

General Information about IFT Approval of Undergraduate Food Science and Food Technology Programs

January 2019



Current Status

Between August 2018 and December 2019, a Task Force composed of members with backgrounds in academia, industry, and educational assessment revised the “2011 Resource Guide for Approval and Re-Approval of Undergraduate Food Science Programs”. The Higher Education Review Board (HERB) discontinued review of new applications, annual reports, and five-year re-approval submissions during this time. All IFT-Approved programs received an approval extension for the duration of the revisions during 2018.

The Task Force was charged with “*providing undergraduate food science programs with clear content and assessment guidelines and with resources that facilitate quality and promote continuous improvement for the preparation of food science professionals*”.

Broadly, the 2018 Guidelines revisions focused on:

- Improving clarity, transparency, and user-friendliness
- Reducing confusion and ambiguity by adding specificity to the Guidelines
- Streamlining the HERB review process
- Reflecting current trends in food science and food science education.

The Guidelines revisions were approved by the IFT Board of Directors in November 2018.

Key Improvements

The key improvements implemented by the Task Force are summarized below:

1. **IFT Defined Program Goals:** A set of unified program goals aligned with Standards and Essential Learning Outcomes. [Note: *Undergraduate programs are no longer required to design or provide assessment data at the PROGRAM-LEVEL in annual reports.*]
2. **Standards replaced Core Competencies:** For clarity, core competencies were systematically reviewed and reorganized into Standards.
3. **Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs):** A comprehensive set of measurable learning outcomes based on Core Competency content were developed to address each Standard.
4. **Online Submission Platform** (to be released in April 2019): A structured space that allows programs to populate and continually save and update information.
5. **Rubrics and Calibration:** A set of standardized instruments to ensure consistency of review and to position the HERB for high levels of interrater reliability.

How to Proceed in 2019 and Beyond

In order to align programs with the 2018 IFT Approval Guidelines and the online submission platform, **all programs** (previously approved or new) **are required to submit an online application in 2019**. This submission will be similar to the former Initial Application, including general information and a 5-year assessment plan (no data will be required). No annual reports or 5-year re-approval submissions will be accepted by the HERB, regardless of current approval status.

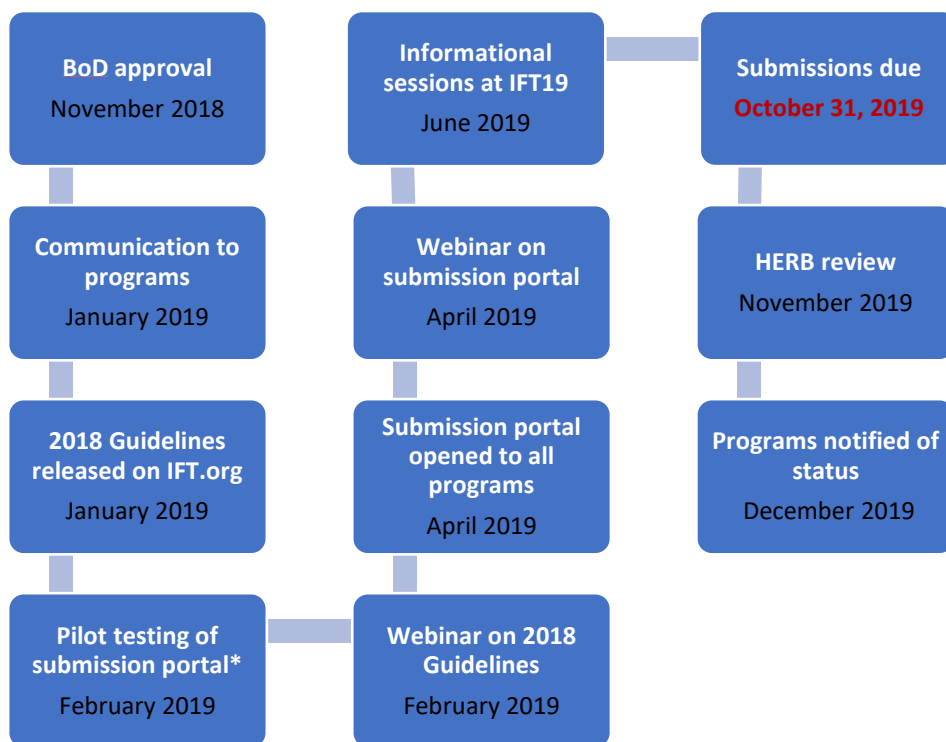
Timeline for Submissions

All programs will receive communication outlining details of the 2018 Guidelines in early 2019. Department Heads/Chairs and contact persons associated with IFT Approval will be notified by email, and revisions documents will be released on IFT.org. All submissions will be **due October 31st, 2019**, via the online submission portal (which will be open to programs in April 2019). No alternative submissions will be accepted by the HERB.

The following support resources for IFT Approval will be made available to programs:

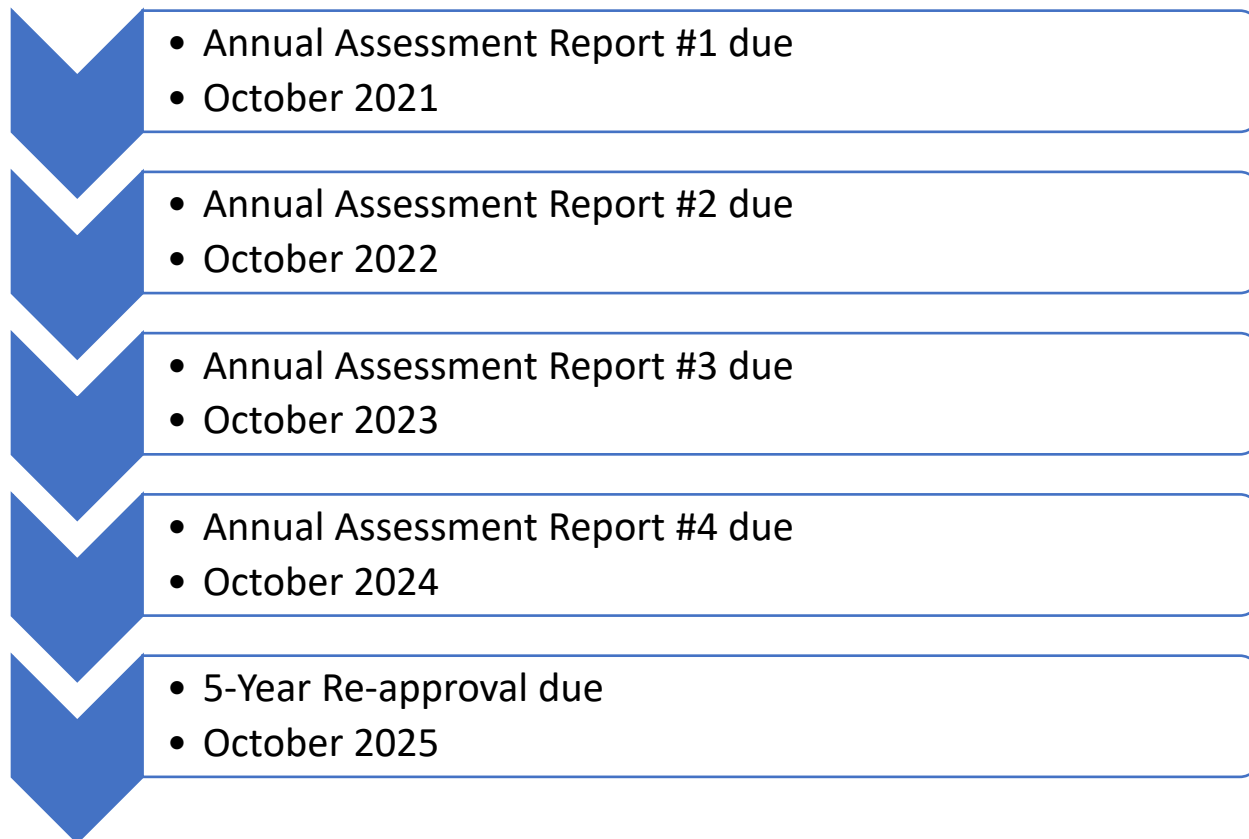
- Webinar explaining the revised Guidelines, live and on-demand (February 2019)
- Webinar on use of the submission portal, live and on-demand (April/May 2019)
- Informational session focused on the 2018 IFT Approval Guidelines, Submission Process, and the HERB Review Process during the IFT19 Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA.

Events related to IFT Approval:



*only selected participants will be included in pilot testing the submission portal.

Timeline for Annual Assessment Reports and Five-Year Re-approvals - Programs that receive IFT Approval in 2019 will follow the timeline below for Annual Assessment Reports and 5-Year Re-approvals:



IFT.org Website

The IFT.org website is in the process of redesign. Note that content related to IFT undergraduate program approval will be updated frequently. The [2018 IFT Guidelines for Initial IFT Approval of Undergraduate Food Science and Food Technology Programs](#) will be available after January 31st, 2019.