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A Monthly Insight into the USDA's Food and Agricultural Education Information System

FAEIS News

Childhood Obesity Prevention: A USDA-NIFA Societal Challenge Area

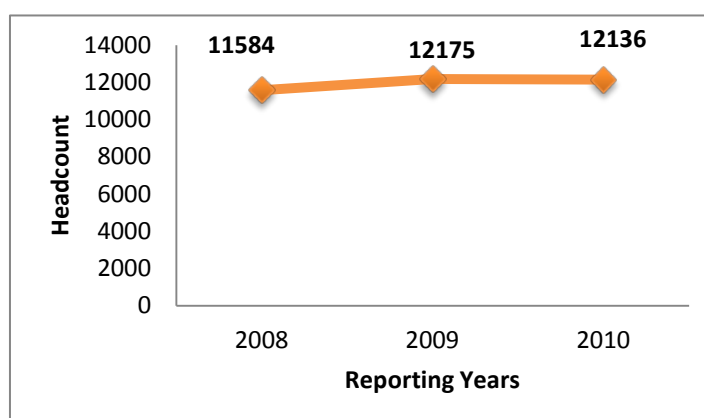
Exploring the Educational Pipeline for Childhood Obesity Studies

The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), has identified [five societal challenge areas](#) within agriculture and the life sciences that have national, regional, and multi-state importance. This newsletter looks at higher education programs related to **Childhood Obesity Prevention**, specifically the educational pipeline of undergraduate and graduate student enrollment in disciplines related to obesity prevention. Will the 1862 and 1890 Land-grant institutions be supplying the graduates needed to meet the challenge of childhood obesity prevention? This report provides a baseline for future review of progress in this area.

Undergraduate Enrollment in Childhood Obesity Prevention Studies

Five Classification of Instruction Programs (CIP) codes relating to obesity studies were included in this data analysis. For a full list of the CIP codes, review *Page 3*. Land-grant institutions were included that provided data consistently for the years of 2008-2010. In total, 65 institutions were included in the analysis. Figure 1 offers the undergraduate headcount for the reporting years. Based on the analysis, the number of students enrolled in the CIP codes related to obesity prevention increased between 2008 and 2009 by 5.1%. The number of undergraduate students decreased slightly (39 students) between 2009 and 2010. [Review detailed reports of institutions contributing to Figure 1.](#)

Figure 1. Bachelor Student Enrollment for Selected Land Grant Institutions (n = 65)



* [65 Land-grant institutions](#) were included in the analysis.

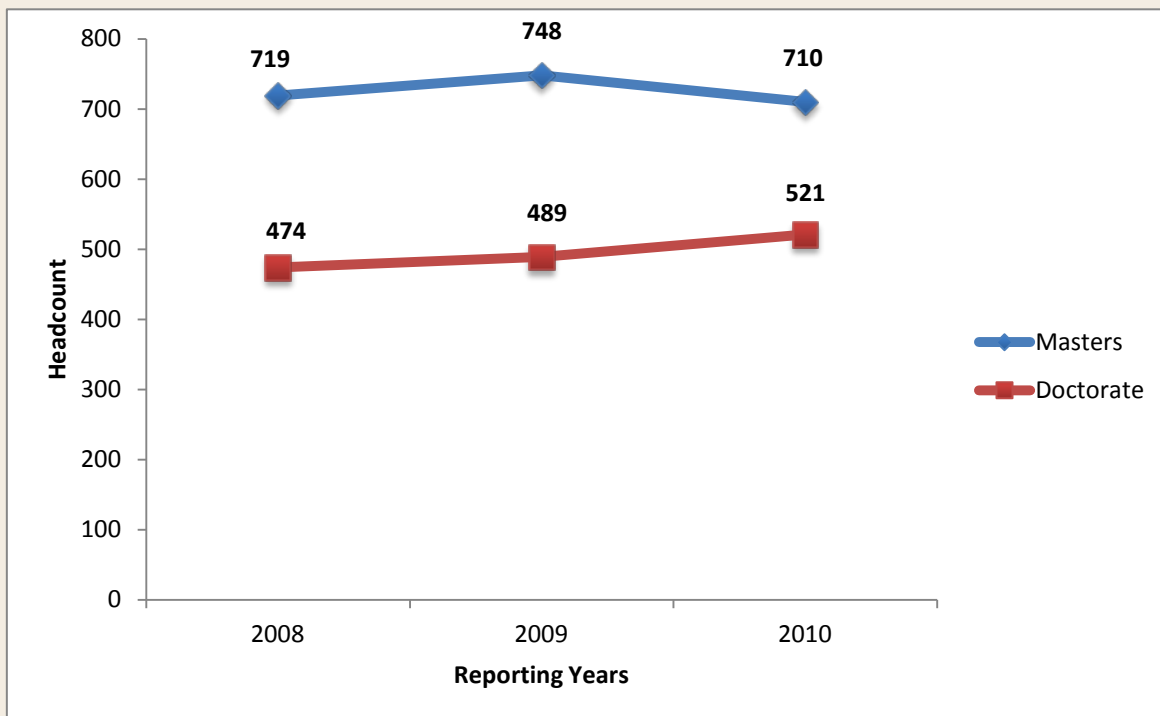
Investigating Graduate Student Enrollment

Comparisons between Masters and Doctoral Students in Land-Grant Institutions

The enrollment data for graduate students in CIP codes related to obesity prevention were compared for 65 Land-grant institutions that supplied enrollment data to FAEIS for the reporting years of 2008 – 2010. See *Page 3* for a list of CIP codes included in this analysis.

Figure 2 (below) shows that masters students increased between 2008 and 2009 by 4.0%, and decreased between 2009 and 2010 by 5.3%, for a net decrease of 1.3% between 2008 and 2010. Doctoral students increased between 2008 and 2009 by 3.2%, and increased between 2009 and 2010 by 6.8%. Overall, doctoral students increased by 9.9% between 2008 and 2010. [Review detailed reports of institutions contributing to Figure 2.](#)

Figure 2. Graduate Student Enrollment for Selected Land Grant Institutions (n = 65)



* [65 Land-grant institutions](#) were included in the analysis.

Academic Disciplines in the Childhood Obesity Prevention Pipeline

The FAEIS funding organization, the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), has identified five societal challenge areas: 1) Childhood Obesity Prevention, 2) Climate Change, 3) Food Safety, 4) Global Food Security, and 5) Sustainable Energy.



Photo courtesy of Jim Stroup

The societal challenge areas are multidisciplinary in nature and include both social science and bench science academic areas. To better understand these societal challenge areas, we have explored FAEIS academic areas that include both social and bench science areas of study. The comparison studies conducted for this newsletter included the following CIP codes:

- 19.0501 – Foods, Nutrition, and Wellness Studies;
- 19.0504 – Human Nutrition;



Photo courtesy of Kelsey Kradel

- 19.0599 – Foods, Nutrition, and Related Services, Other;
- 30.1901 – Nutrition Sciences (Multidisciplinary); and
- 51.3101 – Dietetics/Dietitian.

These codes were identified through input from our contacts at the Board of Human Sciences.

A review of the FAEIS College Enrollment Surveys for program changes in nutrition and dietetics programs indicates 17 degree programs were added between 2006 and 2011. [See the list of programs.](#) Five of these were renaming of degree programs. Two programs were discontinued.

On behalf of USDA-NIFA and our partner organizations, the FAEIS team says THANK YOU to all who have contributed their time and data to make this report possible.

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