



M.S. – Kinesiology 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. We hope you will have many positive experiences and interactions during your time with us, and that we can effectively assist you in your growth and development.

Mission Statement

The Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences (abbreviated below as Department) is committed to advancing knowledge related to physical activity, nutrition, health, wellness, and performance. We develop and support research and academic programs that promote the maintenance and enhancement of health and human performance, and prepare future professionals to be successful in their educational and career pursuits.

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: gradassociatedean@unlv.edu.

Department Graduate Faculty

A current listing of the graduate faculty can be found in the [UNLV Graduate Catalog](#). Faculty must hold graduate faculty status to be involved in graduate education at UNLV. For up-to-date information regarding graduate faculty status in your Department, visit the [Graduate Faculty Status web page](#).

Program Information

M.S. - Kinesiology

Sub-Plans: Thesis Track; Non-Thesis Track; Accelerated BS-MS
Program Information can be found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog.

Contact Information

Department Website: [UNLV Kinesiology](#)

Department Chair

Richard Rosenkranz Ph.D., BHS 329, richard.rosenkranz@unlv.edu

Graduate Coordinator

Sara K. Rosenkranz, Ph.D., BHS 344, Sara.Rosenkranz@unlv.edu

Department Main Office

BHS 319, kinesiology@unlv.edu, Phone: 702.895.0996, Fax: 702.895.1500

Program Requirements

Program requirements regarding [admission, coursework, and culminating experience](#) are found in [the graduate catalog](#).

This Handbook is effective as of Summer 2026

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 level of Graduate Faculty Status in the Department and be in good standing in the Graduate College. 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 also serve on the Advisory Committee. The Graduate College Representative, a faculty member with the appropriate level of Graduate Faculty status 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

The **professional paper prospectus** document is a draft outline of the student's concept for the professional paper project. The student's advisory committee may suggest changes or verbally approve the project concept. Following approval of the project concept, the student may proceed with the professional paper.

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 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 and enroll in thesis credits. Enrollment in thesis credits is permitted after the student has completed all course requirements (except thesis credits) and has successfully passed the thesis proposal.

The final examination for the M.S. degree comes in the form of a public oral defense of the written thesis or professional paper. 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. If the student fails the first attempt, the student will be placed on probation via the Graduate College process. If the student fails the second attempt, the student may be separated from the program.

Program Timeline

It is anticipated that this program 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.

Graduate Assistantships

The Department of Kinesiology & Nutrition Sciences offers a limited number of Graduate Assistantships to support students. Due to the demand 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. The Department of Kinesiology & Nutrition Sciences reserves the right not to 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.)

Professional Code of Ethics/Discipline Guidelines

UNLV Graduate College policy regarding academic integrity can be found in the [graduate catalog](#).

Annual Review Procedures

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, assesses student progress, and establishes reasonable goals for the year ahead.

Faculty Advisors/Graduate Coordinators have the option to provide feedback to each student's 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.

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.

Probation

If a student fails to successfully progress in their degree program, their department/school will recommend that the student be placed on probation by the Graduate College. Students on probation may be dismissed/separated from their program for failing to successfully meet the conditions of their probation by the deadline provided. Please see the **Probation and Separation** section of [the Graduate Catalog](#) for more information.

University Resources

The Graduate Academy: Innovative Leadership, Professional, and Career Development

The goal of the Graduate 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.

Alumni Engagement

With an alumni base 150,000+ strong, the UNLV Alumni Engagement 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 on time](#) 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](#).

Institutional Engagement and Experience

The vision of the [Institutional Engagement and Experience](#) is to advocate, promote, and support the advancement of equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment of a continuously changing collegiate and global community. The mission is to provide leadership and support for UNLV's engagement mission: *to nurture equity, diversity, and inclusiveness that promotes respect, support, and empowerment*. This Office is housed under the Division of Human Resources and 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.

Graduate Appeals and Issue Resolution

The Office of Graduate Student Services at the Graduate College assists graduate and professional students with addressing concerns and overcoming personal, academic, or financial challenges that might hinder their ability to be successful in their program. The office also provides information and student-centered issue-resolution

services and offers guidance, information, and assistance when regular channels have failed to provide graduate students with the information they need to solve problems. Please see website for more information:
<https://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/appeals-issue-resolution>

UNLV Global and the Office of International Student and Scholar Compliance

International Student and Scholar Compliance (ISSC) 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.

The Care Center

The Care 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 is 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 Rights and Responsibilities

The Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities is a student-centered, service-oriented office located within the Division of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities 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 veteran education benefits-experienced staff to assist more than 1,800 veterans, dependents, active-duty service members, National Guard members, and reservists attending UNLV. 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 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 Sposito.

The Title IX Coordinator can be reached through the [online reporting form](#), by email at 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.

Handbook Information

Last revised	Revised by	Changes summary
December 18, 2014	Richard Tandy	Added information and links specific to M.S. programs
May 2, 2016	Richard Tandy	Update of contact information; edited prospectus information for thesis and professional paper; addition of department-level annual review
March 29, 2019	James Navalta	Removed MS Exercise Physiology (degree placed on hold). Added Exercise Physiology as a subplan option in MS Kinesiology

Last revised	Revised by	Changes summary
March 31, 2020	James Navalta	Removed requirement for pre-prospectus.
March 23, 2023	James Navalta	Addition of Accelerated BS-MS subplan; updated department chair information; included note on Graduate Assistantships (GA); updated Annual Review Procedures; updated University Resources and University Policies and Procedures with new links and information.
March 23, 2025	Sara Rosenkranz	1) Clarification of Mission 2) Updating Graduate Coordinator Information 3) Minor grammatical edits
March 19, 2026	Sara Rosenkranz	1) Correct minor typos