



Graduate Student Handbook

Department of Dietetics & Nutrition

University of Kansas Medical Center

Revised August 2023

August 1, 2023

Dear Graduate Student:

Please read the Graduate Student Handbook for the Department of Dietetics & Nutrition. Sign the statement provided and return it to the DN Administrative Officer by September 1, 2023. The statement will be placed in your student file in the department.

I have read the Graduate Student Handbook for the Department of Dietetics & Nutrition and understand the policies. I agree to refer to this handbook as needed and to abide by the policies presented in the handbook during my graduate program.

Student signature: _____

Date: _____

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Information Pertinent to All KUMC Students

References Concerning KUMC Graduate School

- [Office of Graduate Studies](#)
- [Graduate School Catalog, University of Kansas](#)
- [Office of Academic and Student Affairs](#)

Links provided from KUMC Student Services to the following:

- Academic Accommodations
- Office of the Student Ombudsman
- Registrar's Office
- Office of Admissions
- Office of Financial Aid
- Student Health Services
- Student Counseling & Educational Support Services
- Office of Student Life
- Office of International Programs
- Kirmayer Fitness Center
- Student Health Insurance
- Academic Accommodation Services

KU Medical Center Student Handbooks

[The University of Kansas Medical Center Online Student Handbook](#) is separated into different sections; one for each of the different schools and one general guide for the Medical Center. This handbook is available only online.

Students in Dietetics and Nutrition are responsible for information contained in the [School of Health Professions Handbook](#)

Contained within the handbook are the following sections:

- Administrative Offices and School Directory
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Core Value Statement
- Honors and Awards
- School-Related Organizations
- Academic Policies
- Institutional Policy Information
- Departmental Policy Information

- Performance Standards and Policies
- Actions related to academic and nonacademic misconduct
- School Appeals Procedure for Academic and Non-academic misconduct

Kansas Residency

See the Office of Registrar for full information about requirements for [Kansas residency](#) and for the Kansas residency application form. A summary of the requirements to be considered a Kansas resident includes:

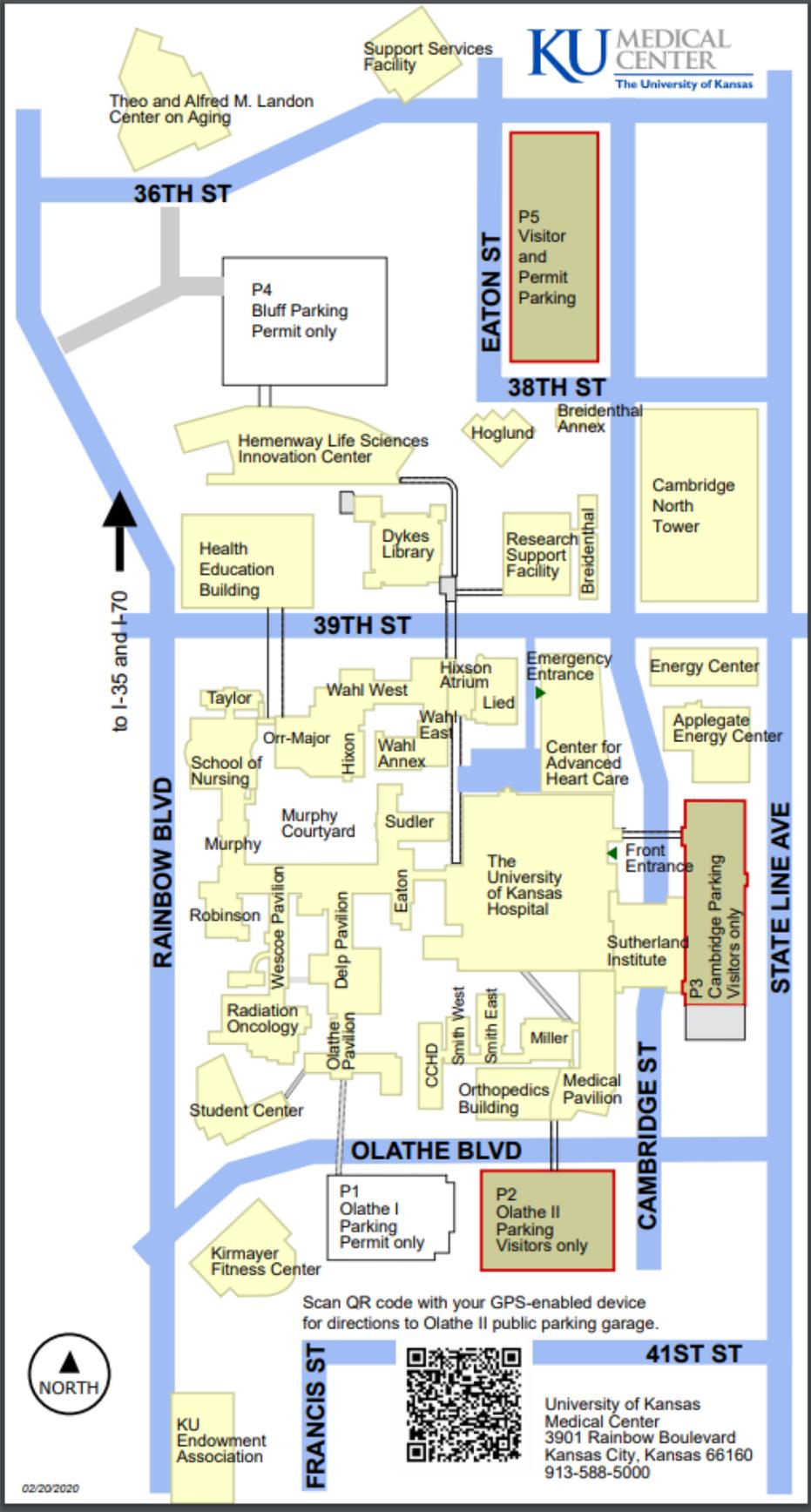
- Continuous physical residence in Kansas for 365 days. These days must be prior to the first day of classes for which you are applying for residency.
- Sources of financial support to meet your living expenses must come from Kansas sources. The student has to show Kansas sources of income that meet or exceed expenses.
- Your intent must be to stay in Kansas indefinitely. You must be residing in Kansas for reasons other than educational purposes.

Photo Identification Card

The KUMC police require that all students have a [photo identification card](#), which serves as your key to enter the Medical Center campus when buildings are closed to the public. For students who do not receive the card as part of a group enrollment activity, a time to have the photo taken and the card made must be scheduled with the academic advisor or department representative who must accompany the student to the badge office. Photos are taken in the Badge Office, located in Delp G079. The days and times are M-Fri, 7:30 am-4:00 pm, closed from noon until 1 PM.

KU Medical Center Maps

Navigating the University of Kansas Medical Center campus can be a challenge for us all! [Maps](#) are provided for your convenience. A campus map is found on the next page of this handbook.



Background Checks

[Criminal background checks](#) are required of all KUMC students through Validity Screening Solutions. Students admitted into the department are provided instructions for background checks with their notification of admittance to the department.

Acceptance into the School of Health Professions academic programs is conditional, pending the results of a criminal/healthcare-related background check. Your acceptance into the School's program will not be final until we have received your background check information from Validity Screening Solutions, so do this as quickly as possible.

Please be aware that while most health care facilities with whom we have affiliation contracts will accept our verification that a background check has been performed on a student, some may require a more current or different report. However, the School of Health Professions requires only one background check prior to final acceptance and subsequent enrollment.

The School of Health Professions may also run an Employment Disqualified List (EDL) check for enrolled students if required by an affiliation site. This check reviews Missouri records for any individuals who have been disqualified from working in a health care facility in that state. You need not provide additional information for this check, nor is there any cost to you. However, should this be required by your affiliation site, we will need your signed permission to release your Social Security Number to the MO Department of Health and Senior Services, the agency that provides the EDL check.

Should a background check/EDL check come back with an unacceptable conviction, the applicant/student will be notified by the School of Health Professions. If there is a conviction that does not disqualify the applicant/student from a program and subsequent affiliation, the student should be aware that this may not be the case for the professional certifying agency. It is the student's responsibility to confirm whether or not the conviction will prevent them from taking a certification/qualifying examination upon completion of the program.

Health Information

Students will need to meet [KUMC Health requirements](#) for enrollment and for continuation in the program. Student Health will perform all necessary tests, examinations, and blood work and assist you in filling out all required forms. Please contact 913.588.1943 to make an appointment. Plan to bring all immunization records to your appointment. ***Because you cannot enroll in classes until your health information is complete, please do not delay.***

Health Insurance

The University requires all students taking courses at KUMC to maintain current [health insurance](#) throughout their enrollment. You may choose any health insurance plan. The University of Kansas Medical Center offers a health insurance policy for eligible students. This plan is offered through Student Resources and is underwritten by UnitedHealthCare Student Resources. More information is found at the above link.

Compliance Training and Confidentiality Agreement

All students must complete **Student Compliance Training** and sign the **Student Confidentiality Agreement**.

Additionally, students involved in health care or with access to health care information as a part of coursework or student employment must complete confidentiality training. Students must complete “The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act” (HIPAA) training tutorials by the first week of school. Compliance training is available on line from the myKUMC portal.

Once you have logged into myKUMC, navigate to “Tools & Services” > “Research” > “Compliance Services” > “Training Program”. Trainings are provided through the KUMC Learning Management System, Saba. Speak with your supervisor about which trainings are needed.

Email Operational Protocol

Each new student, upon enrolling, is issued a KUMC email account with an address on the kumc.edu domain. This account is used for the University business and official University communications to students. Students are expected to check their KUMC e-mail account regularly for University/Departmental communications. **Please see the related policy on email under D&N Departmental Policies later in this handbook.**

Hazardous Weather and/or Emergency Communications on Campus

The campus utilizes the Rave Text Messaging system to send updated information in emergency situations. Students should be automatically opted in to receive messages, but confirmation or changes can be made through the Enroll & Pay system.

When the Chancellor or Executive Vice Chancellor determine that weather conditions will make travel to and from campus excessively difficult, time consuming, or hazardous, he/she may make a declaration of "inclement weather." In this case, the university will make every effort to inform students as soon as possible.

In emergency situations, an “Emergency Alert” or “Critical Information” email will be sent to all students. Media outlets that will be used in the case of campus closure include Fox 4, KCTV 5 and KMBC 9.

Academic Accommodation Services

Academic accommodations are provided for students and residents who have disabilities as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, and the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. [Academic Accommodation Services](#) are located in Dykes Library 1040, and their hours are Monday through Friday 7 AM to 4 PM. Students who think they may qualify for academic accommodations are encouraged to schedule an appointment at 913.945-7035 or by contacting Cynthia Ukoko at cukoko@kumc.edu . Appointments can also be scheduled online at <https://medconsult.kumc.edu/> .

Student Counseling & Educational Support Services

These services are available for students who desire educational support, writing, psychological and psychiatric services. The Department of Dietetics & Nutrition encourages graduate students to not delay in seeking out these services when a related concern presents. Life can present challenges, and these services are here to assist students in navigating these challenges. Students should reach out by phone at 913.588.6580 or online at <https://medconsult.kumc.edu/> to schedule an appointment. The [Counseling and Educational Support Services](#) office is located in Room G116 of the Student Center, located on the corner of Olathe & Rainbow Blvd. Educational Support Services is located in G012 Dykes Library, and the Writing Center is in G011 Dykes.

Office of Financial Aid

The [Office of Financial Aid](#) is located on the 1st floor of Dykes Library, Room G035. Please note that the priority deadline is March 1 for submitting the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) if you are interested in receiving aid for the following Summer, Fall and Spring semesters. A number of options exist for financial aid, so please do not hesitate to contact this office for student financial service questions or needs.

Student Community Involvement

A number of interdisciplinary [student organizations](#) exist at KUMC. Information about these organizations and their events are advertised via e-mail, bulletin boards, etc. These events and organizations provide students with the opportunity to network with other student health professionals and to develop leadership skills.

Parking

Parking can be a challenge, so please plan accordingly. [Student permit parking](#) is available. Parking and Transportation Services is located on the second level of the P5 parking garage at 3724 Cambridge and can be reached at 913-588-5175.

Weapons on Campus Policy Statement

KU Medical Center prohibits faculty, staff, students, and visitors from carrying weapons of any type on its Kansas City, KS campus. For additional information, please see the [KUMC Procedures for Implementing University-Wide Weapons Policy](#). Students who conceal carry on the Lawrence or Edwards campuses are responsible for making alternative arrangements when attending classes in Kansas City. Students can transfer a handgun from a backpack or purse to a secure location such as the trunk of their locked vehicle. Individuals who violate the weapons policy or procedures may be asked to leave campus with the weapon and may face disciplinary action under the appropriate university code of conduct.

DEPARTMENTAL GUIDELINES & POLICIES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Description of Programs

The graduate programs offered by the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition include:

- Master of Science Degree (MS) - Non-thesis or Thesis Options*
- Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) in Medical Nutrition Science*
- Dietetic Internship Graduate Certificate Program (DI)
- Dietetics in Integrative Medicine Graduate Certificate Program (DIM)
- Distance Master of Science thru the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GPIDEA)
- Doctorate of Clinical Nutrition (DCN)

*This handbook provides DN student policies and procedures concerning the residential MS, PhD, and DIM programs only. Students in other programs should contact their respective program director for information specific to the program.

Objectives of MS Thesis and Non-thesis Programs

- Objective of the Non-thesis MS Degree: To prepare students to practice dietetics and nutrition and to interpret research in nutrition in healthcare organizations. The graduate will be prepared to translate research into practice and may assist a principal investigator in research.
- Objective of the Thesis MS Degree: To prepare students to practice dietetics and nutrition and to conduct and interpret research in nutrition in positions of leadership in academic, tertiary care and research centers. The graduate will be prepared to translate research into practice as well as to participate in research.

Objectives of PhD Program in Medical Nutrition Science

- To prepare students to function independently as scientists in government, industry, medicine and academia.

Academic Advisement System

The MS Program Director will advise all MS students in Dietetics & Nutrition. S/he will provide:

1. Advising in educational goal setting.
2. Information about graduation requirements and suggested coursework timetable.
3. Form for developing individual coursework timetable.
4. Information about enrollment.

5. Recommendations to students for student resources such as student activities, career services and counseling services.
6. Information about educational and career opportunities.

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Professional Conduct

All Dietetics & Nutrition students are expected to act with respect toward others, whether interacting with patients, research subjects, peers, staff, faculty, or other professionals. The following list provides specific guidance for conveying respect and professionalism with others.

- **Cell Phones:** Please turn cell phones to silent mode while in clinics, meetings, or while interacting with patients or research subjects. Unless an instructor notes otherwise in his/her syllabus, cell phones should be turned off during class and put away.
- **Dress Code:** Dress appropriately for the occasion. Dress should be professional if giving a presentation in or outside of class. Consider the clientele's perspective if working with patients or research subjects. In all academic or professional settings, one should error on the side of modesty. A student who is dressed inappropriately may be asked to return home for a change in clothing.
- **Email Communications:** Make every effort to check and respond to emails in a timely fashion. Check KUMC email daily, and never delete department messages without reading. It is strongly suggested that you read your emails carefully before sending to be sure that you are communicating professionally.
- **Titles:** Take cues from your instructors and other professionals about how they should be addressed. It is most respectful to address individuals by their title (i.e. Dr., Prof. Mr., Mrs. or Ms.) and last name until informed by the individual otherwise.
- **Face-to-face Interactions:** Consider your thoughts before you speak them, and keep in mind that non-verbal communication cues (tone of voice, eye contact, posture, etc.) also contribute to face-to-face interactions. Speak assertively but not with aggression. It is not acceptable to use swear words or raise your voice in anger toward another individual. Practice emotional maturity and minimize drama in the workplace.
- **Timeliness of Communication:** Allow one week or more to make appointments with heavily scheduled professionals and expect email responses to your inquiries to take 24 hours or more. An emergency due to lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency for faculty, staff, preceptors, or others.
- **Grievances:** Honor the chain of authority unless you have a true reason to distrust it. Work first with the person with whom you have the grievance; if there is no resolution, it is appropriate to go to the next immediate supervisor.

Integrity in Graduate Study

The following text is modified from a previous version of the KUMC Graduate Studies Student Handbook and is included here to ensure all DN students are well-aware of the importance, terminology, and policies concerning integrity for graduate study. Although the ethical decisions involved in maintaining integrity may seem very clear to some graduate students, they may not appear to be clear to others. Some may not even be aware that there is potential for problems with integrity in research. For these reasons and to help in the event that fraud, plagiarism, cheating, abuses of confidentiality, or conflict of interest should arise, these guidelines have been prepared.

Fraud

Fraud usually involves the student's intentional and deliberate misuse of data in order to draw conclusions that may not be warranted by the evidence. Falsification of results generally takes one of two forms:

1. the sheer fabrication of data, or
2. the fraudulent omission or concealment of conflicting data for the purpose of misleading other scholars. An intermediate form occurs when students are sloppy about categorization. All researchers, irrespective of discipline, can agree that the sheer fabrication of data is fraudulent, and all scientists can agree that the deliberate omission of conflicting data is also fraudulent. A few might argue that one person's conflicting data is another person's irrelevant data. In general, the best researchers are those who come to terms with any piece of evidence that others may regard as conflicting. Strong support for a given hypothesis involves dealing with alternative hypotheses. The best insurance against fraud in graduate student research is awareness on the part of the student on the importance of following the discipline of the scientific method, the careful and close supervision of the faculty advisor and the examples of other members of the academic community. The student should communicate regularly and frequently with his or her major professor. He or she can do so in a variety of ways--by submitting laboratory notebooks for frequent review by faculty, by having faculty monitor the student's reading in the field, by regular updating of the faculty advisor on one's progress or a combination of these or some other. Such communication will help the student develop intellectually and lessen the possibility of fraud. If a student is suspected of fraud, the academic community should handle the matter forthrightly but always with a clear regard to the rights of the graduate student so that the career of a student researcher who may be innocent is not damaged. Similarly, if graduate student fraud is verified, it must be adjudicated in accordance with those procedures outlined in the Graduate Student Handbook.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of another's words, ideas, or creative productions which are then passed off as one's own without proper attribution (not giving due credit to the original source). Flagrant cases of plagiarism may involve the extensive use of others' articles, books, or creative productions with perhaps only slight modifications. The penalties here are usually very severe for the student and would likely result in expulsion from the degree program and Graduate Studies or, if a degree has already been earned, rescinding of that degree.

Less extensive cases of plagiarism can be either intentional or unintentional (just plain carelessness or ignorance of the commonly accepted rules). In general, one must cite one's authorities in the text or, more commonly, in the references and use either direct quotations or skillful paraphrasing, with citations, for all ideas that are not one's own. Since much of the basic information about our disciplines comes from outside ourselves through a variety of sources common to all who work in a discipline, it is unnecessary to footnote those facts and ideas which are in the common domain of that discipline. Otherwise, we would be citing everything we know. But an intimate familiarity with the literature of the

discipline, or a subdiscipline thereof, lets one know when the distinctive words or ideas of another researcher should be given proper attribution.

The fairly common practice of citing the previous significant literature relating to the subjects of their articles or books serves as a safeguard against plagiarism. Ignorance of the concept of plagiarism on the part of the student is no excuse for resorting to it at the graduate level. Graduate students, if in any doubt about the concept, should discuss plagiarism with faculty members. As with cases of fraud, the University should handle any suspicion of plagiarism in accordance with procedures used for cases involving alleged fraud and misconduct.

Cheating

Academic dishonesty in one whose presence in graduate school declares s/he has opted for the intellectual life is a serious matter indeed. While cheating in the classroom is covered by regulations from other parts of the university, cheating on oral, qualifying or comprehensive examinations is not. At the very least such dishonesty, once proven, should result in failure of the examination.

Attendance

Each faculty member will set attendance policies for the courses s/he teaches or directs and publish them in the course syllabus. In general, students should treat scheduled classes and meetings with faculty as they would employment. Therefore, for planned absences, notice needs to be given as early as possible with assignments submitted prior to the absence. For unexpected, unavoidable absences, notification should be made and assignments submitted as soon as possible.

Computer Skills and Recommended Devices

Students are expected to properly use e-mail and software programs for word processing, presentations, searches of biomedical literature and data management. Both [instructor-led and web-based courses are offered at KUMC](#) without charge to employees and students. Students who need a computer class on a particular topic will be expected to search out the appropriate computer training.

The School of Health Professions supports either Windows 10-based computers or Apple/Mac computers. **You will not be able to complete your coursework using any of the following as your primary computing device: iPad, Chromebook, Netbook, Linux-based computer, Android tablet, or any type of smartphone. These non-computer devices will not be allowed for non-proctored remote or online testing.**

Students will be responsible for having a working device that meets the minimum requirements. Our curriculum incorporates the following tasks:

- *Accessing and downloading course files (e.g., documents, presentations, videos, etc.)*
- *Uploading assignment files (e.g., documents, presentations, videos, etc.)*
- *Taking Quizzes and Exams*
- *Posting to Discussion Boards*

- *Accessing resources through different browsers*
- *Taking notes/annotating resources*
- *Presenting student created files/media through a data projector. Our lecture halls and classrooms are equipped with Windows PCs for use by presenters.*
- *Use of a functioning microphone and camera*
- *Course- or program-related meetings using applications requiring audio and video (e.g. BlackBoard Collaborate, Zoom, etc.)*
- *Live BlackBoard Collaborate sessions*
- *Use of online learning resources outside of KU Medical Center*
- *High-speed access to the internet*
- *Use of Microsoft Office 365 (see software section below)*

It is the student's responsibility to maintain a backup of all work. We strongly suggest an online backup service (i.e., OneDrive) or, at a minimum, utilizing an external hard drive.

Below is a guide to assist you with deciding what type of computer to use as a student along with suggestions for software that will be used.

Acceptable Devices

The following devices are acceptable for completing coursework in this program.

YES	NO
Windows laptop or desktop computer. Some Microsoft Surface devices are acceptable if they meet the hardware/software requirements indicated on this page.	Windows 7 laptop or desktop.
Macintosh or Apple laptop or desktop computer. See operating system and software requirements below.	iPad or Android-based tablet devices (any model).
	iPhone (any model).
	Android smartphone (any model).
	Google Chromebook (any model).
	Linux-based computers.

Software Specifications

Type	Product	Availability
Office	Microsoft Office 365	Free to enrolled students; KU Medical Center provides the licenses to Microsoft Office 365 allowing students to activate the Office Suite on up to five computers. To install the Office Suite on a personally owned computer, visit office365.kumc.edu and log in with a KU Medical Center username and password. Download the installation files by clicking the Install Office apps button in the upper right corner of the screen. Once installed, follow the prompt to activate the software using a KU Medical Center username and password to authenticate.

Security	Antivirus	Any paid reputable antivirus application (e.g. Norton, McAfee, etc..); Free options include the antivirus program installed with Windows 10 or download and install Avast for Windows .
	Firewall	Free, Windows built-in firewall (check to ensure the firewall is enabled)
	Antispyware	MalwareBytes (free version scans on-demand, paid version catches live)
Browsers	Various	Free; Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge
PDF	PDF Reader	Free; Adobe Acrobat Reader
Media Players	General/audio	Free; Windows Media Player
	Flash	Free; Adobe Flash Player
	Video	Free; VLC, videolan.org

Windows-based (PC) System Hardware

Hardware Component	Minimum	Recommended
Processor	Intel Core i5 or AMD Ryzen R5	Intel Core i7 or AMD Ryzen R7
Style	Laptop	Laptop
Protective Case	N/A	Device compatible case or backpack
RAM	8 GB	16 GB
Hard Disk	256 GB or higher	512 GB or higher
Display	1920 x 1080 (HD)	1920 x 1080 (HD)
Networking	Wireless 802.11 b/g/n	Wireless 802.11 b/g/n/ac; Wired ethernet port
Warranty	1-year warranty	2-4 year warranty
Operating System	Windows 10 Home Edition	Windows 10 Home Edition
Data Backup	OneDrive (Microsoft Cloud Storage) *	OneDrive (Microsoft Cloud Storage) *
Remote Video Class/ Work	Microphone and camera (standard on most laptops)	Wireless Bluetooth microphone and camera headset

* Included in Office 365, see software section.

Apple/Mac Hardware

Hardware Component	Minimum	Recommended
Processor	Intel Core i5	Intel Core i7 or M1 or higher
Style	Laptop	Laptop
Laptop Protective Case	Carrying case or backpack	Carrying case or backpack
RAM	8 GB	16 GB
Hard Disk	256 GB or higher	512 GB or higher
Display	Non-Retina / Retina	Non-Retina / Retina
Networking	Wireless 802.11 b/g/n	Wireless 802.11 b/g/n/ac and Wired ethernet port adapter
Warranty	1-year warranty	2-4 year warranty
Operating System	Mac OS 12.x (Monterey) or higher	Mac OS 13.x (Ventura) or higher

Support and Resources

Students can receive support for basic computing issues related to their academic work from the Jayhawk Tech Clinic. Appointments are available in Taylor Building Room 3021. The support desk may also be reached by phone at 913-945-9999 option 2, or at [the Information Technology website](#) (711 TTY).

Students may explore possible options for financial support in purchasing a computer for learning by contacting the [Office of Student Financial Aid](#).

Library Skills

The graduate student will be expected to know how to find academic resources in [KUMC Dykes Library](#) and to do a computerized search of the biomedical literature. On-line tutorials and information about classes for PubMed, EndNote and other databases are available at the library website. Classes are free to KUMC employees and students and are available many different days and times.

Departmental Communication System

For routine communications, the D&N Department will communicate with D&N students via email or individual mailboxes in the D&N student room (MS and PhD students). **Students are expected to check email daily.** Faculty employers, advisors or instructors may require more frequent checking of communication systems. Your e-mail will be sent to your KUMC e-mail address.

KUMC e-mail is available through the KUMC Outlook Web App from computers outside KUMC. For some classes, instructors may require more frequent checking of communication systems. Please note and follow Information Resources policies for syncing email on a phone App.

For some communications, the department may need to use your home or cell phone or home mailing address. Therefore, we ask you to keep us informed of changes in address or phone numbers.

Department Facilities

- Faculty offices are located on the ground floor of the Delp Building.
- The Dietetics & Nutrition Office and Library: the Administrator will check out books and other materials to students.
- The printer, copier and fax are not for student use.
- The Student Room contains 5 computers, student mailboxes, a microwave and a refrigerator. Be sure to check your mailbox regularly. You may use the microwave and refrigerator, but please be sure to clean up after yourself.
- Additional computers and printers for students are located in Dykes Library. Copiers for student use are located in Dykes Library.

Program Requirements

Students should consult the [Academic Catalog](#) for respective degree or certificate requirements.

Course Requirements for MS Degree

MS in Dietetics and Nutrition

Course	Credits	Offered	Thesis	Non-Thesis
DN 834 Research Methods	3	Fall	3	3
DN 895 Advanced Macronutrients & Metabolism	3	Fall	3	3
Biostatistics (700-800 level)*	3	Fall, Spring	3	3
DN 896 Advanced Micronutrients & Metabolism	3	Spring	3	3
DN 870 Health Behavior Counseling	1	Fall	1	1
DN 818 Seminar in Dietetics and Nutrition II	1	Fall, Spring	1	1
DN 819 Scientific Writing for Nutritional Sciences	1	F, Sp, Su	1	1
Electives – Refer to elective course list for options Most are 3 credit hour Up to 6 hours can be outside DN	9 or 12	F, Sp, Su	9	12
Research – Thesis = DN 890 (3 credits) + DN 899 Non thesis = DN 854	6 3	F, Sp, Su	6	3
TOTAL			30	30

MS for Continuing Dietetic Intern Students

11 credit hours can count towards MS

Course	Credits	Offered	Thesis	Non-Thesis
DN 834 Research Methods	3	Fall	3	3
DN 895 Advanced Macronutrients & Metabolism	3	Fall	3	3
Biostatistics (700-800 level)*	3	Fall, Spring	3	3
DN 896 Advanced Micronutrients & Metabolism	3	Spring	3	3
DN 870 Health Behavior Counseling	1		Completed	Completed
DN 818 Seminar in Dietetics and Nutrition II	1		Completed	Completed
DN 819 Scientific Writing for Nutritional Sciences	1	F, Sp, Su	1	1
Electives – # Refer to elective course list for options Most are 3 credit hour Up to 6 hours can be outside DN	9 or 12	F, Sp, Su	9 transfer No more needed	9 transfer 3 more needed
Research – Thesis = DN 890 (3 credits) + DN 899 (3 credits) Non thesis = DN 854	6 3	F, Sp, Su	6	3
TOTAL			30	33

*At KUMC – BIOS 704 is offered both in the Fall and Spring

For MS students who are former KUMC dietetic interns, elective credits will be D&N electives. For MS students who are not former KUMC interns, up to 6 graduate credit hours of electives may be taken outside the department if the courses are relevant to the career goals of the student.

Course Requirements for Dietetics and Integrative Medicine (DIM) Graduate Certificate

The curriculum for the Dietetics and Integrative Medicine Graduate Certificate requires 12 hours. Students interested in obtaining this certificate ***must apply for admission to the program***. Students must apply to the program early in the sequence as late application may not be permitted. The 4 courses are web-based and the recommended sequence for completion of the required courses for the program is:

1. DN 880 Dietary and Herbal Supplements, 3 hours, summer semester
2. DN 881 Introduction to Dietetics and Integrative Medicine, 3 hours, fall semester
3. DN 882 A Nutrition Approach to Inflammation and Immune Regulation, 3 hours, spring semester
4. DN 980 Nutrigenomics and Nutrigenetics in Health and Disease, 3 hours, summer semester

Students in the program are required to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better. To complete the graduate certificate, students must complete the required 12 hours of coursework and be in good academic and ethical standing within the university. Students enrolled in a master's degree program need to complete the 12 hours for the graduate certificate in addition to those required for the graduate degree to obtain the certificate along with the graduate degree.

Degree Requirements for PhD in Medical Nutrition Science

Course and exam requirements in the PhD Student Checklist later in this handbook.

Acceptable Grades Required for Continuation

Please see the Graduate Studies Handbook for a discussion of the KUMC grading system. D&N students must maintain a graduate GPA of 3.0 or better. This GPA does not include course work transferred from other universities. PhD students must obtain a minimum 3.00 grade in each of the Advanced Nutrition courses (i.e. DN 895 Advanced Macronutrients & Metabolism and DN 896 Advanced Micronutrients & Metabolism). If a student's GPA falls below 3.00, s/he will be placed on probation by the Dean of Graduate Studies and will have one semester to raise it to a 3.00. If not, the student will not be permitted to re-enroll in graduate work unless the Dean of Graduate Studies acts favorably on a departmental recommendation for the student to continue study.

Departmental Review of Student Progress

The department reviews student academic progress on a regular basis. PhD students and PhD candidates are reviewed yearly and satisfactory progress is determined based on all aspects of development toward independence in addition to academic progress. Upon review, the student will be contacted by his/her program director regarding findings.

Withdrawal From Courses

Non-attendance to a course does not constitute a drop or withdrawal. Students must officially drop or withdraw from classes. Students are advised to speak with their program director before deciding to drop a course since this decision may have significant consequences. Individual classes may be dropped online via Enroll and Pay. Please note the academic calendar for drop dates and refunds.

At the discretion of the department, excessive withdrawals from coursework will constitute inadequate progress toward degree completion and dismissal from the program. Withdrawals are considered excessive if they exceed the following limits:

1. A student may withdraw from a course one time only. Students may not withdraw from any course a second time and remain in the program.
2. During a student's progress to degree, s/he may withdraw from courses up to 3 times in total while still remaining in the program.

Leave of Absence

There may be situations in which a graduate student needs a leave of absence. If a student is not going to be enrolled for a fall or spring semester, s/he must discuss a leave of absence (LOA) with the department and graduate studies to ensure re-entry in the program. All LOA requests must be approved by the program director and the Office of Graduate Studies. During a LOA, students are not considered officially enrolled and are not reported to lenders as being on a LOA. It is the student's responsibility to understand how a LOA may affect financial aide, residency status, health insurance, and enrollment. To be granted an LOA, students must complete the [Office of Graduate Studies Request for Leave of Absence checklist](#) and receive approval.

Students must complete the [Request for Return from LOA Checklist](#) upon return to resume degree enrollment. Please note, students who were granted a medical LOA must provide a letter from the physician stating the problem for which leave was granted has been resolved and the student is ready to resume graduate work.

Nonacademic Technical Standards

See appendices A and B

Reasonable Accommodation for Technical Standards

After acceptance into the program, students are asked to declare whether they can meet these technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations. If the student acknowledges the need for accommodation, he/she must provide documentation of their disability to the Office of Academic Accommodations Services (AAS) as described here: <https://www.kumc.edu/student-affairs/academic-accommodation-services/documentation/disability-qualifications-for-academic-accommodations.html> . To schedule an appointment, please email cukoko@kumc.edu , call (913) 945-7035, or schedule online at <https://medconsult.kumc.edu> .

If after enrolling in the program, a student decides that s/he needs accommodation in meeting the technical standards the student needs to immediately notify the respective program director (See Department Faculty and Staff Directory section of this handbook) and request for review of the need for accommodations using the above contact information.

Notification of Academic Difficulties

In the graduate curriculum, most courses have a research orientation and are taught at an advanced level. It is the responsibility of the student to notice if s/he does not have the appropriate background for a course and to take action to maintain at least a B average in coursework. **Please do not wait to take action because you may quickly fall too far behind!** Appropriate actions should begin with academic counseling with the instructor; additional suggested actions include obtaining a tutor, sessions with the Learning Specialist in Student Counseling & Educational Support Services, and studying more hours per week than usual for other courses. In certain situations, it may be best to enroll in a prerequisite course to be better prepared for the advanced course in which the student is struggling. The student should contact the respective program director (see Department Faculty and Staff Directory section of this handbook) for assistance in determining a plan.

Definition of Academic/Professional Problematic Behavior

For purposes of this document, problematic behavior is defined broadly as an interference in academic/professional functioning that is reflected in one or more of the following ways:

- A. An inability and/or unwillingness to acquire and integrate academic/professional standards into one's repertoire of academic/professional behavior.
- B. An inability and/or unwillingness to acquire and integrate academic/professional skills in order to reach an acceptable level of competency.
- C. An inability and/or unwillingness to adaptively manage personal stress, mental health or illness, and/or excessive emotional reactions that interfere with academic/professional functioning.

Evaluative criteria that link this definition of problematic behavior to particular academic/professional behaviors are incorporated in the specific evaluation for academic/professional courses and/or through student's clinical or research lab supervision. Evaluations are completed at several intervals (e.g. ongoing supervision) during each student's graduate training.

Grievance and Appeals Procedures

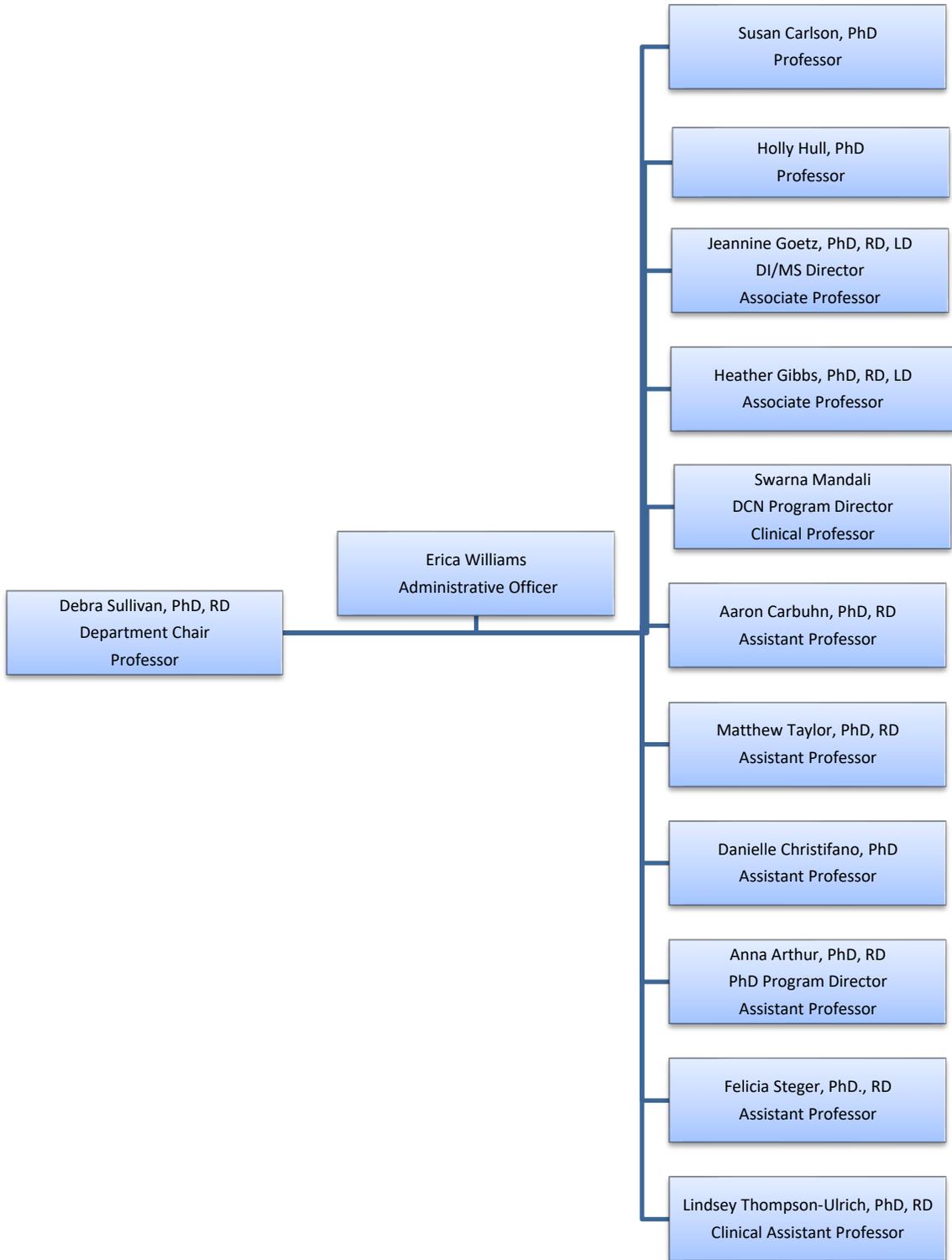
The student has the right to submit a grievance in situations when the student believes that the departmental procedures have been misapplied or applied in an arbitrary or capricious manner. The student should first meet with the faculty member involved to discuss the situation and attempt to resolve the concern (see Department Organizational Structure). If the situation cannot be satisfactorily

resolved, then the student meets with the Department Chair and/or program director to discuss the situation and attempt to resolve the concern. If resolution is not possible, the student can submit a grievance to The School of Health Professions Dean for review and referral to the ad hoc Grievance Committee. The school follows established procedures for grievances, which can be found in Graduate Studies and School of Health Professions Handbooks (See links provided on pages 5 and 6 of this handbook).

Student Ombudsman

The role of the [ombudsman](#) is to investigate and facilitate resolution of allegations by any student of perceived unfair, inappropriate, discriminating or harassing treatment (behavior) by faculty, staff, administrators or fellow students. The ombudsman is an impartial party and a safe place for students to be heard and to receive impartial attention without fear of loss of privacy. The student ombudsman office is located on the 1st floor of Dykes Library, Room 1005, and can be reached at 913.588.4698.

D&N Department Organizational Structure



MS Thesis versus Non-thesis Option

Students should be in conversation with their program director and DN faculty to determine whether they will complete a thesis or non-thesis. The timing of this decision varies by student, depending upon their coursework timetable. Differences in the research experience for the thesis and non-thesis options are outlined below. When the student enrolls for DN 899 Thesis for the first time, the student will be given the booklet entitled “Reference for Thesis Research and Oral Examination” by the research advisor. When the student enrolls in DN 854, the student will be provided with a course syllabus by the research advisor. These documents each provide more details about the processes involved in completing the courses.

DN 899 Thesis

- Time period: Thesis research can be done over a number of semesters (typically takes 3 semesters)
- Scope of research: Thesis research involves all aspects of research including a proposal, collection and analysis of data and a thesis.
- Written document: Thesis. [Formatting guidelines](#) are provided by Graduate Studies.
- Oral presentation: 30 min presentation to department; 30 min of questions from thesis committee
- General oral exam: 30 minutes. This exam must occur in the last semester of enrollment and must meet the [academic deadline](#)
- The thesis is [submitted electronically](#).

DN 854 Special Problems (Non-thesis)

- Time period: The project is generally completed in one or two semesters. After the project proposal is approved by the project committee, students must log 100 hours of work on the project.
- Scope of research: The project may include one or more of the following:
 - Writing an intensive review of the literature on a given topic with additional requirements other than those of DN 819 Scientific Writing.
 - Participation with a faculty member in the development of a research proposal, manuscript or grant.
 - Participation with a faculty member in conducting a pilot project.
 - Participation with a faculty member in the design, implementation or the evaluation of a program in a specialized area of dietetics practice.
 - Collection and/or analysis of data in conjunction with a faculty member engaged in research
- Written paper: A 2-5 page proposal and a 2-5 page summary of work completed and goals discussion. This proposal should be sent to the Committee 2 weeks prior to presentation.
- Oral presentation: 20 min presentation with 10 minutes Questions and Answers to department/committee. This presentation can occur at any time before the end of the semester.

- General oral exam: 1 hour. This exam must occur in the last semester of enrollment and must meet the [academic deadline](#).

MS Competencies Used for Oral Exams

The competencies are covered in required and elective coursework. For any competencies not covered by the individual student's coursework program for the MS degree, the student will be expected to gain the knowledge on his/her own by additional coursework, conferences or reading. The competencies are the basis of the MS general oral exam administered by the three faculty members on the student's thesis or non-thesis committee. The oral exam will occur in the last semester of enrollment and will last ½ hour for a thesis student and 1 hour for a non-thesis student.

Upon completion of the MS degree program, graduates will be able to do the following:

I. Research Design and Statistics

- Define terms commonly used in research.
- Identify and describe the major research designs used in nutrition research.
- Describe legislation and institutional procedures that protect human subjects and animals used in research.
- Interpret research in nutrition and incorporate appropriate new scientific knowledge into practice.
- Participate in a research project.
- Define terms commonly used in statistics
- Name and describe a set of basic descriptive and inferential statistical tests.

II. Macro and Micronutrients

- Describe the process by which the Dietary Reference Intakes are established.
- Define the four reference values that are collectively called the Dietary Reference Intakes.
- Use the DRI's to assess nutrient intakes of individuals and groups.
- For each macronutrient, vitamin and mineral, discuss the major dietary sources, digestion, absorption, metabolism, function, excretion and storage.
- For each of the major nutrients, describe the areas of current research and controversies that exist among scientists concerning the results of research.
- Define phytochemicals, functional foods and dietary supplements.

III. Evidence-based Nutrition Guidelines

- Describe the general process used to develop evidenced-based nutrition guidelines.
- Name common published nutrition guidelines established for the maintenance of health and the lowering of risk for developing chronic diseases. Examples include: Dietary Guidelines for Americans, My Plate, and American Cancer Society Dietary Guidelines. Describe the major points in the guidelines and explain how they are related to health and/or disease prevention.
- Name some common evidenced-based medical nutrition therapy guidelines. Examples include: AND Evidence Analysis Library. Describe the major points in the guidelines and explain how each relates to the treatment of the disease.

IV. Elective Coursework

- a. Meet the objectives/competencies of elective courses taken for the MS degree in nutrition.
- b. Describe how each elective will affect your future work in the area of nutrition.

Application for Degree

During the semester in which the student expects to complete degree requirements, the student must complete an “application for degree” through Enroll & Pay at:

<https://sa.ku.edu/psp/csprd/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG&> . Please consult the [Academic Calendar](#) for appropriate dates.

Assistantships

Graduate Teaching Assistantships and Research Assistantships are available through the Department of Dietetics & Nutrition on a semester-by-semester basis. The time commitments and wages vary.

Availability of assistantships will be announced to continuing students by the time of enrollment for the subsequent semester. Availability of assistantships to new students will be announced by the start of each semester. Competition for assistantships exists. Criteria and terms of the assistantships will be announced when availability of assistantships are announced.

Occasionally, circumstances arise in which a student must discontinue an assistantship, which will have impact upon the faculty/staff member directing the assistantship and also means losing whatever tuition reduction the assistantship carried. This decision needs to be made under the advisement of the faculty/staff member directing the assistantship as soon as possible in order that another student can be hired and receive the tuition reduction (if applicable). Please consult with [Graduate Studies](#) for more information regarding tuition.

MS Student Assistantship Policies

- a. See the [Graduate Studies principles](#) concerning assistantships
- b. Time Commitment: A student is hired for a specified percent full time equivalent (%FTE), and the number of average hours worked per week must be proportional to the appointment percentage. These are salary positions and thus students are expected to work during breaks (see banked hours policy below). Time spent on thesis or non-thesis projects does not count toward the GRA/GTA appointment.
- c. GRA/GTA Work versus MS Research: If a faculty member is both the faculty employer and the faculty research advisor for a student, the hours the student spends for work and research are to be counted separately. In fairness to all assistants, those who have the same faculty employer and research advisor should not work less total hours than a student employee who works for one faculty member and is advised by another for MS research.
- d. Assignments: The department chair will decide on the faculty member with whom each graduate teaching assistant (GTA) will primarily work and how the work hours will be distributed if the student is working for more than one faculty member. Occasionally, a GTA will be asked to do an assignment for the department or a faculty member other than the one to whom s/he is usually assigned. If a GTA is not given enough work to do, s/he should

ask the faculty employer for more work. If the faculty employer does not have an assignment, the administrative assistant or MS Director can be consulted.

- e. Work Schedule: The student will meet with the faculty employer by the first week of school to determine the types of assignments, work site and work schedule that will be required by the faculty employer.
- f. Additional Employment: Before arranging for a second position, the student **must** work out with the faculty employer the compatibility of the work schedules.
- g. Time Sheets: The graduate student employees will keep track of work hours on a time sheet. The time sheets have columns for GTA/GRA work hours and for the student research project on which the student worked. This record keeping will protect the student and help the advisor see how much time his/her assignments require. At the end of each pay period the faculty advisor/ faculty employer will be given the time sheet by the advisee/employee for approval.
- h. GRA/GTA Banked Hours: It is possible for the graduate student employee to “bank” hours by working extra hours per week during school vacations or in weeks when the student can. To avoid having banked hours get out of hand, students will be able to bank two weeks of hours at their own discretion. Additional banked hours will need to be approved in writing by the faculty employer. A copy of the approval needs to be given to the Administrative Assistant so that she can appropriately manage payroll.
- i. Transportation and Lunch: Time spent for transportation and lunch do not count as work time on a routine basis. There may be an occasional exception. For example, travel time might be paid time if a student has to go to a second work site during the workday or if the work site is outside the Greater Kansas City Area. Another exception might be if the meal is a “working” meal. The faculty employer will decide if transportation time or meal can be counted as work time for a particular assignment.

PhD Program Competencies

Upon completion of the PhD degree, students must meet and exceed all competencies of the MS Degree and demonstrate the following:

- Independence and ability to function in a team including the skills required to lead a team
- An advanced ability to utilize and communicate information in speaking and writing
- An advanced ability to solve problems
- An ability to prioritize and accomplish both academic and work/research obligations
- Efficient use of time demonstrating the ability to be productive in multiple roles
- Clear evidence of personal characteristics required to function as a leader: integrity, reliability, trustworthy, organized, careful, exercises good judgement

How the PhD Degree Training Differs from the MS Degree

- Being admitted to a PhD program as a student and maintaining an excellent academic record does not guarantee you will be able to advance to a PhD. You must demonstrate the competencies above and pass both a written and oral comprehensive exam before you become a PhD candidate.
- There are also differences in workload expectations for students on assistantships and for those who are working as clinicians while working for their degree (see PhD Student Assistantship Obligations)

PhD Responsibilities: Student and Mentor

Student's responsibilities toward him/herself

- ✓ Learn the fundamental knowledge of our discipline very well, including areas that are outside of your own research project.
- ✓ Become an acknowledged expert on a technique and a system, which requires ongoing reading.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with other techniques being performed in the lab and in the department.
- ✓ Embrace the goal of becoming an outstanding writer.
- ✓ Publish at least two solid, first-author papers.
- ✓ Challenge yourself to function progressively more independently each quarter.
- ✓ Set specific goals and ask yourself at least twice per year whether your performance matches those goals.
- ✓ Assume control over the obligations, forms and deadlines for earning your Ph.D., as first steps toward seizing control of your own career.

Mentor's responsibilities to his/her student

- ✓ Assure that you learn to think like a scientist:
- ✓ Properly design well-controlled experiments,
- ✓ Evaluate and critique scientific papers.

- ✓ Directly work with you to polish writing skills.
- ✓ Provide a good project (feasible and publishable) with attendant funding.
- ✓ Assure that you present your work at several national scientific meetings.
- ✓ Provide opportunities to learn the “soft skills” associated with running a lab.
- ✓ Spur your independence.
- ✓ Treat you with dignity and respect and provide an atmosphere in which you can grow and develop.
- ✓ Support your career in every way possible, now and into the future.

Student’s responsibilities to group

- ✓ Be a conscientious good citizen of the group.
- ✓ Keep an up-to-date, quality lab book.

Faculty and Student’s responsibilities to each other

- ✓ Communicate directly and in a timely manner any perceived disappointments or concerns.
- ✓ Be completely open and honest about our plans that could affect the other.
- ✓ Practice loyalty.
- ✓ Assure that graduates are in a good position to land an excellent postdoctoral fellowship or be employed in his/her discipline in a position commensurate with the doctoral degree.

PhD Student Assistantship Obligations

(Policies for Time Accountability of PhD Students in Medical Nutrition Science with GRA*, **)

- Students are encouraged to complete their PhD in ~4 years after the MS degree. Accordingly, it is important that during those 3 years if you are a GRA you consider this your job. You should plan to spend a minimum of 8 hours/day on campus working with faculty, attending lectures and pursuing other intellectual activities that further your goals and meet faculty expectations. Your position may require you to work more hours on occasion and/or to work on nights and weekends, particularly when you are collecting data for your dissertation. Your responsibilities will be defined in consultation with your mentor.
- GRAs are recorded as 0.4 to 0.5 FTE. This does not imply you need to work only 16 to 20 hours/week. You are not an hourly worker and you are not being paid an hourly wage. The GRA is simply a practical way to provide the recommended stipend for you while you are working on the PhD.
- University policy dictates that GRAs do not receive official vacation and sick leave. Our departmental policy is to allow 2 weeks per year (10 days) as vacation/sick leave in addition to official KUMC holidays. Keep in mind that if you have a clinical or animal project you may need to work on some or all holidays. You are obligated to get permission from your faculty mentor before planning or taking any leave and to report any sick time off as soon as you reasonably can. If you need to take more time off than 2 weeks, your mentor may choose to discontinue

your GRA during the extra time away. You are expected to attend scientific meetings, and this time away is considered part of your training and not included in vacation/sick leave.

- You will be assigned a mentor when you enter the PhD program.*** You should discuss with your mentor any planned time away in advance, including professional leave. If you are ill or must take care of an ill family member, you have an obligation to report this to your mentor immediately. Mentors are accountable for your time away or they may ask you to record time away and report to them.
- Finally, you should discuss with your mentor (or, in time, PhD advisor) before undertaking any obligation such as an elected office or project that is unrelated to your PhD training.

*Students who are RDs and employed as clinicians rather than as a GRA by our department may not be able to finish in 3 years. You should discuss this with your mentor. Unless your employer is willing to pay you while you work on your research, you will likely have to reduce your work hours at some point in the program to complete your dissertation research.

**If you are funded by a source other than a GRA, you should still discuss work issues with your mentor in the interest of completing your degree in a timely manner. The expectations for effort to complete a degree are not different than for those with a GRA.

** *We attempt to pick a mentor based on your expressed research interests, however, the faculty mentor may or may not be the person you will work with on your dissertation. You may decide to change mentors when you choose your dissertation topic.

PhD Degree Requirements Checklist

normally completed within 4 years (8 years maximum)

Course or Exam Requirement	Credits	Semester taken	Considerations
DN 895 Adv. Macronutrients and Int. Met.	3	Year 1 - Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be completed prior to qualifying exam. Students who completed this course as part of MS degree do not need to repeat or replace.
DN 896 Adv. Micronutrients and Int. Met.	3	Year 1 - Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be completed prior to qualifying exam Students who completed this course as part of MS degree do not need to repeat or replace.
DN 890 Grad. Research	1-4	Any	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course for research credits until the student passes the comprehensive exam (AKA proposal)
Qualifying Exam		Any	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must have completed DN 895 and DN 896 Usually taken at the end of Year 1 – students completing DN 895 and DN 896 as MS students may choose to take earlier
DN 932 Ethics in Clinical Nutrition Research or GSMC 856 Intro to Research Ethics	1	Year 1 -Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 course credit required (courses with higher credits also accepted) Must be completed prior to comprehensive exam
DN 900 Techniques in Nutrition Research	3	Year 1 - Spring or Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be completed prior to comprehensive exam Compiled portfolio demonstrates mastery of at least 5 techniques and all techniques required for anticipated dissertation research
BIOS 720 Analysis of Variance	3	Year 1 - Spring	Prerequisites: PRE 710/711 or BIOS 714/717 or equivalent.
BIOS 730 Applied Linear Regression	3	Year 2 - Fall	Prerequisites: BIOS 714 or equivalent and BIOS 720
DN 901 PhD seminar	1 per sem	Fall, Spring, Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two semesters are required for credit Attendance is mandatory for all PhD students
Oral Comprehensive Exam*		Any -- Must be completed within 2.5 years of acceptance in the program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AKA, Dissertation Proposal Student must have been enrolled full-time at least 2 semesters prior to the semester of exam Must have completed courses required for qualifying exam + GSMC 856 and DN 900 Must notify PhD program director and DN Administrator at least 3 weeks prior to proposal for submission of progress to degree form Written proposal, submitted to committee at least 2 weeks prior to oral presentation Oral examination is a defense of dissertation proposal

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions are not necessarily limited to the proposal
DN 990 Doctoral Research	1-9	Any	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course for research credits after the student passes the comprehensive exam (AKA proposal)
DN 999 Dissertation	1-6	Any	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use for research credits once data collection is complete • Can take up to 6 credits
Final Oral Exam (AKA, Defense)		Any	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must notify PhD program director and DN Administrator at least 4 weeks prior to proposal for submission of progress to degree form • Meet with librarian to review dissertation for copyright infringements • Dissertation should be submitted to the committee 4 weeks prior to the defense. Committee members should alert the mentor of serious concerns within 2 weeks of receiving dissertation.

*After passing the oral comprehensive exam, students must be enrolled full-time (6 credits spring/fall, 3 credits summer) until the semester reaching 18 credits or graduating from program. After completing 18 credits, students must enroll in at least 1 credit/semester until graduation. Note: Requirements may differ for international students on special assistantships.

PhD Example Plan of Study

Year 1					
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer	Hours
DN 895	3	DN 896	3	Qualifying Exam is usually taken this semester	
DN 890	2	BIOS 720	3	DN 900	3
GSMC 856	1				
	6		6		3
Year 2					
DN 890 (or elective)	2-3	DN 890 (or elective)	2-3	DN 890, 980, or 990	3
DN 901	1	DN 901	1		
BIOS 730	3	BIOS 740	3		
		Oral Comprehensive exam may be scheduled as early as this semester if approved by committee			
	6-7		6-7		3
Year 3					
DN 990	3-6	DN 990	3-6	DN 990	3-6
Elective	1-3	Elective	1-3	Elective	1-3
Enroll in min 6 hours		Enroll in min 6 hours		Students may petition to reduce their hours to 1 credit per semester through the semester they successfully complete their dissertation defense. To do so, students must have completed 18 credits. Credits taken the semester the oral comprehensive exam is passed can be counted toward the 18 credits.	
	4-9		4-9		4-9
Year 4					

DN 999	1	DN 999	1		
		Final Oral Exam (defense) may be scheduled as early as this semester if approved by committee.			

Other Requirements for PhD Students and Candidates

- It is Graduate Studies policy that students on a GRA or GTA must be enrolled for 6 credit hours in Fall and Spring semesters and 3 credit hours in summer and students not on a GRA or GTA must be enrolled for 9 credit hours in Fall and Spring semesters and 6 credit hours in summer. An exception is made for students working in their discipline (e.g., a hospital RD). Those students will be granted an exception upon request to the Graduate Studies office and will be considered full time at the lower number above for each semester.
- Following completion of the comprehensive exam with a pass, students are considered a PhD candidate.
- Students must be enrolled as a full time student for at least two semesters before they can proceed to their oral comprehensive exam
- Following completion of the oral comprehensive exam, students are required to be enrolled full time until completion of their degree or until the semester in which they have completed 18 credit hours (they may count the semester they passed the comprehensive oral exam). After the semester in which those 18 hours are complete, they may request to reduce their semester credit hours to 1 credit but must remain continuously enrolled until they are awarded the PhD.

Electives

Students should discuss elective courses with their Student Advising Committees. Specific elective courses required by the committee are dependent upon the student's area of research concentration. The total elective hours may vary according to needs. Elective courses may be chosen from the following list but are not limited to this list. Electives chosen are the ultimate decision of the student's research advisor and committee.

Recommended Electives

- DN 980 Nutrigenomics and Nutrigenetics in Health and Disease
- BIOS 740 Applied Multivariate Methods
- BIOS 811 Scientific Rigor and Reproducibility
- CLS 742 Scientific Writing
- Grantwriting Course Options: PRVM 872 (3) ; NRSB 895 (1) and 896 (2); ANAT 831 Fellowship Grant Development;

Additional Optional Electives

- DN 800 Selected Topics in Clinical Dietetics
- DN 810 Nutrition Assessment
- DN 819 Scientific Writing for the Nutritional Sciences
- DN 825 Medical Nutrition Therapy I
- DN 826 Medical Nutrition Therapy II

- DN 834 Methods of Research in Nutrition
- DN 838 Advanced Medical Nutrition Therapy
- DN 839 Clinical Aspects of Nutrition Support
- DN 841 International Nutrition
- DN 842 US Public Health Nutrition
- DN 862 Maternal and Child Nutrition
- DN 865 Nutrition in Sports and Exercise
- DN 870 Health Behavior Counseling
- DN 875 Pediatric Clinical Nutrition
- DN 876 Intervention for Prevention & Management of Obesity
- DN 880 Dietary and Herbal Supplements
- PRVM 865 Implementation Science I
- DN 910 Leadership Essentials in Clinical Nutrition
- DN 920 Nutrition Communication for Advanced Practice
- DN 941 Applied Nutritional Epidemiology
- DN 970 Pharmacology in Clinical Nutrition
- Students often enroll in elective courses outside of the DN department, such as in Population Health, Medical Informatics, Nursing, and Psychology. Students should ask the program director and/or committee for suggestions.

Documentation of PhD Student Progress

Progress reports will be requested annually in June via REDCap (online survey). These are reviewed by the PhD faculty, who will also discuss if you are making expected progress in other aspects of your training. If there is any concern about your progress or plan, this will be provided to you in writing by September 1 and shared with your mentoring or PhD committee.

Additionally, mentors will track progress through the PhD degree requirements by recording committee meetings and exam dates in REDCap. Mentors should provide a printed copy of the student's record for the student. Tracking progress in this way will ensure that departmental and university rules are followed. Recorded components include:

1a. Selection of a Student Advisory Committee (SAC)

The SAC selection and first committee meeting should take place as soon as the student chooses a direction for their research and should include at least two persons with a primary appointment in the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition and at least one faculty member outside the department with expertise in the interdisciplinary focus of the anticipated research. Additional members may be added as needed and advised by the initial committee but for practical reasons of scheduling should normally not exceed 5. The mentor, who must be a DN faculty member, should be chosen first and will serve as chair of the committee. The other departmental member serves as the Departmental Representative. At least one member of the committee must be a tenure-track faculty member at KUMC with a primary appointment in another department. This member is referred to as the Graduate Studies Representative. All members must be a member of the [KU Graduate Faculty](#).

Graduate faculty membership can be extended to any qualified individual regardless of institutional affiliation, but a petition process is required if faculty status is not already attained. Following a discussion with the mentor, the graduate student should then contact the mutually agreed upon committee members via email/phone requesting their participation. The PhD Program Director should be notified of changes in membership and changes should be noted on the checklist. [Note: membership in the committee may change and differ from that of the final PhD committee.]

1b. SAC Meeting

The SAC provides oversight of student progress. When the student is ready to proceed, the student schedules an initial SAC meeting. The 1st SAC meeting should typically take place within 6 months of completion of the written qualifying exam (which is scheduled after completion of the Advanced Nutrition courses or content) but may be scheduled earlier if the student is ready. At the first meeting, the Departmental Representative discusses the function and composition of the SAC, responsibilities of committee members, and requirements for the written and oral research proposal (AKA, comprehensive oral exam, which is scheduled simultaneously with the presentation of the research proposal). The student then presents a short synopsis of their background, course work, and the area of contemplated research including background and planned experiments. The student, mentor and committee members then address the following issues:

- a) Review completed course work and decide what additional course work is appropriate.
- b) Discuss the contemplated area of research, appropriateness for a Ph.D., feasibility, etc.
- c) Discuss the timetable for the oral comprehensive examination, which is the oral proposal of research
- d) Determine a tentative date for the next SAC meeting (usually the oral research proposal).

2 Oral Research Proposal (Comprehensive Exam)

Must be completed within 2.5 years of entering the program. The 2nd SAC meeting is normally scheduled for presentation of the oral research proposal (the oral comprehensive exam) and must be preceded by submission of a written proposal (written comprehensive) to the SAC at least 3 weeks prior to the meeting. Sufficient time should be allowed to write the proposal and make revisions, because the mentor must approve the written proposal before it goes to the committee.

Process to notify Graduate Studies of the Exam. Once the project is acceptable to the chair, and the committee has agreed on a date for the exam, contact the administrative office by email at least two weeks in advance of the exam. The administrative officer will schedule a room and submit the **Progress to Degree** form to Graduate Studies. Include in your email:

- Student name
- Intended date of exam
- Project title
- Committee names

SAC members are asked to provide the student with a copy of the completed form a week in advance of their presentation so that they may work to address these prior to the oral presentation. The proposal should be 45 to 50 minutes in duration. Guests may ask questions during 15 minutes following the proposal before being dismissed. In the second hour, the committee will work with the student and make recommendations to modify the research plan. The meeting should also include a brief update from the student on coursework and any preliminary research progress and future plans. If the committee determines that the student needs further preparation, then another SAC meeting is scheduled. The final accepted proposal should be filed in the student DN progress record.

3. Subsequent Dissertation Committee Meetings

After passing the oral comprehensive exam, the student becomes a Ph.D. candidate and the Dissertation Committee replaces the SAC. Members of the SAC typically become members of the Dissertation Committee*. During this period the student continues to develop the research project. The student must convene a meeting of the Dissertation Committee if there are significant changes to the project. Members of the committee can be changed at this point.

4. Approval of Dissertation for Defense

The student presents a draft of the dissertation to each member of the Dissertation Committee. At this time (if not done before), the mentor should evaluate the dissertation for plagiarism using iThenticate software: <https://www.kumc.edu/office-of-compliance/compliance-program/ithenticate.html> . Students should also arrange for consultation with a librarian for review of the dissertation for copyright purposes. Once the dissertation committee approves the dissertation, the student requests that the Director of Graduate Affairs schedule the defense. Within 2 weeks of receiving a complete draft of the dissertation, each committee member approves or disapproves the draft via email to the student, mentor and Director of Graduate Affairs. If significant changes (inclusion of additional chapters, etc.) are requested the draft is revised appropriately and the approval process is repeated.

5. Dissertation Defense

Upon dissertation committee approval, the student will request that the Director of Graduate Affairs schedule the defense, with the student providing a date, place and time that can be attended by all Dissertation Committee members. Additionally, the student should provide the dissertation title and list of Committee Members to the Administrative Officer and Program Director at least 3 weeks prior to the defense for filing of the **Progress to Degree** Form.

Employment Opportunities

Faculty will email notices of employment opportunities that are sent to the department to graduate students. Notices are also posted to bulletin boards in the student room.

Life-long Learning

Many seminars are available at KUMC each week and are announced via the [Weekly Academic Calendar](#) and e-mail. These seminars are open to students, faculty and staff from all departments. These seminars are an opportunity to observe an interdisciplinary approach to research and to the prevention and treatment of disease. Students are expected to read these announcements and to attend ones that augment their life-long learning goals. As a bonus, a few seminars provide free lunches!

Professional Meetings

Students are encouraged to attend and participate in meetings of the Kansas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (KSAND) and other appropriate local associations. Presentations at local meetings are encouraged. The research advisor will advise his/her students as to the most appropriate national meetings to attend for the presentation of student research. The advisor will suggest funding available for attending these meetings.

Scholarships/Awards

The following table contains awards that are available to D&N students. All the scholarships and awards are announced in the Fall or Spring Semester except for the Phi Kappa Phi that is decided in December. The student will need to be alert to those scholarships/awards that are initiated by the student.

Award	Nominator	Criteria	Gift*
KUMC Auxiliary Scholarship	Student (Self-nomination)	Presented to 5 students in SHP. Based on GPA, leadership, professional/community activities	~\$300
Dean's Multicultural Diversity Scholarship	Student self nomination	Minority racial or ethnic heritage or demonstrated work with multicultural groups.	~\$2000 – 2500
SHP Dean's Scholarship	Faculty	One per department. Based on GPA, professional leadership, social consciousness as evidenced by activities while in the program.	~\$2000
Marian Weber & Arthur Boelte	Faculty	Based on GPA and professional leadership	~\$1000
Phi Kappa Phi	Faculty	One per department. Based on scholarship, good character, 24 credits by end of Fall semester, plan to complete degree	Non-monetary
Rowena Sherrill Award	Faculty and student peers	Interpersonal relationships, professionalism, communication skills	~\$250
SHP Alumni Association Cooney Leadership Award	Faculty	One graduating student in SHP. Based on high level of leadership and significant impact on the programs, profession, community and school.	~\$200
Vaden Scholarship	KSAND	Graduate student with the intent of practicing dietetics. Must be enrolled in an academic program for the following academic year.	~\$500

*Gift is dependent on the interest generated by the account and thus actual amount varies

Appendix

Appendix A. Technical Standards Acknowledgement Statement for MS Students

Post-Application Acknowledgement Statement Nonacademic Technical Standards MS Degree Program

University of Kansas Medical Center School of Health Professions Dietetics & Nutrition Department

Upon acceptance into the MS in Dietetics & Nutrition Program, students are asked to acknowledge their ability to meet these standards with or without accommodations. The following technical standards, in conjunction with the academic standards, are requirements for admission, retention, and program completion.

Reasonable accommodation will be considered and may be made to qualified students who disclose a disability, so long as such accommodation does not significantly alter the essential requirements of the curriculum and the training program, or significantly affect the safety of patient care. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the *Academic Accommodations Office* at (913) 945-7035 or cukoko@kumc.edu early in the application process to begin a confidential conversation about what accommodations they may need to meet these standards.

The Department of Dietetics & Nutrition and the University of Kansas Medical Center have a commitment to nondiscrimination, access and reasonable accommodation of students with disabilities. Therefore, all students admitted to the MS Degree in Dietetics & Nutrition must be able to meet the following requirements and expectations with or without an accommodation. The MS degree prepares students to practice dietetics and nutrition and to interpret and participate in research in nutrition within academic and healthcare organizations. Graduates need knowledge and skills to function in diverse practice and research settings.

All students who are admitted into the MS degree program in Dietetics & Nutrition must be able to perform the following:

Communicate: Students must have the ability to use multiple communication techniques (oral, written, nonverbal) that enable them to communicate with clients, teachers, health providers, and faculty. Students must be able to report to members of the team, express accurate information to clients, and teach, explain, direct and counsel people.

Observe: Students must be able to accurately assess lectures, demonstrations, research, and practice situations in the practice and research of health sciences. Observation is necessary to perform competent health assessments and interventions. Candidates must also be able to observe, learn from, and analyze health record content, including discernment and use of clinical data displayed within the health record.

Ethical Standards: Students must demonstrate professional attitudes and behaviors and must perform in an ethical manner in dealing with others. Personal integrity is required and the adherence to standards that reflect the values and the functions of the profession of dietetics and nutrition. Students are required to abide by student honor codes and research ethics.

Psychomotor: Students must have sufficient motor capacities and motilities to be able to generate, calculate, record, evaluate and transit information; prepare assignments; deliver public presentations to large and small audiences; collect specimens and perform basic tests and physical assessments on individuals, e.g., anthropometric assessments, finger sticks for blood glucose testing, using glucometers, assessing skin fold thickness, taking blood pressure; and/or working in institutional and food demonstration kitchens.

Intellectual and Cognitive Abilities: Students must be able to measure, calculate reason, analyze, synthesize, integrate, and remember to apply information. Creative problem solving and clinical reasoning requires all of these intellectual abilities.

Professional and Social Attributes: Students must exercise good judgment and promptly complete all responsibilities required of the program. They must develop mature, sensitive, and effective professional relationships with others. They must be able to tolerate taxing workloads and function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and function in the face of uncertainties and ambiguities. Concern for others, interpersonal competence, and motivation are requisites for the program.

Technical Standards Acknowledgment

I have reviewed and understand the requirements set forth in the Technical Standards for admission to, continuation in, and certification completion from the Master of Science in Dietetics & Nutrition Degree Program. To my knowledge, I can meet the requirements set forth in the Technical Standards with or without accommodation. I understand that it is the responsibility of candidates needing accommodation to register with and provide documentation of their disability and specific functional limitations to the *Academic Accommodations Office*, (913) 945-7035 or cukoko@kumc.edu. Candidates are encouraged to engage in this process now, in advance of new student orientation and the start of classes. Accommodations are not applied retroactively and a disability-related explanation will not negate poor performance. *The Students with Disabilities Policies and Procedures Manual contains additional information related to academic accommodations and is available at: <https://kumc-publicpoliciesandprocedures.policystat.com/policy/13228748/latest/>*

Name

Signature

Date

Please sign and return this form by Monday, August 21st to Erica Williams. Forms may be dropped off at the department's office, room G020 DELP, mailed to the department, or emailed to Erica Williams at dietetics@kumc.edu.

Appendix B. Technical Standards Acknowledgement Statement for PhD Students

Post-Application Acknowledgement Statement Nonacademic Technical Standards PhD Degree Program

University of Kansas Medical Center School of Health Professions Dietetics & Nutrition Department

Upon acceptance into the PhD in Medical Nutrition Science, students are asked to acknowledge their ability to meet these standards with or without accommodations. The following technical standards, in conjunction with the academic standards, are requirements for admission, retention, and program completion.

Reasonable accommodation will be considered and may be made to qualified students who disclose a disability, so long as such accommodation does not significantly alter the essential requirements of the curriculum and the training program, or significantly affect the safety of patient care. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the *Academic Accommodations Office at (913) 945-7035 or cukoko@kumc.edu* early in the application process to begin a confidential conversation about what accommodations they may need to meet these standards.

The Department of Dietetics & Nutrition and the University of Kansas Medical Center have a commitment to nondiscrimination, access and reasonable accommodation of students with disabilities. Therefore, all students admitted to the PhD in Medical Nutrition Science must be able to meet the following requirements and expectations with or without an accommodation. The PhD degree prepares students to lead research in nutrition within academic and healthcare organizations. Graduates need knowledge and skills to function in diverse practice and research settings.

All students who are admitted into the PhD Medical Nutrition Science degree program must be able to perform the following:

Communicate: Students must have the ability to use multiple communication techniques (oral, written, nonverbal) that enable them to communicate with clients, teachers, health providers, and faculty. Students must be able to report to members of the team, express accurate information to clients, and teach, explain, direct and counsel people.

Observe: Students must be able to accurately assess lectures, demonstrations, research, and practice situations in the practice and research of health sciences. Observation is necessary to perform competent health assessments and interventions. Candidates must also be able to observe, learn from, and analyze health record content, including discernment and use of clinical data displayed within the health record.

Ethical Standards: Students must demonstrate professional attitudes and behaviors and must perform in an ethical manner in dealing with others. Personal integrity is required and the adherence to standards that reflect the values and the functions of the profession of dietetics and nutrition. Students are required to abide by student honor codes and research ethics.

Psychomotor: Students must have sufficient motor capacities and motilities to be able to generate, calculate, record, evaluate and transit information; prepare assignments; deliver public presentations to large and small audiences; collect specimens and perform basic tests and physical assessments on individuals, e.g., anthropometric assessments, finger sticks for blood glucose testing, using glucometers, assessing skin fold thickness, taking blood pressure; and/or working in institutional and food demonstration kitchens.

Intellectual and Cognitive Abilities: Students must be able to measure, calculate reason, analyze, synthesize, integrate, and remember to apply information. Creative problem solving and clinical reasoning requires all of these intellectual abilities.

Professional and Social Attributes: Students must exercise good judgment and promptly complete all responsibilities required of the program. They must develop mature, sensitive, and effective professional relationships with others. They must be able to tolerate taxing workloads and function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and function in the face of uncertainties and ambiguities. Concern for others, interpersonal competence, and motivation are requisites for the program.

Technical Standards Acknowledgment

I have reviewed and understand the requirements set forth in the Technical Standards for admission to, continuation in, and certification completion from the PhD in Medical Nutrition Science Program. To my knowledge, I can meet the requirements set forth in the Technical Standards with or without accommodation. I understand that it is the responsibility of candidates needing accommodation to register with and provide documentation of their disability and specific functional limitations to the *Academic Accommodations Office, (913) 945-7035 or cukoko@kumc.edu*. Candidates are encouraged to engage in this process now, in advance of new student orientation and the start of classes. Accommodations are not applied retroactively and a disability-related explanation will not negate poor performance. *The Students with Disabilities Policies and Procedures Manual contains additional information related to academic accommodations and is available at: <https://kumc-publicpoliciesandprocedures.policystat.com/policy/13228748/latest/>*

Name

Signature

Date

Please sign and return this form by Monday, August 21st to Erica Williams. Forms may be dropped off at the department's office, room G020 DELP, mailed to the department, or emailed to Erica Williams at dietetics@kumc.edu.