



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

## Proposal for a New Degree Program

---

### I. Information and Rationale

#### A. Primary Contact Information

Institution: University of Montevallo  
Contact: Patricia Petitt, MS, RDN  
Title: Director, Coordinated Program in Dietetics  
Email: [petittph@montevallo.edu](mailto:petittph@montevallo.edu)  
Telephone: (205) 665-6390

#### B. Program Information

Date of Proposal Submission: 4/15/2024  
Award Level: Master's Degree  
Award Nomenclature (e.g., BS, MBA): MS  
Field of Study/Program Title: Nutrition  
CIP Code (6-digit): 51.3101

#### C. Implementation Information

Proposed Program Implementation Date: 8/4/2025  
Anticipated Date of Approval from Institutional Governing Board: 5/1/2024  
Anticipated Date of ACHE Meeting to Vote on Proposal: 9/13/2024  
SACSCOC Sub Change Requirement (Notification, Approval, or NA): Approval  
Other Considerations for Timing and Approval (e.g., upcoming SACSCOC review):

#### D. Specific Rationale (Strengths) for the Program

List 3 – 5 strengths of the proposed program as specific rationale for recommending approval of this proposal.

1. Beginning January 1, 2024, the Commission on Dietetics Registration (CDR) raised the minimum educational requirement for potential Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDN) from a Bachelor's degree to a Master's degree. At that point, only individuals with a Master's degree will be eligible to sit for the registration exam for dietitians.
2. The Coordinated Program in Dietetics (CP) at the University of Montevallo is a nationally recognized program, currently boasting a 100% pass rate on the registration exam. A graduate program in nutrition, paired with the CP, offers the University of Montevallo the opportunity to continue training future RDNs.



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

3. Organizations outside of the University of Montevallo have recognized the success of the CP. In 2022, Intelligent.com named UM's CP the #1 nutrition degree program in the south and #4 nationally, and in 2023, besthealthdegrees.com named the program #7 in the nation. A graduate program would allow UM to continue the quality education in dietetics.
4. National Institutes of Health identified the major health problems in the United States as heart disease and stroke, cancer, opioid addiction, infectious diseases, and diabetes. Of these five concerns, prevention of three of these is associated with dietary patterns, and treatment of four of these requires nutritional strategies. RDNs have the ability to take evidence-based scientific findings and convert them to practical guidance for patients, clients, and communities. Being positioned to educate future RDNs can be a benefit to the students, the university, and the community.
5. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, from 2022 to 2023, the employment of RDN's is expected to grow seven percent, indicating a need for more RDNs.

List external entities (more may be added) that may have supplied letters of support attesting to the program's strengths and attach letters with the proposal at the end of this document.

1. Karen Johnson, RDN, Clinical Nutrition Manager, Grandview Hospital, Birmingham, Alabama
2. Tricia Neura, MPH, RDN, Director, Child Nutrition Program, Mountain Brook City Schools

## II. Background with Context

### A. Concise Program Description

This graduate program is in conjunction with UM's Coordinated Program in Dietetics. Nine courses are didactic, and six courses are designed for supervised practice in three areas of nutrition (clinical nutrition, community nutrition, and food service management).

### B. Student Learning Outcomes

List four (4) to seven (7) of the student learning outcomes of the program.

Upon completion of the Nutrition Science program, graduates should:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical, cultural, and environmental issues facing nutrition professionals.
2. Recognize significant health-related interactions between dietary intake and health status, and design plans to promote optimal well-being.
3. Communicate professionally and effectively in all nutrition and dietetics interactions.
4. Translate nutrition research into useful advice to improve the well-being of individuals and groups by guiding change in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors.



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

## C. Administration of the Program

Name of Dean and College: **Donna Ploessl, College of Education and Human**

### Development

Name of Department/Division: Health and Human Sciences

Name of Chairperson: Shawn Mitchell

## D. Similar Programs at Other Alabama Public Institutions

List programs at other Alabama public institutions of the same degree level and the same (or similar) CIP codes. If no similar programs exist within Alabama, list similar programs offered within the 16 SREB states. If the proposed program duplicates, closely resembles, or is similar to any other offerings in the state, provide justification for any potential duplication.

CIP Code	Degree Title	Institution with Similar Program	Justification for Duplication
19.0504	MS in Human Nutrition	University of Alabama	Beginning January 1, 2024, aspiring dietitians must now complete a master's degree prior to sitting for the examination for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists. UM's undergraduate program in coordinated dietetics previously qualified students to sit for the exam. The addition of this program is to respond to this change. Additionally, labor statistics indicate an increased need for dietitians. A graduate program will allow UM to continue successfully training students to become dietitians.
30.1901	MS in Nutrition	Auburn University	
51.3102	MS in Nutrition Sciences	University of Alabama at Birmingham	

## E. Relationship to Existing Programs within the Institution

1. Is the proposed program associated with any existing offerings within the institution, including options within current degree programs? **Yes**  **No**

(Note: Most new programs have some relationship to existing offerings, e.g., through shared courses or resources). If yes, complete the following table. If this is a graduate program, list any existing undergraduate programs which are directly or indirectly related. If this is a doctoral program, also list related master's programs.

Related Degree Program Level	Related Degree Program Title	Explanation of the Relationship Between the Programs
BS	Exercise and Nutrition Science, Nutrition and Wellness concentration, Dietetics route	The BS degree provides all the necessary coursework for students prior to entering the Coordinated Program in Dietetics
MS	Exercise Science	Two of the courses in the MS in Exercise Science will be used for the MS in Nutrition. Exercise Science and Nutrition are in the same department and have some overlapping Student Learning Outcomes at the intersection of the fields of Exercise Science and Nutrition. The common courses (Research Methods



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

		and Statistical Measurements and Advanced Sports Nutrition) will address skills necessary for better understanding conducting ethical and robust research and the integration of nutrition concepts for sport-related careers relevant within both disciplines.
MEd	Applied Instruction	The MEd in Applied Instruction is currently being used to meet the needs of Coordinated Program students who need a master's to eligible to take the exam for registered dietitians. Once this degree program begins, we will close the EXNS concentration in Applied Instruction.

2. Will this program replace any existing programs or specializations, options, **Yes**  **No**  or concentrations?

If yes, please explain.

For CP students, the Nutrition degree will replace the EXNS concentration in the MEd in Applied Instruction. This allows students to not only gain supervised practice experience but also a higher level of study in dietetics. Since this concentration was created for our coordinated dietetics students, there will be no competition as this concentration will be closed.

3. Will the program compete with any current internal offerings? **Yes**  **No**

If yes, please explain.

## F. Collaboration

- Have collaborations with other institutions or external entities been explored? **Yes**  **No**

If yes, provide a brief explanation indicating those collaboration plan(s) for the proposed program.

- Have any collaborations within your institution been explored? **Yes**  **No**

If yes, provide a brief explanation indicating those collaboration plan(s) for the proposed program.

The M.S. in Exercise Science was considered as an option for dietetics students; however, that degree plan is more heavily focused on exercise physiology and would not meet the needs of our students.

Additionally, the current MS in Applied Instruction has been an attempt at collaboration with the Department of Teaching, Leadership, & Technology. However, a more customized program for future dietitians is needed.

## G. Specialized Accreditation

1. Will this program have any external accreditation requirements in addition **Yes**  **No**  to the institution's SACSCOC program requirements?



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

If yes, list the name(s) of the specialized accrediting organization(s) and the anticipated timeframe of the application process.

Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)

In the summer of 2024, a self-study, along with a substantive change request, will be submitted to ACEND. In the fall of 2024, ACEND representatives will conduct a site visit to the University of Montevallo. The proposed Master of Science in Nutrition will be included in the materials reviewed by ACEND so that the accreditor is aware of the application for creating the new master's degree.

2. Does your institution intend to pursue any other non-required accrediting **Yes**  **No**  organizations for the program?\*

If yes, list the name(s) of the organization(s) and the purpose of the pursuit.

If there are plans to pursue non-required external accreditation at a later date, list the name(s) and why the institution is not pursuing them at this time.

**Note: Check No to indicate that non-required external accreditation will not be pursued, which requires no explanation.**

## H. Admissions

Will this program have any additional admissions requirements beyond the **Yes**  **No**  institution's standard admissions process/policies for this degree level?

If yes, describe any other special admissions or curricular requirements, including any prior education or work experience required for acceptance into the program.

The application for the Master of Science in Nutrition and Coordinated Dietetics Program requires the following:

- official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended,
- resume,
- two letters of reference,
- 1-2 page letter of intent that includes plans for the future and why the applicant is a good fit for the BS/MS program,
- a background check,
- updated blue immunization card,
- negative TB skin test,
- negative standard 10-panel drug screen,
- proof of health insurance, and
- proof of automobile insurance.



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

## I. Mode of Delivery

Provide the planned delivery format(s) (*i.e.*, in-person, online, hybrid) of the program as defined in policy along with the planned location(s) at which the program will be delivered (*i.e.*, on-campus and/or at specific off-campus instructional site(s)). Please also note whether any program requirements can be completed through competency-based assessment.

Of the nine didactic courses, five will be in-person, one will be hybrid, and three will be online. The six supervised practice courses will be in hospitals, health departments, medical centers, long-term care facilities, and schools with which the University of Montevallo has affiliate agreements.

## J. Projected Program Demand (Student Demand)

Briefly describe the primary method(s) used to determine the level of student demand for this program using evidence, such as enrollments in related coursework at the institution, or a survey of student interest conducted (indicate the survey instrument used), number and percentage of respondents, and summary of results.

A survey was conducted through the office of Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment during the Spring 2024 semester, with eleven students responding. Of the respondents, 82% (9 students) indicated a desire to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN), with the remaining two students identifying that becoming an RDN may be desired.

When asked if they would enroll in the program upon completion of their undergraduate degree, 91% (10 students) identified that they would apply for the Master's degree if offered by the University of Montevallo. The remaining student answered this question with "maybe."

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide any additional thoughts or comments at the conclusion of the survey. These comments below were left.

*"It would help students out!"*

*"I had planned to stay here because of the great nutrition program and athletics for my undergraduate then transfer to UAB to get my masters. If Montevallo offered the masters, there is a strong chance that I would stay here instead of going to UAB. I feel this could apply to others as well."*

*"Having the master's program at the University of Montevallo would make it so I would not have to uproot and move my family. To me, this would be so valuable and allow us to stay closer to our family and friends in and outside of school."*

## III. Program Resource Requirements

### A. Proposed Program Faculty\*

#### Current Faculty and Faculty to Be Hired

Complete the following **New Academic Degree Proposal Faculty Roster** to provide a brief summary and qualifications of current faculty and potential new hires specific to the program.

**\*Note:** Institutions must maintain and have current as well as additional faculty curriculum vitae available upon ACHE request for as long as the program is active, but CVs are **not** to be submitted with this proposal.



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

Current Faculty			
1	2	3	4
CURRENT FACULTY NAME (FT, PT)	COURSES TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
Kelley DeVane Hart (FT)	<p><u>Fall semester:</u> NTR 566, Community Nutrition II Supervised Practice (G)</p> <p><u>Spring semester:</u> NTR 571, Applied Research in Food Science (G) NTR 585, Life Cycle and Community Nutrition (G)</p>	<p>PhD in Health Education/Health Promotion, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2014 MS in Clinical Nutrition, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1993 Dietetic Internship Certificate, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1992 BS in Home Economics, University of Montevallo, 1991</p>	<p>NTR 566, Community Nutrition II Supervised Practice (OCIS) NTR 571, Applied Research in Food Science (HY) NTR 585, Life Cycle and Community Nutrition (IP)</p>
Patricia Petitt (FT)	<p><u>Fall semester:</u> NTR 583, Nutrition Care Process I, 3 credit hours (G) NTR 570, Clinical Nutrition II Supervised Practice, 3 credit hours (G)</p> <p><u>Spring semester:</u> NTR 584, Nutrition Care Process II, 3 credit hours (G)</p> <p><u>Summer semester:</u> NTR 569, Clinical Nutrition I Supervised Practice, 3 credit hours (G)</p>	<p>MS in Human Environmental Science, Food and Nutrition, University of Alabama, 1988 BS in Chemistry, Auburn University, 1981</p>	<p>NTR 583, Nutrition Care Process I (IP) NTR 584, Nutrition Care Process II (IP) NTR 569, Clinical Nutrition I Supervised Practice (OCIS) NTR 570, Clinical Nutrition II Supervised Practice (OCIS)</p>
Yesenia Hernandez (PT)	<p><u>Summer semester:</u> NTR 567, Foodservice Management I Supervised Practice, 3 credit hours (G) NTR 568, Foodservice Management II Supervised Practice, 3 credit hours (G)</p>	<p>UAB Master of Science in Nutrition Sciences, Dietetic Internship, 2016 Samford University Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics, 2015</p>	<p>NTR 567, Foodservice Management I Supervised Practice (OCIS) NTR 568, Foodservice Management II Supervised Practice (OCIS)</p>
Rachel Mathisen (PT)	<p><u>Fall semester:</u> NTR 568, Foodservice Management II Supervised Practice, 3 credit hours (G)</p> <p><u>Summer semester:</u> NTR 565, Community Nutrition I Supervised Practice, 3 credit hours (G)</p>	<p>ScD in Nutrition, Tulane University, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, 1984 MPH in Nutrition, Tulane University, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, 1978 BA in Biology, Trinity University, 1977</p>	<p>NTR 565, Community Nutrition I Supervised Practice (OCIS) NTR 568, Foodservice Management II Supervised Practice (OCIS)</p>
Robert Herron (FT)	<p><u>Spring semester:</u> EXNS 598, Statistical Measurements in Exercise Science, 3 credit hours (G)</p>	<p>EdD in Sports Management, Sports Marketing United States Sports Academy, 2022 MA in Exercise Science, University of Alabama, 2011 BS in Exercise Science, Auburn University, 2009</p>	<p>EXNS 598, Statistical Measurements in Exercise Science (OL)</p>
Stacy Bishop (FT)	<p><u>Fall semester:</u> EXNS 508, Research Methods in EXNS, 3 credit hours (G)</p>	<p>PhD in Human Performance, University of Alabama, 2012 MS in Exercise Physiology, Baylor University, 2003 BS in Exercise and Sports Science, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, 2001</p>	<p>EXNS 508, Research Methods in EXNS (IP)</p>
Victoria Faught (PT)	<p><u>Fall semester:</u> EXNS 510, Advanced Sports Nutrition, 3 credit hours (G)</p>	<p>MS in Nutrition Sciences, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2021 Honors BS in Human Performance and Exercise Science, University of Alabama, 2016</p>	<p>EXNS 510, Advanced Sports Nutrition (IP)</p>
Additional Faculty (To Be Hired)			
1	2	3	4
FACULTY POSITION (FT, PT)	COURSES TO BE TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

Current Faculty			
1	2	3	4
<b>CURRENT FACULTY NAME (FT, PT)</b>	<b>COURSES TAUGHT</b> including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	<b>ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK</b> Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	<b>OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS</b> Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Abbreviations: (FT, PT): Full-Time, Part-Time; (D, UN, UT, G, DU): Developmental, Undergraduate Nontransferable, Undergraduate Transferable, Graduate, Dual: High School Dual Enrollment  
 Course Modality: (IP, OL, HY, OCIS): In-Person, Online, Hybrid, Off-Campus Instructional Site  
 Courses Taught/To be Taught – For a substantive change prospectus/application, list the courses *to be taught*, not historical teaching assignments.

## B. All Proposed Program Personnel

Provide all personnel counts for the proposed program.

**\*\*Note: Any new funds** designated for compensation costs (Faculty (FT/PT), Administration, and/or Support Staff to be Hired) **should be included** in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**. Current personnel salary/benefits (Faculty (FT/PT), Administration, and/or Support Staff) **should not be included** in the **Business Plan**.

Provide justification that the institution has proposed a sufficient number of faculty (full-time and part-time) for the proposed program to ensure curriculum and program quality, integrity, and review.

All courses that will be required for this master’s program are either already being taught at the master’s level (EXNS 508, EXNS 510, EXNS 598, NTR 566, NTR 568, and NTR 570). The remaining courses (NTR 571, NTR 573, NTR 574, NTR 583, NTR 584, NTR 585, NTR 565, NTR 567, AND NTR 569) have been taught at the undergraduate level. These courses are being updated to meet the rigor required at the graduate level. Since all of these courses have previously been taught at either the undergraduate or graduate level, the number of required instructors will not change.

## C. Equipment

Will any special equipment be needed specifically for this program? **Yes**  **No**

If yes, list the special equipment. Special equipment cost should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

## D. Facilities

Will any new facilities be required specifically for the program? **Yes**  **No**

If yes, list only **new** facilities. New facilities cost should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

Will any renovations to any existing infrastructure be required specifically for the program? **Yes**  **No**

If yes, list the renovations. Renovation costs should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.





# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

## E. Assistantships/Fellowships

Will the institution offer any assistantships specifically for this program? **Yes**  **No**

If yes, how many assistantships will be offered?

The expenses associated with any *new* assistantships should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

Provide a brief summarization (one to two paragraphs) describing the current status of the library collections supporting the proposed program.

### Proposed Master's in Nutrition: Library Report

Carmichael Library can support a Master's degree in Nutrition. Although this will be a new graduate degree at UM, we have supported the Nutrition and Wellness/Dietetics Concentration for many years. The Exercise and Nutrition Science (EXNS) department has a long history at UM and the faculty have consistently used the subject allocation funds to purchase high quality, scholarly, and relevant resources. The library is investigating the possibility of upgrading our SPORTDiscus database subscription to SPORTDiscus with Full Text, which includes many titles related to nutrition, in order to increase access to journal article content. Faculty are **highly encouraged** to request books and eBooks in the area of nutrition to keep the collection relevant and current.

### Overview

Carmichael Library connects people with information, fosters individual and collaborative research and study, cultivates critical thinking, and promotes creativity. As the primary information resource for the university community, the Library is engaged with a variety of academic support programs that provide traditional library resources and services along with up-to-date information technology and support for teaching and incorporating emerging technologies into the curriculum. The librarians work with the faculty to determine their database, print and online journal, monograph, and multimedia needs.

### Journals/Databases

There are over 204 journals on or about Nutrition and Wellness/Dietetics and more than 8,000 about health available through the library's [databases](#) and the [discovery search](#) (to browse through journals click [here](#)). The library offers the following databases to support a master's in nutrition: [AccessScience](#), [Alt-HealthWatch](#), [Culinary Arts Collection](#), [Human Anatomy Atlas \(Visible Body\)](#), [SPORTDiscus](#), [PubMed](#), and the [Trip Medical Database](#). These databases combined with a number of multidisciplinary databases, such as [Academic OneFile](#), [Academic Search Premier](#), [EBSCOhost Health Databases](#), and [Health Source: Consumer Edition](#) offer broad coverage to meet students' research needs. The library's databases are freely available to students, faculty, and staff users 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from any location. In addition to the journals available through the library's many databases, the library also subscribes directly to the following print and online journals related to exercise, nutrition, and sports.

*Table 1: EXNS Journal Subscriptions*

Title Name	Print ISSN	Format	Total Cost
Adapted Physical Activity Quarterly	1543-2777	Online	\$643
International Journal of Sport Nutrition and Exercise Metabolism	1543-2742	Online	\$870
Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research	1064-8011	Print	\$1637
Nutrition Reviews	1753-4887	Online	\$687



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

<b>Total Cost</b>			<b>\$3837.00</b>
-------------------	--	--	------------------

## Films

The library regularly licenses streaming film content through [Kanopy](#) and [Swank](#) at the request of faculty. Faculty and students have access to [Films on Demand](#), a streaming video collection of almost 40,000 educational films (280,000+ individually searchable segments). Additionally, the library has robust collection of over 3,100 DVDs including feature films, *Criterion Collection*, and documentaries, ranging from classic films to newly released titles.

## Books/Multimedia

With over 193,000 total print books in the collection and a student FTE of 2195 for Fall 2023, there are approximately 88 volumes per student. Based on the Library of Congress call number ranges, the library has 5,358 print books and 5,106 eBooks for use by students and faculty in the subjects of exercise, nutrition, and sports.

*Table 2* outlines the holdings by Library of Congress subject heading. The collection is strongest in the areas of sports, physiology, and nutrition. There are some areas where collection growth is needed, such as exercise therapy.

*Table 2: Exercise, Nutrition, and Sports Print Books and eBooks*

<b>Library of Congress Classification</b>	<b>Print Books</b>	<b>eBooks</b>
GT 2850-2955 - Anthropology. Eating and drinking customs	79	196
GV - Recreation, Sports, Games	3,226	2,584
QM - Human Anatomy	82	125
QP - Physiology	1,100	1,551
RA 781-784 - Physical education and training	92	87
RC 1200-1245 – Drug use in sports	122	45
RM 721-RM737 - Exercise therapy	34	28
TX 341-TX840 - Nutrition. Foods and Food Supply. Cooking	623	490
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,358</b>	<b>5,106</b>

It is the mutual responsibility of the teaching faculty and the library faculty to select materials for the collection. If a particular department is not active in book selection, it is the library's responsibility to ensure that that area of the curriculum is not neglected. The library director, under advisement of the University Library Committee, determines the annual percentage of the library's budget allocated to departments based on enrollment, credit hour production, average cost of books, and publishing intensity. The Exercise & Nutrition Science Department has a designated faculty liaison (Dr. Stacy Bishop). The head of technical services liaises with Dr. Bishop to ensure that the library meets the curricular needs of the department. The table below shows the last five years of the book and media budget allocation for the EXNS Department. In recent years, the allocation has decreased proportionally with the overall book budget as we have increased spending on digital subscriptions, in alignment with peer institutions. (Databases and journal subscriptions are paid from a different budget).

*Table 3: Exercise and Nutrition Science Book Allocation*

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>EXNS Allocation</b>
2020	\$1,650
2021	\$1,650
2022	\$1,550
2023	\$1,300
2024	\$1,275

## Services:



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

Research assistance via in-person help, scheduled consultation, phone call, chat, and email are available to all students. The library is open 7 days a week (for 87 hours) and offers open floor group workspace, group study rooms, and quiet individual study spaces. Additionally, the ground floor of the library is open 24 hours (12 a.m. to 8 a.m.) Sunday through Wednesday for students only. There are PCs and Macs available for use inside the library and students can check out iPads and laptops for use outside the library. The Digital Media Lab provides an Apple lab with 15 iMacs and is staffed with a full-time librarian, a grad student, and student workers. This multi-modal space offers digital media equipment such as 3D Printers, laser cutters, VR sets, iPads, software, three green screens, and audio and video editing & composing tools, including Adobe Creative Cloud, iMovie, iPhoto, Image Capture, and iTunes. The library also has a sound lab that has recording capabilities and includes a Mac workstation, wall mounted screen, podium, audio and video recording software, and some soundproofing, We offer faculty and students a number of resources to assist in their instruction and personal research needs:

- Tailored library [instruction](#) in person or via Zoom
- Course [research guides](#) and [course reserves](#)
- [Interlibrary loan](#) to assist with resource access
- [Digital Media Lab](#) to assist with digital projects
- Variety of [spaces](#) available to use for instruction, events, and studying
- [Distance education](#) services
- Assortment of computing, equipment, and printing [technology](#)

Will additional library resources be required to support the program?      **Yes**  **No**

If yes, briefly describe how any deficiencies will be remedied, and include the cost in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

## F. Accreditation Expenses

Will the proposed program require accreditation expenses?      **Yes**  **No**

If yes, briefly describe the estimated cost and funding source(s) and include cost in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

The accreditation expenses should not exceed the current expenditures for accreditation through the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). The annual fee through ACEND is \$2,680 and the fee for a self-study and site visit is \$7,580. The self-study and site visit occur every seven years. These are not new costs to the University, so they are not included in the Business Plan.

## G. Other Costs

Please explain any other costs to be incurred with program implementation, such as marketing or recruitment costs. Be sure to note these in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

## H. Revenues for Program Support

Will the proposed program require budget reallocation?      **Yes**  **No**

If yes, briefly describe how any deficiencies will be remedied and include the revenue in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

Will the proposed program require external funding (e.g., Perkins,      **Yes**  **No**



## Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

Foundation, Federal Grants, Sponsored Research, etc.)?

If yes, list the sources of external funding and include the revenue in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

Please describe how you calculated the tuition revenue that appears in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**. Specifically, did you calculate using cost per credit hour or per term? Did you factor in differences between resident and non-resident tuition rates?

This calculation was made by adding the anticipated tuition revenues from full-time students to that for part-time students. This was calculated as follows:

*Number of anticipated students x number of credit hours per year x tuition per credit hour.*

**For full-time students:**

*Number of anticipated students x 27 credit hours per year\* x (\$438 per credit hour + \$75 per credit hour in graduate flat rate fees)*

*\*27 credit hours are broken down as 9 credit hours per term (fall, spring, & summer*

**For part-time students:**

*Number of part-time students x 15 credit hours per year\* x (\$438 per credit hour + \$75 per credit hour in graduate flat rate fees)*

*\*15 credit hours are broken down as 6 hours in the fall & spring semester and 3 hours in the summer.*

#### IV. Employment Outcomes and Program Demand (Industry Need)

##### A. Standard Occupational Code System

Using the federal Standard Occupational Code (SOC) System, indicate the top three occupational codes related to post-graduation employment from the program. A full list of SOCs can be found at <https://www.onetcodeconnector.org/find/family/title#17>.

A list of Alabama's *In-Demand Occupations* is available at <https://www.ache.edu/index.php/policy-guidance/>.

**SOC 1 (required):** 29-1031.00

SOC 2 (optional):

SOC 3 (optional):

Briefly describe how the program fulfills a specific industry or employment need for the State of Alabama. As appropriate, discuss alignment with Alabama's Statewide or Regional Lists of In-Demand Occupations (<https://www.ache.edu/index.php/policy-guidance/>) or with emerging industries as identified by [Innovate Alabama](#) or the [Economic Development Partnership of Alabama](#) (EDPA).

By combining didactic courses along with supervised practice, this program will meet the necessary requirements for graduating students to sit for the Registration Examination for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDN). Upon successful completion of the RDN exam, graduates will be eligible for positions in the field of dietetics. As noted previously, labor statistics suggest the need for RDNs will rise.



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

## B. Employment Preparation

Describe how the proposed program prepares graduates to seek employment in the occupations (SOC codes) identified.

In the field of dietetics, one must achieve and maintain status as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. To be eligible to sit for this registration exam, one must have completed the necessary nutrition-related course work through an accredited institution, completed a Master’s degree, and completed a minimum of 1000 hours of supervised practice. Students who complete the UM Master’s degree in Nutrition will meet all criteria to be eligible to sit for this exam.

## C. Professional Licensure/Certification

Please explain if professional licensure or industry certification is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment in the occupations selected. Be sure to note which organization(s) grants licensure or certification.

Some dietetics occupations require ServSafe certification through the National Restaurant Association. Students taking FCS 577, Quantity Foods, will be required to obtain this certification as part of the course requirements.

## D. Additional Education/Training

Please explain whether further education/training is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment in the occupations selected.

N/A

## V. Curriculum Information for Proposed Degree Program

A. Program Completion Requirements: Enter the credit hour value for all applicable components (enter N/A if not applicable).

Curriculum Overview of Proposed Program	
Credit hours required in <b>general education</b>	
Credit hours required in <b>program courses</b>	36
Credit hours in <b>program electives/concentrations/tracks</b>	
Credit hours in <b>free electives</b>	
Credit hours in <b>required research/thesis</b>	9
<b>Total Credit Hours Required for Completion</b>	<b>45</b>

Note: The above credit hours **MUST** match the credit hours in the *Curriculum Components of Proposed Program* table in Section V.G.

B. Maximum number of credits that can be transferred in from another institution and applied to the program: 12 hours

C. Intended program duration in semesters for full-time students: Five semesters

Fall I:

NTR 573, Human Nutrition & Metabolism I  
EXNS 510, Advanced Sports Nutrition



## Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

NTR 583, Nutrition Care Process I

Spring:

NTR 574, Human Nutrition & Metabolism II

NTR 584, Nutrition Care Process II

NTR 585, Life Cycle and Community Nutrition

Summer:

NTR 567, Foodservice Management I Supervised Practice

NTR 569, Clinical Nutrition I Supervised Practice

NTR 565, Community Nutrition I Supervised Practice

Fall II:

NTR 568, Foodservice Management II Supervised Practice

EXNS 508, Research Methods in EXNS

NTR 566, Community Nutrition II Supervised Practice

Spring II:

NTR 570, Clinical Nutrition II Supervised Practice

EXNS 598, Statistical Measurements in EXNS

NTR 571, Applied Research in Food Science

**D.** Intended program duration in semesters for part-time students: Nine semesters

Fall I:

EXNS 510, Advanced Sports Nutrition

EXNS 508, Research Methods in EXNS

Spring I:

NTR 571, Applied Research in Food Science

NTR 585, Life Cycle and Community Nutrition

Summer I:

NTR 567, Foodservice Management I Supervised Practice

Fall II:

NTR 573, Human Nutrition & Metabolism I

NTR 583, Nutrition Care Process I

Spring II:

NTR 574, Human Nutrition & Metabolism II

NTR 584, Nutrition Care Process II

Summer:

NTR 568, Foodservice Management II Supervised Practice

Fall III:

NTR 565, Community Nutrition I Supervised Practice

NTR 569, Clinical Nutrition I Supervised Practice

Spring III:

EXNS 598, Statistical Measurements in EXNS

NTR 566, Community Nutrition II Supervised Practice



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

Summer III:

NTR 570, Clinical Nutrition II Supervised Practice

- E. Does the program require students to demonstrate industry-validated skills, specifically through an embedded industry-recognized certification, structured [work-based learning](#) with an employer partner, or alignment with nationally recognized industry standards? **Yes  No**

If yes, explain how these components fit with the required coursework.

Students engage in over 1000 hours of supervised practice in the three primary areas of dietetics. Students must successfully complete all supervised practice rotations based on preceptor requirements and obtain a ServSafe certification mentioned previously.

- F. Does the program include any concentrations? **Yes  No**

If yes, provide an overview and identify these courses in the *Electives/Concentrations/Tracks* section in the Curriculum Components of Proposed Program Table in Section V.G.

- G. Please provide all course information as indicated in the following table. Indicate new courses with “Y” in the associated column. If the course includes a required work-based learning component, such as an internship or practicum course, please indicate with a “Y” in the WBL column.

<b>Program Name:</b>	<b>Nutrition</b>			
<b>Program Level:</b>	<b>Master of Science</b>			
<b>Curriculum Components of Proposed Program</b>				
<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>New? (Y)</b>	<b>WBL ? (Y)</b>
<b>General Education Courses (Undergraduate Only)</b>				
<b>Program Courses</b>				
NTR 573	Human Nutrition & Metabolism I	3	Y	N
NTR 583	Nutrition Care Process I	3	Y	N
EXNS 510	Advanced Sports Nutrition	3	N	N
NTR 574	Human Nutrition & Metabolism II	3	Y	N
NTR 584	Nutrition Care Process II	3	Y	N
NTR 585	Life Cycle and Community Nutrition	3	Y	N
NTR 565	Community Nutrition I Supervised Practice	3	Y	Y
NTR 566	Community Nutrition II Supervised Practice	3	Y	Y
NTR 567	Foodservice Management I Supervised Practice	3	Y	Y
NTR 568	Foodservice Management II Supervised Practice	3	Y	Y
NTR 569	Clinical Nutrition I Supervised Practice	3	Y	Y
NTR 570	Clinical Nutrition II Supervised Practice	3	Y	Y
<b>Program Electives/Concentrations/Tracks</b>				
N/A	N/A			



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

Research/Thesis				
NTR 571	Applied Research in Food Science	3	Y	N
EXNS 508	Research Methods in EXNS	3	N	N
EXNS 598	Statistical Measurements in EXNS	3	N	N
<b>*Total Credit Hours Required for Completion</b>		<b>45</b>		

\*Note: The total credit hours should equal the total credit hours in the Curriculum Overview table (V.B, p. 9).

## New Academic Degree Program Summary/Business Plan

Use the Excel form from ACHE’s Academic Program webpage located at <https://www.ache.edu/index.php/forms/>, named **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan**, to complete the New Academic Program Degree Proposal.

Instructions and definitions are provided in the Excel file. **The New Academic Degree Program Business Plan should be uploaded as an Excel file (.xlsx) in the Academic Program Review (APR) Portal.**

## Steps for Submitting the New Academic Degree Proposal

1. Complete the **New Academic Degree Proposal** document.
2. Attach the letters of support from external entities listed in *Section I.D.* at the end of the **New Academic Degree Proposal** document.
3. Save the **New Academic Degree Proposal** document as a **.pdf file**.
4. Complete the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan** and save as an **.xlsx file**.
5. Login to the Academic Program Review (APR) Portal at [apr.ache.edu](http://apr.ache.edu) using your ACHE-provided login information. If you are not a designated user for your institution, contact your designated user.
6. Provide responses to questions in the APR Portal.
7. Upload the **New Academic Degree Proposal .pdf file** in the APR Portal.
8. Upload the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan .xlsx file** in the APR Portal.
9. Click to “Validate” the proposal and then address any issues with your submission.
10. Once validation is clear, click “Review” to check your responses before submitting. If all looks good, click “Submit” at the bottom of the review screen.
11. The system will then prompt you to “Lock” the submission. Your proposal is considered submitted only once it has been locked within the APR Portal.

**→ Note: Proposals that have not been locked by the deadline will not be reviewed for inclusion on the next Commission agenda.**



**NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

University of Montevallo

PROGRAM: *Master's in Nutrition*

Select Level: *Master's*

**ESTIMATED \*NEW\* EXPENSES TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED PROGRAM**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	TOTAL
FACULTY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STAFF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FACILITIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LIBRARY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ASSISTANTSHIPS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**\*NEW\* REVENUES AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	TOTAL
REALLOCATIONS								0
EXTRAMURAL								0
TUITION	41,553	53,865	112,347	112,347	120,042	120,042	120,042	680238
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41553</b>	<b>53865</b>	<b>112347</b>	<b>112347</b>	<b>120042</b>	<b>120042</b>	<b>120042</b>	<b>680238</b>

**Validation 1:** Program revenues exceed or match expenses. **YES**

**ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS**

*Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.*

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	AVERAGE
FULL-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	5	7	7	7	7	7	6.66666667
PART-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	2	2	2	3	3	3	2.5
TOTAL HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	7	9	9	10	10	10	9.16666667
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	4	5	4	5	4	5	4.5

**Validation 2:** Students who graduated the prior year are not included in the total headcount. **OK**

**DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS**

*Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the average annual degree completions.*

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	Year 1 - No data reporting required	3	4	4	4	5	4	4

**Validation 3:** There are enough new students enrolling each year to sustain completions. **YES**

\*New\* entails additional expenses or revenues associated with program implementation. Please include any planning or start-up expenses within Year 1 (even if these were incurred in Year 0 or prior). Do not include expenses or revenues already budgeted for a department or instructional unit prior to the development of this specific program. For instance, if new faculty will be hired to teach in this program, salary/benefits should be included for each year following hire, but salary/benefits for existing faculty would not be included.

**Validation 4:** Completion projections meet viability standard for this degree level. **MET**



MOUNTAIN BROOK  
SCHOOLS  
*effective | challenging | engaging*

February 26, 2024

Dr. Kelley DeVane-Hart, Phd, RDN, LDN  
Associate Professor of Dietetics  
University of Montevallo  
Bloch Hall 109  
Montevallo, Alabama 35115

Dear Dr. Kelley Devane-Hart,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the development of a Master's degree of Science in Nutrition through the Exercise and Nutrition Science Department at the University of Montevallo. This proposed program aligns perfectly with the evolving needs of the nutrition field and will undoubtedly contribute significantly to the academic and professional landscape in the region.

I wholeheartedly endorse the mandate that all dietetic students must now obtain a graduate degree before being eligible to sit for the registration examination for dietitians. This requirement reflects the increasing complexity and depth of knowledge required in the field of nutrition and dietetics. By raising the educational standards, we ensure that future dietitians are equipped with the advanced skills and expertise necessary to address the diverse and evolving needs of individuals and communities.

Furthermore, I applaud the University of Montevallo's proactive approach in recognizing the rising need for Registered Dietitians to address Alabama's public health crisis related to poor dietary intake. The prevalence of chronic diseases linked to nutrition-related factors underscores the critical role that dietitians play in promoting health and preventing disease. By offering a Master's degree program in Nutrition, the university will be preparing a cadre of highly qualified professionals who are poised to make meaningful contributions to improving public health outcomes in Alabama and beyond.

The establishment of this program not only benefits aspiring dietitians but also strengthens the university's reputation as a leader in nutrition education and research. I am confident that the Master's degree of Science in Nutrition will attract motivated students and faculty members who are passionate about advancing the field of nutrition and making a positive impact on society.



MOUNTAIN BROOK  
SCHOOLS  
*effective | challenging | engaging*

In conclusion, I extend my full support to the University of Montevallo in its endeavor to develop the Master's degree of Science in Nutrition. I am excited about the potential of this program to elevate the standard of nutrition education and contribute to the health and well-being of individuals and communities.

Thank you for your dedication to excellence in education and your commitment to addressing public health challenges through innovative academic programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tricia Neura".

Tricia Neura, MPH, RD, LD, SNS  
Child Nutrition Director  
Office: 205.802.4999  
Cell: 205.506.8557  
[neurat@mtnbrook.k12.al.us](mailto:neurat@mtnbrook.k12.al.us)



Karen Johnson, RD, LD  
Morrison Healthcare/Grandview Medical Center  
Birmingham, AL, 35243  
February 28, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the University of Montevallo developing a Master's Degree in Nutrition. As of January 2024, all new Registered Dietitians must have a Master's Degree. In order to attract students interested in the profession of nutrition and dietetics, being able to provide an undergraduate and graduate program is vital. Having a Master's Degree in Nutrition, versus a concentration in Dietetics, will provide students with a stronger foundation to successfully complete their internship and pass the registration exam. As more emphasis is placed on the role of food and nutrition in preventing health issues, the need for RDNs is expected to grow. The U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics projects a 7% increase in demand for RDNs in the coming years.

As a Clinical Nutrition Manager that regularly precepts Dietetic Interns in their clinical rotations, the University of Montevallo is one of the universities in the area who send students. The students are well prepared and for the most part, high performing. I feel that if Montevallo could provide a Master's in Nutrition, they will be able to offer a quality and complete education for future RDNs, and that many of those students will choose to remain in the state to begin their career.

Alabama consistently ranks near the bottom of states with the healthiest populations. According to a Forbes article in January 2024, Alabama is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in least healthy states, based on 21 metrics that include disease risk factors and prevalence, substance abuse and lifestyle habits. This illustrates the need for RDNs and programs that can be preventative and not only reactive. By increasing the educational opportunities in the state for future RDNs, there will be a larger pool entering the work force who will be able to work towards educating the public, creating programs that will decrease chronic disease rates.

Registered Dietitian Nutritionists provide a variety of roles in the health and wellness of populations. Whether it is in the acute care center, providing Medical Nutrition Therapy, creating health and wellness progress in corporations or communities, or educating and feeding children in the school system, they are working with people to improve health. Providing education in the state that will provide a qualified work force in this area, is critically important. I believe that the University of Montevallo's development of a Master's Degree in Nutrition will benefit the state and the RDN community.

Sincerely,

Karen Johnson