

MISSION

To facilitate quality and promote continuous improvement for the preparation of food science professionals through a consistent review of program requirements established by IFT.

HISTORY OF IFT APPROVAL AND GUIDELINES

IFT's Higher Education Review Board (HERB) was created to assist programs through assessment of learning outcomes, to enhance excellence in food science education, and to assist programs to gain IFT approval. The HERB reviews approved programs every five years and revises the IFT Approval Guidelines at least every ten years. The current IFT Guidelines for IFT Approval of Undergraduate Food Science and Food Technology Programs were developed by the 2018 Guidelines Revisions Task Force in conjunction with IFT's Higher Education Review Board, as charged by the Board of Directors of IFT.

IFT first established minimum standards for undergraduate curricula in food science in 1966, and over the years, these standards have evolved significantly. IFT reviews and revises the Guidelines for Approval of Undergraduate Food Science and Food Technology Programs about every ten years, with the most recent revision having occurred in 2018. Below is a brief summary of how the Guidelines have evolved from 2001 to 2018.

The 2001 Guidelines revisions focused on a) specific content areas and accompanying competencies; b) specific learning outcomes for each food science course and assessments to measure how well those learning outcomes were met; and c) a formal process for curricular improvement based on the results of the assessment data. As in the past, only students attending universities with IFT-approved programs were eligible for scholarships from Feeding Tomorrow, the Foundation of IFT.

The 2011 IFT Approval Guidelines revisions focused on a) a simpler format for approval; b) updated requirements for the approval process; c) a process for recording program assessment results on an annual basis; and d) a simple process for re-approval. The revisions were implemented in response to requests for a streamlined approval process, an application/renewal process that met the needs of programs and IFT, combined approval documents, examples of types of assessment, and for all food science courses to have success skills outcomes along with conventional knowledge-based outcomes. These new requirements focused on incorporating an outcomes-based analysis of student learning into a program appraisal and integrating the results of program appraisal into a food science program's overall quality assurance processes. Students attending IFT-Approved programs continued to be eligible for Feeding Tomorrow Scholarships.

The 2018 IFT Approval Guidelines focused on a) IFT-defined program goals to replace the need of programs designing and assessing program goals; b) re-structured Standards to replace former Core Competencies; c) Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs) to reflect varying levels of Bloom's Taxonomy in assessed courses; d) an online submission platform; and f) standard rubrics and calibration of the review by the Higher Education Review Board (HERB). As in the past, the revisions were implemented to reflect feedback requesting increased clarity, transparency, and user-friendliness. The outcomes-based assessment model was retained from the 2011 Guidelines. Students attending IFT-Approved programs continue to be eligible for Feeding Tomorrow Scholarships.