Curriculum Map:

SLOs #
1) comprehensive understanding of core nutrition knowledge
2) advanced scholarship in a specialty area (i.e. expertise in a least one overlapping biomedical discipline e.g. biochemistry, physiology, cell and molecular biology, food science/functional foods, epidemiology, biostatistics, medicine, etc)
3) appropriate exposure to social and career-building disciplines (e.g. education, communications, information technology, technical writing, social sciences, etc)

SLOs # 1 and 2 and 3 listed above are mapped into our PhD program by the Qualifying exam and Comprehensive exam. The purpose of the Qualifying exam is to evaluate the student's basic knowledge in core nutrition fields, determine if the student has a strong enough background to proceed successfully with their doctoral program, and enable advisors to assist the student in planning an appropriate program of study. The areas covered by the exam include basic nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, statistics, epidemiology, and experimental design. These subjects are all required courses in the student's background at the BS or MS level. The exam may be oral and/or written as decided by the examining committee. The committee will consist of at least three members of the graduate faculty chosen by the student in consultation with their advisor, and must be approved by the graduate chair. Students must pass these exams to remain in the program.

When candidates have completed all, or most of their coursework toward the PhD, they must pass a Comprehensive exam. The timing of the exam is decided upon by the student in consultation with their advisor. The purpose of the exam is to determine the student's comprehension of fundamental nutrition knowledge, expertise in an overlapping discipline, and competence in research, communications, and critical thinking skills to verify that they can excel as a professional in the field. These SLOs are mapped into the student's curriculum by elective courses specific to each student's goals, and from independent study, seminars, lab meetings, journal clubs, and dissertation research. The form of the exam is both written and oral. It will be conducted by an examination committee composed of at least three members of the graduate faculty (excluding the student's advisor) with collective expertise to cover the range of expectations stated above. The composition of the committee is proposed by the student in consultation with their advisor. To insure the quality and consistency of exam committees, its composition must be approved by the graduate chair.

SLO # 4) ability to conduct original scholarly research, develop skills in research methodologies and grant writing, understand research ethics, and effectively dissemination research findings via peer-reviewed publications, seminars and practical applications such as teaching.

SLO# 4 listed above is mapped into our PhD program by the Dissertation/final exam and teaching experience.

Dissertation proposal and Dissertation/final exam. All PhD candidates must conduct scholarly, independent, original research that contributes new knowledge to the field and report that research as a PhD dissertation at a final exam. The candidates develop a research proposal similar to a research grant proposal and conduct research projects under the direction of their dissertation advisor and doctoral committee. The doctoral committee is selected by the student in consultation with their dissertation advisor, and must be approved by the graduate chair. The dissertation advisor (chair of the committee), and a majority of the committee members must come from the Nutrition Graduate Faculty. The committee must have at least 5 members, with one member being from a graduate faculty outside the student’s field of study and area of specialization. At the conclusion of the research process, students write a dissertation, i.e. a scholarly presentation of their research in publication form. The student’s doctoral committee then conducts a final examination to assess the student’s ability to orally present their dissertation in a seminar format, and defend their research and written dissertation. The dissertation, final exam criteria and procedures conform to the Graduate Division's standards for all Manoa doctorate programs.

Required teaching experience. To foster teaching skills, all PhD candidates must participate in a substantial teaching project during at least one semester of their program. All students are required to develop, with an instructor of their choice, an instructional experience equivalent to a quarter-time teaching assistantship (10 hrs per week) that includes in-class lectures/instructional activities, or laboratory instruction. At the conclusion of the experience, their instructional mentor must submit a
written evaluation of their performance to the graduate chair. Unsatisfactory evaluations will result in the need to repeat the experience until a favorable evaluation is achieved.