

Master of Nutrition and Dietetics Capstone Research Project

Project description

The Capstone Research Project is a group project, chosen by a Research Preceptor(s) in consultation with the Program Director and other involved UBC Faculty. The project can be conducted at a healthcare or community site in BC, or can be supporting an existing project that is related to advancing dietetic practice in Canada.

Some examples are:

- An assessment, revision, implementation, and/or evaluation of tools used in nutrition care.
- The development, implementation, and/or evaluation of a nutrition-related community initiative.
- The study of a specific intervention in clinical nutrition, or related to dietetic practice.
- Participation in the planning, implementation, and/or evaluation of a nutrition education program.
- A systematic review on a topic related to nutrition and dietetics.

Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice (ICDEP)

MND Capstone Research Projects are varied and will contribute to the development of many different practice competencies, depending on the type of project. Irrespective of the project, the competency **4.03 Participate in practice-based research activities**, which includes framing questions, critically appraising the literature, identifying relevant methodology, interpreting findings, and communicating findings, should be attained.

Each Capstone project team consists of two MND students, a primary research preceptor, a UBC faculty member who acts as a liaison, and possibly additional research preceptor(s) or community partners that co-supervise student activities. These roles and expectations will be explored within each team in the first weeks of HUNU 579.

Components of the Capstone Project

HUNU 579 – Year 1 Summer Terms 1-2

Overview: Students should know their projects and their partners by the time HUNU 579 starts. They may or may not have met with their Faculty lead and Research preceptor prior to the start of practice education. The purpose of HUNU 579 is to understand how to conduct a literature review, how to write a research proposal, how to attain ethics (regardless of project design) and understand their involvement in the projects that will be completed in HUNU 581.

Friday Sessions on Research Topics

- Topics will include structured searches, ethics review process, and biostatistics

Tri Council Policy Statement Online Course on Research Ethics (CORE-2022)

- Submit certificate of completion on Canvas

Project Proposal

- Completed according to standards/rubric on Canvas
- Peer review process will be completed during Friday Zoom sessions in the week(s) following the proposal due date.

Ethics Board Submission

- Submit proof of RISE submission on Canvas
- Scope of submission will vary based on the project

HUNU 581 – Year 2 Winter Term 2

Overview: Students will complete the research activities during this term. While there is designated time in the UBC Calendar and schedule for this course (on Monday afternoons), it should be anticipated that students complete the activities at varying times of the day during the week around their other course schedule and assignments (approximately 8-10 hours per week). Some projects may require dedicating time during Term 1; in this situation, less time per week is required in Term 2.

Complete Research Activities – Jan-Mar 2024

- Students are to complete research activities and data analysis according to their approved protocol.

Project Manuscript, Report, or other Knowledge Translation output – March-April 2024

- The format of this output will vary, depending on the nature and scope of the project, and the needs of the research preceptor and host organization.
- Any outputs will be discussed well in advance with the research preceptor and MND faculty liaison, who will both evaluate any project outputs.

Project Presentation (Colloquia) – April 2024

- All Capstone Research Projects will be presented to an audience of health professionals. This could be dietetics students, dietitians, nurses, physicians, and other members of the healthcare team, as considered appropriate.

Pursuing Publication (optional): With approval of their research preceptor and UBC Liaison, students will have up to 12 months after the Colloquia to submit a manuscript based on their project to a suitable peer-reviewed journal.