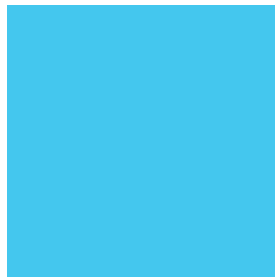


2026-2027 Student Handbook

Department of Nutrition Sciences

MS in Nutrition Sciences - Dietitian Education Program



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

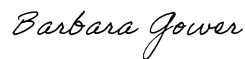
UAB SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION SCIENCES
DIETITIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM TRACK
2026-2027 ACADEMIC HANDBOOK



Lizzy Davis, PhD, RDN
Dietitian Education Program Director

08/20/2026

Date



Barbara Gower, PhD
Department of Nutrition Sciences

08/20/2026

Date



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

08/20/2026

Date

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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.

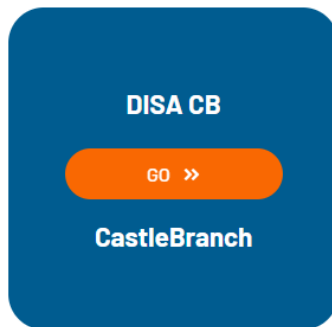
Order Summary

- 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

Clinical Track/Dietetic Internship

Program Overview

Introduction

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 the DNS 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.

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

To learn more about the backgrounds and experience of our Nutrition Science faculty and staff, please visit our [Department of Nutrition Sciences webpage](#).

Master of Science (MS) in Nutrition Sciences

MS in Nutrition Sciences Core Course Requirements

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

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.

Core Course Requirements -Total semester hours: 14

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

- NTR 618: Nutritional Biochemistry, 6 credit hours, Summer term
- NTR 621: Applied Statistics to Nutrition Sciences, 3 credit hours, Fall term
- NTR 637: Applied Research in Nutrition Sciences, 3 credit hours, Spring term
- NTR 690: Seminar, 2 credit hours, Fall term

Dietitian Education Program Overview

Terminology and Abbreviations

The Dietitian Education Program (DEP) is a Coordinated Program in Dietetics comprising two pathway options, which include the MS in Nutrition Sciences, DEP Track (**DEP Track**) and the Dietitian Education Graduate Certificate Program of the MS in Nutrition Sciences, Lifestyle Management and Disease Prevention Track (**DEP-C of the LMDP Track**). *The two pathways will be referred to as the DEP Track and the DEP-C throughout the remainder of the handbook. The term DEP will encompass both pathways.*

DEP Mission, Goals, and Objectives

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.

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.

Program outcomes data are available upon request. [Please email us](#) for more information.

DEP Admissions & Enrollment Requirements

DEP Eligibility Requirements

DEP Track Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the DEP Track, you must have:

- Completed a minimum of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university in the United States
- Earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Have a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) verification statement or have completed the equivalent to the following science and nutrition prerequisites that are approved by the DEP Program Director or designee. Students must earn a C or higher in prerequisite courses. If prerequisite courses were not completed at UAB, course equivalency is determined by the DEP Program Director or designee. To participate in this evaluation, the applicant completes the DEP screening form and submits it according to the [website directions](#), along with the undergraduate course syllabi that are being evaluated:

- BY 101 or BY 123 Topics in Contemporary Biology [Introductory Biology – lab is not required (3 credit hours)]
- CH 107 or CH 235 Introductory Chemistry II [Organic Chemistry – lab is not required (3 credit hours)]
- BY 261 Introduction to Microbiology – lab is not required (3 credit hours)
- BY 116 Introduction to Human Physiology – lab is not required (3 credit hours)
- NTR222 Nutrition and Health [Introduction to Nutrition (3 credit hours)]
- NTR232 Lifecycle Nutrition (3 credit hours)
- NTR320 Nutrition and the Consumer (3 credit hours)
- NTR330 Nutrition and Metabolism (3 credit hours)
- NTR420 Nutrition Genetics (3 credit hours)
- NTR421 Nutrition Assessment and the Nutrition Care Process (3 credit hours)

DEP-C of the LMDP Track Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the DEP-C of the LMDP Track, you must first have been accepted into the MS in Nutrition Sciences, Lifestyle Management and Disease Prevention Track, which requires the following prerequisites. If courses were not completed at UAB, course equivalents must be reviewed and accepted by the MS in Nutrition Sciences Program Director or designee through the completion of the DEP screening form and submission of course syllabi:

- BY 101 or BY 123 Topics in Contemporary Biology [Introductory Biology – lab is not required (3 credit hours)]
- CH 107 or CH 235 Introductory Chemistry II [Organic Chemistry – lab is not required (3 credit hours)]
- BY 261 Introduction to Microbiology – lab is not required (3 credit hours)
- BY 116 Introduction to Human Physiology – lab is not required (3 credit hours)
- NTR222 Nutrition and Health [Introduction to Nutrition (3 credit hours)]

Students enrolled in the MS in Nutrition Sciences, Lifestyle Management and Disease Prevention Track are eligible to apply for admission to the DEP-C of the LMDP Track upon completion of the following prerequisites with a grade of C or higher in each of the following courses, and an overall GPA of 3.0 GPA for the following courses:

- GC545 Genetics and Genomics Applications in Healthcare – 2 credit hours
- NTR 621 Applied Statistics to Nutrition Sciences – 3 credit hours
- NTR 632 Nutrition Counseling & Education – 4 credit hours
- NTR 690 Seminar – 2 credit hours

All prerequisites must be completed prior to starting the DEP.

DEP Track Degree Requirements

DEP Track- Course 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 Track **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 hours of 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. 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 virtual workshop to prepare students for the Commission on Dietetic Registration's registration examination for dietitians. The practicum courses (NTR 670- NTR 676) provide students the opportunity to complete a minimum of 1,000 hours of supervised practice experience. Aside from the practicum courses (NTR 670-676), 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.

Students can apply to the DEP Track through Dietetics Inclusive Centralized Application Service (DICAS). Refer to the DEP [Admissions Page](#) for more information.

DEP Track Courses – 58 total hours

- NTR 500: Communications in Nutrition, 1 credit hour, Summer term
- NTR 501: RDN Certification Review, 0 credits, Spring term
- NTR 600: Principles of Food Science Operations and Menu Planning, 3 credit hours, Spring term
- NTR 604: Principles and Practice of Nutrition Support, 3 credit hours, Fall term
- NTR 611: Advanced Food Systems and Resource Management, 3 credit hours, Summer term
- NTR 631: Community Interventions for Healthy Lifestyles, 3 credit hours, Spring term
- NTR 632: Nutrition Counseling and Education, 4 credit hours, Fall term
- NTR 670: Practicum in Wellness, 3 credit hours, Summer term
- NTR 671: Practicum in Community Nutrition, 3 credit hours, Fall term
- NTR 672: Practicum in Food Systems Management, 3 credit hours, Fall term
- NTR 673: Practicum in Medical Nutrition Therapy I, 3 credit hours, Fall term
- NTR 674: Practicum in Medical Nutrition Therapy II, 3 credit hours, Spring term
- NTR 675: Practicum in Dietetic Administration, 4 credit hours, Spring term

- NTR 676: Advanced Practicum in Dietetics, 4 credit hours, offered Spring term

DEP Track- Course Sequence

The DEP Track is a structured cohort program intended to be completed on a full-time basis over five consecutive semesters, as outlined below. Due to the intensive nature of the curriculum, part-time enrollment is not permitted.

Additionally, the DEP Track does not award credit for prior supervised practice of graduate-level work. Please note that, in accordance with UAB Graduate School policy, students are allowed a maximum of five years to fulfill the requirements for a master's degree.

Please note that deferrals are not permitted for the DEP Track. For more details regarding application procedures and admission requirements, we encourage you to visit the [DEP Admissions page](#).

Semester 1 – Fall Year, 13 total credits

- NTR 621: 3 credit hours
- NTR 600: 3 credit hours
- NTR 604: 4 credit hours
- NTR 632: 4 credit hours

Semester 2 – Spring Year, 12 total credits

- NTR 637: 3 credit hours
- NTR 501: 3 credit hours
- NTR 611: 3 credit hours
- NTR 631: 3 credit hours

Semester 3 – Summer Year 1, 10 total credits

- NTR 618: 6 credit hours
- NTR 500: 1 credit hours
- NTR 670: 3 credit hours

Semester 4 – Fall Year 2, 11 total credits

- NTR 690: 2 credit hours
- NTR 671: 3 credit hours
- NTR 672: 3 credit hours
- NTR 673: 3 credit hours

Semester 5 – Spring Year 2, 12 total credit hours

- NTR 618: 6 credit hours
- NTR 500: 1 credit hour
- NTR 670: 3 credit hours

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.

DEP Track- 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 are due semester-by-semester and 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 2026-2027 tuition costs that were available at the time of publication of this document.

Alabama Resident

- Online Course Credits: 34
- Online Course Tuition Cost: \$744 per credit hour
- Practicum Credit Hours: 24
- Practicum Tuition cost: \$646 per credit hour
- NTR 501 Fee: \$550
- Other Fees: TBD
- Textbooks: TBD
- Total Cost for DEP: \$41,350

Non-Alabama Resident

- Online Course Credit Hours: 34
- Online Course Tuition Cost: \$744 per credit hour
- Practicum Credit Hours: 24
- Practicum Tuition cost: \$1596 per credit hour
- NTR 501 Fee: \$550
- Other Fees: TBD
- Textbooks: TBD
- Total Cost for DEP Track: \$64,150

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 where RDN Examination Review materials are provided. This 0-credit-hour course costs a one-time fee of \$550.

This concludes the section of the Program Handbook that focuses specifically on the DEP Track. Please continue by reviewing the 'DEP Textbooks' section below, which is the next section that information applicable to all DEP students.

DEP-C of the LMDP Track Degree Requirements

DEP-C of the LMDP Track- Course Requirements

The DEP-C of the LMDP Track 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 wish to pursue credentialing as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist can apply to the DEP-C. Information about the application process is shared with eligible students around **NOVEMBER 1**, each year. The application deadline for the DEP-C is **JANUARY 5** annually, and admission is offered exclusively for the fall semester. The DEP-C accepts LMDP Track students once per year, aligning with this fall-only admission cycle. Please note that deferrals are not permitted for the DEP-C. For more details regarding application procedures and admission requirements, we encourage you to visit the [DEP-C Curriculum Requirements](#) page.

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

- NTR 609: Applied Nutrition for Physical Activity and Disease Prevention, 3 credit hours, offered Fall term
- NTR 631: Community Interventions for Health Lifestyles, 3 credit hours, offered Spring term
- NTR 632: Nutrition Counseling & Education, 4 credit hours, offered Fall term
- Kin 644: Application of Exercise Physiology to Fitness and Performance, 3 credit hours, offered Fall term
- GC 545: Genetics and Genomics Applications in Healthcare, 2 credit hours, offered Fall term
- PA 550: Intro to Medical History Taking & Physical Examination, 3 credit hours, offered Spring term
- CDS 605: Survival Spanish for Health Professional, 1 credit hour, offered Fall, Spring
- Elective: **NUTRITION ASSESSMENT AND THE NUTRITION CARE PROCESS** is the recommended 3-semester-hour elective course. Students interested in the **DEP-C 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 grade of C or higher and overall GPA of 3.0 or higher:

- GC 545 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 Medical History Taking and Physical Examination
- NTR 618 Nutritional Biochemistry

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

Aside from the practicum courses (NTR 670-676), all coursework is offered entirely online. Practicums may be completed locally, in the Birmingham area, or remotely, where the student chooses, but must be completed within the United States.

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

DEP-C Course and Practicum Requirements: 37 hours

- NTR 500: Communications in Nutrition, 1 credit hour, Summer term
- NTR 501: RDN Certification Review, 0 credits, Spring term
- NTR 600: Principles of Food Science Operations and Menu Planning, 3 credit hours, Fall term
- NTR 601: Advanced Medical Nutrition, 3 credit hours, Spring term
- NTR 604: Principles and Practice of Nutrition Support, 3 credit hours, Fall term
- NTR 611: Advanced Food System and Resource Management, 3 credit hours, Spring term
- NTR 670: Practicum in Wellness, 3 credit hours, Fall term
- NTR 671: Practicum in Community Nutrition, 3 credit hours, Fall term
- NTR 672: Practicum in Food Systems Management, 3 credit hours, Spring term
- NTR 673: Practicum in Medical Nutrition Therapy I, 3 credit hours, Spring term
- NTR 674: Practicum in Medical Nutrition Therapy II, 4 credit hours, Summer term
- NTR 675: Practicum in Dietetic Administration, 4 credit hours, Summer term
- NTR 676: Advanced Practicum in Dietetics, 4 credit hours, Fall term

DEP-C of the LMDP Track- 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 begins fall of year 2.

The DEP-C of the LMDP Track does not grant credit for prior supervised practice or graduate learning. The maximum amount of time allowed by the UAB Graduate School to complete a Master's degree is five years.

Fall Year 1

- GC 545: 2 credit hours
- NTR 621: 3 credit hours
- NTR 632: 4 credit hours
- NTR 690: 2 credit hours

Spring Year 1

- PA 550: 3 credit hours
- NTR 631: 3 credit hours
- NTR 637: 3 credit hours
- NTR 521: 3 credit hours

Summer Year 1

- NTR 618: 6 credit hours

Fall Year 2

- NTR 600: 3 credit hours
- NTR 604: 3 credit hours
- NTR 670: 3 credit hours
- NTR 671: 3 credit hours

Spring Year 2

- NTR 601: 3 credit hours
- NTR 611: 3 credit hours
- NTR 672: 3 credit hours
- NTR 673: 3 credit hours
- NTR 501: 0 Credit hours

Fall Year 3

- NTR 609: 3 credit hours
- CDS 605: 1 credit hours
- KIN 644: 3 credit hours
- NTR 676: 4 credit hours

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.

DEP-C of the LMDP Track- Estimated Tuition and Fees

Please note that UAB is a state institution, and thus tuition is mandated by the Alabama Board of Trustees. Tuition rates are due semester-by-semester and 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 2026-2027 **ACADEMIC YEAR** tuition costs that were available at the time of publication of this document.

Alabama Resident

- Online Course Credits: 13
- Online Course Tuition Cost: \$744 per credit hour
- Practicum Credit Hours: 24
- Practicum Tuition cost: \$646 per credit hour
- NTR 501 Fee: \$550
- Other Fees: TBD
- Textbooks: TBD
- Total Cost for LMDP: \$26,784
- Total Cost for DEP-C: \$25,176
- Total Cost for LMDP+DEP-C Track: \$51,960

Non-Alabama Resident

- Online Course Credit Hours: 13
- Online Course Tuition Cost: \$744 per credit hour
- Practicum Credit Hours: 24
- Practicum Tuition cost: \$1596 per credit hour
- NTR 501 Fee: \$550
- Other Fees: TBD
- Textbooks: TBD
- Total Cost for LMDP: \$26,784
- Total Cost for DEP-C Track: \$47,976
- Total Cost for LMDP+DEP-C: \$74,760

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 where RDN Examination Review materials are provided. This 0-credit-hour course costs a one-time fee of \$550.

This concludes the section of the Program Handbook that focuses specifically on the DEP-C of the LMDP Track. Please continue by reviewing the 'DEP Textbooks' section below, which provides general information applicable to all DEP students.

DEP 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.

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.

Course Registration

You must register for all courses that are included in your program of study. 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](#).

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](#). Learn more about [how to access and read the GPS](#).

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, and is required by the graduate school to graduate.

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. Neither the credit hours nor the grade assignment for these courses are part of the GPA calculation.

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

each term.

Student Performance Monitoring

The Program Director monitors student performance in both the didactic courses and supervised practice rotations on a continual basis. Students meet with the Program Director, one-on-one, each semester to review the plan of study, supervised practice evaluations, and work portfolio. In addition, the Program Director supports students as they create, implement, evaluate, and monitor a strategic plan for improvement that includes personal goals and objectives.

Remediation/Retention Plans

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

The DEP Program Director will address student deficiencies identified through supervised practice rotations through the coordination of additional guidance and opportunities to promote improvement. This will involve students developing 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 template for the remediation plan is located on the E*Value homepage. Students demonstrating minimal chance of success in completing the program will be counseled by the DEP Program Director to identify career paths that are appropriate to the student's strengths.

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 DEP 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 to seek approval.

Program Withdrawal Policy

A student may withdraw from the DEP at any time and for any reason by submitting written notification to the DEP 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 not permitted; however, the student may complete the application process for consideration of future admission. All program fees paid are non-refundable.

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](#).

Students dismissed for failure to make satisfactory academic progress may appeal following the [SHP Policy for Dismissal for Failure to Make Satisfactory Academic Progress](#).

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 the [Earning Your Degree 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, 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 from the program

proposal that was submitted by UAB through the approval process. 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. You must earn a grade of a C or better in all didactic courses and earn a grade of a "pass" for supervised practice courses (NTR 670-676) to be awarded the MS in Nutrition Sciences degree. Program graduates are issued a signed verification statement by the Program Director upon completion of the MS in Nutrition Science degree. Accomplishment of the above allows students to be eligible to take the examination to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) offered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). The maximum time allowed for completion of the MS in Nutrition Sciences DEP is five years.

Accreditation

UAB is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission in Colleges (SACSCOC) 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.

UAB's 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.



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 master's degree. Graduates of CPs who are verified by the DEP Program Director are eligible to sit for the CDR's registration examination for dietitians.

The DEP curriculum is designed to ensure students 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.

Advising & Mentoring

Advisor/Mentor Assignment Process

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. Depending on 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 as your ally, the one you can count on to support you during your graduate studies.

It is expected that all students connect with their Academic Advisor every semester to provide

updates on your academic progress and advancement toward degree completion. You and your 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.

Dimensions of Professionalism

Professional Expectations

The following policies describe dimensions of professionalism and are expected to be followed during the time enrolled in the program. The dimensions of professionalism policies include the policies below, including cell phone use, dress code, professional communication, program attendance, patient confidentiality, and the code of ethics for the nutrition and dietetics profession. Failure to abide by the following policies will result in Disciplinary Action (please see the Disciplinary Action section below for more information).

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.

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, supervised practice meetings, course activities, Class Days, 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.
- Clothing with slogans or advertisement are not allowed.
- 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) are not to be worn inside facilities.
- Caps or hats are not allowed.
- 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 must 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 is not allowed to be worn in food production areas.
- Hair must be neat and clean. Identification badges must be worn at all times during rotations and visible at the collar/shoulder level.
- Miscellaneous: Gum chewing is not allowed during rotations, makeup must 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.

Professional Communication

Elements of In-Person Professional Communication

- Respectful Interaction: Address all individuals courteously, avoid interrupting or dismissive behavior.
- Respect the privacy of conversations and sensitive information shared during meetings.
- Conflict Resolution: Address disagreements with preceptors professionally by seeking to understand differing viewpoints and, if necessary, communicate concerns to the Program Director.
- Tone and Language: Maintain a respectful and formal tone.

Elements of Email Professional Communication

- Response Time: You are expected to respond to professional emails within 24 hours during business days or notify the sender if more time is needed.
- Proofreading: Review emails for spelling, grammar, and clarity before sending.
- Subject Line: Include a clear, concise subject line summarizing the purpose of the email.
- Following instructions from emails provided from the program and preceptors.
- Professional Email Address: Use your UAB email address when communicating for all program related matters.
- Use appropriate and professional salutations and signoffs.
- 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. An example of a student's email signature is provided below.

Student's Name | Graduate Student

MS in Nutrition Sciences, Dietitian Education Program

UAB | The University of Alabama at Birmingham

P: 205.555.5555 | yourblazerid@uab.edu

Pronouns: she, her, hers, he, him, his, they, them, theirs (optional)

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. Students who may need absence-related accommodations for qualified disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact Disability Support Services for information on the accommodation process.

Program Orientation and Meetings

Students are provided a series of orientation materials electronically prior to starting the DEP. There is one multi-day required online orientation that requires synchronous attendance. Students are required to attend this synchronous orientation for its entirety at the specified date and time provided in the admission letter. This orientation will be led by the Program Directors and will cover everything you need to know about the day-to-day of practicums related to the Dietitian Education Program and other important program information. **Due to the nature and length of this orientation, we are unable to record and attendance is mandatory. Failure to attend will result in a delay in the program until the orientation is offered next.**

Students are required to attend meetings of their local district and/or state dietetic association (e.g., Birmingham District Dietetic Association; Alabama Dietetic Association) to obtain 10 Professional Meeting Hours during their time in the program and to incur any costs that are associated with registration and travel expenses. Guidance for appropriate professional meeting experiences and how to locate these events is provided during orientation.

Students are also required to complete 25 hours of volunteer experience throughout their time enrolled in the practicum coursework. Guidance for identifying appropriate volunteer hour experiences and how to locate these events is provided during orientation.

All didactic coursework is asynchronous and virtual, except for practicum coursework. In the practicum courses (NTR 670-676), students will go in person to their preceptor site between Tuesday and Friday, at their scheduled rotation sites. During practicum courses, students are required to attend class days via Zoom from 1:00 to 3:00 PM CST on Mondays.

Absences

In addition to the School of Health Professions attendance policy which defines excused and unexcused absences, students are required to attend all assigned supervised practice rotations, virtual class sessions, and supervised practice orientations/meetings. Excessive unexcused absences, which are defined as more than two per semester, will be addressed using the program's disciplinary action procedures.

Tardiness

Students are required to arrive on time at all scheduled supervised practice rotations, supervised practice meetings, and other program activities. If you know you will be arriving late for a scheduled activity, you are required to 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 days are intended to provide a reprieve during times of illness. You are eligible for three days of sick leave during the program year. The student must notify email both the Program Director and the supervising preceptor of absence as early as possible. Personal days must be logged in eValue. If rotation objectives are not completed due to absence, the student is required to coordinate with the Program Director to reschedule the missed activities. Absences related to serious medical conditions must be documented through a physician signed statement of medical clearance that you can return to supervised practice. This will be submitted to the Program Director before re-entry to supervised practice.

Personal Days

You can use up to two personal days during the program after approval by the Program Director and preceptors from the supervised site(s) that you are scheduled for during the time you want to take your personal days. Practicum orientations do not qualify for personal day use. To request a personal day, first, request from the Program Director the dates you would like to use your personal days, at least two weeks prior to the desired date. After the Program Director has approved your request, then request approval from your preceptor. Personal days must be logged in eValue. All rotation-related competencies must be met during the rotation in which the personal day(s) is/are used.

Patient Confidentiality Policy

Patient information is considered confidential. This includes both 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, restrooms, or in other public places.
- Do not post any patient information or photos on social media.

Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession

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, you must review and agree to abide by the Code of Ethics outlined below.

Please bookmark the [Code of Ethics for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) on your personal computer for easy access.

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, you must review and agree to abide by the Code of Ethics outlined below.

Please bookmark the Code of Ethics for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics on your personal computer for easy access, [their Code of Ethics can be found online.](#)

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

Competence and professional development in practice (Non-maleficence)

Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:

- Practice using an evidence-based approach within areas of competence, continuously develop and enhance expertise, and recognize limitations.
- Demonstrate in depth scientific knowledge of food, human nutrition, and behavior.
- Assess the validity and applicability of scientific evidence without personal bias.
- Interpret, apply, participate in and/or generate research to enhance practice, innovation, and discovery.
- 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.
- Recognize and exercise professional judgment within the limits of individual qualifications and collaborate with others, seek counsel, and make referrals as appropriate.
- Act in a caring and respectful manner, mindful of individual differences, cultural, and ethnic diversity.
- Practice within the limits of their scope and collaborate with the inter-professional team.

Integrity in personal and organizational behaviors and practices (Autonomy)

Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:

- 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.
- 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.
- Maintain and appropriately use credentials.
- Respect intellectual property rights, including citation and recognition of the ideas and work of others, regardless of the medium (e.g. written, oral, electronic).
- Provide accurate and truthful information in all communications.
- Report inappropriate behavior or treatment of a patient/client by another nutrition and dietetics practitioner or other professionals.
- Document, code and bill to most accurately reflect the character and extent of delivered services.
- Respect patient/client's autonomy. Safeguard patient/client confidentiality according to current regulations and laws.
- Implement appropriate measures to protect personal health information using appropriate techniques (e.g., encryption).

Professionalism (Beneficence)

Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:

- Participate in and contribute to decisions that affect the well-being of patients/clients.
- Respect the values, rights, knowledge, and skills of colleagues and other professionals.
- Demonstrate respect, constructive dialogue, civility, and professionalism in all communications, including social media.
- Refrain from communicating false, fraudulent, deceptive, misleading, disparaging, or unfair statements or claims.
- Uphold professional boundaries and refrain from romantic relationships with any patients/clients, surrogates, supervisees, or students.
- Refrain from verbal/physical/emotional/sexual harassment.
- 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.
- Communicate at an appropriate level to promote health literacy.
- Contribute to the advancement and competence of others, including colleagues, students, and the public.

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

Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:

- Collaborate with others to reduce health disparities and protect human rights.
- Promote fairness and objectivity with fair and equitable treatment.
- Contribute time and expertise to activities that promote respect, integrity, and competence of the profession.

- Promote the unique role of nutrition and dietetics practitioners.
- Engage in service that benefits the community and enhances the public's trust in the profession.
- Seek leadership opportunities in professional, community, and service organizations to enhance health and nutritional status while protecting the public.

Disciplinary Action Process

Failure to comply with the above dimensions of professionalism will result in disciplinary action. The program uses a progressive disciplinary process to address violations. The following is a summary of our progressive disciplinary process:

1. **First written warning:** Following an alleged first offense, the Program Director will meet with the student to discuss the offense. If the offense still applies, the Program Director will provide written notice of the violation to the student, which will become a part of the student's DEP record. The timeframe for correction will be determined by the Program Director.
2. **Second written warning:** If the first offense is not corrected in the determined time frame, or if a second offense occurs, then the Program Director will again meet with the student to discuss the allegation. If the offense still applies, the Program Director will provide written notice of the second violation to the student, which will become a part of the student's DEP record. The timeframe for correction will be determined by the Program Director.
3. **Program Dismissal:** If the second offense is not corrected in the determined time frame, or if a third offense occurs, then dismissal from the program may occur. The dismissal process will include a meeting with the Program Director and Vice Chair of the Department of Nutrition Sciences before a final decision is rendered. Students may appeal following the [School of Health Professions Procedure for Appeal of Dismissal](#). Students who are dismissed from the program are not eligible for re-admission at a later date.

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 DSS related) 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 party responsible 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 Vice Chair of

the Department of Nutrition Sciences. Their contact information can be found on the last page.

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 or designee for review. The contact information for the School of Health Professions Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs can be found on the last page.
5. Grievances involving Title IX or Disability Support Services should involve the respective office.

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. For instructions on filing a complaint to ACEND, review the [ACEND Policy and Procedure Manual](#).

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. 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. Additional detailed information about the supervised practice experience assignments and corresponding evaluation methods is discussed during Practicum Orientation with the Program Director. 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.

Supervised Practice

As a part of the DEP, the supervised practice experience comprises seven courses, NTR 670-676. These courses have the word “practicum” in their title. Each practicum has a specified minimum number of hours that must be completed to earn a grade of “P” for “Passing” that practicum. A student who does not pass a practicum course earns a grade of “NP” for “Not

Passing.” Supervised practice hours are reported by students and approved by preceptors in eValue.

Upon entering the program, students attend a series of orientations to receive instruction and guidance in planning for supervised practice. For students who reside in Alabama, the Dietetics Practice Coordinator will reach out to preceptors, on the student’s behalf, and create the student’s schedule. Students who reside outside of Alabama must identify at least 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, students who reside outside of Alabama are ultimately the most familiar with their local areas and are therefore responsible for identifying their own preceptors for practicums.

The program maintains the right to make changes to the rotation schedule when necessary. Only in very rare circumstances, students can request a change in their rotation schedule when extenuating circumstances (e.g., offensive interactions with preceptors, unsafe work environment) are affecting the student’s ability to attend or complete the rotation. The Program Director will evaluate schedule change requests and determine if the student should either be reassigned to a new rotation or be required to attend/complete the scheduled rotation. Please note that these unexpected changes to rotation schedules can delay your progress in completing that rotation and may slow your progress in completing the program.

Students who are unable to secure preceptors in their local area by the deadline will be offered supervised practice locations where significant travel may be required. In this case, the Program Director will request a meeting with the student and Dietetics Practice Coordinator to determine next steps. The Dietetics Practice Coordinator will first attempt to identify potential sites in the student’s home state. If no suitable sites are available, the student will be offered rotation placements in the Birmingham, Alabama area.

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 must be working under the supervision of a preceptor and viewed as a dietitian in training, rather than the position in which they are employed. Students must have this conversation with their preceptor and nutrition management prior to beginning supervised practice to ensure expectations are clear. Students violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action as defined in this handbook.

Supervised Practice Paperwork and Orientation Requirements

Students must attend all site-specific rotation orientations and submit all required documentation in a timely manner to the Dietetics Practice Coordinator or designated rotation site personnel upon request. Paperwork requirements may 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 require a schedule reassignment that can result in slowing progress 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.

Transportation and Parking

Students must have reliable transportation while enrolled in the program. Students are liable for their safety and the safety of their passengers when travelling to and from assigned rotations.

If you have your own mode of transportation that requires on-site parking, then you must receive instruction from your preceptor about where to park during supervised practice rotations. The student must contact their preceptor and receive this information before the first day of their rotation with that preceptor.

When attending program activities on the UAB campus, 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.

Liability Insurance

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

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/alternate 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.

A fully executed affiliation agreement is required at each site before a student can complete any supervised practice hours. The Dietetics Practice Coordinator will secure this agreement, with assistance from the School of Health Professions Office of Academic and Faculty Affairs.

Stipends

A limited number of rotation sites may provide compensation to students for participation in supervised practice experiences. Compensation is determined by individual sites and is not a standard component of the program. When offered, stipends or other forms of compensation are contingent on site-specific factors, including available funding. Students are assigned to rotation sites through standard program scheduling processes; however, some students may have the option to pursue additional or return rotations at sites that offer compensation. Access to these opportunities may vary and is not guaranteed for all students.

Additional Program Policies and Procedures

Inclement Weather/Emergencies

Students must stay 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 must 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 must coordinate with the Program Director and/or Dietetics Practice Coordinator to reschedule the missed activities.

Student Employment

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

Student Records

All student information is protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Student 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 student performance. Students may inspect 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 your login to access all UAB's computer-based systems including Canvas, the learning management system through which you take courses. You are also required to obtain a UAB OneCard prior to supervised practice rotations. The OneCard includes your name, department of study, and photo. In order to obtain a OneCard, you must present a photo ID to confirm identity. In select didactic courses, you will complete assignments using technology (i.e., ProctorU, Respondus LockDown Browser) that requires you to show a photo ID and/or records you completing the assignment.

Required Certifications and Memberships

Prior to beginning supervised practice rotations, students must 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.

Address and Phone Number Changes

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

Funding & Financial Information

If you have questions about financial aid, loans, or scholarships, please visit the UAB [Cost & Aid webpage](#). In addition to the School of Health Professions scholarships, students are eligible to apply for the following scholarships during the spring semester: *Carol B. Craig Endowed Scholarship*. Applications for these scholarships are evaluated by a DNS scholarship committee.

Additional Information

Interim Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs, School of Health Professions

Jennifer Christy, PT, PhD, FAPTA

(205) 934-7528

SHPB 660C

[Email](#)

Vice Chair, Department of Nutrition Sciences

Eric P. Plaisance, PhD, FACSM

(205) 996-7909

WEBB 646

[Email](#)

Interim Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs; MS in Nutrition Sciences Program Director

Brenda Bertrand, PhD, RDN

(205) 934-8770

WEBB 534

[Email](#)

Dietitian Education Program Director

Elizabeth Davis, PhD, RDN, NBC-HWC, FAND

(205) 975-6514

WEBB 550

[Email](#)

Dietitian Education Program Assistant Director

Christine Ferguson, PhD, RDN, CSG

WEBB 536

[Email](#)

Program Manager

Marian Carter, EdD

(205) 975-3343

WEBB 532

[Email](#)

Physical Address:

Webb Nutrition Sciences Building

1675 University Boulevard

Birmingham, AL 35233

Mailing Address:

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Department of Nutrition Sciences
1720 2nd Avenue South, WEBB 518
Birmingham, AL 35294-336