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Nutrition, certificates among new degree offerings at local colleges

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The **University at Buffalo** has a graduate program for students to become dietitians. Now there's an undergraduate degree to match.

"It's sort of starting from the top down," said Danielle Meyer, program director of the school's nutrition science bachelor's degree.

UB's clinical nutrition M.S. has evolved so that any student who completes a bachelor's degree along with pre-requisite courses can apply to the graduate program, eventually sit for the dietitian exam and become a dietitian, she said.

The four-year degree, which started this fall, has about 35 students including freshmen, transfers and degree changers.

The university also has a nutrition M.S. and a nutrition science Ph.D.

"Students have been adamant about wanting an undergraduate in



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Danielle Meyer, program director of the nutrition science bachelor's degree, teaches at the University at Buffalo.

nutrition at UB for a very long time,” Meyer said.

The curriculum includes basic home and culinary skills, food science, food service management and culinary medicine, which brings together research and cooking foods in certain ways to help patients and the community under certain conditions.

At **SUNY Buffalo State**, new undergraduate programs have come in the form of certificates, covering an array of topics including exercise science, environmental science and society, technical writing and emergency management.

New certificates arise from student demand, community interest or requests from those in particular academic programs, said Amitra Wall, the college’s associate provost.

Certificates are state- and SUNY-approved ways to use existing classes to draw student interest in a new field of study if they have an undeclared major, for example.

“Since the courses already exist, why not package the course in a way students can benefit?” she said.

Certificates can take half the time to get proper approvals compared to creating new majors, but they still have those approvals, unlike minors.

“A student can take different certificates and, yes, it’s on a transcript but has the seals of SUNY and the state education department,” she added. “That’s the draw as well.”

Though not new to **Canisius College**, the bachelor's degree in sports management has transferred this academic year to the school’s business school from the school of education and human services.

“It’s just a natural fit to be part of the business school because of where the sport industry has been trending the last 10 years,” said Shawn O’Rourke, program director of sports management,

administration and product development.

The degree already had six mandated business courses. The sports field is a global industry and is “probably the most complicated business out there,” he added.

The degree includes 100 hours of experiential learning, 200 internship hours and a professional seminar course to prepare for the post-graduation interview process.

Prospective careers include roles in professional sports, intercollegiate athletics, facility management and events and working with nonprofits.

“Within those four, there’s so many opportunities, so many jobs and titles,” he said.

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