



Department of Nutritional Sciences
Strategic Plan 2022-2027



RUTGERS

School of Environmental
and Biological Sciences



Unifying Mission



We educate and inspire our students to become leaders in the fields of nutrition and dietetics.



We form and facilitate interdisciplinary partnerships with academia, industry, government and communities to make new discoveries and solve current challenges in nutritional sciences.



We work towards the ideal of creating a *Beloved Community* through scholarly advancement and the sharing of collective knowledge to improve health locally and globally.

Unifying Vision

A healthy and sustainable tomorrow through research, education, and outreach in nutritional sciences.



Aspirational Identity

We are an inclusive, diverse, collegial, and cohesive department.

We are a nexus for scholarly networks in New Jersey and beyond.

We are universally recognized for *access, relevance and excellence* in all facets of our Mission.



Overall Strategic Goals and Objectives

The Rutgers University Department of Nutritional Sciences aspires to be recognized as one of the nation's top-ranked nutrition and dietetics programs through the achievement of the goals and objectives outlined in this five-year strategic plan.



A healthy and sustainable tomorrow through research, education, and outreach in nutritional sciences

Educational Excellence

Support rigorous curriculum for pre-professional and professional students

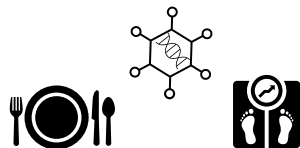
Create seamless paths to RDN



Scholarship Strength

Focus research and discovery in three clusters:

- Metabolism
- Dietary choices & patterns
- Prevention & treatment of chronic diseases



Community Commitment

Bolster outreach and cooperative extension

Build alliances with other academic units within SEBS & RU

Foster productive networks with community leaders



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging: *Reflect our NJ Residents*



Branding: *Modernize our Message*



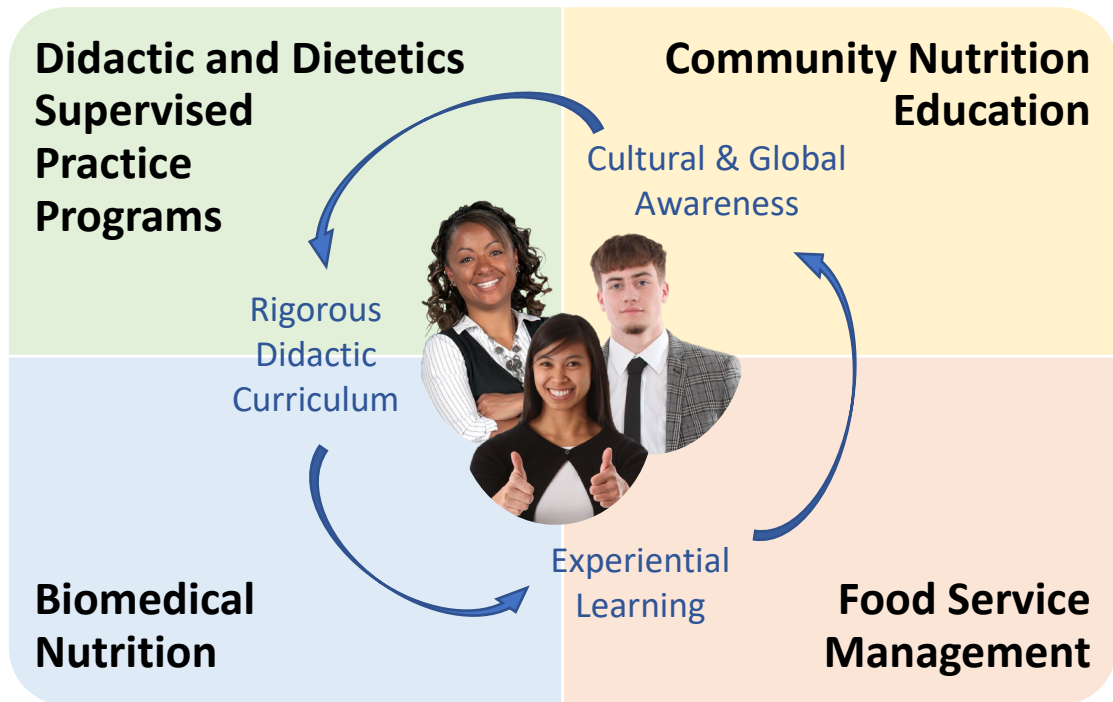
Infrastructure: *Investment and Integration*



Mission Goal: Educational Excellence

Objective:

Support rigorous curriculum for pre-professional and professional students.



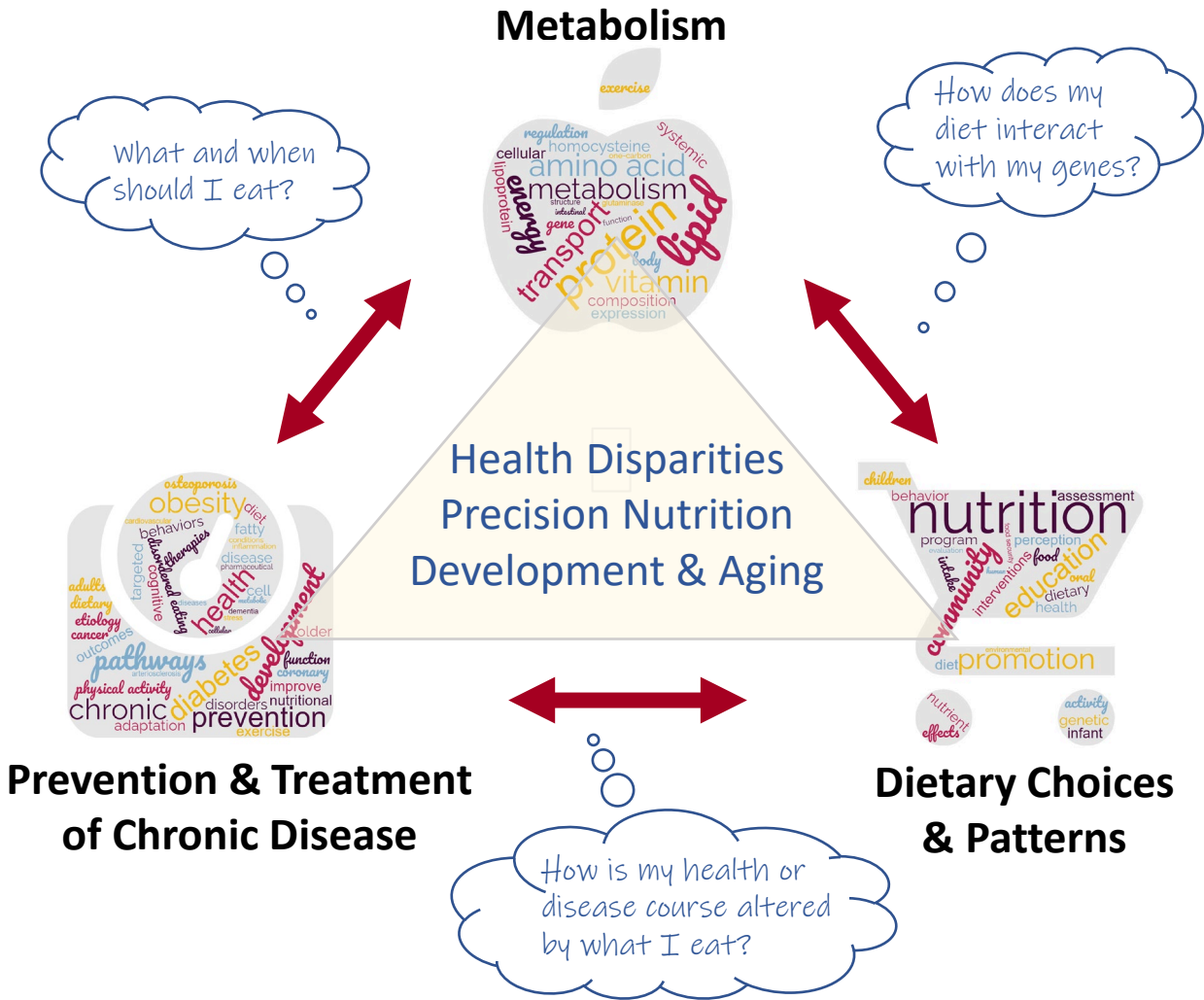
Priorities:

- Review and revise existing curricula to ensure the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences values of access, excellence, and relevance.
- Create interdisciplinary degree concentrations, minors, core classes, certificates, and opportunities for interprofessional education.
- Address the national need for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDN) by developing seamless paths to the RDN credential at the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- Update messaging and imagery in the curriculum to promote diversity, equity, inclusivity, and belonging in all coursework.
- Increase visibility of experience-based educational opportunities in our program: service-learning, internships and cooperative education, faculty-mentored undergraduate research, education abroad and leadership development.

Mission Goal: Scholarship Strength

Objective:

Contribute to the strategic goals of the NIH, USDA, and other funding organizations which aspire to *reduce the impact of disease by improving health through nutrition*.



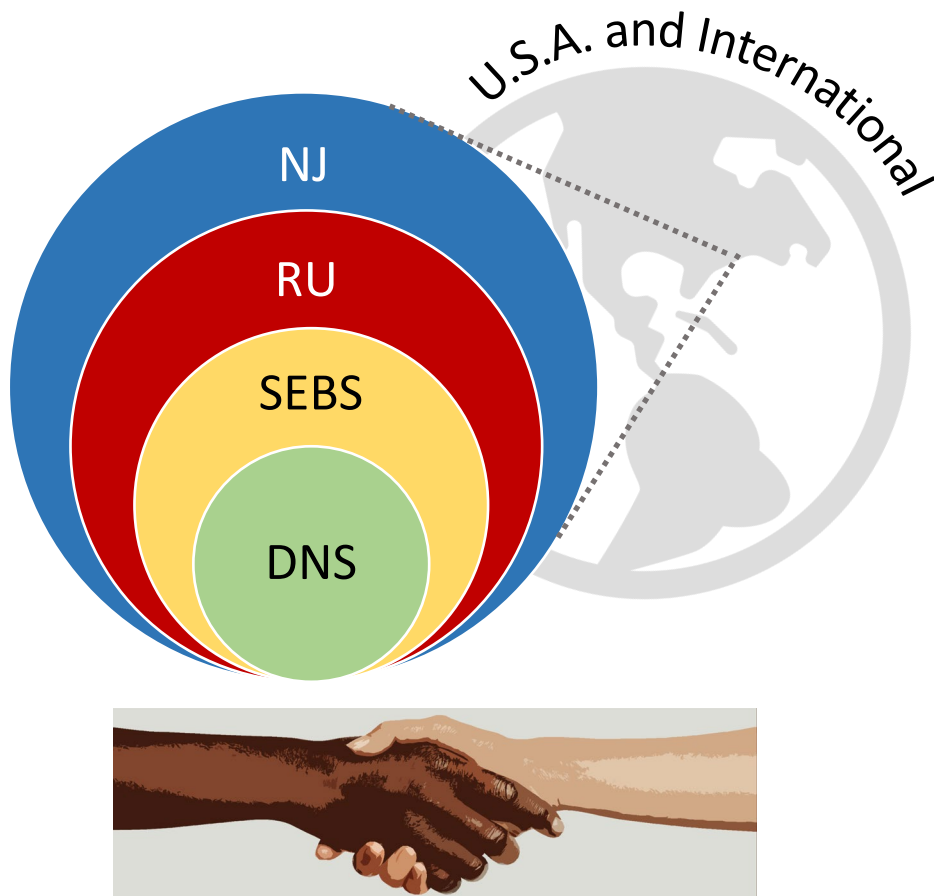
Priorities:

- Expand our extramurally-funded research portfolio through increased collaboration within our established clusters of scholarly strength and increased partnerships with other academic units at Rutgers and beyond.
- Recruit and retain research faculty with teaching experience and/or expertise in critical areas, such as but not limited to data science, biomarkers of healthy eating, child nutrition, and health disparities.
- Re-establish a nutrition preschool program in partnership with the New Jersey Institute for Food, Nutrition and Health to create research opportunities and facilitate multidisciplinary investigations.

Mission Goal: Community Commitment

Objective:

Strengthen and grow signature programs that contribute to the land grant mission of community health and education within Rutgers and our surrounding communities.



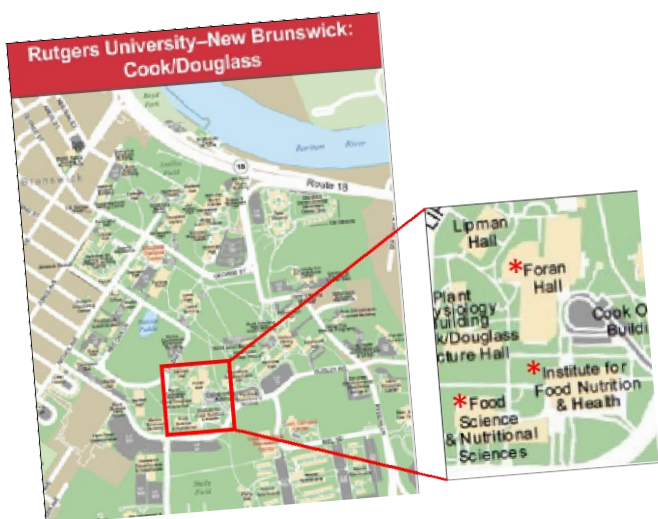
Priorities:

- Conduct community outreach and education with an emphasis on Rutgers' students and surrounding communities.
- Foster mutually beneficial connections with community leaders and organizers to increase awareness of our services and programs.
- Build alliances with units and programs within the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS) and Rutgers to achieve our objectives more effectively and efficiently.



Foundational Goal: Infrastructure

- **Objectives:** Invest in physical and organizational infrastructure to energize and catalyze interactive teaching, research, and outreach efforts in support of our mission, vision and aspirational identity.

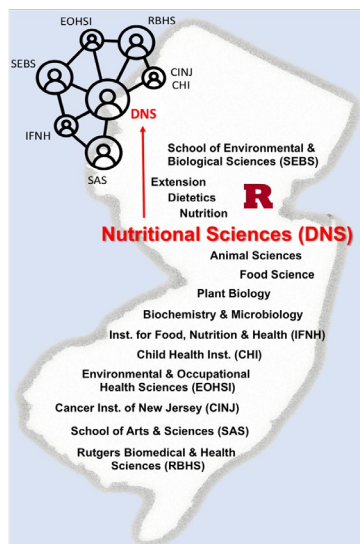


Build State-of-the-Art Culinary Foods Laboratory

Co-Localize People and Facilities



Establish External Advisory Board



Unite Nutrition and Dietetics Across Rutgers

Physical Infrastructure Priorities:

- Localize Nutrition and Dietetics faculty, staff, students, and facilities together.
- Build state-of-the-art laboratories for education and training of future leaders in nutrition, dietetics, health and the culinary arts.

Organizational Infrastructure Priorities:

- Establish an External Advisory Board of national leaders in nutrition and dietetics.
- Expand and strengthen cooperative efforts within nutrition and dietetics, both within the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS) and across Rutgers University.

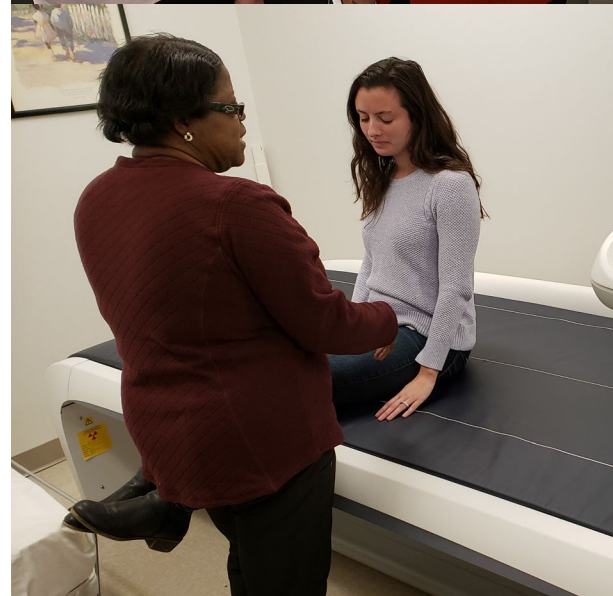
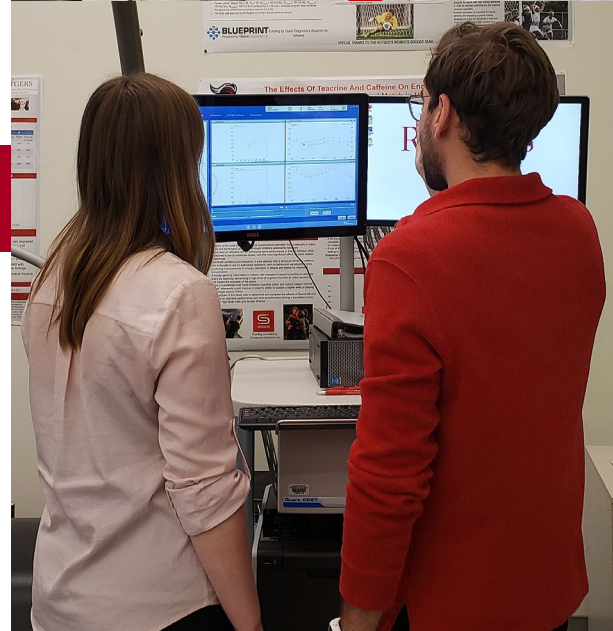
Foundational Goal: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

Objective:

- Reflect our New Jersey residents in our educational, scholarly, and outreach efforts.

Priorities:

- Identify, attract, retain and graduate a diverse student body.
- Identify, attract, and retain a diverse group of faculty and staff.
- Advance a climate that fosters equity, inclusion and belonging in nutritional sciences and dietetics.



Foundational Goal: Branding

Objective:

- Modernize our message to bolster enrollment, increase recognition, and improve outreach.

Priorities:

- Increase visibility of our departmental courses and degree options to RU-NB students.
- Employ targeted recruitment strategies to bring high school and college transfer students into our undergraduate majors.
- Build and improve connections with alumni and other stakeholders via engagement activities and events.
- Promote departmental research, scholarship, and other professional activities within and beyond Rutgers.
- Develop communication strategies to promote awareness and recognition of our faculty, students and alumni.

Past Prominence, Future Growth

The Department of Nutritional Sciences was created in 1966 as the Department of Nutrition. The founding chair was Dr. Hans Fisher, who in keeping with the land-grant mission of the university, pioneered interdisciplinary research in dietary amino acid and fatty acid metabolism and requirements in poultry to benefit the New Jersey farming community and beyond. In 1988, the Department of Nutrition merged with the Department of Home Economics. The legacy of that merger continues today, as the department harbors strengths in basic, translational, applied, and community nutrition research and dietetics. To support our continued growth and increase our national prominence, the faculty engaged in a formal strategic planning process beginning in spring 2021. This document represents our five-year “living” strategic plan and will serve to guide our efforts toward achieving our mission and realizing our vision.



DNS Strategic Planning Steering Committee

Tracy G. Anthony (*Chair*)

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For more information and general inquiries,
visit us at:

<https://nutrition.rutgers.edu/>

Adopted by the DNS faculty on xxxxxx