree title, FOOD SCIENCE AND HUMAN NUTRITION, suggest expertise in both fields and yet most only obtain training in one. Arranging our graduate programs into *concentrations* will be accompanied by transcript notation of the student's academic focus (FS or HN), which in a small but important way will document the specific training for those seeking to verify our graduate's educational background. It is important to note that only one *concentration* must be completed to earn a graduate degree, although a student who desires training in both FS and HN can complete the requirements of both concentrations with careful planning and advisor support.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS: The conversion of our graduate degree *options* to *concentrations* will not have any budget or staff implications. All new FSHN 595 courses have been developed. There is no reason to believe the creation of concentrations will increase enrollment in our graduate programs. The FSHN faculty discussed this curriculum change in detail, and voted strongly in its favor. In addition, current FSHN graduate students and alumni, and well as our External Advisory Committee support the conversion of our degree *options* to *concentrations* and the specific course work proposed. There will be no effect on course enrollment in other departments because our course requirements outside the department are not changing. There will be no impact of this change on the University Library, computer use, laboratory use, or equipment needs.

GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: None

CLEARANCES:

Nicki J. Engeseth  
Nicki Engeseth, co-Associate Head for Graduate Programs, FSHN

9-9-08  
date

Tim Garrow  
Tim Garrow, co-Associate Head for Graduate Programs, FSHN

date

Faye Dong  
Faye Dong, Department Head, FSHN

9/9/08  
date

Laurie Kramer  
Laurie Kramer, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, ACES

9-9-08  
date

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 2009

Kelly Tappenden  
Kelly Tappenden, Associate Dean, Graduate College

Oct 29, 2008  
date

Full proposal available for  
review in the Senate Office.