Scaffolded Research Skills Series for Nutrition and Dietetics Students: A Collaboration

Lee Ann Fullington

*CUNY Brooklyn College*

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Scaffolded Research Skills Series for Nutrition & Dietetics Students: A Collaboration

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Overview

• My role at Brooklyn College
• Background to the research skills series
• Preparing the series
• The current lesson plans and courses
• Next steps
Who Am I?

• Hired prior to Academic Year 2014-2015
• Reference and instruction librarian
  – Subject area instruction
  – ENGL 1012 instruction
• Bibliographer for HNSC, KINS, EESC, MATH, Urban Sustainability
• Practitioner-researcher
  – Qualitative methods

My First Semester…

• Adapted lesson plans from sessions taught in previous role at NYU
• Reflected on my instruction sessions for HNSC courses
• How can I improve these lesson plans to support student success?
The conversation begins...

- Chatted informally with faculty after lessons
- Invited by Nutrition Steering Committee to discuss research skills building for undergraduates
- How can we collaborate to better support BS Health & Nutrition -- Foods and Nutrition/Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics students?

Document Analysis

- Syllabi mining
- Curriculum map (provided by Nutrition Steering Committee)
- DPD student handbook
  - ACEND KRDs
  - List of required courses and course sequences
Syllabi Mining

Curriculum Map
ACEND Accreditation Standards

Standard 5: Curriculum and Learning Activities
Core Knowledge Requirements for Dietetics and Nutrition (KRDNs)

Domain 1. Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice:
Integration of scientific information and translation of research into practice.

Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

- KRDN 1.1 Demonstrate how to locate, interpret, evaluate and use professional literature to make ethical, evidence-based practice decisions.
- KRDN 1.2 Use current information technologies to locate and apply evidence-based guidelines and protocols.
- KRDN 1.3 Apply critical thinking skills.

Required DPD Courses
Rationale for Series

• “Chunk” the lessons to build skills in a logical manner (scaffolding)
• Spread across curriculum rather than try to do it all in a “one shot” lesson
• Goal is to develop a “toolkit” for professional practice

Pilot Version Fall 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Additional Topics</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2210 Human Nutrition</td>
<td>Health Information and the Internet</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2222 Foods of Diverse Populations</td>
<td>Library databases/searching/citation management</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3210 Nutritional Chemistry</td>
<td>Introduction to PubMed</td>
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<tr>
<td>4230 Community Nutrition Education</td>
<td>NYC health and demographic data</td>
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<tr>
<td>4241 Clinical Nutrition</td>
<td>Advanced PubMed</td>
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<tr>
<td>5290W Recent Trends (capstone)</td>
<td>Pulling it all together: Using PubMed, Scopus, Google Scholar</td>
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Lesson 1: Online Health Information Literacy

HNSC 2210 Human Nutrition

Learning Objectives:
• Distinguish between and articulate the differences between health information sources found on the web.
• Understand the difference in searching library databases and search engines such as Google.

Assignment:
In class group discussion: Evaluate an online source of choice.
*Would you use this source for a research paper? Why or why not?*
Lesson 2: Using Online Databases and Citation Management Tools

HNSC 2222 Foods of Diverse Populations

Learning Objectives:
• Describe databases appropriate for interdisciplinary nutrition research (Medline, CINAHL, SocINDEX).
• Construct searches using Boolean logic. Access and download full text articles.

Assignment:
Annotated bibliography: 8 of 10 sources must be peer reviewed scholarly articles, APA style citations

Lesson 3: Introduction to PubMed

HNSC 4211 Advanced Nutrition 1

Learning Objectives:
• Construct basic searches in PubMed.
• Describe what MeSH terms are and how to use them effectively for searches.
• Access full text (free and subscription) via library link to PubMed.

Assignment:
Using PubMed, search for and choose a scientific article about hypertension or osteoporosis
Write evaluative report about the scientific article.
Lesson 4: Finding Health and Demographic Data

HNSC 4230 Community Nutrition Education

Learning Objectives:
• Locate and use NYC demographic and health data.
• Understand the role of data in evidence-based decision making and nutrition programs.

Assignment:
Develop a nutrition program for a particular NYC neighborhood. Using data, statistics, and literature demonstrate the evidence for your particular program. Term paper and group presentation.

Lesson 5: Searching for Complementary Health Information

HNSC 4250 Integrative Nutrition and Functional Foods

Learning Objectives:
• Locate systematic reviews using Cochrane Library and PubMed
• Locate complementary therapies info in AltHealthWatch, PubMed
• Use filters and MeSH terms effectively for PubMed

Assignment: Evidence-based short report about an alternative nutrition therapy
Lesson 6: Putting It All Together—Using Your Research Toolkit

HNSC 5290W Seminar in Recent Trends in Nutrition

Learning Objectives:
• Create search strategies for various databases for individual research project.
• Use Scopus and Google Scholar to find related studies/research by tracking citations.
• Understand the research process and the value of using a combination of tools.

Assignment:
Individual term paper and seminar presentation on a nutrition trend. Min. 10 scholarly sources

Assessing the Series

• Short, optional feedback survey posted to Blackboard at end of semester
• 4211 midterm exam includes a few questions about the PubMed lesson
• Meet with Nutrition Steering Committee each semester to check in
• Observe student presentations in 4230 each semester
Next Steps

In collaboration with Nutrition Steering and faculty:

- Determine more formal evaluation mechanisms and implement
- Update lesson plans/assignments in accordance with new ACEND requirements for RD

Thank you!

Many thanks to my colleagues in the DPD program and to the Nutrition Steering Committee

Questions? Comments? Feedback?

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