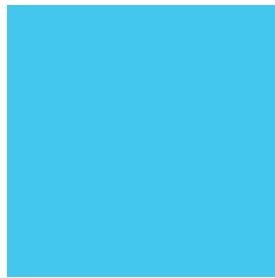


2026-2027 Student Handbook

Department of Nutrition Sciences

BS in Nutrition Sciences



UAB
The University of
Alabama at Birmingham.
School of Health Professions

UAB SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION SCIENCES
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NUTRITION SCIENCES
2026-2027 ACADEMIC HANDBOOK

Eric Plaisance

08/21/2026

Eric Plaisance, PhD
Program Director

Date

Barbara Gower

08/22/2026

Barbara A. Gower, PhD
Department Chair

Date

Mark Merrick

08/24/2026

Mark Merrick, PhD, AT, ATC, FNATA, FNAP, FASAHP
Dean
School of Health Professions

Date

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Dean's Welcome Message	4
Overview of the School of Health Professions	4
Important Information You Should Know	5
Section 1 – School and University Information	6
Academic Calendar	6
Academic Integrity Code	6
Advising	6
Ambassadors	6
AskIT	6
Attendance	6
BlazerID / BlazerNET / Email	7
Blazer Express	8
Bookstore	8
Campus OneCard	8
Campus Map	8
Campus Safety	8
Canvas Learning Management System	8
Catalog	9
Community Standards and Accountability	9
Counseling Services	9
Disability Support Services (DSS)	9
Emergencies	9
Nondiscrimination Statement:	10
FERPA Training	10
Financial Aid	10
Food Services	11
Graduate School	11
Graduation	11
Health Insurance	11
HIPAA Training	11
Honor Societies	11
Immunization Policy	12
Institutional Review Board for Human Use (IRB)	12
Intellectual Property	12
Lactation Centers	12
Libraries and Learning Resource Center	12
UAB Student Conduct Code	13
One Stop Student Services	13
Parking	13
Plagiarism and TurnItIn	13
Recreation Center	14

School of Health Professions Awards	14
School of Health Professions Scholarships	14
School of Health Professions Shared Values	14
Social Media	15
Student Health Services	15
Title IX	15
Tuition and Fees	15
Weather	15
Withdrawal from Course / Program	15

Section 2 – SHP and UAB Policies17

School of Health Professions Policies	17
Accidents / Injuries Occurring on Campus:	21
Undergraduate and Graduate Volunteer Research:	21
UAB Policies	22

Section 3: Program Specific Information 23

Bachelor of Science (BS) in Nutrition Sciences23

Welcome to the BS in Nutrition Sciences Program	23
Welcome to the Department of Nutrition Sciences	23
Admissions & Enrollment Requirements	26
Degree Requirements	27
Advising & Mentoring	29
Professionalism Expectations	31
Funding & Financial Information	31
Student Organizations	31

Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate 32

Program Overview32

Introduction	32
Mission, Goals, and Objectives	32
Program Accreditation	33
Pathway to Becoming An RDN	34
Admissions & Enrollment Requirements	34
Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate Student Center	35
Certificate Requirements	36
Program Calendar and Absences	36
Program Withdrawal Policy	36
Program Completion	36
DPD Verification Statement	37
Policies & Standards	37

INTRODUCTION

DEAN'S WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Health Professions where you are joining a legacy of excellence!

We are one of the six schools comprising the renowned UAB Academic Health Center. We offer more than 30 programs and 40 offerings at the certificate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels. And we are home to nearly 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

You came here for an outstanding education, and we provide exactly that. However, **only you** can control whether you will become an excellent professional. To do so, you must challenge yourself every day and take advantage of all our vast resources, state-of-the-art facilities and research opportunities during your academic and clinical education. You also need to make the most of your access to the world-class faculty who are here to teach and support your journey. You didn't enroll here to be to be an amateur. You came to become a professional, and not an average one. I encourage you to become a "Pro" and an excellent one at that. Own it, live it, excel at what you do, and make both us and yourself proud.

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

Go Blazers!

Mark Merrick, Ph.D., AT, ATC, FNATA, FNAP, FASAHP
Dean, UAB School of Health Professions

OVERVIEW OF THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

The UAB School of Health Professions (SHP) is one of the largest academic institutions of its type in the United States. 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 and research excellence.

Today, we have five academic departments – Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, Health Services Administration, Nutrition Sciences, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy – that are housed in four buildings: Susan Mott Webb Nutrition Sciences Building (WEBB), Learning Resource Center (LRC), the School of Health Professions Building (SHPB), and the Center for Biophysical Sciences and Engineering (CBSE).

We are proud of many accomplishments including:

- *U.S. News & World Report* ranks all eligible SHP programs in the nation's top 25.
- Research funding is at an all-time high of \$26+ million and growing.
- Nearly 10 of our programs you will only find in Alabama at UAB.

- Our school has never been stronger or better positioned as a national leader in health professions education. And this status will only grow stronger as we continue to welcome students like you.

DISCLAIMER

This Handbook is an overview of general academic regulations specific to SOHP programs at UAB. Although UAB will make its best efforts to abide by this handbook, UAB reserves the right to interpret and apply its procedures and policies, and to deviate from these guidelines, as appropriate in the particular circumstances and in accordance with the mission and goals of the program. UAB also reserves the right to address issues not covered in this handbook and to make changes to the policy without advance notice. Changes become effective at the time the proper authorities determine so and the changes apply to both prospective students and those already enrolled. Please refer to our website for the most up-to-date version.

All students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the general University rules and regulations pertaining to studying at UAB and the specific academic requirements of their particular degree program. This Handbook is not intended to nor does it contain all policies or regulations applicable to students. Each student is responsible for familiarizing him/herself with the contents of this Handbook. Although the policies contained herein are intended to reflect current rules and policies of the University, users are cautioned that changes or additions may have become effective since the publication of this material. In the event of a conflict, current statements of Board policy contained in the Bylaws, Rules, official minutes, and other pronouncements of the Board or Chancellor, or superseding law, shall prevail.

This Handbook does not constitute a contract and may not be deemed or construed as part of any contract between UAB and any student or student representative.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW

Although UAB works hard to prepare students for future careers in their desired fields, employment and salaries are not guaranteed. Employment outcomes depend on a student's efforts and market conditions. Students are responsible for understanding their financial responsibilities. [Tuition costs can be found on this UAB website](#). Scholarships are competitive and not guaranteed. Admission to other graduate or professional programs is also not guaranteed. Advisors will provide students with guidance, but students are ultimately responsible for degree completion, and timelines for completion may vary based on individual circumstances.

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. The Academic Integrity Code process is managed by the Academic Integrity Coordinator (AIC). In the School of Health Professions, the AIC is the Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs, and the office is located in SHPB 660. [You can see the full text of the Academic Integrity Code online.](#)

ADVISING

Undergraduate student advising is provided through advisors assigned to each program as well as through the Office of Student Services. Advisor and recruiter contact information can be found on the [Office of Student Services Website](#). 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. [You can learn more about the SHP Ambassadors on their webpage.](#)

AskIT

AskIT is the technology help desk for faculty, staff, and students. You will be asked to supply your BlazerID when you request assistance. Contact them by phone at 205-996-5555 or [via email](#) or [visit the AskIT service portal online](#).

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 for students who have approved disability-related absence accommodations through Disability Support Services may follow the reasonable number of absences outlined in their flex plan or as determined by the instructor. Students are responsible for notifying instructors of these and any other approved accommodations through their Notice of Accommodations letter.
- 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.

BLAZERID / BLAZERNET / EMAIL

BLAZERID

All students receive a unique identifier, the BlazerID, established at [BlazerID Central](#). Your BlazerID is required for accessing BlazerNET and other campus resources. To activate one's BlazerID, select "Activate Accounts."

BLAZERNET

[BlazerNet](#) is the official portal of the UAB information network and is accessible from any Internet-accessible computer, on- or off-campus.

EMAIL

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. The UAB email is the official communication medium for courses, news, information, and announcements. Students should not forward their 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 [visit the Blazer Express website](#).

BOOKSTORE

There is one bookstore located on the UAB campus in the Hill Student Center. It offers 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. Visit [the UAB Barnes and Noble Bookstore online](#) for more details.

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 on the [UAB OneCard website](#).

CAMPUS MAP

[UAB's campus map can be found online](#).

CAMPUS SAFETY

[Campus safety procedures and resources can be accessed online](#).

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 the [UAB Center for Teaching and Learning website](#). 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 [find the Undergraduate or Graduate catalog online](#).

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. UAB Student Advocacy, Rights & Conduct (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 at the [UAB SARC website](#). [The UAB student conduct code may be accessed online](#).

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 on the 3rd floor of the Student Health and Wellness Center at 1714 9th Avenue South. For more information, call 205-934-5816 or [visit the Student Counseling Services website](#).

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)

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 DSS, please call 205-934-4205 or visit [the DSS website](#).

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.

EMERGENCIES

Report suspicious or threatening activity to the UAB Police Department immediately. Law enforcement 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.

BEHAVIORAL THREAT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT (BTAM)

The UAB and UAB Medicine Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Team (BTAM) is an interdisciplinary team dedicated to maintaining a safe, secure, and healthy campus environment for all students, employees, and visitors. BTAM uses a structured, proactive process to identify, assess, and manage behavioral threats to campus safety and well-being. Concerning behaviors—such as a significant change in academic performance or conduct, aggressive or irrational behavior, expressions of severe distress, or inability to control anger—should be reported promptly. Non-emergency situations involving students may be reported through the Division of Student Affairs at (205) 975-9509 or via the online reporting form. For more information, visit the [UAB BTAM website](#).

UAB POLICE:

For an emergency, dial 911 *from a campus phone*. For non-emergencies call: 205-934-3535 or 205-934-HELP (4357) or 205-934-4434.

Emergencies affecting campus are communicated via the following:

- UAB Severe Weather & Emergency Hotline 205-934-2165
- [UAB home webpage](#)
- [UAB Emergency Management webpage](#)
- Announcements on [BlazerNET](#)
- Cell phone messages and SMS text via B-ALERT. [Register for B-ALERT online](#).

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

UAB is an [Equal Employment/Equal Educational Opportunity Institution](#) dedicated to providing equal opportunities and equal access to all individuals regardless of race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including pregnancy), genetic information, age, disability, and veteran's status. As required by Title IX, UAB prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. Individuals may report concerns or questions to UAB's Assistant Vice President and Senior Title IX Coordinator. [The Title IX notice of nondiscrimination is located online](#).

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. UAB has a dedicated [FERPA website](#) with information about your rights and protection of your records. You may [email any questions or concerns about FERPA issues](#) to FERPA@uab.edu. All SHP students are required to complete FERPA Training. The course can be accessed at [THIS WEBSITE](#).

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. If you have general

questions, you can contact the Office of Student Financial Aid at 205-934-8223 or [via email](#). For additional financial aid information [visit the UAB Cost & Aid website](#).

FOOD SERVICES

There are several dining facilities available on campus. The [campus dining map](#) can show you the closest to the SHP buildings. For additional information about meal plans and campus dining facilities [visit the Campus Dining website](#).

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 [the UAB Graduate School website](#). Policies and Procedures for the Graduate School can be found 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 [UAB commencement website](#) for the most current information.

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 the [UAB Student Health Insurance Waivers website](#).

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 [UAB Online Learning](#). Compliance with the training requirement is monitored by the Office of Academic and Faculty Affairs.

HONOR SOCIETIES

All students in the School of Health Professions are eligible for consideration for the Alpha Eta Honor 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.

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, must provide proof of immunization against certain diseases, unless they have an approved medical or religious exemption. Full details can be found on the [UAB Immunizations webpage](#).

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, as well as University Policies on Patents, Copyright, and Intellectual Property are on [the Office of Compliance & Risk homepage](#).

LACTATION CENTERS

The University has provided several lactation centers for students, faculty, and staff across the campus. Visit [the UAB Lactation Resources webpage](#) for a resource guide and a location map. The School of Health Professions' lactation room is in the Susan Mott Webb Nutrition Sciences Building at [1675 University Blvd](#), Room 431. Lactating 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 205-873-5666.

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.

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 audio/visual support, and information technology management of public, classroom, and testing labs. The building is at [1714 9th Avenue South](#), and the SHP student space is on the second floor. You can contact LRC staff [via email](#) or via phone at 205-934-5146.

LISTER HILL LIBRARY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

[Lister Hill Library](#) (LHL) is the largest biomedical library in Alabama and one of the largest in the south. It is located [across the crosswalk](#) from the School of Health Professions.

MERVYN H. STERNE LIBRARY

[Mervyn H. Sterne Library](#) has 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. It is located at [917 13th Street South](#).

UAB STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

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

The mission of the One Stop is to provide a single point of professional integrated service to students. The One Stop serves students who need assistance with academic records, financial aid, registration, student accounting, OneCard, and other related topics. One Stop is located in the Hill Student Center, [1400 University Blvd.](#) Suite 103. You may contact the [One Stop](#) office by phone or email at 205-934-4300, 855-UAB-1STP (855-822-1787), [or via email](#).

PARKING

Student vehicles must be registered with [UAB Parking and Transportation Services](#), located at [608 8th Street South](#). 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.

PLAGIARISM AND TURNITIN

Plagiarism violates the Academic Integrity Code and will be addressed in accordance with it. 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](#) are added to their database of papers that is used to screen future assignments for plagiarism.

RECREATION CENTER

The [Campus Recreation Center](#) is located at [1501 University Blvd](#). 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 SHP Student Awards Program](#), which includes 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.

A call for nominations will be sent to program directors each year. Please refer to the program section of this handbook for awards available to students in individual programs.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARSHIPS

SHP has several scholarship opportunities for students enrolled in SHP programs. The Scholarship Committee, comprised of faculty from each department, reviews and selects awardees. Please go to [the SHP Scholarship Application webpage](#) for a list of scholarships and instructions for application.

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.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS SHARED VALUES

- Collaboration
- Compassion & Caring
- Excellence & Achievement
- Integrity
- Respect
- Service
- Social Responsibility
- Stewardship

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media can serve as useful communication tools. However, health professions students should use the forums judiciously. For more information visit [the UAB Social Media Guidelines webpage](#). The school's official sites are on the following platforms:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Vimeo](#)
- [X/Twitter](#)
- [YouTube](#)

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

The University provides prevention, counseling, and treatment services to students through [Student Health Services](#) (SHS) located at [1714 9th Avenue South](#). Appointments may be scheduled via [their online portal](#).

TITLE IX

In accordance with Title IX, the University of Alabama at Birmingham does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its programs or services. The University is committed to providing an environment free from discrimination based on sex 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](#).

TUITION AND FEES

[UAB tuition and fees are published online](#). They may be paid through BlazerNET. SHP programs have specific fees attached to programs, courses, and/ or laboratories. 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. UAB has a dedicated [Preparedness webpage with Severe Weather Gathering Points and supply lists](#). Other information sources include the [B-ALERT System](#) (contact information must be setup and current) and the UAB Severe Weather & Emergency Hotline 205-934-2165.

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 you having to wait to register for the class again. 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 [visit the UAB Add/Drop, Extended Drop and Withdrawal Policy webpage](#), which also includes a medical withdrawal policy.

SECTION 2 – SHP AND UAB POLICIES

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS POLICIES

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](#)

BACKGROUND CHECK AND DRUG SCREEN POLICY

Students in SHP programs are required to undergo a background check and drug screen using the school's approved vendor, [Disa Healthcare Technology](#), at the time of program admission, and again, prior to placement in a fieldwork placement (clinical, internship, practicum, residency, etc.). Additional checks/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 background check and drug screens are provided to students by their programs. Students in SHP undergraduate programs must complete a module on drug screening and background checks during their first semester. The module will be located in Canvas, UAB's learning management system.

The [SHP Office of Academic and Faculty Affairs](#) is responsible for ensuring student compliance with the Background Check and Drug Screen Policy throughout the program. Students found to be non-compliant with this policy 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.

- 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 if 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 your 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 Associate Studies, MSPAS
- Rehabilitation Science, PhD

The following students enrolled in SHP undergraduate programs will complete a learning module related to background checks and drug screens in Canvas, UAB's 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
- Nutrition Sciences, 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.

DISA HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY INSTRUCTIONS

[Disa Healthcare Technology](#) 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, including document storage, portfolio builders and reference tools. Disa Healthcare Technology also allows you to upload any additional documents required by your school.

Order Summary

- Required Personal Information
 - 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 email address.
- Drug Test (LabCorp)
 - 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
 - At the end of the online 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

[Visit the website](#), click “place order” and choose the Disa CB platform (see logo screenshot below).



Enter package code AHO1 – 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 Disa/CastleBranch profile account. This package code is for the following majors:

- Health Care Management
- Biomedical Sciences
- Biotechnology
- Biomedical and Health Sciences
- Genetic Counseling
- Health Administration – Residential (MSHA)
- Health Care Quality and Safety (not employees of health care organizations)
- Health Informatics
- Health Physics
- Medical Laboratory Sciences
- Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Sciences
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Physician Associate Studies
- Rehabilitation Sciences

View Your Results

Your results will be posted directly to your Disa/CastleBranch profile account. You will be notified if there is any missing information needed 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, you may contact the Service Desk at 888-723-4263 x 7196 or submit a question [using the online contact us form](#).

ACCIDENTS / INJURIES OCCURRING ON CAMPUS:

All accidents/injuries occurring while involved in a program associated with the School of Health Professions are to be promptly reported to the faculty member in charge of class. Incident reports for accidents and injuries must be filed with the Department Administrative Office within 48 hours of the incident. Failure to report accidents or injuries within 48 hours of the incident may impact UAB's ability to address the accident or injury.

ACCIDENT / INJURY REPORTING PROCEDURE

When a student, visitor, faculty, or staff is involved in an accident or sustains an injury while involved in a program associated with the School of Health Professions, an accident / injury report is required. The faculty member in charge of the class where the injury occurs, or who is the first point of contact following the injury should download and complete this [Incident Report Form](#).

NEEDLESTICK/ BLOOD OR BODY FLUID EXPOSURES

When a student, visitor, faculty, or staff is involved in a body fluid or needlestick exposure while involved in a program associated with the School of Health Professions, they should follow the procedures on [the UAB Human Resources website](#). The faculty member in charge of the class where the exposure occurs, or who is the first point of contact following the injury should download and complete this [Incident Report Form](#).

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE VOLUNTEER RESEARCH:

Undergraduate or graduate volunteer students wanting to conduct research in a School of Health Professions laboratory should contact [Dr. Samantha Giordano-Mooga via email](#) for requirements.

UAB POLICIES

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

[UAB ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS](#)

[UAB ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS](#)

HEALTH

[UAB POLICY ON IMMUNIZATIONS](#)

[UAB POLICY ON NEEDLE STICKS AND EXPOSURES](#)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

[UAB POLICY ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DISCRIMINATORY HARASSMENT](#)

POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

[UAB POLICY ON CAMPUS SAFETY](#)

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

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

[UAB POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE](#)

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

[UAB POLICY ON PATENTS](#)

SUBSTANCE USE/ABUSE

[UAB POLICY ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, USE AND CONSUMPTION](#)

[UAB POLICY AS A DRUG FREE CAMPUS](#)

[UAB POLICY ON NON-SMOKING](#)

TECHNOLOGY

[UAB POLICY ON TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES](#)

STUDENT COMPLAINTS

[UAB COMPLAINT POLICY](#)

SECTION 3: PROGRAM SPECIFIC INFORMATION

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS) IN NUTRITION SCIENCES

WELCOME TO THE BS IN NUTRITION SCIENCES PROGRAM

Welcome to UAB Nutrition Sciences. Our program is designed to promote, protect, and enhance the quality of health, while addressing health problems at multiple levels. We go beyond “you are what you eat” and dive deep into the relationships among human health, nutrition, and medicine.

The Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition Sciences emphasizes the intersection of biological processes within the science of nutrition and its influence on health, well-being, and chronic disease prevention. This program prepares graduates for a wide range of careers in nutrition, health, and wellness across public, private, nonprofit, and for-profit sectors. Graduates may pursue opportunities with universities, health care organizations, public health agencies, hospitals, insurance companies, food and nutrition service providers, consulting firms, fitness organizations, and other health-related settings. . In addition to being well equipped to enter the workforce upon graduation, students will be prepared for further study in other healthcare-related fields, such as registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN), MS or PhD in nutrition sciences, physical therapy, occupational therapy, public health, optometry, medicine, dentistry, and many more.

Seven of the top 10 health problems in the United States are nutrition related, and Alabama’s health is among the worst in the nation, ranking as the 6th unhealthiest state and ranking 48th in cardiovascular disease, 48th in diabetes, and 46th in obesity. One of UAB’s missions and its Grand Challenge is to move Alabama out of the bottom 10 in national health rankings. This academic major is designed to meet this need by providing high-impact, experiential, and nutrition-focused education to meet existing and emerging health and wellness employment needs that are challenging and rewarding. Our faculty and staff are dedicated to student success and have created a didactic, interactive, and enlightening learning environment that is conducive for personal and professional growth.

The student handbook contains program policies and essential information for students. Please read it and use it as a guide throughout your engagement in our program.

Our faculty and staff look forward to working with you.

Eric P. Plaisance, PhD, FACSM
Associate Professor and Vice Chair
Program Director

WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION SCIENCES

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 healthcare 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 single, 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 two National Institutes of Health (NIH)–funded research centers in the Department of Nutrition Sciences—the Nutrition Obesity Research Center and the Diabetes Research 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 Bachelor 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.

MISSION, VISION, VALUES, AND GOALS

The central mission of the Nutrition Sciences program is aligned with the DNS mission “to conduct innovative research on chronic disease prevention and management, educate future leaders in nutrition and health sciences, and translate scientific discovery into clinical practice.” The Nutrition Sciences program goals focus on providing students with the following:

- Prepare students to lead health-related initiatives in nutrition and wellness in academic, healthcare, and research centers.
- Prepare students to research, interpret, communicate, and provide evidence-based nutritional health and wellness support through various methods of delivery to individuals, communities, and society.
- Prepare students to analyze and apply sustainability practices in nutrition and wellness.
- Prepare students to synthesize, interpret, and address societal and cultural matters of

concern in nutrition and wellness.

OVERVIEW

The Nutrition Sciences program was established at UAB in 2021. The program prepares graduates to directly address community health at multiple levels upon graduation. Graduates of the program will be prepared to work broadly in the fields of nutrition healthcare, and wellness. The program also prepares students to apply to graduate programs in nutrition sciences and other related health-care fields such as UAB's MS in Nutrition Sciences, PhD in Nutrition Sciences, physical therapy, occupational therapy, public health, dental school, optometry school, and medical school.

The Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate is an optional undergraduate certificate designed for students in the Nutrition Sciences program who wish to enter the workforce in nutrition and dietetics or to continue their graduate education to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN).

CAREER PATHWAYS

Students completing the BS in Nutrition Sciences are prepared for a variety of careers in nutrition, health, and wellness across public, private, nonprofit, and for-profit sectors. Graduates may pursue employment opportunities in healthcare systems, hospitals, public health agencies, wellness programs, community organizations, research settings, food and nutrition service organizations, consulting firms, fitness organizations, and corporate wellness programs. The program also provides strong preparation for graduate and professional education, including advanced study in nutrition sciences, dietetics, public health, medicine, dentistry, optometry, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and other health-related professions.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

The Department of Nutrition Sciences offers students opportunities to engage in experiential learning activities that complement classroom instruction and support professional development. Depending on their interests and career goals, students may participate in research, service-learning activities, community engagement initiatives, leadership experiences, and other high-impact educational opportunities. Students may also have opportunities to work with faculty and researchers affiliated with the department's research centers and programs, gaining exposure to basic, clinical, and translational research in nutrition and health-related fields.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Our faculty and staff are dedicated to supporting student success. To learn more about our Nutrition Sciences faculty and staff, please visit the [DNS People website](#)

Chair, Department of Nutrition Sciences

Barbara Gower, PhD

(205) 934-4087

Webb 616B

[Email](#)

Program Director, BS in Nutrition Sciences and Vice Chair, Department of Nutrition Sciences

Eric P. Plaisance, PhD, FACSM

(205) 996-7909

Webb 646

[Email](#)

Program Director, Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate

Carleton Rivers, MS, RD, LD

(205) 934-3223

Webb 540

[Email](#)

Program Manager and Academic Advisor, BS in Nutrition Sciences

Deidre Murray, MA

(205) 975-2984

Webb 556

[Email](#)

ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

Students intending to enroll in the Nutrition Sciences program must meet all UAB undergraduate admission and academic requirements. The following additional requirements apply for admission and progression in the Nutrition Sciences program.

ADMISSION FROM HIGH SCHOOL

Students entering from high school must:

- Have an overall GPA of 2.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Have an ACT composite score of 20 or higher (test optional students will be reviewed on an individual basis).
- Place in or have earned credit for college-level English Composition (EH101) or higher and PreCalculus Algebra (MA 106) or higher.
- If accepted, complete the UAB medical history questionnaire and physical, provide proof of immunizations, and receive satisfactory screening by the UAB Medical Center Student Health Services.

ADMISSION FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS AND UAB STUDENTS

Students entering from another college or university (or changing major within UAB) must:

- Have an overall GPA of 2.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Place in or have earned credit for college-level English Composition (EH101) or higher and PreCalculus Algebra (MA 106) or higher.
- If accepted, have a background check and drug screening, if required, prior to any practicum or lab placement.

TRANSFER CREDIT POLICIES

Only courses that have been deemed as equivalent courses by the Transfer Evaluation Team in the UAB Office of Enrollment are accepted as transfer courses at UAB.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE, RE-ENTRY & WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

A student may withdraw from the program at any time and for any reason by submitting written notification to the program director. The student must also withdraw from courses through the UAB registration system via the Student Resources tab in BlazerNET. Re-entry into the program the same year of withdrawal is prohibited; however, the student may complete the application process for consideration of future admission. All program fees paid are non-refundable.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

CREDIT HOURS

To complete an undergraduate degree at UAB, students must earn a minimum of 120 credit hours. Our degree requires between 124 – 126 credit hours which depends on various electives that are taken.

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

[Visit the UAB Catalog website for course descriptions.](#)

Semester 1 – Fall

- Academic Foundations: Writing, 3 credit hours
- Local Beginnings: HRP 101, 3 credit hours
- CH 115 General Chemistry I, 3 credit hours
- CH 116 General Chemistry I Lab, 1 credit hour
- NTR 121 Well-Being and You, 3 credit hours
- Academic Foundations: Quantitative Literacy, 3 credit hours

Semester 2 – Spring

- Academic Foundations: Writing, 3 credit hours
- BY 123 Introductory Biology I, 3 credit hours
- BY 123L Introductory Biology I Lab, 1 credit hour
- NTR 222 Nutrition and Health, 3 credit hours
- PY 101 Introduction to Psychology, 3 credit hours
- CH 117 General Chemistry II, 3 credit hours
- CH 118 General Chemistry II Lab, 1 credit hour

Semester 3 – Fall

- CH 235 Organic Chemistry I, 3 credit hours
- CH 236 Organic Chemistry I Lab, 1 credit hour
- NTR 232 Lifecycle Nutrition, 3 credit hours
- Thinking Broadly: Humans and Their Society, 3 credit hours
- Approved Human Behavior, Psychology, Sociology, or Public Health, 3 credit hours

- PY 107 Psychology of Adjustment, PY 305 Medical Psychology, SW 315 Human Behavior and Social Environment, PUH 204 Social and Behavioral Determinants of Health, or SOC 280 Intro to Medical Sociology
- Thinking Broadly: Creative Arts, 3 credit hours

Semester 4 – Spring

- NTR 330 Nutrition and Metabolism, 3 credit hours
- NTR 320 Nutrition and the Consumer, 3 credit hours
- NTR 421 Nutritional Assessment and the Nutrition Care Process, 3 credit hours
- BY 115 Human Anatomy and Lab, 4 credit hours
- Academic Foundations: Reasoning, 3 credit hours

Semester 5 – Fall

- BY 116 Introductory Human Physiology and Lab, 4 credit hours
- NTR 450 Translational Research in Biobehavioral and Nutrition Sciences, 3 credit hours
- Academic Foundations: Communicating with the World, 3 credit hours
- Approved Statistics Course, 3 credit hours
 - HCM 360 Statistics for Managers, MA 180 Introduction to Statistics, PY 216 Elementary Statistical Methods, or QM 214 Introduction to Business and Statistics and QM 215 Foundations in Business Analytics
- CHHS 141 Personal Health and Wellness, 3 credit hours

Semester 6 – Spring

- NTR 300 Nutrition Communication: From Science to Consumer, 3 credit hours
- NTR 201 Healthy People, Healthy Planet, 3 credit hours
- Thinking Broadly: History & Meaning, 3 credit hours
- BY 261/261L Introduction to Microbiology & Lab, 4 credit hours

Semester 7 – Fall

- NTR 444 Nutrition in Wellness and Chronic Disease, 3 credit hours
- NTR 420 Nutritional Genetics, 3 credit hours
- City as Classroom, 3 credit hours
- Electives 6- 7 credit hours

Semester 8 – Spring

- NTR 490 Capstone Experience in Nutrition Sciences, 3 credit hours
- NTR 433 Health and Wellness in the Information Age, 3 credit hours
- Electives 9 –10 credit hours

CAPSTONE COURSE

The Capstone Experience serves as the culminating academic experience for Nutrition Sciences students, providing an opportunity to integrate, synthesize, and apply the knowledge and skills developed throughout the curriculum. Through a comprehensive group project and other experiential learning activities, students address real-world nutrition and health-related

challenges while demonstrating discipline-specific competencies in communication, critical thinking, quantitative literacy, ethics, and civic responsibility.

Capstone experiences may include structured debates on contemporary nutrition issues, the development and implementation of cooking demonstrations in the DNS Demonstration Kitchen, and career preparation activities such as résumé development, LinkedIn profile enhancement, and professional networking. Significant writing, collaborative problem-solving, and reflection are incorporated throughout the course to help students connect their undergraduate education to future professional, graduate, or supervised practice opportunities. Successful completion of the capstone course satisfies the university capstone requirement and represents the final bridge between academic preparation and post-graduation career success.

ADVISING & MENTORING

ADVISOR/MENTOR ASSIGNMENT PROCESS

Shortly after a degree-seeking student is accepted into the program, the DNS assigns the student an academic advisor. Academic advisors in the DNS are here to support the student as they progress through their undergraduate studies and want them to be successful in the Nutrition Sciences program. Students should consider their academic advisor their ally, someone they can count on to support their success during their undergraduate studies.

Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to actively engage in the advising process and take responsibility for their academic success. All students are expected to connect with their academic advisor each semester to discuss academic progress and advancement toward degree completion. These meetings may occur through email, phone, virtual, or in-person appointments, as determined by the student and advisor. Students are expected to work with their academic advisor to develop and, when appropriate, update their academic Plan of Study. Students are also responsible for monitoring their progress in the Graduation Planning System (GPS), registering for courses, staying informed of program requirements, communicating academic or personal challenges that may affect their progress, meeting financial obligations, and applying for graduation. While advisors provide guidance and support, students are ultimately responsible for managing their academic journey and progress toward degree completion.

EXPECTATIONS REGARDING ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Students are required to maintain a 2.0 GPA at UAB. Students completing a BS in Nutrition Sciences are required to have an overall GPA of 2.75.

GRADE POLICIES

Four (4.0) quality points are awarded for each semester hour in which an A is earned, three (3.0) for a B, two (2.0) for a C, and one (1.0) for a D. No quality points are awarded for a grade of F. The GPA is determined by dividing the total quality points awarded by your semester hours attempted. A 2.0 average overall at UAB and a 2.75 in the Nutrition Sciences program are required to maintain good academic standing. 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 there is no penalty assessed towards the GPA. The GPA Calculator can be used to explore how the classes you enroll in will affect your GPA each term.

ACADEMIC PROBATION & DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Students who do not maintain academic progress based on UAB standards may be placed on academic probation by the university.

GRADUATION PLANNING SYSTEM (GPS)

Students can review their degree progress online through the Graduation Planning System (GPS). They can view their satisfied requirements and those not yet satisfied for their degree, along with the GPA calculator. Students can visit the [How to Access and Read the GPS website](#) for more information.

STUDENT RECORDS

Student information is protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Student records will be kept in locked files or password-protected computer files. Access is limited to specific program faculty and staff on a “need to know” basis. Students may access their records upon request. Students do not have access to letters of recommendation.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION VERIFICATION

Upon acceptance to UAB, students obtain a unique BlazerID and password, which serves as their login to access all of UAB’s computer-based systems including Canvas, the learning management system. Students must also obtain a UAB OneCard. The OneCard includes the student’s name, department of study, and photo. To obtain a OneCard, students must present a photo ID to confirm their identity.

In select courses, students complete assignments using technology (e.g., ProctorU, Respondus Lockdown) that requires students to show a photo ID and record their webcam and screen while they are completing the assignments.

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 (non-Title IX or non DSS related) grievance by a student:

- 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.
- 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.

- If the grievance is with the program director, submit documentation to the vice chair of the Department of Nutrition Sciences. Their contact information can be found on the last page.
- 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 or designee for review. The contact information for the School of Health Professions associate dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs.

Grievances involving Title IX or Disability Support Services should include the respective office.

PROFESSIONALISM EXPECTATIONS

CONDUCT/INTEGRITY

Students are expected to comply with the UAB Academic Integrity Code and all applicable university policies. Please refer to Section 2 of this handbook for complete details.

FUNDING & FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FINANCIAL AID, LOANS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Department of Nutrition Sciences does not currently offer internal scholarships for students enrolled in the BS in Nutrition Sciences program. Please refer to Section 1 of this handbook for information about financial aid and loans.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

NUTRITION SCIENCES CLUB

This club is open to any student pursuing a degree in Nutrition Sciences . The club meets several times a semester. Students participate in activities across campus and throughout Birmingham to promote nutrition and wellness in the UAB community and city. More information on the club can be found [on the UAB Campus Calendar website](#).

NUTRITION AND DIETETICS CERTIFICATE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate is an optional undergraduate certificate designed for students in the Nutrition Sciences program who wish to enter the workforce in nutrition and dietetics or to continue their graduate education to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN). The Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate combined with the Nutrition Sciences program is a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) accredited as a candidacy program through the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). Students who successfully complete the Nutrition Sciences program with the Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate are eligible to apply for a dietetic internship and graduate program in nutrition and wellness, leading to eligibility for the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) credentialing exam to become an RDN.

MISSION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

The DPD's mission is to prepare graduates for entry into supervised practice and graduate programs in nutrition and wellness, leading to eligibility for the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) credentialing exam to become an RDN, through a comprehensive curriculum design that promotes effective communication, innovative leadership, and application of evidence-based practices to support quality health and well-being of individuals and communities.

Goal 1: Prepare graduates for acceptance into a supervised practice program and/or graduate program.

Program Objectives for Goal 1:

- At least 80% of students complete program requirements within 3 years (150% of planned program length).
- At least 80 percent of program graduates apply for admission to a supervised practice program prior to or within 12 months of graduation.
- Of program graduates who apply to a supervised practice program, at least 80 percent are admitted within 12 months of graduation.

Goal 2: Prepare graduates for success in a supervised practice program and/or graduate program to become a registered dietitian nutritionist.

Program Objective for Goal 2:

- Of graduates accepted into a supervised practice program, at least 90% of program directors will rank graduates as "satisfactory" or better in the five core competency domains compared to the expected competency of dietetic interns within 12 months of DPD graduation.

- Of graduates accepted into a graduate program, at least 90% of program directors will rank graduates as “satisfactory” or better in their ability to use critical thinking skills to interpret and disseminate current research compared to the expected competency of first-year graduate students within 12 months of DPD graduation.
- Of graduates accepted into a supervised practice program or graduate program, at least 80% of graduates will rank their level of preparedness for the program as “well prepared” or higher on the alumni survey.
- Of graduates accepted into a supervised practice program or graduate program, at least 80% of program directors will rank graduates’ preparedness for the program as “Above Average Preparation” or higher on the program directors’ survey.
- 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 dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%.

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD), completed through the BS in Nutrition Sciences and the Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate, is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

ACEND establishes national standards for nutrition and dietetics education and ensures that graduates are prepared for supervised practice and professional credentialing. Completion of an ACEND-accredited DPD is required for eligibility to apply to supervised practice experience (SPE) programs and to pursue the RDN credential.

The program has received candidacy accreditation from the [Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics](#) (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, Illinois, 60606-6995, 800/877-1600 ext. 5400.

OUTCOMES & COMPETENCIES

Program accreditation includes ongoing evaluation of student learning outcomes and achievement of ACEND-required knowledge and competencies. These outcomes and competencies are assessed through coursework across both the Nutrition Sciences major and the Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate curriculum, ensuring that graduates are prepared for the next steps toward the RDN credential.

The Program Director works collaboratively with faculty to monitor student progress in achieving ACEND-required competencies and program learning outcomes. Competency attainment is reviewed throughout the program using assessment data collected from designated courses and learning activities. Students can access information about competency requirements, assessment locations, and their individual progress through the Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate Student Center in Canvas.

Outcome data for the DPD is available upon request from the program director.

PATHWAY TO BECOMING AN RDN

To become an RDN, an individual must pass the CDR's credentialing examination for dietitian nutritionists. Eligibility requirements for the credentialing exam include the successful completion of coursework and supervised practice in program(s) accredited by ACEND. Effective January 1, 2024, the CDR requires a minimum of a master's degree to be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become an RDN. For more information about these requirements, please [visit CDR's website](#).

There are several educational pathways to meet the CDR eligibility requirements for the credentialing exam. One option is to complete a DPD, a Dietetic Internship (DI), and a minimum of a graduate degree from a university accredited by a USDE-recognized accrediting agency. The Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate combined with the Nutrition Sciences program is an ACEND-accredited DPD. Upon successful completion of the Bachelor of Science degree and ACEND-accredited coursework, graduates are eligible to apply for an ACEND-accredited DI, coordinated program (CP), and graduate program in nutrition and dietetics (GP). For more information about educational pathways to become an RDN, [visit the ACEND information page](#).

Application processes for the above-mentioned programs may vary depending on the program type. DI, CP, and GP programs use the Dietetics Inclusive Centralized Application Service (DICAS) to collect applications. For more information about the application process for students, [visit the ACEND website](#).

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATIONS

RDNs are required to be licensed/certified in some states. Completion of the Nutrition Sciences program with the Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate does not lead to a professional certification or meet state licensure requirements to practice as an RDN. Licensure is required to practice as an RDN and to provide nutrition care services in Alabama. For more information on licensure requirements by state, [visit the CDR website](#).

FILING A COMPLAINT WITH ACEND

The ACEND of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics has established a process for reviewing complaints against accredited programs in order to fulfill its public responsibility for ensuring the quality and integrity of the educational programs that it accredits. For instructions on filing a complaint to ACEND, review the [ACEND Policy and Procedures Manual](#).

ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Students majoring in Nutrition Sciences will be eligible to apply for the Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate during their sophomore year. To apply for the certificate program, students must be enrolled as full-time students (at least 12 credit hours per semester). Students will apply to the certificate program through an internal application system.

Prerequisite Coursework

Applicants must earn a grade of C or higher in the following courses prior to applying:

- **English:** EH 101 (3 credit hours) and EH 102 (3 credit hours)
- **Math:** MA 106 or higher (3 credit hours)
- **Chemistry:** CH 115 and lab (4 credit hours total), CH 117 and lab (4 credit hours total), and CH 235 and lab (4 credit hours total)
- **Nutrition:** NTR 121 Well Being and You (3 credit hours), NTR 201 Healthy People, Healthy Planet (3 credit hours), and NTR 222 Nutrition and Health (3 credit hours)
- **Biology:** BY 123 and lab (4 credit hours total)
- **Psychology:** PY 101 (3 credit hours)
- One approved **Human Behavior, Psychology, Sociology, or Anthropology** course

Additional Coursework (In Progress or Completed at Application)

At the time of application, students must be enrolled in or have completed (C or higher) the following:

- **Nutrition:** NTR 320 Nutrition and the Consumer (3 credit hours) and NTR 330 Nutrition and Metabolism (3 credit hours)
- **Human Anatomy:** BY 115 and lab (4 credit hours total)

PRIOR LEARNING AND TRANSFER CREDIT POLICY

Credit will not be awarded for prior learning experiences. Only courses that have been deemed as equivalent courses by the Transfer Evaluation Team in the UAB Office of Enrollment are accepted as transfer courses at UAB.

NUTRITION AND DIETETICS CERTIFICATE STUDENT CENTER

The Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate Student Center in Canvas serves as the central hub for program-specific information, communication, and resources for students enrolled in the DPD. Students are granted access to the Student Center upon enrollment in the Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate program.

Through the Student Center, students can:

- Receive program announcements and important communications from the program director
- Access information about ACEND-required core knowledge assessments, including where they occur in the curriculum and how they are evaluated
- Track their progress toward completion of core knowledge requirements throughout the program

The Student Center is an essential tool for supporting student success, providing transparency in program expectations, and ensuring students remain informed of important updates and requirements.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

CREDIT HOURS

Students in the Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate program must complete 21 credit hours of additional coursework to meet ACEND requirements and be eligible to apply for a Dietetic Internship and graduate programs in nutrition and dietetics.

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Visit the [UAB Catalog website](#) for course descriptions.

Semester 1 – Fall

- HCM 306: Intro to Cultural Awareness and Competency, 2 credit hours.

Semester 2 – Spring

- NTR 355: Food Science and Food Systems, 4 credit hours.

Semester 3 – Fall

- NTR 455: Medical Nutrition Therapy and Counseling, 4 credit hours.
- NTR 480: Professional Studies in Nutrition and Dietetics, 2 credit hours.

Semester 4 – Spring

- HCM 316: Accounting and Finance for Health Care, 3 credit hours.
- HCM 330: Health Care Systems, 3 credit hours.
- NTR 490: Capstone Experience, 3 credit hours.

PROGRAM CALENDAR AND ABSENCES

The Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate follows the semester schedule and holidays provided in the [UAB Academic Calendar](#). Students requesting a leave of absence from coursework due to a death in the family, serious medical condition, or other extenuating circumstances will work with the program director and course instructors to develop a plan to make up missing coursework upon their return.

PROGRAM WITHDRAWAL POLICY

A student may withdraw from the Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate at any time and for any reason by submitting written notification to the program director. The student must also withdraw from courses through the UAB registration system via the Student Resources tab in BlazerNET. Re-entry into the program the same year of withdrawal is prohibited; however, the student may complete the application process for consideration of future admission. All program fees paid are non-refundable.

PROGRAM COMPLETION

To complete the Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate program, students must:

- Maintain a minimum 2.75 cumulative GPA
- Complete the 21 credit hours of program coursework

DPD VERIFICATION STATEMENT

Upon successful completion of all ACEND-accredited program requirements and conferral of both the BS in Nutrition Sciences degree and the Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate, graduates receive a DPD Verification Statement signed by the Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate program director. Verification Statements will be emailed to each graduate within four weeks of program completion, and graduates will receive one digitally signed copy. The Department of Nutrition Sciences retains Verification Statements indefinitely.

Prior to program completion, students may apply to ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs using a Declaration of Intent, signed by the program director.

POLICIES & STANDARDS

STUDENT PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Student progress is monitored continuously to support successful completion of program requirements. Students are required to meet with their academic advisor each semester to review academic performance and progress toward degree and certificate completion. The program director monitors student achievement of ACEND-required knowledge and competencies across coursework in both the Nutrition Sciences major and the Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate to ensure that program requirements are met.

Course instructors communicate concerns related to a student's academic performance, professionalism, ethical behavior, or academic integrity to the program director. When concerns arise, the instructor and program director will meet with the student to address the issue and, if needed, develop a plan for improvement and continued progress in the program.

STUDENT REMEDIATION AND RETENTION

Students have access to university-wide tutoring services through the TutorMe online education platform and the Vulcan Materials Academic Success Center (VMASC). Visit the [UAB Tutoring Services website](#) for more information about these services.

Certificate students who are not meeting core knowledge requirements or maintaining the program's minimum GPA of 2.75 will meet with the program director to discuss the areas of concern and develop a plan of action. UAB student tutorial support and services will be utilized when appropriate to assist with meeting the student's needs and promoting academic and professional success. Students seeking to change career paths to better align with their abilities will be advised by their program director and academic advisor.

EXPECTATIONS REGARDING ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Students are expected to maintain satisfactory academic performance from admission through program completion. The following minimum standards must be met to remain in good standing:

Students must maintain a minimum 2.75 GPA in the Nutrition Sciences program and a 2.00 institutional GPA to remain enrolled in the major. Upon admission to the Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate, students must maintain a minimum 2.75 cumulative GPA.

Students must complete all DPD requirements and obtain a Verification Statement within five years of initial enrollment in the Nutrition and Dietetics Certificate program.