

Department of Nutrition & Exercise Physiology

Program Change

Rationale Statement for increasing credit requirements for NEP 505 for PhD students

The Department of Nutrition & Exercise Physiology (NEP) hosts three distinct graduate training Pathways (MS coordinated program in dietetics (MS CPD NEP), MS NEP, PhD NEP). Students in the MS NEP and PhD NEP programs are currently limited to two credits of graduate seminar (NEP 505, 1 credit hour, S/F grading). We propose to increase the credit requirements for NEP 505 for PhD students from 2 to 4 credit hours.

As a graduate seminar series, content in NEP 505 varies substantially from semester to semester, with leading WSU and outside researchers presenting state-of-the-art methods and findings in nutrition, exercise physiology, and health more broadly, as well as timely presentations by clinical and public health practitioners. Every spring semester, NEP 505 also includes sessions organized and run by PhD students, in which they present their own research. Increasing the credit requirements for NEP 505 from 2 to 4 credits will provide PhD students with greater exposure to a wider range of research and more opportunities to present research and lead scientific discussions.

This change does not impact any other department or college.