SIU Culinary Medicine Homemade Blueberry Granola Bars

INGREDIENTS

2 1/2 cups rolled oats, divided

½ cup flaked coconut

½ cup dried blueberries

½ cup pecans, chopped

½ cup coconut sugar or brown sugar

½ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon cinnamon

½ cup maple syrup

½ cup cashew butter

2 Tablespoons coconut oil

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

14 cup blueberry jam

STEPS

- 1. Preheat the oven to 350F.
- 2. Line 8-inch square pan with parchment paper, leaving an overhang.
- 3. Combine 2 cups of oats, coconut, dried blueberries, pecans, coconut sugar, salt and cinnamon in a large mixing bowl.
- 4. Combine maple syrup, cashew butter and coconut oil in a glass measuring cup or microwave safe bowl and microwave until melted, about 45 seconds. Stir to combine, then stir in vanilla.
- Pour warm syrup mixture over dry ingredients and stir until well incorporated. Reserve ¾ cup of the mixture for the topping.
- 6. Spread mixture into prepared pan. You may want to use some non-stick spray on your hands or wax paper to press mixture into pan.
- 7. Heat blueberry jam for 10 seconds to loosen and then spread over bars. Crumble reserved mixture over jam.
- 8. Bake for 20-22 minutes until top and edges are golden and set. Cool completely and place in refrigerator for at least an hour before cutting into desire bar sizes.
- 9. Enjoy!

NOTES

Have fun with this recipe! For the bolded ingredients, feel free to substitute any dried fruit, any nuts, any nut butter and any jam that you have.