Justification for the New Course: FSHN 389- Nutritional Assessment

**What is the objective and purpose of the course?**

The course is designed to increase students’ understanding of available nutritional assessment tools at individual and community level to enhance their clinical and research skills. The main focus will be on anthropometric and dietary measurements, interpretation of data, uses and limitations of each method. By the end of the course students should be able to choose the appropriate tool and understand the theory behind and practical application for a selected practice setting, as well as critique nutritional epidemiology research.

**How will the course be organized?**

See attached syllabus.

**What other courses at UHM closely parallel the proposed course and in what way will the latter make a distinct contribution?**

Prerequisite for this course is FSHN185 where nutritional assessment concept is introduced. This course is a needed link between FSHN 185 and other courses and is a corequisite of FSHN 370.

**Where and how does the proposed course fit into current and future curriculum?**

FSHN 389 is a methodology course that will provide more hands-on experience and a foundation to measurements addressed in FSHN 370, FSHN 451 and FSHN 467, 465. The overall curriculum is currently missing a link between introductory courses such FSHN 185 and other higher -level applied courses. Students will be more prepared to deal with advanced courses.

**Why is the number of credits and level justified? Explain the prerequisites and the absence thereof.**

The prerequisite is required to assure students’ awareness of the definition of nutritional assessment, basic nutrition sciences, deficiencies, clinical picture and indicators. The 2 credit hours were selected to fit the total credit hours for the dietetic/nutrition program requirements. The level of the course was selected based on the proposed role of the course of linking between freshman and higher level courses and the amount of work and degree of difficulty expected in the course.

**How will students be evaluated?**
What are the minimum qualifications for teaching the course? Is a qualified instructor now available?

The minimal qualification for instructor is someone with a Ph.D. in Nutritional Sciences and/or MS with extensive research and clinical experiences. It is important for the instructor to have a record of scientific research. The department currently does have a qualified faculty to teach the course, Dr. Sahar Zaghloul, MBBS, Ph.D with research experiences in nutritional epidemiology and assessment methods.

How will the course be financed, assuming no further cutbacks?

Dr. Zaghloul is already a faculty member in HNFAS. This course will require no out-of-the ordinary expenses for instruction. Thus normal departmental allocations for instruction should be sufficient to meet the financial needs of the course.

Has the course been offered before? Is there a demand for it?

This course has been offered about 10 years ago as 3 one-credit modules. This course is very much needed to fill the gap between introductory and advanced courses and to emphasize on nutritional methods used in clinical and research settings.

Is this course cross-listed with another department?

This course is not cross-listed with another department.