

## **M.S. in Nutrition Sciences Program Handbook**

### **Welcome**

Congratulations on beginning your graduate education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and welcome to the [Department of Kinesiology & Nutrition Sciences](#), M.S. in Nutrition Sciences Program. We hope that you will have many positive experiences and interactions during your time with us, and we hope that we can effectively assist you in your growth and development.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the UNLV MS in Nutrition Sciences degree is to provide program graduates with the skills and knowledge to be proficient nutrition scientists. For those seeking the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) credential, the program aims to prepare comfortable and competent nutrition and dietetics professionals capable of providing excellent nutrition and dietetic services in numerous community, food service, management, and clinical settings. The program will provide an evidence-based curriculum with a translation to professional practice.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this handbook is to provide program specific information that is not found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Students are responsible for understanding and following the policies and procedures delineated in this document and the UNLV Graduate Catalog, as well as the NSHE Code, UNLV Bylaws, and the UNLV Student Conduct Code. Questions about policies should be directed to the Graduate College: [valarie.burke@unlv.edu](mailto:valarie.burke@unlv.edu) or [gradassociatedean@unlv.edu](mailto:gradassociatedean@unlv.edu).

### **Department Graduate Faculty**

A current listing of the graduate faculty can be found on the [UNLV Graduate College Website](#). Faculty must hold the appropriate level of approved graduate faculty status to be involved in graduate education at UNLV. For current information regarding graduate faculty status in the M.S. Nutrition Sciences Program, please contact the graduate Coordinator, Dr. Laura Kruskall, at [laura.kruskall@unlv.edu](mailto:laura.kruskall@unlv.edu).

### **Contact Information**

Website: [Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences](#)

*Department Chair:* Richard Rosenkranz, PhD,

BHS 329, 702-895-5198, [richard.rosenkranz@unlv.edu](mailto:richard.rosenkranz@unlv.edu)

*Graduate Coordinator:* Laura J Kruskall, PhD, RDN, CSSD, LD, FACSM, FAND,

BHS 330, 702-274-0370, [laura.kruskall@unlv.edu](mailto:laura.kruskall@unlv.edu)

*Department Main Office:*

BHS 323, Phone: 702-895-4328

## **Program Description & Subplans (Official degree requirements may be found in the Graduate Catalog)**

Subplan 1: Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics

Subplan 2: Non-Thesis

Subplan 3: Thesis

The program will provide an evidence-based curriculum with a translation to professional practice. This degree will satisfy the possession of a master's degree requirement to sit for the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) National Registration Examination for Dietitians. This degree alone will not qualify an individual to sit for this exam and earn the RDN credential- students still need to successfully complete an ACEND-accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) and an ACEND-accredited Dietetic Internship Supervised Practice Program (DI). The Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics Subplan will provide students with the opportunity to complete the ACEND-accredited Dietetic Internship Supervised Practice Program and earn the MS degree at the same time.

This Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics Subplan requires that prospective students earn and submit a Verification Statement from an ACEND-accredited DPD. Prospective students must also apply separately and be accepted into the UNLV Dietetic Internship Supervised Practice Program to be eligible for this subplan. Please contact the graduate coordinator for further clarification and deadlines with this process. Students are admitted to this subplan on a competitive basis. Meeting minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.

For more information about your program including your graduate program handbook and learning outcomes please visit the [UNLV Degrees Directory webpage](#).

*[Please see UNLV Graduate Catalog for official admissions requirements.](#)*

Students should identify an academic advisor prior to application to the program. Nutrition faculty for consideration are:

Laura Kruskall, PhD, RDN, CSSD, LD, FACSM, FAND. Director, [UNLV Dietetic Internship Program](#) & [UNLV Nutrition Center](#).

Arpita Basu, PhD, RDN, LD. Associate Professor.

Sara Rosenkranz, PhD. Associate Professor.

Richard Rosenkranz, PhD. Professor and Chair, Department of Kinesiology and Sciences.

## **Program Requirements**

Program requirements regarding admission, coursework and culminating experience are found in the [UNLV Graduate Catalog](#).

## **Advisory Committee Guidelines**

A Graduate Advisory Committee is mandatory and must conform to the Degree Progression Policies and Procedures provided in the graduate catalog. Applicants to the program are strongly encouraged to have a faculty member identified (cooperatively) to serve as their mentor/advisor prior to application to the program. This faculty member must have the appropriate Graduate Faculty status in the Department and be in good standing in the Graduate College.

## **Subplan 1: Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics**

Culminating experience requires major advisor plus one other graduate faculty member to assess clinical and professional practice competency. Student is guided by advisor through a clinical or community project and/or case study. Clinical or community project and/or case study may also be presented at their clinical/practice site. Project is supervised by advisor.

## **Subplan 2: Non-Thesis and Subplan 3: Thesis**

In addition to the faculty mentor/advisor who serves as the Chair of the thesis or professional paper committee, a minimum of two additional faculty from within the department with the appropriately approved Graduate Faculty status, also serve on the Advisory Committee. The Graduate College Representative, a faculty member with the appropriate Graduate Faculty status (Graduate Faculty Representative) outside of the Department of KNS, is also required to serve on the Advisory Committee. Thus, the Advisory Committee consists of a minimum of three faculty members from within the department and a fourth faculty member from outside of the department.

## **Degree Program Benchmarks**

Students can track their progress using Plan of Study Forms. Part I of the Plan of Study Form can be found on the Grad Rebel Gateway. Part II can be found in the Degrees Directory. It is required that you submit the Plan of Study Form Parts I and II before applying for graduation, but it is strongly recommended that you submit the form once you are about halfway through your graduate program. These forms require the approval of the advisor and the Graduate College.

## **Graduate Assistantships**

The Department of Kinesiology & Nutrition Sciences offers a limited number of Graduate Assistantships to support its students. Due to the demand far exceeding supply, awards are made competitively based on academic record, timeliness of academic progress and past experiences. Priority is given to students who are making satisfactory academic progress and are within the normal timelines of degree completion. Students who are employed as Graduate Assistants (GAs) must follow all policies and procedures set by NSHE/UNLV. If GAs are interacting with or present at clinical/community supervised practice sites, they must abide by all facility policies and procedures.

**The Department of Kinesiology & Nutrition Sciences reserves the right to not renew or to cancel a GA position due to unsatisfactory academic progress or unsatisfactory performance of the assigned GA duties. (Please see the Graduate Assistantship Handbook on the Graduate College website.)**

## **Subplan 1: Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics and Subplan 2: Non-Thesis**

The culminating experience professional paper plus clinical case study/community intervention project (NUTR 747 for the Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics subplan or NUTR 748 for the Non-Thesis subplan) prospectus document and meeting includes a draft outline of their literature review and proposed project and presentation of the student's concept for this option. The student will work with the committee chair for the level of detail required in this outline. The student's advisory committee may suggest changes or approve the project concept during the prospectus meeting. Following approval of the project concept, the student may proceed with the culminating experience professional paper and project. Students must be enrolled in NUTR 747 or NUTR 748 while completing the culminating experience. Three credits may be used towards the degree.

NOTE: This option will require that students work at a healthcare or community site. All sites must have an educational affiliation agreement (EAA) in place before the student may begin the project. If an EAA does not already exist, it can take quite some time for this process. Students may be required to complete a criminal background check, drug screen, and provide proof of various immunizations. This will be an additional expense for students. Students must comply with all facility (site) guidelines for access to the facility. Sites also have very strict dress and appearance codes that students must abide by (i.e. piercings, tattoos, and clothing).

The final examination for the M.S. degree comes in the form of public oral defense of the culminating experience- professional paper plus clinical case study/community intervention project. The Advisory Committee determines whether or not the student passes the defense. Please see the Graduate Catalog for defense policies.

### **Subplan 3: Thesis**

The thesis prospectus precedes the research. At this time, the student presents their thesis proposal to their Advisory Committee in a public forum in both written and oral form. The student will work with the committee chair for the level of detail required in this proposal. The Advisory Committee may accept the proposal as presented, recommend minor changes to the study design or methodology, or request that the student conduct a major revision and repeat the prospectus. Upon acceptance of the prospectus, the student is allowed to commence their research. At this point, students must be enrolled in NUTR 749 until the thesis is complete. Six credits of this course may be used towards the degree.

The final examination for the M.S. degree comes in the form of public oral defense of the written thesis. The Advisory Committee may extend the defense into cognate fields related to the subject topic. The Advisory Committee determines whether or not the student passes the defense. Please see the Graduate Catalog for defense policies.

### **Program Timeline**

Subplan 1: Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics- This program is 2.5 years in length and includes the required dietetic internship supervised practice experience of 1040 hours (NUTR 796, 797, 798 or NUTR 799 for pre-approved part-time students).

Subplan 2: Non-Thesis and Subplan 3: Thesis: It is anticipated that these subplans will require four semesters of graduate student enrollment at 6 to 9 credits per semester. A student may accelerate the timeline by taking additional credits during the summer semesters.

## **Professional Code of Ethics/Discipline Guidelines**

UNLV Graduate College policy regarding academic integrity can be found in the [UNLV Graduate Catalog](#) and found at the [UNLV Office of Student Conduct](#) webpage. Students in the M.S. Nutrition Sciences Program also must abide by the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Code of Ethics](#) and must agree to take the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Pledge of Professional Civility](#).

## **Annual Review Procedures**

Your advisor will evaluate your progress at the end of each semester. You may, at any time, request a meeting with your advisor to discuss any issues, problems, or concerns. We strongly encourage you to communicate with your advisor on a regular basis.

## **Annual Mandatory Individual Development Plan:**

Each winter break and early spring term, graduate students are **required** to complete the Graduate Student Individual Development Plan (IDP) form [Formerly known as the Student Annual Review]. The review covers the prior calendar year and assesses student progress, and it establishes reasonable goals for the year ahead. Faculty Advisors/Graduate Coordinators have the option to provide feedback to each students' submitted IDP and provide acknowledgement that they have reviewed the IDP. Reported student data is shared with students' graduate coordinators and advisors to foster opportunities for discussion about students' strengths and weaknesses, accomplishments and next requirements, and mentoring plans so that students know what they need to do in order to progress successfully through their programs in a timely manner. Students who are graduating are also required to complete the form in order to record their achievements since the data is also used to track UNLV metrics related to the annual productivity of all students.

## **Program Information**

Please see [Graduate Catalog](#) for program and degree requirements.

## Graduate Study Timeline

### Step 1: Meet with Graduate Coordinator/Advisor

- Please contact your department to determine who your graduate coordinator or advisor is, and make an appointment to meet them to discuss your program plans and requirements.

### Step 2: Determine if you need a Graduate Advisory Committee

- Not all graduate students require an advisory committee, but most do. To determine whether you need a graduate advisory committee, please check with your graduate coordinator or advisor, and review your program requirements in the Graduate Catalog.
- If you do not require an advisory committee, please continue to step #4.

### Step 3: Submit Appointment of Advisory Committee Form

- If you need a Graduate Advisory Committee, please be aware that your committee must consist of a chair from your department, at least two other faculty from your department, and one Graduate College representative from a different department at UNLV.

- Note that committee chairs, members, and Graduate College representatives on advisory committees must have appropriate graduate faculty status and permissions.
- If after establishing a Graduate Advisory Committee and submitting the [Appointment of Advisory Committee Form](#) there is need to change the composition of the committee, the student should complete and submit the [Change in Advisory Committee Form](#) to the Graduate College immediately. Both of these forms are available in the Grad Rebel Gateway.

#### Step 4: Submit Plan of Study Form Parts I and II

- It is required that you submit the Plan of Study Form Parts I and II before applying for graduation, but it is strongly recommended that you submit the form once you are about halfway through your graduate program.
- Part I of the Plan of Study Form can be found on the Grad Rebel Gateway. Part II can be found in the Degrees Directory.
- For master's students not completing a thesis or professional paper, continue to step #6.

#### Step 5: Submit Prospectus Approval Form

- All students required to have a graduate advisory committee and defend a final research or creative document must submit the [Prospectus Approval Form](#) available in the Grad Rebel Gateway.
- Registering for thesis credit before approval and submission of this form is prohibited.
- The final defense of your final research or creative document cannot be approved if your prospectus approval form is not approved prior to your thesis defense.

#### Step 6: Apply for graduation

- You may apply for graduation in MyUNLV up to two semesters prior to your intended semester of graduation, but you MUST SUBMIT all forms (except your culminating experience forms) prior to applying to graduate.
- You must be enrolled in at least three graduate-level credits the semester that you graduate. Completing courses from prior semesters with X or I grades will not be counted toward the graduation enrollment requirement.
- Late application requests should be sent to [grad.rpc@unlv.edu](mailto:grad.rpc@unlv.edu). If approved, the student will also be responsible for paying an additional late fee of \$20.
- Learn more about [graduation application and instructions](#).

#### Step 7: Announce the time, date, and location of your defense

- Defenses are public and must be advertised (date, time, location) on campus. Instructions on how to announce your defense can be found on this [PDF document](#). All defenses must be publicized through the Graduate College two weeks prior to the defense; please email defense announcements to [gradrebel@unlv.edu](mailto:gradrebel@unlv.edu).



- After you have sent your defense announcement to the Graduate College, it will be entered into both the Graduate College and University Events Calendars. After it has been entered, you will receive email confirmation. If you need to cancel or reschedule your defense, please contact our office as soon as possible to ensure that you meet all your deadlines.

## Step 8: Defend Thesis

- Be sure that you hold your defense no less than three weeks prior to the last day of instruction. Each semester we post a last day to defend your thesis deadline on our website [here](#).
- All theses must be submitted to [iThenticate](#) for a similarity check prior to submission of the final document to the Graduate College. A copy of the similarity report must be submitted to the student's advisory committee prior to the final defense, and will be taken into account when determining the outcome of the defense. If the student passes their defense, the first page of the text only summary report must be uploaded into the Culminating Experience Results form in the Grad Rebel Gateway before submission to the Graduate College.

## Step 9: Submit Culminating Experience Results Form

- For students completing a thesis, taking final exams, completing professional papers, or doing other approved culminating experiences, you must submit the results of your oral defense, final exam or project defense immediately after you receive them or it is recommended no more than two weeks prior to the last day of instruction.
- For students completing a thesis, the first page of the iThenticate text only summary report must be uploaded into the [Culminating Experience Results form](#) in the Grad Rebel Gateway before submission to the Graduate College.
- For master's students not completing a thesis, continue to step #12.

## Step 10: Thesis Format Review

- Document formatting must meet the requirements set forth in the Graduate College Formatting Guidelines. Be sure that you have [prepared your final document](#) in the appropriate style (follow the Style Manual directed by your advisors); all items not dictated by the Graduate College Formatting Guidelines will be determined by your style guide. It is the student and the graduate advisory committee's responsibility to ensure that style and formatting are done appropriately and to specifications.
- A breakdown of all the requirements is available in the [Graduate College Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines](#). A printable version of all the formatting manuals with instructions on how to do each item can be found in the [Step-by-Step How to Format Your Thesis or Dissertation Manual](#)

## Step 11: Upload to ProQuest & Digital Scholarship @ UNLV

- This is a mandatory final step in the process of completing your thesis. Once you have successfully uploaded your document to ProQuest, it will be copied to [DigitalScholarship@unlv.edu](mailto:DigitalScholarship@unlv.edu), the University's open-source online document repository.
- You may not upload your electronic document until you receive an email invitation from the Graduate College containing ProQuest upload instructions and your final document with the approval page. Invitations are sent out after the formatting of your electronic document has been approved by the Graduate College and your culminating experience results form has been verified by the Graduate College.

## Step 12: Graduate!

- Your degree will be conferred after you have fulfilled all degree requirements, submitted all your required signed forms, and submitted your final documents (via ProQuest submission for Master's thesis and Doctoral students). You may not participate in commencement prior to completing all degree requirements.
- Learn more about [completing your academic program and preparing for the commencement ceremony](#).
- Please note: diplomas are mailed approximately 8 to 10 weeks after the end of the semester.



## **University Resources**

### [The Graduate Academy: Innovative Leadership, Professional, and Career Development](#)

The goal of the Professional Development Academy is to serve as a virtual resource providing support and many professional opportunities to UNLV graduate students. The Academy offers information about events and services such as graduate certificate programs, workshops, training sessions and career services. You can follow Academy activities via social media or look for regular updates on the website.

### [Academic Success Center](#)

The goal of the Academic Success Center is to help students do well academically and complete their studies on time. They offer or will refer you to such programs and resources as tutoring, advising, skills testing, career exploration and more. They guide students every step of the way to the many established resources created to ensure they complete their educational goals. Learn more about the programs and services the center currently offers.

### [The UNLV Food Pantry](#)

The UNLV Food Pantry provides food for all enrolled students. Income verification is not required. Students may visit once per week. The Food Pantry is located at 4646 University Center Drive, Las Vegas, NV, 89119. Check the [website](#) for hours.

### [Alumni Association](#)

With an alumni base 140,000 strong, the UNLV Alumni Association offers a variety of services and opportunities in support of alumni and their families. UNLV alumni are encouraged to support the values of higher learning through advocacy, involvement, and giving.

### [Commencement Office](#)

Located in the UNLV Office of the Registrar, the commencement office is the last step in the graduation process. Please check with the commencement office for information on the commencement ceremony and your diploma; for all other information about graduate student degree completion and graduation, including thesis/dissertation requirements and doctoral hooding, please contact the Graduate College. It is the students' responsibility to ensure they apply for [graduation before the set deadline](#) and submit all required forms to the Graduate College. Questions regarding thesis/dissertation should be directed to the Graduate College [Student Services Team](#) and questions regarding required forms should be directed to the Graduate College [RPC Team](#)

### [Office of Diversity Initiatives](#)

The vision of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to advocate, promote, and support the advancement of equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment of a continuously changing collegiate and global community. The mission of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to provide leadership and support for UNLV's diversity mission: to nurture equity, diversity, and inclusiveness that promotes respect, support, and empowerment. This Office also handles UNLV Title IX questions, inquiries, and reporting.

## [Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](#)

The DRC is committed to supporting students with disabilities at UNLV through the appropriate use of advocacy, accommodations, and supportive services to ensure access to campus courses, services, and activities. The DRC is the university-designated office that determines and facilitates reasonable accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Graduate students with disabilities must disclose to the DRC in order to receive appropriate accommodations.

## [Office of International Student and Scholars](#)

International Students and Scholars (ISS) ensures compliance with both SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) and federal law, so that the university can continue to be authorized by the U.S. federal government to enroll international students; host and hire international scholars; assist and advise employment eligibility and authorization relating to international students and scholars, and visa, travel, and immigration issues; provide critical and specialized services to the international students and scholars of the UNLV community; and facilitate their transition to the campus and the U.S.

## [Jean Nidetch Women's Center](#)

The Jean Nidetch Women's Center is committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all genders through programming, services, and advocacy for the UNLV community. The Women's Center has informational resources, brochures, and flyers for a variety of on and off campus organizations to help empower and protect yourself, and learn about your options. They also provide free tampons, pads, and condoms.

## [The Intersection](#)

The Intersection is a one-stop resource for UNLV's highly diverse student body — a comprehensive multicultural center grounded in the academic life of our students. As an intersecting campus resource, the Intersection helps ensure students, particularly first-generation and students of color, successfully navigate their academic careers. Here, all members of campus can discuss their differences, discover their similarities, and build a shared sense of belonging.

## [UNLV Libraries](#)

UNLV Libraries has always been more than books; they are about encouraging students and creating quality programs that elevate growth and learning. Please visit their website for important information about the services they offer to graduate students.

## [Graduate & Professional Student Association \(GPSA\)](#)

The Graduate & Professional Student Association serves all currently enrolled University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate and professional students. The GPSA maintains the Graduate Student Commons located in the Lied Library room 2141 and Gateway Building PDAC Room. The facility a working office equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, office supplies, and computers with printers and a small kitchen area. The GPSA is the graduate student governance body at UNLV; the GPSA Council consists of one graduate student representative from each graduate department, and they meet monthly. The GPSA also provides volunteer opportunities, sponsors social events, and supports graduate student research through the graduate research and travel grants program.

## Office of Student Conduct

- The Office of Student Conduct is a student-centered, service-oriented office located within the Division of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Conduct collaborates with the UNLV community to provide an inclusive system through enforcement of the UNLV Student Code of Conduct by promoting awareness of student rights and responsibilities;
- Establishing accountability for student choices;
- Creating opportunities for involvement in the process; and
- Striving to uphold the values and ethics that advance the common good.

## Military and Veteran Services Center

The Military and Veteran Service Center is staffed with veterans and GI Bill-experienced staff to assist more than 1,000 veterans, dependents, active duty service members, National Guard members, and reservists. Their mission is to develop a welcoming, veteran-friendly campus environment that fosters academic and personal success.

## The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office supports higher-education access and persistence by providing financial aid to eligible students. The office partners with student organizations, the UNLV Foundation, the Graduate College, and other external constituents to provide financial aid learning opportunities and scholarship support for graduate students.

## Writing Center

This is a free service to UNLV students to help you with any writing project, from papers to creative writing, to resumes, and we can work with you at any stage of the writing process. The center can help you brainstorm, make an outline, work on your drafts, or just be a soundboard for your ideas. The center staff can assist you in person, or via the Online Writing Lab (OWL) page.

## **University Policies and Procedures**

Graduate students are responsible for knowing and acting in accordance with UNLV Policies and Procedures. To view the most commonly referenced campus policies and procedures, you can refer to the Graduate Student Handbook, and following websites:

- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Activation for Military Service](#)
- [Change of Address](#)
- [FERPA/Privacy Rights](#)
- [Health Insurance - Mandatory](#)
- [Jean Clery Campus Safety and Security Report](#)
- [Proof of Immunization](#)
- [Policies and Procedures on the Protection of Research Subjects](#)
- [Rebelmail Policy](#)
- [Student Conduct Code](#)
- [Student Computer Use Policy](#)
- [Title IX](#)

UNLV does not discriminate in its employment practices or in its educational programs or activities, including admissions, on the basis of sex/gender pursuant to Title IX, or on the basis of any other legally protected category as is set forth in NSHE Handbook Title 4, Chapter 8, Section 13. Reports of discriminatory misconduct, questions regarding Title IX, and/or concerns about noncompliance with Title IX or any other anti-discrimination laws or policies should be directed to UNLV's Title IX Coordinator Michelle Spósito.

The Title IX Coordinator can be reached through the online reporting form at [Title IX Reporting Form](#), by email at [titleixcoordinator@unlv.edu](mailto:titleixcoordinator@unlv.edu), by phone at (702) 895-4055, by mail at 4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Box 451062, Las Vegas, NV, 89154-1062, or in person at Frank and Estella Beam Hall (BEH), Room 555.

To ensure compliance with Graduate College policies and procedures, please review the relevant sections of the [Graduate Catalog](#):

- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Academic Policies](#)
- [Admission and Registration Information](#)
- [Degree Progression Policies & Procedures](#)

In addition, the [Graduate College website](#) contains additional information regarding policies and procedures.

*Nothing in this handbook supersedes any NSHE, UNLV, or Graduate College policy.*

### **Becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) and Licensed Dietitian (LD)**

Earning a M.S. degree in Nutrition Sciences alone will not grant you the eligibility to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) or Licensed Dietitian (LD) in Nevada.

### **In order to become a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist (RDN) students must:**

- Complete and ACEND-Accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD).
- Apply for, become accepted into, and complete an ACEND-Accredited Dietetic Internship Supervised Practice Program (DI). The UNLV DI meets this step in the process.
- Pass the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) National Registration Examination for Dietitians. The eligibility requirements for this exam and exam content are set by CDR. Additional information can be found at [The Commission on Dietetic Registration website and Registration Eligibility Requirements](#).

NOTE: Effective January 1, 2024, students must hold a M.S. degree in order to sit for the National Registration Examination for Dietitians. The M.S. Nutrition Sciences Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics subplan will fulfill this requirement.

NOTE: Once the RDN credential is earned, one may apply for their Dietetics license in Nevada. No additional courses or credentials are required to be eligible for the license to practice.

Information about this process can be found [here](#).

### **Policy for Issuing an ACEND Verification Statement- Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics Subplan of the M.S. Nutrition Sciences Degree**

Upon completion of the ACEND-accredited UNLV Dietetic Internship Program, graduates receive a Verification Statement of program completion which is required for eligibility to take the Commission on Dietetic Registration's (CDR) [dietetic registration exam](#). The exam must be passed to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) which also fulfills requirements in the [State of Nevada to become a Licensed Dietitian](#).

If the program completion requirements are met, the DI Director will issue the final Verification Statement and will follow the procedures established by CDR for submitting and verifying eligibility for the dietetic registration exam. Successful program completion includes:

- 1) Completing the minimum required supervised practice contact hours and earning at least a satisfactory rating on all competencies and student learning outcomes. The program length is 2.5 years in length. Students must complete the program within 150% of the expected timeframe, unless part-time arrangements are made prior to admission.
- 2) Completing an adequate learning portfolio, documenting meeting competency. Template is provided by the program.
- 3) Completion of the CDR demographic information.
- 4) Master's degree earned during this program (M.S. Nutrition Sciences).

**Policy for Issuing an ACEND Verification Statement- Dietetic Internship Program Only (Students entering with an existing Master's degree)**

Upon completion of the ACEND-accredited UNLV Dietetic Internship Program, graduates receive a Verification Statement of program completion which is required for eligibility to take the Commission on Dietetic Registration's (CDR) [dietetic registration exam](#). The exam must be passed to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) which also fulfills requirements in the [State of Nevada to become a Licensed Dietitian](#).

If the program completion requirements are met, the DI Director will issue the final Verification Statement and will follow the procedures established by CDR for submitting and verifying eligibility for the dietetic registration exam. Successful program completion includes:

- 1) Completing the minimum required supervised practice contact hours and earning at least a satisfactory rating on all competencies and student learning outcomes. The DI supervised practice is 1040 hours minimum or 26 weeks in length. Specialty concentrations, when offered, require an extra 120 hours of supervised practice. Students must complete the program within 150% of the expected timeframe, unless part-time arrangements are made prior to admission.
- 2) Completing an adequate learning portfolio, documenting meeting competency. Template is provided by the program.
- 3) Completion of the CDR demographic information.
- 4) Master's degree earned and approved prior to UNLV program admission.

## Handbook Information

Date of Action	by	Comments
6/1/17	Laura Kruskall	Provided to Graduate Colleges
9/28/17	Laura Kruskall	Updated statement on role of program in RDN credentialing
8/6/18	Laura Kruskall	Updated faculty list and curriculum changes
3/30/20	Laura Kruskall	Updated curriculum changes, descriptions throughout, hyperlinks
4/19/21	Laura Kruskall	Updated formatting and hyperlinks (votes: 4/9; 13-0-0)
3/29/22	Laura Kruskall	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Added new language for new clinical nutrition &amp; dietetics subplan</li> <li>2) Updated language as required by ACEND</li> </ol>
3/28/23	Laura Kruskall	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Clarified mission</li> <li>2) Clarified clinical subplan requires DICAS &amp; DnD early/simultaneous application</li> <li>3) Updated program grad faculty</li> <li>4) GAs must be in good academic standing- updated to include following policies at practice sites</li> <li>5) Added Graduate College timeline</li> </ol>