



Dietetics Program - Graduate (MND) Policy

Policy Title:	Health, Disability or Personal Issues Impacting Program Participation	No.: 2.02
Approved By:	Director of Dietetics	
Approval Date:	July 18, 2022	Next Review: Spring 2026
Original Version:	New Policy BSFN Policy (No. 1.02) - November 2013; latest version approved Sept 10, 2021	
Audience:	Students, Practice Education Partners, Faculty and Staff	

Preamble

The UBC Dietetics Program is committed to advancing equity, diversity and inclusion for the Program and dietetics profession, as it relates to the Program’s vision of inspiring learners to advance dietetic practice and food systems. Our core values of justice, integrity, inclusion, collaboration, and community-focus drive our approaches to Program planning, delivery, evaluation, and community engagement.

The Program is located on UBC’s Point Grey Campus, which is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam). Practice education placements take place on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of many Indigenous peoples, in locations throughout present day British Columbia. The Program recognizes the original stewards of these lands, and engages in ongoing efforts towards decolonization of the Program and the dietetics profession.

Purpose: This policy describes Program and UBC-wide processes to support students facing emerging issues that impact program participation—namely health, disability, or personal issues.

Abbreviations

CFA	Centre for Accessibility
GSS	Graduate Student Society
G+PS	Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
LFS	Faculty of Land and Food Systems
MND	Masters of Nutrition and Dietetics
The Program	UBC Dietetics Program – Graduate (MND)
UBC	University of British Columbia



Policy

The Program recognizes that health, disability or personal issues can impact students' abilities to participate in the Program. Approaches to addressing issues impacting Program participation are informed by UBC policies, including, [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#), [Academic Concession](#), and [Graduate Student Leaves of Absence \(see Policy 2.07\)](#).

Program Expectations

The [Required Skills and Abilities for Students in the UBC Dietetics Program](#) outlines a sample of the skills and abilities that are necessary to successfully meet the Program requirements. Additionally, the [Respectful Learning Environment](#) policy references the ethical standards that all students, preceptors, faculty and staff involved in the program are to embody in their various roles. These policies provide guidance as to what student learning outcomes need to be demonstrated, while supporting each student's unique situation and circumstances.

How the Program Supports Students

A variety of university-wide services are available to students, to support them to successfully complete their studies when facing health, disability and/or personal struggles. The Program commits to sharing these resources with students, teaching faculty, and preceptors regularly, so that all members of the MND community are aware of relevant resources. Students are encouraged to seek out available supports early and often, to support them to continue to meet program requirements.

Instructors and staff will be reminded to be familiar with [Student Support Resources](#) and to feel confident using the [Early Alert](#) system when needed. Additionally, Program faculty will meet with each MND student at least once per academic semester, in order provide a space for discussion of any emergent concerns, as well as to facilitate student's professional and academic development. Students or the Program can initiate additional 1:1 meetings throughout their program, as communicated to current students upon admission.

Student disclosure of struggles and hardships can be a distressing experience that requires safety and trust. With this in mind, the Program aims to provide students with options for support, which minimize the hardship and burden of disclosure. Students are offered [transparent options](#) for services to address an emergent issue, to be able to connect with Program-specific, Faculty, peer-based or UBC-wide resources as preferred.

In all situations, the Program is informed of relevant information pertaining to student accommodations, health issues, and personal barriers to program participation by various UBC services **only as needed** and, for some services, only with student consent. Students may choose to disclose further information to the Program, if they feel it is safe and helpful to do so. Of note, the Program must be involved directly with the student in the submission of requests for academic concessions, which are made by the MND Team to G+PS. In practice education placements, the Program also works directly with students who are registered with CFA, to ensure that any accommodations are implemented adequately at the site.



Procedure

Action	Who	When
1. Communicate available programs and processes to students regarding academic concessions and accommodations; share applicable resources with Students and relevant Faculty & Staff	MND Team	Upon admission to the Program, and routinely throughout the Program
2. Review support options communicated by the Program and other UBC departments (e.g., G+PS, GSS), and initiate connections with applicable university services	Students	As needed and as early as possible
3. Meet 1:1 to discuss academic progress, professional development and practice education goals, and any unmet student support needs.	MND Team; Students	Minimum once per academic term
4. If concerns regarding individual student safety, mental health, or academic progress arise, document interactions using Early Alert	MND Team; Course Instructors	As issues arise
5. Communicate student needs for accommodations or concessions to the Program	Dependent on issue: UBC Centre for Accessibility UBC Health/ Counselling (with student consent) Student	As issues arise
6. Collaborate with student, applicable UBC departments and practice education sites (as relevant) to develop a student support plan, including completing relevant UBC forms, and modifying student's participation in the Program as required	MND Team	As issues arise



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Reviewed by:

	Action	Date	Status
UBC MND Team	New Policy	June 30, 2022	New Policy for MND, based on BSFN Policy 1.02 <i>Health, Disability or Personal Issues Impacting Program Participation</i>
G+PS Assoc. Director Student Academic Services	Consulted	July 5, 2022	No concerns raised
Manager, Student Support Services (Early Alert)	Consulted	July 15, 2022	No concerns raised
Director of Dietetics	Review	July 18, 2022	Approved