

Nutrition Sciences
MS in Nutrition Sciences—Dietician Education
Program Track

2024-2025
STUDENT HANDBOOK



UAB SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
NUTRITION SCIENCES
MS IN NUTRITION SCIENCES
DIETITIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM TRACK
2024-2025 ACADEMIC HANDBOOK



05/02/2024

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INTRODUCTION

DEAN'S WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Health Professions! We are pleased you chose to join one of our many excellent programs, which in combination have established us as a national leader in health professions education.

We are home to one of the largest health professions schools in the nation with more than 30 programs at the certificate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels, with more than 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled.

Moving into a post-COVID environment is a new start for everyone in health care, and you are in the best place to begin your personal journey toward joining this dynamic field. We are all committed to providing you a world-class education, and to support your pursuit of knowledge and your strong desire to serve others as a healthcare professional.

The pandemic has challenged all of us in many ways, and your entry into one of our professional programs demonstrates one of the most precious personal qualities one can have: resilience. That resilience has brought you here today and will continue to serve you well during your journey at UAB.

We recognize that healthcare needs - even outside of a pandemic - are constantly changing. That is why we continue to add innovative programs to our academic portfolio and to enhance and revitalize ongoing programs. We also offer graduate programs you will only find in Alabama at UAB, such as Genetic Counseling, Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, Low Vision Rehabilitation, Health Physics, Healthcare Quality and Safety, doctoral-level Rehabilitation Science, and Biomedical and Health Sciences.

Our degrees and programs are fully accredited by their respective professional organizations. This means you will be eligible for licensure, national certification or registrations and enjoy being in high demand within the job market. Our first-time student exam pass rate on many credentialing exams is an astounding 98 percent or higher.

Graduating from the School of Health Professions means you will acquire an esteemed degree, have a host of job opportunities in healthcare – an industry that continues to grow rapidly – and be well prepared to make a difference in your community. We look forward to maintaining our relationship with you when you join our alumni community.

Our alumni give advice to current students that is worth repeating: “learn your craft, be a better professional for your patients, be open minded to future possibilities, and remember to have a healthy work/ life balance”.

I look forward to seeing you grow in your respective fields and watching you become the leader we know you can be.



Andrew J. Butler, PhD, FAPTA

OVERVIEW OF THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

A leader in federally funded research, the UAB School of Health Professions (SHP) is one of the largest academic institutions of its type in the United States and currently boasts several nationally ranked programs. What began in the 1950s as a collection of training programs in various para-professional disciplines has grown into an internationally recognized center of academic excellence.

The SHP initially took shape in 1969 as UAB gained autonomy within the University of Alabama System. Originally christened the School of Community and Allied Health Resources (SCAHR), the school incorporated the School of Health Services Administration and the Division of Allied Health Sciences from the College of General Studies with parts of the Department of Public Health and Epidemiology from the medical school. An innovative facility designed to meet the growing needs of the health care industry, the SCAHR was divided into four academic divisions that functioned like regular academic departments: Health Services Administration, Public Health and Environment, Allied Health Sciences, and the Regional Technical Institute for Health Occupations.

Throughout the 1970's and 80's the school's offerings were amended to reflect the changing health care industry. As a result of the changes, SCAHR became the School of Public and Allied Health (SPAH). Next it became the School of Community and Allied Health (SCAH) and later the School of Health Related Professions (SHRP). During this time, the school added several new areas of study including a nationally ranked program in Nutrition Sciences. Through the leadership and guidance of early visionaries, the school experienced unparalleled success, which continues to date.

Today, the School of Health Professions is comprised of more than 30 programs – at the certificate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels – across five academic departments: Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, Health Services Administration, Nutrition Sciences, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy. The school is housed in three buildings, the Susan Mott Webb Nutrition Sciences Building, the Learning Resource Center Building (LRC), and the School of Health Professions Building (SHPB).

With more than 2,200 faculty, staff, and students, SHP is one of six schools comprising the world-renowned UAB Academic Health Center. Students have access to vast academic resources, state-of-the-art facilities, and progressive research.

SHP is proud of many accomplishments including:

- U.S. News & World Report ranks SHP programs in the nation's top 25.
- Research funding is over \$14 million and growing.
- The school is at the top of the list in research funding from the National Institutes of Health for schools of its type and has been either first or second in funding received since 1969.

Under the current leadership of Dean Andrew Butler, the school has never been stronger or better positioned as a national leader in health professions education.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS CONTACT INFORMATION

In addition to your program director and program faculty, the following individuals may be able to provide assistance with questions and issues related to your school and program activities.

Jennifer Christy, PhD, Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs

(205) 934-5903; jbraswel@uab.edu

Samantha Giordano-Mooga, PhD, Director of Undergraduate Honors Program

(205) 996-1399; sgiordan@uab.edu

Melanie Hart, PhD, Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs

(205) 934-7528; mhart2@uab.edu

Kevin Storr, Director of Communications

(205) 934-4159; storr@uab.edu

Lee Test, Director of Academic and Faculty Operations

(205) 975-8034; lttest@uab.edu

Marci Willis, Director, Learning Resource Center

(205) 934-9472; mbattles@uab.edu

SECTION 1 – SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

All dates related to registration, payments of tuition and fees, drop/add dates, other administrative requirements, and official school holidays are recorded on the [UAB Academic Calendar](#).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE

The University established a new Academic Integrity Code effective August 23, 2021. This Code, which applies to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students as well as all academic activities, defines academic misconduct and outlines procedures for breaches of the code. Policies are established for resolution of charges of academic misconduct, and these processes are managed by the Academic Integrity Coordinator (AIC). In the School of Health Professions, the AIC is the Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs, the office is located in SHPB 660. The full text of the Academic Integrity Code is available at: [Academic Integrity Code](#).

ADVISING

Undergraduate student advising is provided through the Student Services and Advising unit, which is housed in the School of Health Professions Building (SHPB) 230 suite of offices, near the elevators on the 2nd floor. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are preferred. Contact information for individual advisors is listed below.

Andrea Bennett, Academic Advisor III, (205) 996-1689; arbennett@uab.edu

Eileen Hatfield, Academic Advisor II, (205) 934-4185; mehatfie@uab.edu

Chris Smith, Academic Advisor III, (205) 934-5974; cjsmith1@uab.edu

Adam Pinson, Academic Advisor III, (205) 996-6789; apinson@uab.edu

Graduate student advising is provided through the SHP graduate programs.

AMBASSADORS

Ambassadors help to spread awareness of the School of Health Professions and its multifaceted undergraduate and graduate programs, serve as liaisons between the department and university-wide student organizations, and serve as a student voice in school and university committees. The SHP Ambassadors help to support the programs within the school that will impact recruitment and retention initiatives.

ASKIT

ASKIT is the technology help desk for faculty, staff, and students. They provide free support via telephone, email, or in-person. You will be asked to supply your BlazerID when you request assistance.

ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is expected in all SHP programs. Specific class, laboratory, or clinical site attendance requirements may be more stringent than university guidelines. Refer to the program requirements in this handbook and in course syllabi for policies. The UAB attendance policy is as follows:

The University of Alabama at Birmingham recognizes that the academic success of individual students is related to their class attendance and participation. Each course instructor is responsible for establishing policies concerning class attendance and make-up opportunities. Any such policies, including points for attendance and/or participation, penalties for absences, limits on excused absences, total allowable absences, etc., must be specified in the course syllabus provided to students at the beginning of the course term. Such policies are subject to departmental oversight and may not, by their specific prescriptions, negate or circumvent the accommodations provided below for excused absences.

The University regards certain absences as excused and in those instances requires that instructors provide a reasonable accommodation for the student who misses assignments, presentations, examinations, or other academic work of a substantive nature by virtue of these excused absences. Examples include the following:

- Absences due to jury or military duty, provided that official documentation has been provided to the instructor in a timely manner in advance.
- Absences of students registered with Disabilities Services for disabilities eligible for “a reasonable number of disability-related absences” provided students give their instructors notice of a disability-related absence in advance or as soon as possible.
- Absences due to participation in university-sponsored activities when the student is representing the university in an official capacity and as a critical participant, provided that the procedures below have been followed:
 - Before the end of the add/drop period, students must provide their instructor a schedule of anticipated excused absences in or with a letter explaining the nature of the expected absences from the director of the unit or department sponsoring the activity.
 - If a change in the schedule occurs, students are responsible for providing their instructors with advance written notification from the sponsoring unit or department.
- Absences due to other extenuating circumstances that instructors deem excused. Such classification is at the discretion of the instructor and is predicated upon consistent treatment of all students.
- Absences due to religious observances provided that students give faculty written notice prior to the drop/add deadline of the term.

In these instances, instructors must give students the opportunity to complete assignments in a way that corresponds as much as possible to the nature, scope, and format of the original. Options may include making up exams or other assignments, rescheduling student classroom presentations, or arranging for early or late submission of written assignments. The course make-up policy should be included in the syllabus.

BACKGROUND CHECK

Students in SHP programs are required by policy to undergo a background check using the school's approved vendor, [CastleBranch](#), at the time of program admission, and again, prior to placement in a fieldwork placement (clinical, internship, practicum, residency, etc.). Additional checks may be required by the individual sites therefore, students should work with the program to ensure compliance requirements are met. Instructions for requesting the background check are provided to students by their programs.

The Office of Academic and Faculty Affairs is responsible for ensuring student compliance throughout the program. Students found to be non-compliant will not be allowed to matriculate in the program (orientation, attend class, fieldwork placement, etc.) until all requirements are met. Program Directors, Fieldwork Coordinators, and students will be notified of non-compliance and a hold will be placed on the student's account.

- **The initial background check must be completed prior to the first day of class.**
- **Subsequent background checks must be completed prior to the first day of the semester of a fieldwork placement (clinical, internship, practicum, residency, etc.).**

BLAZERID / BLAZERNET / EMAIL

BlazerID: All students receive a unique identifier, the BlazerID, established at: www.uab.edu/blazerid. Your BlazerID is required for accessing BlazerNET and other campus resources. To activate one's BlazerID, select "Activate Accounts."

BlazerNET is the official portal of the UAB information network and is accessible from any Internet-accessible computer, on- or off-campus. Access BlazerNET from UAB home page www.uab.edu then choose UAB Quicklinks.

Email: uab.edu UAB student email is provided through Microsoft Office 365, a cloud-based system. Students have 50 GB of email space and 25 GB of free file 1 TB storage. Monitor your email regularly. Your UAB email is the official communication medium for courses, news, information, and announcements. Do not forward your UAB account to a personal email account. UAB is not responsible for information not received by the student due to the 'redirecting' of a UAB account to another email server.

BLAZER EXPRESS

The UAB Blazer Express Transit System provides transportation throughout the UAB campus. With a valid UAB ID badge, students can enjoy fare-free bus transportation. All buses are ADA-accessible and can seat approximately 35 riders. For an updated schedule, route maps, and hours of operation please go to www.uab.edu/blazerexpress/.

BOOKSTORE

There is one bookstore located on the UAB campus, offering a wide variety of products and services to students, including online purchasing and shipping. The bookstore stocks UAB memorabilia and college wear in addition to all required textbooks and course material.

UAB Barnes and Noble Bookstore

Location: 1400 University Blvd, Hill Student Center, Birmingham, AL. 35233

Hours: M – F 8:00am – 5:00pm | Sat 10:00am – 2:00pm | Sun Closed

Telephone: (205) 996-2665 Website: <https://uab.bncollege.com/shop/uab/home>

CAMPUS ONECARD

The UAB OneCard is the official university identification card. It is used for personal identification, for entry to campus events and the recreation center, for library checkout, and for other UAB services. It also serves as a declining balance card for the UAB meal plans and for Blazer Bucks accounts. Additional information is available at www.uab.edu/onecard.

CAMPUS MAP

UAB's campus map can be found at the following: www.uab.edu/map/

CAMPUS SAFETY

Campus safety procedures and resources can be accessed at <https://www.uab.edu/students/home/safety>.

CANVAS LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Canvas Learning Management System is the platform used for managing instructional materials online. Canvas course sites are accessed through BlazerNET or at www.uab.edu/elearning/canvas. Students should monitor their course sites routinely for communication from faculty and to manage course assignments.

CATALOG

The UAB Catalog is published annually and includes UAB's courses, policies, and curricula. Students can link to the Undergraduate or Graduate catalog at www.uab.edu/catalog.

COMMUNITY STANDARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

[Community Standards and Accountability](#) is responsible for upholding the integrity and purpose of the university through the fair and consistent application of policies and procedures to students' behavior to ensure a community that respects the dignity and right of all persons to reach their highest potential. SARC delivers programs and services in order to promote student safety and success, the pursuit of knowledge, respect for self and others, global citizenship, personal accountability and integrity, and

ethical development. More information can be found here: [UAB Student Advocacy, Rights & Conduct](#). The UAB student conduct code may be accessed online: [UAB Student Conduct Code](#).

COUNSELING SERVICES

Student Counseling Services offers no cost, confidential counseling for UAB students related to physical, emotional, social, intellectual, or spiritual concerns. Student Counseling Services is located in the Student Health and Wellness Center at 1714 9th Avenue South (3rd Floor), Birmingham, AL. 35233. For more information, call (205) 934-5816 or <https://www.uab.edu/students/counseling/>.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)

Accessible Learning: UAB is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students. If you are a student with a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and you require accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services for information on accommodations, registration, and procedures. Requests for reasonable accommodations involve an interactive process and consist of a collaborative effort among the student, DSS, faculty, and staff. If you have a disability but have not contacted Disability Support Services, please call (205) 934-4205 or visit [Disability Support Services](#).

If you are a student registered with Disability Support Services, it is your responsibility to contact the course instructor to discuss the accommodations that may be necessary in each course. Students with disabilities must be registered with DSS and provide an accommodation request letter before receiving academic adjustments. Reasonable and timely notification of accommodations for the course is encouraged and provided to the course instructor so that the accommodations can be arranged.

DRUG SCREEN

Students in SHP programs are required by policy to undergo a drug screen using the school's approved vendor, [CastleBranch](#), at the time of program admission, and again, prior to placement in a fieldwork placement (clinical, internship, practicum, residency, etc.). Additional screens may be required by the individual sites therefore, students should work with the program to ensure compliance requirements are met. Instructions for requesting the drug screens are provided to students by their programs.

The Office of Academic and Faculty Affairs is responsible for ensuring student compliance throughout the program. Students found to be non-compliant will not be allowed to matriculate in the program (orientation, attend class, fieldwork placement, etc.) until all requirements are met. Program Directors, Fieldwork Coordinators, and students will be notified of non-compliance and a hold will be placed on the students' account.

- The initial background check must be completed prior to the first day of class.
- Subsequent background checks must be completed prior to the first day of the semester of a fieldwork placement (clinical, internship, practicum, residency, etc.).

EMERGENCIES

Report suspicious or threatening activity to the UAB Police Department immediately. Law officers are available 24 hours, seven days a week. Also, more than 300 emergency blue light telephones connected directly to the police dispatch are located throughout campus.

UAB Police: Dial 911 *from a campus phone*
or call: (205) 934-3535 | (205) 934-HELP (4357) | (205) 934-4434

Emergencies affecting campus are communicated via the following:

- UAB Severe Weather & Emergency Hotline: (205) 934-2165
- University home web page: www.uab.edu
- Webpage: www.uab.edu/emergency
- Announcements on BlazerNET
- Cell phone messages and SMS text – register for B-ALERT notices via <https://idm.uab.edu/ens/b-alert>

FERPA TRAINING

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 provides protection for all educational records related to students enrolled in an educational program. Information about your rights and protection of your records is available at the following site: [FERPA](#). If you have questions or concerns about FERPA issues, you may email FERPA@uab.edu. All SHP students are required to complete [FERPA Training](#). Compliance with the training requirement is monitored monthly.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid Counselors are available each day in the One Stop Student Services Office located in the Hill Student Center, 1400 University Blvd. Suite 103, Birmingham, AL 35233. If you have general questions, you can call the Office of Student Financial Aid at (205) 934-8223 or send an email to finaid@uab.edu. For additional financial aid information: [Cost & Aid](#).

FOOD SERVICES

Dining facilities available on campus closest to the SHP buildings include the Commons on the Green – located on the Campus Green, south of 9th Avenue and the Campus Recreation Center. For additional information about meal plans and campus dining facilities: [Student Dining](#).

GRADUATE SCHOOL

The UAB Graduate School offers doctoral programs, post-master's specialist programs, and master's level programs. Graduate programs in SHP are coordinated through the Graduate School and students must adhere to the Graduate School policies and procedures. Graduate School information for current students is available at [Graduate School](#). Policies and Procedures for the Graduate School can be located in the [Graduate School Catalog](#).

GRADUATION

All students must complete an application for degree six months prior to graduating and no later than the deadline in the academic calendar. The University holds commencement every semester. Check the commencement website for the most current information: [UAB Commencement](#).

HEALTH INSURANCE

To ensure that all students have adequate health care coverage, including ongoing primary and specialty care, the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) requires all students to have major medical health insurance. Students can provide proof of their own private coverage or be enrolled in the Student Health Insurance Plan. The plan is a 1-year commercial policy provided by United HealthCare and is re-negotiated annually. This policy is a comprehensive health insurance policy at an affordable cost that is specifically designed to meet the needs of UAB Students. If you are required to have insurance but have sufficient coverage on another plan and wish to opt out of the Student Health Insurance Plan, you are required to submit a waiver to Student Health Services at the beginning of every semester. More information including submitting a waiver can be found at this website: [Student Health Insurance Waivers](#).

HIPAA TRAINING

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) includes significant requirements for protecting individual privacy of health information. All students in the School of Health Professions must complete an online tutorial and be tested on HIPAA regulations at the time of program admission. A BlazerID is required to access the training site, located at [HIPAA](#). Compliance with the training requirement is monitored monthly.

HONOR SOCIETIES

All students in the School of Health Professions are eligible for consideration for the following society memberships.

- Alpha Eta Society – The UAB Chapter of this Society recognizes students registered in the final term of a baccalaureate or graduate health professions program. Inductees must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (4.0 = A) and be in the upper 10% of their program. Nominations are made by program directors in spring and summer terms.
- Phi Kappa Phi – This is the oldest, and most selective, all-discipline honor society in the nation. Membership is by invitation to the top 7.5% of junior students and the top 10% of seniors and graduate students. Nominations are made by program directors.

IMMUNIZATION POLICY

To provide a safe and healthy environment for all students, faculty, and staff at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), first-time entering students, international students and scholars, and

students in clinical & non-clinical programs, provide proof of immunization against certain diseases: [Student Immunizations](#).

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD FOR HUMAN USE (IRB)

Student researchers must comply with all requirements for protection of human subjects. Detailed information is available on the [IRB website](#).

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Intellectual property refers to an asset that originated conceptually, such as literary and artistic works, inventions, or other creative works. These assets should be protected and used only as the creator intends. Training materials defining inventor status, patent criteria, and other intellectual property issues are available at: [University Policies on Patents, Copyright, and Intellectual Property](#).

LACTATION CENTERS

Through the work of the UAB Commission on the Status of Women, the University has provided several lactation centers for students, faculty, and staff across the campus. [Center locations](#). The School of Health Professions' lactation room is in the Susan Mott Webb Nutrition Sciences Building at 1675 University Blvd, Room 219A, Birmingham, AL 35233. Female students enrolled in the School of Health Professions have access to the room via their student ID/OneCard. If you cannot access the room, contact the building administrator, Julia Tolbert-Jackson at (205) 934-4133.

LIBRARIES AND LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

UAB's libraries house excellent collections of books, periodicals, microforms, and other media. Students have online remote access to catalogs and online collections. Computers are available for student use during regular hours of operation. [UAB Libraries](#).

SHP Learning Resource Center (LRC)

The School of Health Professions Learning Resource Center (LRC) provides a unique set of enterprise solutions that promote an exciting, intriguing, and innovative learning environment. It provides a state-of-the-art media studio; audio/visual support; and information technology management of public, classroom, and testing labs.

Location: 1714 9th Avenue South (2nd Floor), Birmingham, AL. 35233.

Phone: (205) 934-5146

Email: shplrc@uab.edu

Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences

This is the largest biomedical library in Alabama, and one of the largest in the south. Located across the crosswalk from the School, the LHL has extension libraries in University Hospital and The Kirklin Clinic. Dedicated librarians hold "office hours" in the Learning Resource Center weekly.

Location: 1700 University Blvd. Birmingham, AL. 35233

Website: <https://library.uab.edu/locations/lister-hill>

Phone: (205) 975-4821

Mervyn H. Sterne Library

A collection of more than one million items supporting teaching and research in the arts and humanities, business, education, engineering, natural sciences and mathematics, and social and behavioral sciences.

Location: 917 13th Street South, Birmingham, AL. 35233

Website: <https://library.uab.edu/locations/sterne>

Phone: (205) 934-6364 (Reference) | (205) 934-4338 (User Services)

NON-ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY

The Student Conduct Code promotes honesty, integrity, accountability, rights, and responsibilities expected of students consistent with the core missions of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. This Code describes the standards of behavior for all students, and it outlines students' rights, responsibilities, and the campus processes for adjudicating alleged violations. Behavior that violates UAB standards of conduct listed within the Student Conduct Code and elsewhere will be subject to disciplinary action through the appropriate conduct process. Whether it is determined that an individual or group is responsible for the violation(s), either by direct involvement or by condoning, encouraging, or covering up the violation, appropriate response will occur with respect to the individual(s) and/or group involved.

[Undergraduate Non-Academic Policies](#)

[Graduate Non-Academic Policies](#)

ONE STOP STUDENT SERVICES

If you have questions or need assistance with an academic or administrative process, the UAB One Stop is where to go! Advisors will help you solve your problem or do the legwork for you if another UAB resource is needed. One Stop is located in the Hill Student Center, 1400 University Blvd. Suite 103, Birmingham, AL 35233. You may contact the [One Stop](#) office by phone or email at (205) 934-4300; (855) UAB-1STP [(855) 822-1787]; onestop@uab.edu.

PARKING

Student vehicles must be registered with UAB Parking and Transportation Services, located at 608 8th Street South, Birmingham AL. 35294. The office is open Monday – Friday from 7:30am – 5:00pm. Parking is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Parking fees are established by location, payable by semester or year, and are billed to the student's account. For additional information: [UAB Student Parking](#).

PLAGIARISM AND TURNITIN

Plagiarism is academic misconduct that will result in a grade of zero and may result in dismissal from the School of Health Professions and UAB (see Academic Integrity Policy). All papers submitted for grading

in any SHP program may be reviewed using the online plagiarism monitoring software. Please note that all documents submitted to [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) are added to their database of papers that is used to screen future assignments for plagiarism.

RECREATION CENTER

The [Campus Recreation Center](#), located at 1501 University Blvd, Birmingham, AL 35233, is open to faculty, staff, students, and their families. A valid student identification card or membership card is required for access. Facilities include basketball courts, racquetball courts, weight rooms, swimming pools, exercise rooms, and indoor track.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS AWARDS

All students in the School of Health Professions are eligible for consideration for the following awards.

- Alfred W. Sangster Award for Outstanding International Student – This award is presented annually to an international student in recognition of their academic and non-academic achievements.
- Cecile Clardy Satterfield Award for Humanism in Health Care – This award is made annually to recognize one outstanding student for humanitarianism, professionalism, and commitment to health care.
- Charles Brooks Award for Creativity – This award is made annually in recognition of creative accomplishments such as written publications or artistic contributions which complemented the student's academic activities.
- Dean's Leadership and Service Award – Presented to a maximum of three outstanding SHP students annually, this award recognizes leadership to the School, UAB, and the community.

For more information: [UAB School of Health Professions Student Awards and Scholarships](#). Please refer to the program section of this handbook for awards available to students in individual programs.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARSHIPS

The SHP has several scholarship opportunities for students enrolled in SHP programs. The Scholarship Committee, comprised of faculty from each department, reviews and, selects awardees.

Scholarships available to students in any SHP program are the following:

The Carol E. Medders Endowed Scholarship in Health Professions was established by Carol Medders, former Director of Admissions for the School of Health Professions Student Services. Applicants must be currently enrolled in a full-time, degree-granting program in the School of Health Professions and should demonstrate academic excellence and financial need. The award recipient should be enrolled in a program that has a competitive application process and academic course load that prohibits them from holding full-time employment. This scholarship is awarded for the Spring Semester.

The *Ethel M. and Jesse D. Smith Endowed Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship* is an endowment that provides scholarships for both the School of Health Professions and School of Nursing. Applicants must be enrolled in a School of Health Professions undergraduate program and be a resident of the state of Alabama. Applicants should demonstrate academic excellence and financial need. This scholarship is awarded in the Fall.

The *Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation* provides funding for scholarships focused on the foundation's founding mission—to provide financial assistance to women who express financial need in nine southeastern states. At the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholarships are awarded to women who, in addition to financial need, have an interest in pursuing studies in nursing or other health-related professions. Both undergraduate and graduate students within the Schools of Nursing and Health Professions are eligible. This scholarship is awarded each semester.

The *Dr. Edward D. and Sandra Dunning Huechtker Endowed Memorial Award* provides assistance to deserving students in need of financial support to continue in the pursuit of their goal of a career in the health professions. This award is open to undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in one of the School of Health Professions majors. Applicants should demonstrate academic excellence and financial need. This scholarship is awarded in the Spring Semester.

The *School of Health Professions Junior Advisory Board Endowed Scholarship* was established to provide financial awards assisting students with the completion of professional licensure and certification exams necessary to practice in their fields and/or the costs associated with professional development and job preparation. This scholarship is awarded in the Spring semester.

For more information: [UAB School of Health Professions Student Awards and Scholarships](#). Application announcements are made by the Office of Academic and Faculty Affairs. Many programs in SHP also have scholarships available to currently enrolled students in those programs. Please refer to the program section of this handbook for more information.

SHARED VALUES

Collaboration, integrity, respect, and excellence are core values of our institution and affirm what it means to be a UAB community member. A key foundation of UAB is diversity. At UAB, everybody counts every day. UAB is committed to fostering a respectful, accessible and open campus environment. We value every member of our campus and the richly different perspectives, characteristics and life experiences that contribute to UAB's unique environment. UAB values and cultivates access, engagement and opportunity in our research, learning, clinical, and work environments. The School of Health Professions aims to create an open and welcoming environment and to support the success of all UAB community members.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media can serve as useful communication tools. However, health professions students should use the forums judiciously. The school's official sites are the following:

- Twitter: https://twitter.com/UAB_SHP
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/UABSHP
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/uabshp
- Vimeo: <http://vimeo.com/uabshp>
- LinkedIn: [UAB SHP LinkedIn](http://www.linkedin.com/company/uabshp)
- Website: www.uab.edu/shp

For more information: [UAB Social Media Guidelines](#).

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

The University provides prevention, counseling, and treatment services to students through Student Health Services (SHS) located at 1714 9th Avenue South (3rd Floor), Birmingham, AL. 35233. The clinic is open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday – Thursday; 9:00am – 5:00pm Friday. They are closed for lunch between 12:00pm – 1:00 pm weekdays. For more information: [Student Health Services](#). Appointments may be scheduled by calling (205) 934-3580.

TITLE IX

In accordance with Title IX, the University of Alabama at Birmingham does not discriminate on the basis of gender in any of its programs or services. The University is committed to providing an environment free from discrimination based on gender and expects individuals who live, work, teach, and study within this community to contribute positively to the environment and to refrain from behaviors that threaten the freedom or respect that every member of our community deserves. For more information about Title IX, policy, reporting, protections, resources and supports, please visit the UAB Title IX webpage for UAB's Title IX Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, and Sexual Violence Policy; UAB's Equal Opportunity and Discriminatory Harassment Policy; and the Duty to Report and Non-Retaliation Policy. For more information: [UAB Title IX](#).

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition and fees for the University are published annually under the "Students" tab of the UAB website. They may be paid through BlazerNET. SHP programs have specific fees attached to programs, courses, and/ or laboratories. For more information: [Tuition & Fees](#).

Payment deadlines for each semester are published on the official academic calendar. Please note that failure to meet payment deadlines can result in being administratively withdrawn from courses.

WEATHER

Severe weather situations that may affect the safety of students, faculty, and staff are communicated through the same channels as other emergencies. For more information: [Emergency Management](#). Other information sources include:

- [B-ALERT System](#) (contact information must be setup and current)
- UAB Severe Weather & Emergency Hotline: (205) 934-2165
- WBHM Radio (90.3 FM)

WITHDRAWAL FROM COURSE / PROGRAM

Withdrawal from a course or from your program is an official process and should be discussed with your academic advisor and / or program director. Most programs in the School of Health Professions are full-time and the curricula specifically sequenced. Withdrawal from a course may risk your wait time to register for the class again. You might have to wait for a full year before resuming enrollment in the program. Withdrawals are made through the UAB registration system via the Student Resources tab in BlazerNET. Notice of program withdrawal should be given in writing to the program director. For more information: [UAB Add/Drop and Withdrawal Policy](#).

SECTION 2 – SHP AND UAB POLICIES

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS POLICIES

BACKGROUND CHECK AND DRUG SCREEN POLICY

With the exceptions noted below, students admitted to clinical and non-clinical programs in the School of Health Professions (SHP) will complete a routine criminal background check and drug screen using the approved vendor ([CastleBranch](#)). These screenings should be completed prior the first term of enrollment. Subsequent routine criminal background checks and drug screens using the approved school vendor will be completed prior to fieldwork placement (clinical, internship, practicum, residency, etc.).

Students enrolled in SHP undergraduate programs will complete a learning module in the campus learning management system by the first semester of enrollment. If a fieldwork placement (clinical, internship, practicum, residency, etc.) is required, students must complete criminal background checks and drug screens prior to the first day of the semester of a fieldwork placement.

- Fees for these screenings will be the responsibility of the student.
- The rules and regulations governing individual fieldwork placement sites may include additional provisions and/or more stringent guidelines which supersede this policy. Fees for these screenings are the responsibility of the student.
- Should your criminal background check contain issues, or you fail a drug screen that may prevent you from receiving or sitting for board certification/licensure, a representative from the Office of Academic and Faculty Affairs will contact you. Depending upon the outcome, students will have a registration hold placed on their account until in compliance and this may result in being dismissed from the program. See program's guidelines regarding specific consequences.

Programs requiring a criminal background check and drug screening by the end of the first semester of enrollment and again, prior to fieldwork placement (if applicable in the program requirements), are the following:

Administration Health Services, PhD
Biomedical Sciences to Biotechnology Fast Track
Biomedical Sciences to Clinical Laboratory Science Fast Track
Biomedical Sciences to Health Physics Fast Track
Biomedical Sciences to Nuclear Medicine & Molecular Imaging Sciences Fast Track
Biomedical and Health Sciences, MS
Biotechnology, MS
Biotechnology, PhD
Dietitian Education Program, Graduate Certificate
Genetic Counseling, MS
Health Administration (Residential), MSHA
Health Care Management to Healthcare Quality and Safety Fast Track

Health Care Management to Health Informatics Fast Track
Health Care Management to Occupational Therapy Doctorate Fast Track
Health Physics, MS
Medical Laboratory Science, MS
Nuclear Medicine & Molecular Imaging Sciences, MS
Nutrition Sciences, MS
– Dietetic Internship Clinical Track
– Dietitian Education Program
– Research Track
Nutrition Sciences, PhD
Occupational Therapy, OTD – (entry level)
Physical Therapy, DPT
Physician Assistant Studies, MSPAS
Rehabilitation Science, PhD

The following students enrolled in SHP undergraduate programs will complete a learning module in the campus learning management system by the first semester of enrollment. If a fieldwork placement (clinical, internship, practicum, residency, etc.) is required, students must complete criminal background checks and drug screens prior to the first day of the semester of a fieldwork placement.

Health Care Management, BS
Biomedical Sciences, BS
Biobehavioral Nutrition and Wellness, BS
Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science, BS

Programs waived from the Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening requirements are the following: *

Applied Mixed Methods Research, Graduate Certificate
Biotechnology Regulatory Affairs, Graduate Certificate
Clinical Informatics, Graduate Certificate
Health Administration (International and Executive tracks), MSHA
Health Informatics, MSHI
Healthcare Finance Management, Graduate Certificate
Healthcare Leadership, DSc
Healthcare Leadership, Graduate Certificate
Healthcare Quality and Safety, MS
Healthcare Quality and Safety, Graduate Certificate
Health Services Research, MS
Healthcare Simulation, MS
Healthcare Simulation, Graduate Certificate
Nutrition for Community Health, Graduate Certificate
Nutrition Sciences, MS
– Clinical Track-Prior Learning

– Lifestyle Management and Disease Prevention Track
Low Vision Rehabilitation, Graduate Certificate
Multi-Tiered Approach to Trauma, Graduate Certificate
Occupational Therapy Doctorate (Post Professional)
Physical Therapy Residencies (Neurologic, Orthopedic)
Primary Care Physical Therapy for Underserved Populations, Graduate Certificate

*Students enrolled in exempt programs who participate in a course(s) incorporating community, corporate or other high impact, out-of-classroom activities such as service learning, capstone projects or other hands-on learning experiences, may be required by placement sites to submit background check and drug screening results. Students are responsible for the fees associated with such screening.



STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

About CastleBranch.com

CastleBranch is a secure platform that allows you to order your background check & drug test online. Once you have placed your order, you may use your login to access additional features of CastleBranch, including document storage, portfolio builders and reference tools. CastleBranch also allows you to upload any additional documents required by your school.

Order Summary

Required Personal Information

- o In addition to entering your full name and date of birth, you will be asked for your Social Security Number, current address, phone number, and e-mail address.

Drug Test (LabCorp or Quest Diagnostics)

- o Within 24-48 hours after you place your order, the electronic chain of custody form e-chain will be placed directly into your CastleBranch account. This e-chain will explain where you need to go to complete your drug test.

Payment Information

- o At the end of the online order process, you will be prompted to enter your Visa or MasterCard information. Money orders are also accepted, but will result in a \$10 fee and additional turn-around-time.

Place Your Order

Go to: www.castlebranch.com and enter package code:

AH01 - Background Check and Drug Test

You will be required to enter your program under "Student Information" classification

You will then be directed to set up your CastleBranch profile account.

View Your Results

Your results will be posted directly to your CastleBranch profile account. You will be notified if there is any missing information needed in order to process your order. Although 95% of background check results are completed within 3-5 business days, some results may take longer. Your order will show as "In Process" until it has been completed in its entirety. Your school's administrator can also securely view your results online with their unique username and password. If you have any additional questions, please contact the Service Desk at 888.723.4263 x 7196 or visit the website to submit your question at: <https://www.castlebranch.com/contact-us>.

DISMISSAL OF STUDENT FOR FAILURE TO MAKE SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

[Dismissal of Student and Appeal Process](#)

EMERGENCY PLAN – SHPB/LRC/WEBB

[SHPB/LRC/WEBB Emergency Plan](#)

UAB POLICIES

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

[GRADUATE](#)

[UNDERGRADUATE](#)

HEALTH

[IMMUNIZATIONS](#)

[NEEDLE STICKS AND EXPOSURES](#)

INCLUSIVENESS

[EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DISCRIMINATORY HARASSMENT](#)

POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

[CAMPUS SAFETY](#)

[FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, AND OTHER DANGEROUS WEAPONS](#)

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

[ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE](#)

[ETHICAL STANDARDS IN RESEARCH AND OTHER SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES](#)

[PATENT](#)

SUBSTANCE USE/ABUSE

[ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, USE AND CONSUMPTION](#)

[DRUG FREE CAMPUS](#)

[NON-SMOKING](#)

TECHNOLOGY

[TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES](#)

SECTION 3 – PROGRAM POLICIES

WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION SCIENCES

Welcome to the Master of Science in Nutrition Sciences program. The Department of Nutrition Sciences (DNS) at UAB has a rich history of nutrition education and research, with a heritage of nearly one hundred years of involvement in the field, beginning with three medical doctors, Drs. James McLester, Tom Spies, and Charles Butterworth. Their interest in the use of vitamins for the treatment and prevention of disease is responsible for the origin of UAB’s commitment to nutrition, which began in the 1920s. For a complete history of the DNS, visit the “History” page on [our website](#).

The Nutrition Sciences program at UAB is recognized as one of the top programs in the United States and has had a profound national impact on the health care practices of Americans. The DNS is a leader in providing multi-professional nutrition support services, exceptional training programs for physicians and other health professionals, federally supported research endeavors, and nationwide public service activities. Everything you need to learn to save lives, prevent disease, and improve quality of life is at UAB.

While most larger nutrition programs in the United States are fragmented, the DNS is a multidisciplinary department that is highly integrated into UAB’s campus. This provides an ideal academic setting for excellence in nutrition education and training. The DNS has long-standing research programs in nutrient metabolism, cancer, obesity, and energy metabolism and regulation, which encompass both clinical and human nutrition as well as basic molecular nutrition. Local students have the opportunity to participate in basic, clinical, and translational research within our three National Institutes of Health (NIH)–funded research centers in the Department of Nutrition Sciences—the Nutrition Obesity Research Center, the Diabetes Research Center, and the Precision Nutrition Clinical Center —as well as other world-renowned research facilities on UAB’s campus, including the O’Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center. Local students also have the opportunity to study the clinical side of nutrition in the heart of Alabama’s top medical center, surrounded by UAB Hospital, Birmingham VA Medical Center, and Children’s of Alabama.

The program you are entering will prepare you for a rewarding career in the field of nutrition science. Through the Master of Science in Nutrition Sciences curriculum, you will develop a wealth of knowledge while advancing your skills in critical problem solving in a team environment.

FACULTY AND STAFF

The diversity inherent in the field of nutrition sciences is reflected in our faculty, staff, and students. To learn more about our Nutrition Sciences faculty and staff, please visit our [webpage](#).

DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION SCIENCES RESEARCH FACILITIES

SUSAN MOTT WEBB NUTRITION SCIENCES BUILDING

Constructed in 1983, the six-story Susan Mott Webb Nutrition Sciences Building provides dedicated laboratories, animal facilities, offices, and classrooms for our faculty and students. The Susan Mott Webb Nutrition Sciences Building is centrally located within UAB's main campus and is within easy walking distance of all major campus facilities.

The DNS benefits from the on-campus presence of and collaboration with outstanding regional and national institutes and centers, including the 2,000-bed University Hospital complex, which constitutes one of the major medical facilities in the eastern United States.

Research laboratories within the Webb Nutrition Sciences Building provide all of the major equipment needed for basic, animal, and clinical nutrition research in both human and animal samples. Notably, the Webb Nutrition Sciences Building operates one of the most complete Energy Metabolism/Body Composition Research Laboratories in the country. This laboratory contains indirect hood calorimeters, a facility for a dual energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA), bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) devices, exercise testing equipment, and a mass spectrometer equipped with a gas chromatograph for stable isotope analyses.

The DNS is unique in housing two prestigious NIH-funded centers— the [Nutrition Obesity Research Center](#) (NORC), the [Diabetes Research Center](#) (DRC). These centers are directly involved in our student training and research experiences and provide accessibility to core facilities and educational opportunities.

CENTERS FOR RESEARCH AT UAB

UAB boasts many specialized research Centers of Excellence, including the Comprehensive Cardiovascular Center, Nathan Shock Center of Excellence in the Basic Biology of Aging, Sparkman Center for Global Health, Comprehensive Neurovascular and Stroke Center, Center for Healthcare Management and Leadership, UAB Center for Palliative and Supportive Care, Alzheimer's Disease Center, Center for Disability Health and Rehabilitation Science (CEDHARS), Hypertension Center, and many others. Most of these specialized centers are actively involved in training activities for students.

Students have ready access to most UAB resources, either directly or through their Program Director, Academic Advisor, or other faculty members. Certain centers on campus, such as the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center, have a broad spectrum of diagnostic and analytical services available to UAB faculty.

MASTER OF SCIENCE (MS) IN NUTRITION SCIENCES

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

UAB is accredited by the **SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS COMMISSION ON COLLEGES (SACSOC)** to award baccalaureate, master's, doctorate, and professional degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call (404) 679-4500 with questions about UAB's accreditation.

MS IN NUTRITION SCIENCES CORE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The MS in Nutrition Sciences provides coursework that fosters understanding about nutrition for health promotion and disease prevention. All Nutrition Sciences graduate students, regardless of their track, complete the following core curriculum. The semester offered is subject to change.

Prefix	Course Title	Credits	Semester Offered
NTR 618	Nutritional Biochemistry	6	Summer
NTR 621	Applied Statistics to Nutrition Sciences I*	3	Fall
NTR 637	Applied Research in Nutrition Sciences*	3	Spring
NTR 690	Seminar	2	Fall
Total semester hours for core courses		14	

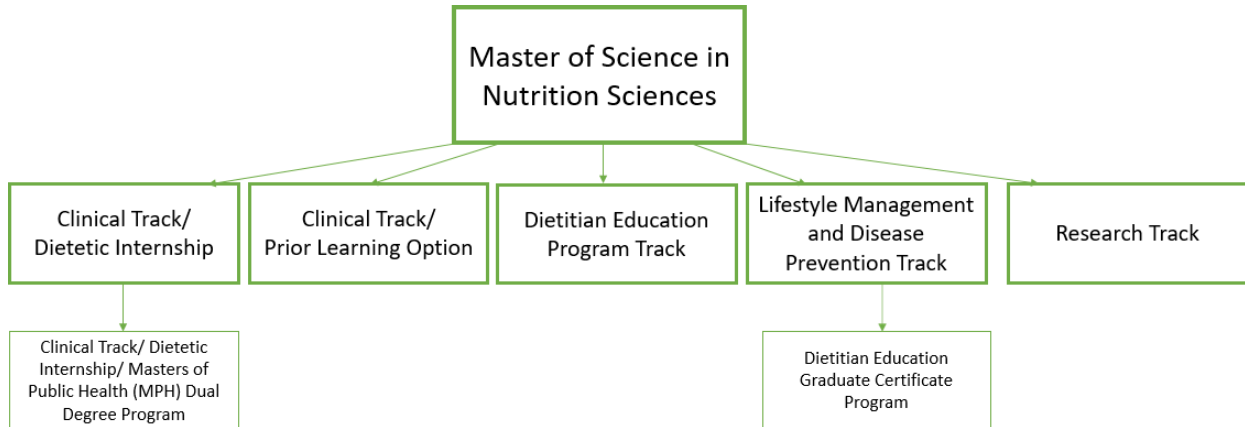
*NTR 621 is a pre-requisite for NTR 637

Completing of initial CITI IRB training that is required (documentation required in NTR637):

Belmont Report and Its Principles
History and Ethics of Human Subjects Research
Basic Institutional Review Board (IRBO) Regulations and Review Process
Informed Consent
Social and Behavioral Research (SBR) for Biomedical Researchers
Records-Based Research
Research and HIPAA Privacy Protections

MS IN NUTRITION SCIENCES TRACKS

The DNS offers the most comprehensive nutrition experience you will find on one campus. The MS in Nutrition Sciences includes five tracks, each varying in their admissions requirements, curriculum, and program outcomes. For more information on each of the five tracks, please visit the [MS in Nutrition Sciences webpage](#).



SUMMARY OF MS IN NUTRITION SCIENCES TRACKS

CLINICAL TRACK/DIETETIC INTERNSHIP (CT/DI)

The MS in Nutrition Sciences Clinical Track/Dietetic Internship (CT/DI) is a one-year combined dietetic internship and MS degree program that enables graduates to take the Commission on Dietetic Registration's registration examination for dietitians. In only 12 months, students are prepared for an exciting career in health care, wellness, and food systems operations. This track requires a minimum of 48 semester credit hours, including 14 semester hours of core courses and 34 semester hours that are unique to this track.

CLINICAL TRACK/DIETETIC INTERNSHIP/MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH) DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM

Students in the Dietetic Internship/[MPH Dual Degree option](#) must complete 30 semester hours of graduate-level coursework, comprising 26 hours of public health courses and 4 semester hours of NTR 589 to be applied to the MPH degree, in addition to the requirements of the MS in Nutrition Sciences CT/DI program described above. All required public health coursework is offered online. Only students who are enrolled in the MS in Nutrition Sciences CT/DI are eligible to apply for the dual degree option. Students must be admitted to both graduate programs (Nutrition Sciences and Public Health) for this dual degree.

CLINICAL TRACK/PRIOR LEARNING OPTION (CT/PLO)

The MS in Nutrition Sciences Clinical Track/Prior Learning Option (CT/PLO) accepts nutrition/dietetic supervised practice hours toward completion of an MS degree. Students eligible for this program have completed an undergraduate degree in nutrition/dietetics and have received a verification statement from an Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)-accredited Dietetic Internship (DI), Coordinated Program in Dietetics (CP), or Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway (ISPP) program. The CT/PLO requires a minimum of 30 semester credit hours, including 14 semester hours of core courses and 16 semester hours that are unique to this track. This is a non-thesis track, and all required coursework is offered entirely online.

DIETITIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM TRACK (DEP)

The MS in Nutrition Sciences Dietitian Education Program (DEP) track is one of the two Coordinated Program in Dietetics pathways that we offer (Coordinated Program as defined by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics [ACEND] by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics). Students in the DEP track must complete a minimum of 58 semester hours, including 14 semester hours of core courses and 44 semester hours that are unique to this pathway. Twenty-four of the semester hours unique to this pathway are practicums, or supervised practice experiences. All non-practicum courses are offered entirely online, and practicums can be completed in the Birmingham area or remotely, allowing students to complete their degree requirements in their local setting. Graduates of

this program are eligible to sit for the Commission on Dietetic Registration's registration examination for dietitians.

LIFESTYLE MANAGEMENT AND DISEASE PREVENTION TRACK (LMDP)

The MS in Nutrition Sciences Lifestyle Management and Disease Prevention (LMDP) track offers an entirely online degree and is well suited for students who want to provide general nutrition information to the public for health promotion and disease prevention. Students in the LMDP track gain multi-professional perspectives at UAB, with classes taught by physician assistants, genetic counselors, registered dietitian nutritionists, and exercise physiologists. This track requires a minimum of 36 semester credit hours, including 14 semester hours of core courses and 22 semester hours that are unique to this track.

DIETITIAN EDUCATION GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (DEP-C)

The Dietitian Education Graduate Certificate Program (DEP-C) is the second of the two Coordinated Program in Dietetics pathways that we offer (Coordinated Program as defined by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics [ACEND] by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics). Students who successfully complete the LMDP track and the DEP-C earn an MS in Nutrition Sciences and are eligible to take the Commission on Dietetic Registration's registration examination for dietitians.

The DEP-C is restricted to students enrolled in the LMDP track. Students who apply and are accepted into the DEP-C complete an additional 37 semester hours (73 semester hours total) and earn a Graduate Certificate that accompanies their MS in Nutrition Sciences degree.

RESEARCH TRACK (RT)

The MS in Nutrition Sciences Research track (RT) requires a research thesis. Students must complete a minimum of 37 semester credit hours, including 14 semester hours of core courses and 23 semester hours unique to this track. Students in the RT are also required to complete and orally defend thesis research that contributes to the knowledge of nutrition sciences. This program uses blended learning, which incorporates both online and in-class courses.

MS IN NUTRITION SCIENCES – DIETITIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

UAB's Dietitian Education Program (DEP) has [Accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics \(ACEND\) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#), 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995, USA, (312) 899-0040 ext. 5400.



PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION (PLC) REQUIREMENTS

The DEP is designed to lead to professional certification through the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR), the credentialing agency for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. While the CDR offers a national certification exam, board certification does not confer state licensure. Specific licensure requirements vary from state to state and among territories. Please visit the [UAB Professional Licensure and Certification General Disclosures webpage](#) for more information on state and territory requirements.

COORDINATED PROGRAM (CP) IN DIETETICS

The DEP is designated by ACEND as a Coordinated Program (CP) in Dietetics. All CPs must provide the required dietetics coursework and at least 1,000 hours of supervised practice within an academic program leading to a bachelor's or graduate degree. Graduates of CPs who are verified by the DEP Program Director are eligible to sit for the CDR's registration examination for dietitians.

PROGRAM MISSION

The DEP's mission is to prepare graduates who are highly trained entry-level registered dietitian nutritionists through community partnerships, the translation of research, and the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and experiences to improve the lifestyle wellness of Birmingham, the state, and beyond.

PROGRAM GOALS

GOAL 1: The program will prepare graduates to be competent entry-level registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs) to serve in the Birmingham area and beyond.

OBJECTIVES FOR GOAL 1

Program Completion

- At least 80% of program students complete program/degree requirements within three years in the DEP track and 2.25 years in the DEP Graduate Certificate Program (DEP-C) of the Lifestyle Management and Disease Prevention (LMDP) track (150% of the program length).

Graduate Performance on Registration Exam

- At least 80% of program graduates take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitians within 12 months of program completion.
- The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitians is at least 80%.

Graduate Employment

- Of graduates who seek employment, at least 80% are employed in nutrition and dietetics or related fields within 12 months of graduation.

Employer Satisfaction

- During their first year of employment, at least 90% of program graduates will be ranked by employers as "satisfactory" or better in professional knowledge and skills as compared to the expected competency of an entry-level registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN).

Program Specific

- On the alumni survey one-year (12 months) post program completion, at least 80% of graduates will rate themselves as "satisfied" or above with their ability to perform entry-level RDN competencies at work.

GOAL 2: The program will prepare graduates who demonstrate the ability to utilize current evidence-based research and apply the research process in professional practice.

OBJECTIVES FOR GOAL 2

Program Specific

- At least 80% of program graduates will rate themselves as "somewhat confident" or above regarding their ability to use current research findings in professional practice.
- During their first year of employment, at least 80% of program graduates will be ranked by employers as "satisfactory" or better in their ability to use the research process to make decisions in professional practice.

ACEND COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS

The DEP curriculum is designed for students to achieve the knowledge and skills needed for an entry-level RDN as stated by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) 2022 Standards for Nutrition and Dietetics Coordinated Programs.

The **Core Knowledge** and **Competencies** are the basis on which are built the program curriculum and learning activities. The Core Knowledge competencies are mapped to courses in learning objectives that are designated **KRDN** and the Core Competencies are designated **CRDN**. Prior to program completion, students must demonstrate proficiency in the following areas:

DOMAIN 1. Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice: Integration of scientific information and translation of research into practice.

Knowledge – Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

KRDN 1.1 Demonstrate how to locate, interpret, evaluate, and use professional literature to make ethical, evidence-based practice decisions.

KRDN 1.2 Select and use appropriate current information technologies to locate and apply evidence-based guidelines and protocols.

KRDN 1.3 Apply critical thinking skills.

Competencies – Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

CRDN 1.1 Select indicators of program quality and/or customer service and measure achievement of objectives.

CRDN 1.2 Evaluate research and apply evidence-based guidelines, systematic reviews, and scientific literature in nutrition and dietetics practice.

CRDN 1.3 Justify programs, products, services, and care using appropriate evidence or data.

CRDN 1.4 Conduct projects using appropriate research or quality improvement methods, ethical procedures, and data analysis utilizing current and/or new technologies.

CRDN 1.5 Incorporate critical-thinking skills in overall practice.

DOMAIN 2. Professional Practice Expectations: Beliefs, values, attitudes, and behaviors for the nutrition and dietetics practitioner level of practice.

Knowledge – Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

KRDN 2.1 Demonstrate effective and professional oral and written communication and documentation.

KRDN 2.2 Describe the governance of nutrition and dietetics practice, such as the Scope of Practice for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Nutrition and Dietetics.

KRDN 2.3 Assess the impact of a public policy position on the nutrition and dietetics profession.

KRDN 2.4 Discuss the impact of health care policy and different health care delivery systems on food and nutrition services.

KRDN 2.5 Identify and describe the work of interprofessional teams and the roles of others with whom the registered dietitian nutritionist collaborates.

KRDN 2.6 Demonstrate cultural humility, awareness of personal biases and an understanding of cultural differences as they contribute to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

KRDN 2.7 Describe contributing factors to health inequity in nutrition and dietetics including structural bias, social inequities, health disparities, and discrimination.

KRDN 2.8 Participate in a nutrition and dietetics professional organization and explain the significant role of the organization.

KRDN 2.9 Defend a position on issues impacting the nutrition and dietetics profession.

Competencies – Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

CRDN 2.1 Practice in compliance with current federal regulations and state statutes and rules, as applicable, and in accordance with accreditation standards and the Scope of Practice for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, Standards of Practice, Standards of Professional Performance, and Code of Ethics for the Profession of Nutrition and Dietetics.

CRDN 2.2 Demonstrate professional writing skills in preparing professional communications.

CRDN 2.3 Demonstrate active participation, teamwork, and contributions in group settings.

CRDN 2.4 Function as a member of interprofessional teams.

CRDN 2.5 Work collaboratively with NDTRs and/or support personnel in other disciplines.

CRDN 2.6 Refer clients and patients to other professionals and services when needs are beyond individual scope of practice.

CRDN 2.7 Apply change management strategies to achieve desired outcomes.

CRDN 2.8 Demonstrate negotiation skills.

CRDN 2.9 Actively contribute to nutrition and dietetics professional and community organizations.

CRDN 2.10 Demonstrate professional attributes in all areas of practice.

CRDN 2.11 Show cultural humility in interactions with colleagues, staff, clients, patients, and the public.

CRDN 2.12 Implement culturally sensitive strategies to address cultural biases and differences.

CRDN 2.13 Advocate for local, state, or national legislative and regulatory issues or policies impacting the nutrition and dietetics profession.

DOMAIN 3. Clinical and Client Services: Development and delivery of information, products, and services to individuals, groups, and populations.

Knowledge – Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

KRDN 3.1 Use the Nutrition Care Process and clinical workflow elements to assess nutritional parameters, diagnose nutrition related problems, determine appropriate nutrition interventions, and develop plans to monitor the effectiveness of these interventions.

KRDN 3.2 Develop an educational session or program/educational strategy for a target population.

KRDN 3.3 Demonstrate counseling and education methods to facilitate behavior change and enhance wellness for diverse individuals and groups.

KRDN 3.4 Practice routine health screening assessments, including measuring blood pressure and conducting waived point-of-care laboratory testing (such as blood glucose or cholesterol).

KRDN 3.5 Describe concepts of nutritional genomics and how they relate to medical nutrition therapy, health, and disease.

KRDN 3.6 Develop nutritionally sound meals, menus, and meal plans that promote health and disease management and meet clients'/patients' needs.

Competencies – Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

CRDN 3.1 Perform Medical Nutrition Therapy by utilizing the Nutrition Care Process including use of standardized nutrition terminology as a part of the clinical workflow elements for individuals, groups, and populations of differing ages and health status in a variety of settings.

CRDN 3.2 Conduct nutrition focused physical exams.

CRDN 3.3 Perform routine health screening assessments including measuring blood pressure, conducting waived point-of-care laboratory testing (such as blood glucose or cholesterol), recommending and/or initiating nutrition-related pharmacotherapy plans (such as modifications to bowel regimens, carbohydrate to insulin ratio, B12, or iron supplementation).

CRDN 3.4 Provide instruction to clients/patients for self-monitoring blood glucose considering diabetes medication and medical nutrition therapy plan.

CRDN 3.5 Explain the steps involved and observe the placement of nasogastric or nasoenteric feeding tubes; if available, assist in the process of placing nasogastric or nasoenteric feeding tubes.

CRDN 3.6 Conduct a swallow screen and refer to the appropriate health care professional for full swallow evaluation when needed.

CRDN 3.7 Demonstrate effective communication and documentation skills for clinical and client services in a variety of formats and settings, which include telehealth and other information technologies and digital media.

CRDN 3.8 Design, implement, and evaluate presentations to a target audience.

CRDN 3.9 Develop nutrition education materials that are culturally and age appropriate and designed for the literacy level of the audience.

CRDN 3.10 Use effective education and counseling skills to facilitate behavior change.

CRDN 3.11 Develop and deliver products, programs, or services that promote consumer health, wellness, and lifestyle management.

CRDN 3.12 Deliver respectful, science-based answers to client/patient questions concerning emerging trends.

CRDN 3.13 Coordinate procurement, production, distribution, and service of goods and services, demonstrating and promoting responsible use of resources.

CRDN 3.14 Develop and evaluate recipes, formulas and menus for acceptability and affordability that accommodate the cultural diversity and health needs of various populations, groups, and individuals.

DOMAIN 4. Practice Management and Use of Resources: Strategic application of principles of management and systems in the provision of services to individuals and organizations.

Knowledge – Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

- KRDN 4.1 Apply management theories to the development of programs or services.
- KRDN 4.2 Evaluate a budget/financial management plan and interpret financial data.
- KRDN 4.3 Demonstrate an understanding of the regulation system related to billing and coding, what services are reimbursable by third party payers and how reimbursement may be obtained.
- KRDN 4.4 Apply the principles of human resource management to different situations.
- KRDN 4.5 Apply safety and sanitation principles related to food, personnel, and consumers.
- KRDN 4.6 Explain the processes involved in delivering quality food and nutrition services.
- KRDN 4.7 Evaluate data to be used in decision-making for continuous quality improvement.

Competencies – Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

- CRDN 4.1 Participate in management functions of human resources (such as training and scheduling).
- CRDN 4.2 Perform management functions related to safety, security, and sanitation that affect employees, clients, patients, facilities, and food.
- CRDN 4.3 Conduct clinical and client service quality management activities (such as quality improvement or quality assurance projects).
- CRDN 4.4 Apply current information technologies to develop, manage, and disseminate nutrition information and data.
- CRDN 4.5 Analyze quality, financial, and productivity data for use in planning.
- CRDN 4.6 Propose and use procedures as appropriate to the practice setting to promote sustainability, reduce waste, and protect the environment.
- CRDN 4.7 Conduct feasibility studies for products, programs, or services with consideration of costs and benefits.
- CRDN 4.8 Develop a plan to provide or develop a product, program, or service that includes a budget, staffing needs, equipment, and supplies.
- CRDN 4.9 Engage in the process for coding and billing for nutrition and dietetics services to obtain reimbursement from public or private payers, fee-for-service, and value-based payment systems.
- CRDN 4.10 Analyze risk in nutrition and dietetics practice (such as risks to achieving set goals and objectives, risk management plan, or risk due to clinical liability or foodborne illness).

DOMAIN 5. Leadership and Career Management: Skills, strengths, knowledge, and experience relevant to leadership potential and professional growth for the nutrition and dietetics practitioner.

Knowledge – Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

KRDN 5.1 Perform self-assessment that includes awareness in terms of learning and leadership styles and cultural orientation and develop goals for self-improvement.

KRDN 5.2 Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to the position desired and career goals.

KRDN 5.3 Practice how to self-advocate for opportunities in a variety of settings (such as asking for support, presenting an elevator pitch).

KRDN 5.4 Practice resolving differences or dealing with conflict.

KRDN 5.5 Promote team involvement and recognize the skills of each member.

KRDN 5.6 Demonstrate an understanding of the importance and expectations of a professional in mentoring and precepting others.

Competencies – Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

CRDN 5.1 Perform self-assessment that includes awareness in terms of learning and leadership styles and cultural orientation and develop goals for self-improvement.

CRDN 5.2 Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to the position desired and career goals.

CRDN 5.3 Prepare a plan for professional development according to Commission on Dietetic Registration guidelines.

CRDN 5.4 Advocate for opportunities in professional settings (such as asking for additional responsibility, practicing negotiating a salary or wage, or asking for a promotion).

CRDN 5.5 Demonstrate the ability to resolve conflict.

CRDN 5.6 Promote team involvement and recognize the skills of each member.

CRDN 5.7 Mentor others.

CRDN 5.8 Identify and articulate the value of precepting.

DIETITIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Dietitian Education Program (DEP) is a Coordinated Program in Dietetics comprising two pathway options, which include the DEP track and the Dietitian Education Graduate Certificate Program (DEP-C) of the Lifestyle Management and Disease Prevention (LMDP) track. Students may take one of three avenues to be eligible for the DEP.

1. Students who complete UAB's undergraduate degree in Kinesiology with a concentration in Exercise Bioenergetics and who have completed BY 101 are eligible to apply to the DEP.
2. Students may also apply to the DEP if they have completed a Bachelor of Science degree and specific undergraduate science and nutrition courses. These prerequisite science courses include biology, physiology, organic chemistry, and microbiology. The nutrition courses include an undergraduate introductory nutrition course, lifecycle nutrition, nutrition and the consumer, nutrition and the metabolism (nutritional biochemistry), nutritional genetics, and a course in medical nutrition therapy. For students who choose to take the nutrition courses at UAB, the courses are as outlined below:

NTR 222 Nutrition and Health (3 credit hours)

NTR 232 Lifecycle Nutrition (3 credit hours)

NTR 320 Nutrition and the Consumer (3 credit hours)

NTR 330 Nutrition and Metabolism (3 credit hours)

NTR 420 Nutrition Genetics (3 credit hours)

NTR 421 Nutrition Assessment and the Nutrition Care Process (3 credit hours)

3. Students who have previously completed an ACEND accredited DPD program, and hold a verification statement, are eligible to apply to the DEP.
4. The final option for prospective students is to complete all undergraduate science prerequisites and one introductory nutrition course (NTR 222 Nutrition and Health) to gain admission to the MS in Nutrition Sciences Lifestyle Management and Disease Prevention (LMDP) track. After completing 29-credit hours of specific nutrition curriculum, LMDP track students are eligible to apply for the DEP through the DEP-C.

PROGRAM CONTINGENCY REQUIREMENTS

All pre-requisites must be completed prior to starting the DEP. A student admitted with a program contingency requirement will be notified in writing about when the requirement must be satisfactorily completed. A student who fails to meet this requirement by the deadline is not permitted to continue taking coursework toward the degree until the requirement is satisfactorily completed. Students who do not complete the contingency by the specified deadline may be dismissed from the program.

DIETITIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM (DEP)–SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The UAB Graduate School designates the DEP track as a Plan II program, which is the graduate school assignment of non-thesis programs. Whereas some Plan II programs require students to complete a comprehensive examination toward earning their degree, the DEP **does not** have this as a requirement.

The DEP track requires the completion of 58 semester hours of graduate work, comprising 14 semester hours of core courses and 44 DEP track courses, in good academic standing. The core curriculum requirements are required courses that provide the basic knowledge expected of all students in the MS in Nutrition Sciences program. The seminar course (NTR 690) is designed to broaden your knowledge within and beyond your interest areas and to provide the opportunity for you to practice critically evaluating scientific research. DEP track courses are designed to teach knowledge and skills specific to entry-level registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs).

The RDN Certification Review course (NTR 501) is a sponsored virtual workshop designed to prepare students for the Commission on Dietetic Registration’s registration examination for dietitians. The practicum courses (NTR 670, NTR 671, NTR 672, NTR 673, NTR 674, NTR 675, and NTR 676) provide students the opportunity to complete a minimum of 1,000 hours of supervised practice experiences, which can be completed in the Birmingham area or remotely, in the student’s local area. All practicum rotations must be completed within the United States.

Prefix	Course Title	Credits	Semester Offered
NTR 500	Communications in Nutrition	1	Summer
NTR 501	RDN Certification Review	0	Spring
NTR 600	Principles of Food Science Operations and Menu Planning	3	Fall
NTR 601	Advanced Medical Nutrition	3	Spring
NTR 604	Principles and Practice of Nutrition Support	3	Fall
NTR 611	Advanced Food Systems and Resource Management	3	Summer
NTR 631	Community Interventions for Healthy Lifestyles	3	Spring
NTR 632	Nutrition Counseling and Education	4	Fall
NTR 670	Practicum in Wellness	3	Summer
NTR 671	Practicum in Community Nutrition	3	Fall
NTR 672	Practicum in Food Systems Management	3	Fall
NTR 673	Practicum in Medical Nutrition Therapy I	3	Fall
NTR 674	Practicum in Medical Nutrition Therapy II	4	Spring
NTR 675	Practicum in Dietetic Administration	4	Spring
NTR 676	Advanced Practicum in Dietetics	4	Spring
Total semester hours for DEP track courses		58	

DIETITIAN EDUCATION GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (DEP-C) –SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The Dietitian Education Graduate Certificate (DEP-C) is available only to students of the MS in Nutrition Sciences Lifestyle Management and Disease Prevention (LMDP) track.

The MS in Nutrition Sciences LMDP track requires the completion of 36 semester hours of graduate work, comprising 14 semester hours of core courses and 22 LMDP track courses, in good academic standing. The core curriculum requirements provide the basic knowledge expected of all students in the MS in Nutrition Sciences program, while the LMDP Track coursework emphasizes nutrition assessment and interventions for health promotion and disease prevention.

LMDP track students who desire to become credentialed as a **REGISTERED DIETITIAN NUTRITIONIST** have the option to apply to the DEP-C. The application process is communicated to these students via email around October 1 for the upcoming application cycle, and the deadline to apply to the DEP-C is **JANUARY 5**, annually. The DEP-C accepts LMDP track students annually **FOR FALL ADMISSION ONLY**. Deferral is not permitted.

LIFESTYLE MANAGEMENT AND DISEASE PREVENTION (LMDP) TRACK–SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Beyond the core curriculum requirements, 22 semester hours are specific to the LMDP track, as listed below.

Prefix	Course Title	Credits	Semester Offered
NTR 609	Applied Nutrition for Physical Activity and Disease Prevention	3	Fall
NTR 631	Community Interventions for Healthy Lifestyles	3	Spring
NTR 632	Nutrition Counseling & Education	4	Fall
KIN 644	Application of Exercise Physiology to Fitness and Performance	3	Fall
GC 545	Genetics and Genomics Applications in Healthcare	2	Fall
PA 550	Intro to Medical History Taking & Physical Examination	3	Spring
CDS 605	Survival Spanish for Health Professionals	1	Fall, Spring
	Elective*	3	
Total semester hours for LMDP track courses		22	

***NTR 521: NUTRITION ASSESSMENT AND THE NUTRITION CARE PROCESS** is the recommended 3-semester-hour elective course. Students interested in the **DIETITIAN EDUCATION GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM** **must** complete NTR 521 as part of their eligibility requirements. NTR 521 is offered online in the spring term only.

Students in the LMDP track are eligible to apply for admission to the DEP-C upon completion of the following coursework with a 3.0 GPA:

GC545 Genetics and Genomics Applications in Healthcare

NTR 621 Applied Statistics to Nutrition Sciences

NTR 632 Nutrition Counseling & Education

NTR 690 Seminar

Students accepted into the LMDP/DEP-C track must complete the following coursework with a 3.0 GPA by the program start date:

NTR 631 Community Interventions for Healthy Lifestyles

NTR 637 Applied Research in Nutrition Sciences

NTR 521 Nutrition Assessment and the Nutrition Care Process

PA 550 Intro the Medical History Taking and Physical Examination

NTR 618 Nutritional Biochemistry

DEP-C coursework comprises 37 credit hours of coursework designed to enhance skills specific to entry-level RDNs.

Aside from the practicum courses (NTR 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, and 676), all coursework is offered entirely online. Practicums may be completed locally, in the Birmingham area, or remotely, where the student is located, but must be completed within the United States.

Below are the course and practicum requirements of the DEP-C.

DEP-C REQUIREMENTS (IN ADDITION TO THE 36 SEMESTER HOURS OF THE LMDP TRACK)

Prefix	Course Title	Credits	Semester Offered
NTR 500	Communications in Nutrition	1	Summer
NTR 501	RDN Certification Review	0	Spring
NTR 600	Principles of Food Science Operations and Menu Planning	3	Fall
NTR 601	Advanced Medical Nutrition	3	Spring
NTR 604	Principles and Practice of Nutrition Support	3	Fall
NTR 611	Advanced Food System and Resource Management	3	Spring
NTR 670	Practicum in Wellness	3	Fall
NTR 671	Practicum in Community Nutrition	3	Fall
NTR 672	Practicum in Food Systems Management	3	Spring
NTR 673	Practicum in Medical Nutrition Therapy I	3	Spring
NTR 674	Practicum in Medical Nutrition Therapy II	4	Summer
NTR 675	Practicum in Dietetic Administration	4	Summer
NTR 676	Advanced Practicum in Dietetics	4	Fall
Total semester hours for DEP-C courses		37	

DIETITIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM (DEP) COURSE SEQUENCE

The DEP track is a cohort program, designed to be completed **FULL-TIME** in **FIVE CONSECUTIVE SEMESTERS**, as illustrated below. **PART-TIME ENROLLMENT IS NOT POSSIBLE.**

Fall Year 1		Spring Year 1		Summer Year 1	
Prefix	Credits	Prefix	Credits	Prefix	Credits
NTR 621	3	NTR 637	3	NTR 618	6
NTR 600	3	NTR 601	3	NTR 500	1
NTR 604	4	NTR 611	3	NTR 670	3
NTR 632	4	NTR 631	3		
Total	13	Total	12	Total	10
Fall Year 2		Spring Year 2			
NTR 690	2	NTR 501	0		
NTR 671	3	NTR 674	4		
NTR 672	3	NTR 675	4		
NTR 673	3	NTR 676	4		
Total	11	Total	12		

DIETITIAN EDUCATION GRADUATE CERTIFICATE (DEP-C) COURSE SEQUENCE

The DEP-C is a cohort program, designed to be completed **FULL-TIME** in **FOUR CONSECUTIVE SEMESTERS**, as illustrated below. **PART-TIME ENROLLMENT IS NOT POSSIBLE.** The course sequence for the combined LMDP track and DEP-C curriculum, indicated in yellow, begins fall of year 2.

Fall Year 1		Spring Year 1		Summer Year 1	
Prefix	Credit hours	Prefix	Credit hours	Prefix	Credit hours
GC 545	2	PA 550	3	NTR 618	6
NTR 621	3	NTR 631	3		
NTR 632	4	NTR 637	3		
NTR 690	2	NTR 521	3		
Total	11	Total	12	Total	6
Fall Year 2		Spring Year 2		Summer Year 2	
Prefix	Credit hours	Prefix	Credit hours	Prefix	Credit hours
NTR 600	3	NTR 601	3	NTR 500	1
NTR 604	3	NTR 611	3	NTR 674	4
NTR 670	3	NTR 672	3	NTR 675	4
NTR 671	3	NTR 673	3		
		NTR 501	0		
Total	12	Total	12	Total	9
Fall Year 3					
Prefix	Credit hours				
NTR 609	3				
CDS 605	1				
KIN 644	3				
NTR 676	4				
Total	11				

The DNS regularly reviews the curriculum and program. Changes to the curriculum are directed by input

from our faculty, alumni, and job market demands as well as research advancements in nutrition science.

ESTIMATED PROGRAM TUITION AND FEES

Please note that UAB is a state institution, and thus tuition is mandated by the Alabama Board of Trustees. Tuition rates change annually in accordance with the academic year. The DNS is not responsible for tuition charges. For the most up-to-date tuition and fees, please visit the [Tuition and Fees webpage](#). This graduate program is listed under the Graduate tab, within the School of Health Professions. The estimation below is based on the **2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR** tuition costs that were available at the time of publication of this document.

DIETITIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM (DEP) ESTIMATED TUITION AND FEES

	Alabama Resident	Non-Alabama Resident
Online Course Credit Hours	34 credit hours	34 credit hours
Online Course Tuition Cost	\$682credit hour	\$682credit hour
Practicum Course Credit Hours*	24 credit hours	24 credit hours
Practicum Course Tuition Cost	\$595credit hour	\$1461credit hour
NTR 501 Fee	\$550	\$550
Other Fees	TBD	TBD
Textbooks	TBD	TBD
TOTAL (DEP Track)	\$38,018	\$58,802

*Practicums, whether local or distance, are considered in-person experiences and are therefore subject to tuition charge based on your state residency status.

**NTR 501 is the RDN Examination Review Course led by Jean Inman. This zero-credit-hour course costs a one-time fee of \$550. This fee also covers a one-year subscription to eatrightPREP.

DEP TRACK TUITION PAYMENTS

Tuition is due semester-by-semester. To see when tuition is due, please visit the [UAB Academic Calendar](#). To see the breakdown of credit hours per semester, please visit the DEP track [curriculum webpage](#).

DIETITIAN EDUCATION GRADUATE CERTIFICATE (DEP-C) ESTIMATED TUITION AND FEES

	Alabama Resident	Non-Alabama Resident
Online Course Credit Hours	13 credit hours	13 credit hours
Online Course Tuition Cost	\$682credit hour	\$682credit hour
Practicum Credit Hours*	24 credit hours	24 credit hours
Practicum Tuition Cost	\$595credit hour	\$1461credit hour
NTR 501 Fee**	\$550	\$550
Other Fees	TBD	TBD
Textbooks	TBD	TBD
TOTAL (DEP-C)	\$23,696	\$44,478
LMDP + DEP-C TOTAL	\$48,248	\$68,174

*Practicums, whether local or distance, are considered in-person experiences and are therefore subject to tuition charge based on your state residency status.

**NTR 501 is the RDN Examination Review Course led by Jean Inman. This zero-credit-hour course costs a one-time fee of \$550. This fee also covers a one-year subscription to eatrightPREP.

DEP-C TRACK TUITION PAYMENTS

Tuition is due semester-by-semester. To see when tuition is due, please visit the [UAB Academic Calendar](#). To see the breakdown of credit hours per semester, please visit the DEP-C [curriculum webpage](#).

FINANCIAL AID, LOANS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

If you have questions about financial aid, loans, or scholarships, please visit the UAB [Cost & Aid webpage](#). The DNS does not have internal scholarships for this degree program.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbook costs vary each semester. Students can search textbooks by semester through the [UAB Official Bookstore](#). Textbook information will also be available on course syllabi.

GETTING STARTED

The **UAB GRADUATE CATALOG** as well as the **UAB POLICIES AND PROCEDURES** guidelines are important resources for you throughout your program of study. Please familiarize yourself with these.

THE UAB GRADUATE CATALOG

The UAB Graduate Catalog outlines all of the policies and procedures pertaining to academic performance, degree progress, academic and non-academic conduct, and student responsibilities. You are expected to be familiar with these policies and to abide by them. The Graduate Catalog can be found [here](#).

In addition to the UAB Graduate Catalog, the DNS Student Handbooks outline MS in Nutrition Sciences–specific requirements. All degree-seeking students are expected to follow the MS in Nutrition Sciences requirements as well as those specific to their track. Therefore, the information within this handbook serves as a contract between you and this graduate program.

UAB POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Please refer to the School of Health Professions and UAB policies included in Section 2 of this Student Handbook.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Shortly after a degree-seeking student in the DNS is accepted by the UAB Graduate School into a program of study, the DNS assigns the student an Academic Advisor. Dependent upon the MS in Nutrition Sciences track for which you are enrolled, your Academic Advisor may be your track Program Director or another advisor within the department. Regardless, Academic Advisors in the DNS are here to support you as your progress through your graduate studies and want you to be successful in the MS in Nutrition Sciences degree program. Consider your Academic Advisor your ally, the one you can count on to support your success during your graduate studies.

It is expected that all students connect with their Academic Advisor every semester to update them on their academic progress and advancement toward degree completion. The student and Academic Advisor can work together to determine if these updates are best achieved through emails, phone calls, virtual meetings, or in-person meetings. You are expected to work with your Academic Advisor to establish and revise, when applicable, your academic plan of study, but ultimately it is up to you to take ownership and responsibility for your own course registration, academic progress, financial obligations of the program, and application for graduate degree.

BLAZERID

Your BlazerID is automatically assigned to you once you complete your graduate application. If you cannot find your BlazerID in the graduate school application portal, contact your Academic Advisor for assistance. You will need to create a unique password.

UAB EMAIL

Once you have your unique BlazerID and create your password, you will have access to all of UAB's systems – including your UAB email address. All students are expected to communicate using their UAB email address for any UAB-related matter. Please follow UAB's [Brand and Communication Toolkit](#) when creating an email signature for your UAB email address.

COURSE REGISTRATION

You must register for all courses for which you wish to earn graduate credit. The UAB class schedule is accessible via [BlazerNET](#) located at www.uab.edu/blazernet. You are able to register for courses and adjust your schedule by adding and dropping courses through the end of the drop/add period, which can be found on the [Academic Calendar](#).

Policies about tuition and fees, student account payment deadlines, payment processes, withdrawal from courses, leave of academic absence, withdrawal from the UAB Graduate School, and exceptions to policies can be found in the [Graduate Catalog](#).

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

The UAB Graduate School requires that a Master of Science degree be conferred within five years of your start date, though your track may have requirements that are more stringent. Throughout the graduate program of study, your status in the program is critically evaluated in terms of your academic progress and productivity toward degree completion.

GRADUATION PLANNING SYSTEM (GPS)

You can review your degree progress online through the [Graduation Planning System](#) (GPS), which shows your satisfied requirements and those not yet satisfied for your degree. You will also find a selection of [GPA calculators](#). You can learn more about how to access and read the GPS [here](#).

GRADING AND GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

The grade of A indicates superior performance, B is adequate performance, and C is performance only minimally adequate for a graduate student. Any graduate student completing a course at the 500 level or above with a performance below the C level will receive a grade of F; **the Graduate School does not use the grade of D**. Whereas a grade of C is accepted in each course to receive a passing grade, a B average overall (3.0) is required to maintain good academic standing in the program.

Four (4.0) quality points are awarded for each semester hour in which an A is earned, three (3.0) for a B, and two (2.0) for a C. No quality points are awarded for a grade of F. Your GPA is determined by dividing the total quality points awarded by your semester hours attempted at the graduate level.

For courses designated as pass/not pass, a grade of P (passing) signifies satisfactory work. A grade of NP (not passing) indicates unsatisfactory work, although no penalty is assessed with respect to GPA.

The [GPA Calculator](#) can be used to explore how the classes you enroll in will affect your GPA each term.

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICIES

Policies about temporary grade notations, academic standing, repeated courses, grade replacement, grade changes, and time limitations can be found in the [Graduate Catalog](#).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE

The University established a new Academic Integrity Code effective August 23, 2021. This code, which applies to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students as well as all academic activities, defines academic misconduct and outlines procedures for breaches of the code. Policies are established for the resolution of charges of academic misconduct, and these processes are managed by the academic integrity coordinator (AIC). In the School of Health Professions, the AIC is the Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs. The full text of the Academic Integrity Code is available [here](#).

DEPARTMENT GRIEVANCE POLICY

Although it is rare, issues can arise between a student and professor, preceptor, or Program Director. To ensure that concerns are addressed in an appropriate and timely manner, students should follow the program's procedure for resolving issues and document each stage of the process. The program is required to maintain a record of student complaints for a period of seven years, including the resolution of complaints. The following are the steps that must be taken for an academic grievance by a student:

1. Address concerns or problems with the responsible party, i.e., professor, preceptor, or Program Director. Students should make all attempts to communicate and resolve concerns with the responsible party prior to contacting the Program Director.
2. If no resolution is found, identify the problem and clearly document the situation in writing. Present documentation to the Program Director, who will then arrange a combined meeting with all parties involved to work to resolve the issue.
3. If the grievance is with the Program Director, submit documentation to the Chair of the Department of Nutrition Sciences.
4. If at this point the issue is not resolved, documentation of the problem and grievance process will be submitted to the School of Health Professions Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs for review.
5. If these steps do not culminate in a resolution, the student should follow the University's [Student Complaint Policy](#).
6. Only in the event that all of the above University procedures have been exhausted and the matter remains unresolved should the student file a formal complaint with the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

FILING A COMPLAINT WITH ACEND

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (Academy) has established a process for reviewing complaints against accredited programs to fulfill its public responsibility for assuring the quality and integrity of the educational programs that it accredits. Students may submit a complaint to ACEND only after program grievance procedures have been exhausted. For instructions on filing a complaint to ACEND, review the [ACEND Policy and Procedure Manual](#).

DEP TRACK POLICIES AND PROCEDURES CODE OF ETHICS

Students are expected to adhere to the Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession established by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and its credentialing agency the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). Prior to beginning supervised practice, students are required to review and abide by the Code of Ethics outlined below. Access the original [Code of Ethics document](#) on the Academy's website.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR THE NUTRITION AND DIETETICS PROFESSION

Preamble

When providing services the nutrition and dietetics practitioner adheres to the core values of customer focus, integrity, innovation, social responsibility, and diversity. Science-based decisions, derived from the best available research and evidence, are the underpinnings of ethical conduct and practice.

This Code applies to nutrition and dietetics practitioners who act in a wide variety of capacities and provides general principles and specific ethical standards for situations frequently encountered in daily practice. The primary goal is the protection of the individuals, groups, organizations, communities, or populations with whom the practitioner works and interacts.

The nutrition and dietetics practitioner supports and promotes high standards of professional practice, accepting the obligation to protect clients, the public, and the profession; upholds the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (Academy) and its credentialing agency the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession; and shall report perceived violations of the Code through established processes.

The Academy/CDR Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession establishes the principles and ethical standards that underlie the nutrition and dietetics practitioner's roles and conduct. All individuals to whom the Code applies are referred to as "nutrition and dietetics practitioners." *By accepting membership in the Academy and/or accepting and maintaining CDR credentials, all nutrition and dietetics practitioners agree to abide by the Code.*

Principles and Standards

1. Competence and professional development in practice (Non-maleficence)

Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:

- a. Practice using an evidence-based approach within areas of competence, continuously develop and enhance expertise, and recognize limitations.
- b. Demonstrate in depth scientific knowledge of food, human nutrition, and behavior.
- c. Assess the validity and applicability of scientific evidence without personal bias.
- d. Interpret, apply, participate in and/or generate research to enhance practice, innovation, and discovery.
- e. Make evidence-based practice decisions, taking into account the unique values and circumstances of the patient/client and community, in combination with the practitioner's expertise and judgment.
- f. Recognize and exercise professional judgment within the limits of individual qualifications and collaborate with others, seek counsel, and make referrals as appropriate.
- g. Act in a caring and respectful manner, mindful of individual differences, cultural, and ethnic diversity.
- h. Practice within the limits of their scope and collaborate with the inter-professional team.

2. Integrity in personal and organizational behaviors and practices (Autonomy)

Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:

- a. Disclose any conflicts of interest, including any financial interests in products or services that are recommended. Refrain from accepting gifts or services which potentially influence or which may give the appearance of influencing professional judgment.
- b. Comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including obtaining/maintaining a state license or certification if engaged in practice governed by nutrition and dietetics statutes.
- c. Maintain and appropriately use credentials.
- d. Respect intellectual property rights, including citation and recognition of the ideas and work of others, regardless of the medium (e.g. written, oral, electronic).
- e. Provide accurate and truthful information in all communications.
- f. Report inappropriate behavior or treatment of a patient/client by another nutrition and dietetics practitioner or other professionals.
- g. Document, code and bill to most accurately reflect the character and extent of delivered services.
- h. Respect patient/client's autonomy. Safeguard patient/client confidentiality according to current regulations and laws.
- i. Implement appropriate measures to protect personal health information using appropriate techniques (e.g., encryption).

3. Professionalism (Beneficence)

Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:

- a. Participate in and contribute to decisions that affect the well-being of patients/clients.

- b. Respect the values, rights, knowledge, and skills of colleagues and other professionals.
- c. Demonstrate respect, constructive dialogue, civility, and professionalism in all communications, including social media.
- d. Refrain from communicating false, fraudulent, deceptive, misleading, disparaging, or unfair statements or claims.
- e. Uphold professional boundaries and refrain from romantic relationships with any patients/clients, surrogates, supervisees, or students.
- f. Refrain from verbal/physical/emotional/sexual harassment.
- g. Provide objective evaluations of performance for employees, coworkers, and students and candidates for employment, professional association memberships, awards, or scholarships, making all reasonable efforts to avoid bias in the professional evaluation of others.
- h. Communicate at an appropriate level to promote health literacy.
- i. Contribute to the advancement and competence of others, including colleagues, students, and the public.

4. Social responsibility for local, regional, national, global nutrition and well-being (Justice)

Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:

- a. Collaborate with others to reduce health disparities and protect human rights.
- b. Promote fairness and objectivity with fair and equitable treatment.
- c. Contribute time and expertise to activities that promote respect, integrity, and competence of the profession.
- d. Promote the unique role of nutrition and dietetics practitioners.
- e. Engage in service that benefits the community and to enhance the public's trust in the profession.
- f. Seek leadership opportunities in professional, community, and service organizations to enhance health and nutritional status while protecting the public.

PATIENT INFORMATION CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

Patient and employee information is considered confidential. This applies to documented and undocumented information. Failure to maintain confidentiality of patient information is grounds for dismissal from the program.

- **Do not** discuss patients or their cases with anyone except as necessary to provide patient care.
- **Do not** discuss patient cases on the elevator, in the cafeteria, in the halls, or in other public places.
- **Do not** post any patient information or photos on social media.

STUDENT RECORDS

All intern information is protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Intern records will be kept on password-protected computer files. Access is limited to specific DEP faculty/staff on a need-to-know basis. All preceptors are trained on FERPA and the need to maintain confidentiality

with respect to intern performance. Students may access their records upon request. Students do not have access to letters of recommendation.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION VERIFICATION

Upon acceptance to the program, both distance and local students, obtain a unique BlazerID and password, which serves as their login to access all UAB's computer-based systems including Canvas, the learning management system through which students take courses.

Students are also required to obtain a UAB OneCard prior to supervised practice rotations. The OneCard includes the student's name, department of study, and photo. In order to obtain a OneCard, students must present a photo ID to confirm identity.

In select didactic courses, students complete assignments using technology (i.e., ProctorU, Respondus LockDown Browser) that requires the student to show a photo ID and/or records the student completing the assignment.

DRESS CODE

Students are expected to comply with the following dress code for all program activities, including but not limited to orientation, supervised practice rotations, internship meetings, course activities, and conferences. In instances where a rotation facility's dress code differs from the program dress code, students should follow the preceptor's instruction, keeping in mind that they are representing the profession and UAB.

- Clothes should be clean, wrinkle-free, and loose fitting to allow for freedom of movement. Shirttails must be tucked in for men.
- Dresses/skirts cannot exceed two inches above the knee in length.
- Patterned or seamed hosiery is not acceptable. Socks are required for men.
- Clothing with slogans or advertisement should not be worn.
- Shoes must be clean and in good repair. Shoes should be a comfortable height, appropriate for the work environment, and consistent with professional attire. No tennis shoes or sandals without heel straps are allowed.
- Sunglasses (or other tinted, non-prescription glasses) should not be worn inside facilities.
- Caps or hats are not acceptable.
- Jewelry should be conservative. No facial jewelry is allowed (except earrings). Body piercing other than the earlobe is not acceptable business dress. Jewelry should be limited to:
 - Rings: no more than two per hand (not to extend above the knuckle).
 - Earrings: no more than two pair may be worn. Earrings will be no larger than two inches in diameter or length.
- Nails should be no longer than one-quarter inch from the end of the finger; acrylic nails are not allowed. Nail polish should not be worn in food production areas.
- Hair should be neat and clean. Bandannas, headbands, or any extreme adornment is not allowed.
- Identification badges should be worn at all times during rotations at the collar/shoulder level.

- Miscellaneous: Gum chewing is not allowed during rotations, makeup should be appropriate for business hours, and perfume is not allowed.

Inappropriate clothing is defined as evening wear, sheer fabrics, low necklines, sundresses, halter dresses, spaghetti straps, jeans, jean-type pants, cargo pants, tank tops, T-shirts, tube tops, midriff tops, shorts, miniskirts, athletic wear, leggings, and sweatpants/sweatshirts.

Students are expected to dress professionally and follow the program dress code when attending any program activity.

COVID-19 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Students completing supervised practice experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic must comply with all policies and procedures issued by the University, program, and supervised practice site.

At this time, the COVID-19 vaccine is not required for students in the DEP. However, rotation sites may require students to be fully vaccinated prior to attending rotations. **Students who choose not to receive the COVID-19 vaccine may experience a delayed graduation date due to rotation site limitations.**

Students must demonstrate compliance with personal safety practices including but not limited to:

- Use of [personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) as defined by the supervised practice site. If the site requires the student to wear PPE that is not provided, the student is responsible for providing their own PPE. This includes, but is not limited to, face masks.
- Proper and frequent [handwashing practices](#).

Failure to comply with all policies and procedures issued by the University, program, and supervised practice site will result in immediate suspension from supervised practice rotations and/or disciplinary action. Persistent failure or willful disregard for health and safety protocols by any student will result in consequences consistent with UAB's discipline policies for [students](#).

Please keep in mind that the COVID pandemic is a fluid situation for the university, program, and practice sites that may warrant further restrictions or changes to the policies and procedures that are outlined above. Students should check their University email and practicum Canvas announcements for updates.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Due to the accelerated nature of the program, students are discouraged from working while enrolled in the DEP.

ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER CHANGES

Students must submit any changes to their student information, including home address, phone number, or name, through BlazerNet.

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

The DEP observes the holidays posted in the [UAB Academic Calendar](#). The following policies and procedures relate to student attendance in the program.

PROGRAM ORIENTATION

Students will be provided a series of orientation materials electronically at the start of DEP and the **Dietitian Education Program Practicum Handbook** prior to beginning supervised practice experiences.

ABSENCES

In addition to the School of Health Professions attendance policy, students are expected to attend all assigned supervised practice rotations, virtual classrooms, and internship orientations/meetings.

Excessive unexcused absences, which is defined as more than two per semester, will be addressed using the progressive disciplinary action procedures.

TARDINESS

Students are expected to arrive on time to all scheduled supervised practice rotations, internship meetings, and other program activities. If you know you will be arriving late to a scheduled activity, you are expected to call or email the appropriate supervisor (i.e., preceptor or Program Director) as soon as possible. **Habitual tardiness, which is defined as more than three per semester, will be addressed using the program's disciplinary action procedures.**

SICK DAYS

Sick time benefits are provided for the protection of the student in time of illness. **Students are eligible for three days of sick leave during the program year.** The student must notify by phone or email both the Program Director and the supervising preceptor of absence as early as possible. If rotation objectives are not completed due to absence, the student will need to coordinate with the Program Director to reschedule the missed activities. Absences related to a serious medical condition must submit a physician signed statement of medical clearance to the Program Director before returning to supervised practice rotations. Additional sick days require a physician's statement.

BAD WEATHER/EMERGENCIES

Students are responsible for staying informed during severe weather conditions and emergency situations in their area. Resources such as the [B-ALERT](#) system and [Rave Guardian](#) can help students stay safe while on the UAB campus. In the event of severe weather, students are expected to communicate with their preceptor about attending scheduled rotations. If rotation objectives are not completed due to an absence related to severe weather/emergency, the student is expected to coordinate with the Program Director and/or Dietetics Practice Coordinator to reschedule the missed activities.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Students may take a leave of absence from supervised practice rotations due to a death in the family, serious medical condition, or other extenuating circumstances. The student will work with the Program Director and/or Dietetics Practice Coordinator to develop a plan for making up missed learning objectives due to absences. Students taking absences related to a serious medical condition must submit a physician-signed statement of medical clearance and gain approval from the Program Director before returning to supervised practice rotations. For extended absences from the program, students are required to submit a [Leave of Absence form](#) to the UAB Graduate School.

OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES, EXPERIENCES, AND ASSIGNMENTS

The following provides an overview of the types of assignments that are required throughout supervised practice. Detailed information about the supervised practice experience assignments and corresponding evaluation methods will be discussed during Practicum Orientation with the Program Director.

In short, during the program year, interns are required to complete a minimum of 1,000 hours of supervised practice, which comprises 807 hours of professional practice and 193 hours of alternative practice. Each practicum has a specified minimum number of hours that must be completed. Students are required to complete specific learning activities and assignments for each supervised practice rotation to become proficient in the ACEND-required practice competencies.

STUDENT/INTERN PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The Program Director monitors each intern's performance within the didactic courses and supervised practice rotations on a continual basis. Interns meet with the Program Director one-on-one each semester to review their plan of study, supervised practice evaluations, and work portfolio. In addition, the Program Director works with each student to develop, implement, evaluate, and monitor a strategic plan for improvement that includes personal goals and objectives.

REMIEDIATION PLANS

Students may be required to develop a remediation plan for competencies that are assessed as less than satisfactory (i.e., scores of 1 or 2) in the professional practice setting by their preceptor. The student will email the Program Director to schedule a meeting to develop the remediation plan. The template for the remediation plan is located on the E*Value homepage. Follow instructions on this document carefully. It is the student's responsibility to schedule this meeting, if there is not an advising meeting for the rotation. Following the meeting, the student must submit this plan to their portfolio (title: NTR____Remediation Plan) and to the Program Director **before the start of the next rotation**. If a remediation plan is not successful, the student may be dismissed from the program.

Remedial instruction, such as in-person and online tutoring, is also available to all students through the University Writing Center and the Office for Student Recruitment, Engagement, and Success.

RETENTION PROCEDURE

The DEP Program Director will address intern deficiencies identified in supervised practice rotations through the coordination of additional guidance and opportunities to promote improvement. Interns demonstrating minimal chance of success in completing the program will be counseled by the Program Director to identify career paths that are appropriate to the intern's ability.

SUPERVISED PRACTICE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

As a requirement of the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), students must complete a minimum of 1,000 hours of supervised practice experiences in a professional work setting. The DEP partners with preceptors and facilities within Birmingham, Alabama, and across the United States to provide exceptional practice experiences in the areas of clinical and community nutrition and foodservice administration. The following policies and procedures pertain to students participating in supervised practice experiences.

PRECEPTORS

During supervised practice rotations, students work with preceptors who have the required education and experience needed to provide guidance for supervised practice experiences. Although students may assist preceptors with their workload, students are not to be used to replace employees. Preceptor performance is regularly monitored through student evaluations.

PRACTICUM ROTATIONS

As a part of the DEP, the supervised practice experience comprises seven courses. These courses have the word practicum in their title. Each practicum has a specified minimum number of hours that must be completed in order to earn a grade of "P" for "Passing" that practicum. Supervised practice hours are logged by interns and approved by preceptors in eValue.

Students must identify a minimum of three preceptors for the following practice areas: clinical preceptor (must be a registered dietitian nutritionist), food service management, and community. While the Dietetics Practice Coordinator is available to assist all students in identifying preceptors for their practicum experiences, distance students are ultimately the most familiar with their local areas and are therefore responsible for identifying their own preceptors for practicums. Local (Birmingham, Alabama) students will receive assistance from the Dietetics Practice Coordinator in identifying preceptors and practicum sites. DEP students may identify their own preceptors for supervised practice experiences, allowing them to personally tailor their professional growth. Supervised practice experiences are the ideal time for students to gain experience in practice areas they envision themselves working in in the future, as credentialed RDNs.

Please note that **students are not permitted to receive compensation for hours counted toward supervised practice**. Further, some students choose to complete supervised practice hours at the facility where they are actively employed. If you chose to do so, you are not permitted to be "on the clock" while you are completing supervised practice hours. For example, *if a student is currently employed as a*

Diet Technician (DTR, NDTR) at the hospital where they plan to complete supervised practice hours, the student would be permitted to work as a DTR during the weekend, but not during the week when the student is completing supervised practice hours. Further, when the student is completing supervised practice hours, they should be working under a preceptor and viewed as a dietitian in training, rather than the position in which they are currently employed. Please have this conversation with your preceptor and nutrition management prior to beginning your supervised practice to ensure expectations are clear.

TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING

Students are required to have a reliable form of transportation, valid driver's license, and auto insurance coverage while enrolled in a practicum course. Any issues related to transportation should be communicated to the Program Director. Students are liable for their safety and the safety of their passengers when travelling to and from assigned rotations.

Preceptors will instruct students on where to park during supervised practice rotations. When attending program activities on the UAB campus, distance students may request a [visitor parking permit](#) through the UAB Parking and Transportation website. Please allow 3–5 business days for processing. Students are responsible for any fees related to parking.

REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Prior to beginning supervised practice rotations, students are required to complete the following trainings. Certifications must be valid through the entirety of the program.

- CPR Certification
- ServSafe Manager or Food Handler Certification

Students are also required to have an active student membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics while enrolled in the program.

DRUG SCREENING AND BACKGROUND CHECK

In addition to the drug screen and background check required by the School of Health Professions, students may be asked to undergo additional drug screens and background checks as a requirement of supervised practice facilities. Students are responsible for all costs associated with drug screening and background checks.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Liability insurance coverage is provided by the University to all students registered for clinical education courses and assigned to clinical sites.

ROTATION PAPERWORK AND ORIENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Students are responsible for attending all site-specific rotation orientations and submitting all required paperwork in a timely manner to the Program Director or designated rotation site personnel upon request. Paperwork requirements include but are not limited to:

- Verification of student immunizations
- Drug screen and background check reports
- Verification of CPR training
- Verification of HIPAA training

It is the student's responsibility to ensure all required paperwork is completed and submitted prior to the scheduled rotation. Failure to complete paperwork requirements could result in a delayed start date or schedule reassignment.

CELL PHONE USE

Cell phones or other personal electronic devices (iPads, tablets, etc.) may not be used during supervised practice rotations. You are required to bring a calculator to rotations; cell phones are not to be used as calculators during rotations. You may use your cell phone during designated breaks. Cell phones must be turned off during rotations.

INJURY OR ILLNESS IN SUPERVISED PRACTICE

Although rare, students may experience injury or illness while in supervised practice. The affiliated facility is required to provide first aid and emergency care for illness and accidents occurring on the facility's premises. All other medical and dental costs are the responsibility of the student.

SUPERVISED PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION

Students, preceptors, and program faculty utilize eValue, an online healthcare education management system, to track work hours (supervised practice and volunteer hours, sick, and personal days) and complete evaluations at the end of each rotation. The Program Director has access to all time tracking and evaluation data for both students and preceptors.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL'S OFFICE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES (IGPS)

Through its Office of Interdisciplinary Graduate and Professional Studies, the Graduate School offers courses, workshops, and seminars designed to help graduate students develop career-enhancing skills. Current offerings include credit-bearing courses and workshops, as well as free seminars in writing, funding, presentations, and teaching at the college level. We encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities. More information and schedules are available on the Office of Interdisciplinary Graduate and Professional Studies [website](#).

SUMMARY OF THE STEPS TO EARNING YOUR MS DEGREE

The following is an overview of the main steps required to earn the MS in Nutrition Sciences degree:

1. Maintenance of good academic standing (minimum 3.0 GPA)
2. Completion of 14 semester hours of core curriculum requirements as well as all track-specific curriculum requirements; when applicable, completion of elective courses as recommended by the Program Director and/or Academic Advisor
3. Submission of Application for Graduate Degree (visit this [webpage](#) for submission deadlines). DEP-C students will also need to submit an application for the certificate.
4. Conferring of degree

APPLICATION FOR DEGREE

Candidates for a degree must notify their Program Director and the UAB Graduate School of their intent to graduate by submitting the Application for Degree by the appropriate [deadline](#). The application is accessible through BlazerNET by clicking Links/Forms and selecting *Apply for Graduate Degree*.

Upon receipt of the Application for Degree, both the MS in Nutrition Sciences program and the Graduate School will audit your requirements to ensure that you have met the degree requirements and are eligible to graduate with the earned degree. UAB's Graduation Planning System (GPS) contains a personalized degree audit, which includes all courses required to earn the degree, and will display completed, in-progress, and outstanding requirements. GPS is accessible through BlazerNET by clicking the GPS button in the menu on the right side of the page.

You must be registered for at least one (1) credit hour during your term of graduation. If you are covered by the student health insurance policy, hold an assistantship, or have student loans, it may be necessary to register for a prescribed minimum number of credit hours to retain these benefits. Make sure to check with the appropriate office(s) if retention of these benefits is a concern.

AWARD OF DEGREE

Upon approval by the Graduate School Dean and payment of any outstanding financial obligations to the University, the president confers students' degrees by authority of the Board of Trustees. UAB does not determine the official degree type awarded, as this is governed by the Alabama Commission on Higher

Education and the Board of Trustees after receiving a program proposal. Students' majors are reflected on their transcripts. For more information, please see the [Graduate Catalog](#).

AWARD OF VERIFICATION STATEMENT

Students are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA to maintain good Academic Standing. Graduates receive their Verification Statement and are eligible to take the examination to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) offered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) once they have completed all degree requirements of the MS in Nutrition Sciences Dietitian Education Program. The maximum time allowed for completion of the MS in Nutrition Sciences DEP is three years.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please contact us for additional information about the DNS graduate programs.

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