Fall 2024 Undergraduate Program Director (UPD) Report

Dilraj Nahal - 11/19/2024 2:17:48 PM -05:00

Received

Date:

By:

Comment:

Instructions

This is a form for SEBS Governing Council major representatives. The purpose of this form is to encourage student engagement with faculty/department representatives and to identify academic issues that may be addressed by the council.

1. Talk to students in your major, ask around if there are any current academic issues (ex: class conflicts within the major, issues with professors or department, lack of resources).

2. Look at Degree Navigator, write down the course requirements

3. Formulate a list of things you would like to know about the program (corporate connections with the university, current research projects, opportunities for students to get involved, recent changes to the program)

4. Email Undergraduate Program Director and Arrange Appointment

5. Fill out this form and submit by 11:59pm on November 17th, 2024.

> n/a

General Information

Your Name

> Dilraj Nahal

Your Email

> dsn41@scarletmail.rutgers.edu

Represented Major

> Food Science

Date of Meeting with UPD

> 11/14/2024

Class Year

> 2027

UPD Name

> Chitra Ponnusamay

UPD Email

> cp470@sebs.rutgers.edu

Major/Departmental Website Link (if applicable)

> https://foodsci.rutgers.edu/

Major Information

Major Options -- What options are offered within the major? How do they differ?

> The department got rid of options to give students flexibility and come up with their own areas of specialization.

Total Number of Students within the Major (estimate if unknown from UPD)

> About 70-80

Goals within the Major -- What are expectations of students post-graduation?

> Keep in touch with the department. Have a strong alumni network. Find successful carriers in good and related industries. Come back to recruit students still learning.

List Upper-Level major courses -- What is the goal of each course?

> Sensory Evaluation of Foods: Learn about food sensory tests, testing procedures, and evaluation of sensory quality of foods through statistics. Food Product Development: Gain knowledge when it comes to the food product development processes to be applied real life research and development. Food Microbiology: Learn about the role of microorganisms in food processing, spoilage, and food borne illness. Food Chemistry: Understand the chemistry involved in the properties and reactions involved in various foods and its components. Food Physical Systems: Learn about the chemistry of food including molecular structure and physical properties.

Student Issues

Are there concerns with classes within the major? Are there any suggestions for solutions to these concerns?

> A big class concern as of now is the availability of introduction to biochemistry to food science students who need the class as a major requirement. This problem has been amended by adding another section to the class, but some students are still struggling to register.

From the perspective of the UPD or other major faculty members, what can currently be improved upon in the major or department? Are there any suggestions for solutions to these issues?

> The department needs an operational pilot plant. It could also really use better lab facilities and equipment. The basement of the food science building is hard to access and can't be accessed by elevator, a concern for students who may need it. Another issue is the fact that our portion of transfer students has dropped, and the department could use more of those. Solutions include more funding for the food science department.

Are there any Visitor Events/Talks/Seminars/etc. going on within the major?

> We have visitors all the time and they are always welcome to visit. We usually also host virtual events and hope to do more of them.

Suggestions for students in this major (ex: organizations to join, news to pay attention to)

> Meet your advisor often. Make sure to participate in extracurriculars. Food Science is a small major so stay connected. Attend employers' info sessions.

Changes within the major for the upcoming year

> Nothing significant

Any other suggestions, comments, concerns?

> Nothing specific