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# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NUTRITION AND DIETETICS / DIETETIC INTERNSHIP

## Student Handbook

The Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics/Dietetic Internship (MS/DI) Handbook serves as a reference guide regarding the Program's policies, procedures, and information about services. This handbook is not intended to, nor does it contain the complete and exact text of all rules, regulations, policies and procedures that relate to graduate students. The Messiah University School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) Catalog also contains policies, procedures, and information, about services for graduate students, and should be used in conjunction with this program-specific handbook. It is common for individual programs to establish policies and expectations that exceed the minimum standards delineated in the general SGPS Catalog. When this occurs, the text of this program-specific handbook supersedes that which addresses the same topic in the SGPS Catalog.

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## INTRODUCTION

### **Messiah University's Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics/Dietetic Internship Program**

The Messiah University Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics/Dietetic Internship (MS/DI) Program is for individuals who have completed step one of the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) credentialing process. A full-time, in-person graduate program, the MS/DI fulfills steps two and three of the RDN credentialing process. Messiah's MS/DI program requires the completion of 35 hours of didactic course work and a minimum of 1000 supervised practice hours over a 1-year or 2-year plan of study. For the 1-year track, the program is organized over three semesters (summer-fall-spring) including a one-week Summer Intensive course. The 2-year track is organized over 6 semesters (summer-fall-spring-summer-fall-spring), including one Summer Intensive. Supervised Practice sites and Preceptors for the program are selected by Messiah University. Students are assigned to supervised practice sites, all of which are located in central Pennsylvania. Individuals who successfully complete the program earn a Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics from Messiah University, receive 35 graduate credits, and are awarded an ACEND dietetic internship verification statement.

After successful completion of the MS/DI, an individual is eligible to take the national RDN exam.

- Passing the RDN exam earns an individual the RDN credential.
- In order to maintain the RDN credential, individuals must regularly evaluate their professional knowledge, skills, and needs, and document participation in 75 hours of appropriate continuing education every 5 years.
- State licensure standards typically require the RDN credential. In recent years, many states have enacted licensure requirements for individuals who wish to practice nutrition care.
- In Pennsylvania, the RDN credential is required to obtain a state license, though licensure is voluntary. For detailed information, visit  
<https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Nursing/Pages/Licensed-Dietitian-Nutritionist-Licensure-Requirements-Snapshot.aspx>
- Information about state licensure boards, statutes, and rules can be found at  
<https://www.eatrightpro.org/advocacy/licensure/licensure-map-and-statutes-by-state>

## **Accreditation Status**

Messiah University's MS/DI program is accredited by ACEND, the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics – the accrediting agency for education programs preparing students for careers as registered dietitian nutritionists or nutrition and dietetics technicians, registered. ACEND® can be contacted at:

**Website:** [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org)

**Email:** [ACEND@eatright.org](mailto:ACEND@eatright.org)

**Phone:** 800/877-1600, ext. 5400

**Mail:** 120 South Riverside Plaza Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995

## ADMISSIONS

There are two cycles of application to the Messiah University MS/DI program through the [Dietetics Inclusive Centralized Application Service \(DICAS\)](#).

- **Fall**

Open to all DPD students with a minimum 3.0 GPA. DICAS opens for applicants August 5. Messiah University's application deadline for early admission is October 15. Applicants are notified of Messiah's admission decision by December 1. The applicant decision date for early admission is December 15.

- **Spring**

Open to all DPD students with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Messiah University's application deadline for regular admission is January 15. Application are notified of Messiah's admission decision by March. The applicant decision date is March 15.

### Option for Messiah University DPD Students

Messiah University undergraduate students in the senior year of their Didactic Program in Dietetics may apply directly to the School of Graduate and Professional Studies at Messiah University without applying through DICAS. Application materials are distributed to eligible and interested students in the Spring semester of their junior year in a course TBD by DPD directors.

Eligibility criteria includes:

- Anticipated completion of a bachelor's degree and all Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) academic requirements from Messiah University the following year.
- DPD GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, no grade of less than a C in any DPD course, as well as a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 by the end of the spring semester of their junior year,
- Completion of at least 150 hours of work or volunteer experience in the two years prior to application, with at least 100 paid hours in jobs directly related to nutrition and dietetics such as dietary aide, nutrition education, and food production. Preference will be given to applicants with experience in two or more of the following three areas:
  - medical nutrition
  - community nutrition
  - food service

Application requirements include:

- Personal Statement of Purpose (1000 words) addressing the following:
  - Why do you want to enter the dietetics profession?
  - Discuss experiences that have helped to prepare you for your career.
  - Why are you interested in completing a MS/DI at Messiah University?
  - What are your short and long-term goals?
  - What are your strengths and weaknesses or areas needing improvement?
  - What other information do you consider important for the selection panel to know about you?
- Three letters of recommendation using the form provided on our admissions website.
  - One recommendation must be from a volunteer or work supervisor
  - One recommendation must be from a Messiah University faculty member in the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics
  - One recommendation from a person of your choice
- Participate in at least one interview by a panel consisting of representatives from Messiah University and WellSpan Health (panel members subject to change). The interview will consist of general questions as well as knowledge-based questions.

Direct applications will be due on December 1 of each year for Messiah University students with notification on or before January 7 of each year. Dates may vary based on the ability to confirm an applicant's fall GPA.

Individuals accepted through direct application to Messiah University's School of Graduate and Professional Studies are not eligible to apply to other programs in DICAS. A Messiah undergraduate student wishes to apply to multiple programs should submit their application to Messiah through DICAS, along with their applications to other programs.

### **Dietetics Inclusive Centralized Application Service (DICAS)**

DICAS, the centralized application service for dietetics, is a service of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. DICAS offers a convenient, web-based application service that allows applicants to apply to participating dietetics supervised practice programs and/or graduate dietetics programs by completing a single online application.

Admission eligibility criteria includes:

- Completion, or anticipated completion, of a Bachelor's degree, along with a verification statement from an ACEND-accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) University or Foreign Dietitian Education program (FDE), by the time the program begins.
- At the time of application, applicants must have a DPD GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, no grade of less than a C in any DPD course, as well as a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.
- Completion of at least 150 hours of work or volunteer experience in the two years prior to application, with at least 100 paid hours in jobs directly related to nutrition and dietetics such as dietary aide, nutrition education, and food production. Preference will be given to applicants with experience in two or more of the following three areas:
  - medical nutrition
  - community nutrition
  - food service

Application requirements include:

- Completion of the application for the Messiah University MS/DI in DICAS.
- Three letters of recommendation using the standard D&D Digital recommendation form. We suggest the following sources for recommendations:
  - One recommendation from a volunteer or work supervisor.
  - One recommendation from a Department of Nutrition and Dietetics faculty member.
  - One recommendation from a person of your choice.
- Participate in at least one interview by a panel consisting of representatives from Messiah University and WellSpan Health (panel members subject to change). The interview will consist of general questions as well as knowledge-based questions. Applicants will be notified if they have been selected for an interview by the Messiah University MS/DI Department Administrative Assistant. Applicants will then be scheduled for interviews.

Applicants will be notified of acceptance decision by the Program Director.

### **CRITERIA TO DETERMINE POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS**

MS/DI students must possess certain skills and abilities to be able to meet the core competencies required for professional registration. The table in [APPENDIX A – CRITERIA TO DETERMINE POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS](#) describes these skills and abilities and gives examples of how they are used to meet professional standards. Please note: this table is not all-inclusive. The purpose of this table is to:

- a) inform prospective students of program requirements so they can assess their personal fit with the program.
- b) provide a standard to ensure that MS/DI students have the required skills and abilities for successful performance at various practice locations.

When appropriate, efforts will be made to negotiate reasonable accommodation of student needs with third-party facilities so that the student can meet the expectations of the program.

Any prospective or current student with concerns about whether or not he or she has the required skills and abilities to progress through the MS/DI program should contact Program Director Michelle Sanford, [msanford@messiah.edu](mailto:msanford@messiah.edu).

## DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

### Program Mission

To prepare students to become entry-level registered dietitian nutritionists who serve and lead with excellence as they provide nutrition care grounded in current scientific evidence.

### Goals and Outcome Objectives

*(program outcomes data available upon request)*

#### **Goal 1: To prepare graduates to succeed as RDN's in entry-level jobs in disciplines related to nutrition and dietetics.**

Objectives: (Data for each objective will be assessed annually as a three-year rolling average)

**Objective 1.1:** At least 80% of students beginning the Messiah University MS/DI 1-year track will complete it within 18 months, and those beginning the 2-year track will complete it within 36 months (150 % of the program length).

**Objective 1.2:** Of graduates who seek employment, 85% are employed in nutrition and dietetics or related fields within 12 months of graduation.

**Objective 1.3:** The Messiah University MS/DI 1-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%.

**Objective 1.4:** At least 90% of program graduates take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within 12 months of program completion.

**Objective 1.5:** At least 80% of Messiah University MS/DI graduates will report that their overall preparation was "good" or "excellent." \*

**Objective 1.6:** The employers of at least 80% of Messiah University MS/DI graduates will report that the graduate's overall preparation was "good" or "excellent." \*

#### **Goal 2: To prepare graduates who are servant leaders and life- long learners.**

Objectives: (Data for each objective will be assessed annually as a three-year rolling average)

**Objective 2.1:** By the end of the program, at least 90% of Messiah University MS/DI graduates will be able to describe two ways nutrition and dietetics practitioners can incorporate servant leadership principles in practice.

**Objective 2.2:** At least 80% of Messiah University MS/DI graduates will rate the degree to which they are prepared to be servant leaders (leaders who make a priority of understanding and meeting the needs of those they are leading) as "good" or "excellent." \*

**Objective 2.3:** The employers of at least 80% of Messiah University MS/DI graduates will rate the degree to which the graduate is "a leader who makes a priority of understanding and meeting the needs of the people he or she is leading" as "good" or "excellent." \*

**Objective 2.4:** By graduation, at least 90% of Messiah University MS/DI students will be able to assess their learning needs and identify resources for continuing professional development.

**Objective 2.5:** At least 80% of Messiah University MS/DI graduates will rate the degree to which the program prepared them to assess their learning needs and identify resources for continuing professional development as “good” or “excellent.” \*

**Objective 2.6:** The employers of at least 80% of Messiah University MS/DI graduates will rate the degree to which the graduate is able to assess their learning needs and identify resources for continuing professional development as “good” or “excellent.” \*

\* Graduates and their employers will be surveyed 18 months after graduates have completed the program.

## DISTANCE EDUCATION COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAM

The Messiah MS/DI program currently includes one (1) shared asynchronous online course with the Master of Science in Athletic Training program, representing two (2) of the MS/DI program’s thirty-five credits. In accordance with ACEND accreditation standards, the Messiah MS/DI program is approved to deliver between 50% and 99% of didactic course work asynchronously online, with an option for on-campus participation for international students as required.

Students participating in the program’s online courses maintain all of the same University services that are afforded them in conjunction with in-person courses with respect to health services, counseling, tutoring, and testing and financial aid resources.

### Method of Delivery

Distance education courses are delivered through the Canvas Learning Management System, which is used throughout Messiah University for course delivery.

The technology requirements for participation in the distance-learning courses are the standard technology requirements for the MS/DI program, as noted in the [Other Program Costs](#). Current computer requirements and [Information Technology Policies](#) are maintained and updated on the Information Technology Service’s website, and include the Appropriate Use of Information Technology Resources, and Data Security Policy. Information on student technical support is maintained and updated on the [ITS website](#).

### Identification of Students in Online Courses

Students in all Canvas courses are identified by means of their unique Messiah email address. Their access to specific courses is authorized through a standard University course registration process each semester.

### Technology Requirements and Privacy of Information

Student technology recommendations are found on the [Information Technology Services website](#). These guidelines have been put in place to best equip you to have an optimal technological experience in our online programs.

### Minimum Computer Skill Requirements

Students must possess basic computer skills and have regular access to a computer with [the basic computer recommendations](#) to participate fully. Specifically, students who enroll in online courses must have basic computer skills including:

- A working knowledge of word processing
- Ability to navigate the internet using different search engines
- Ability to use email (Compose, Attach, Send, Read)
- Ability to use MS Office programs (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Ability to copy and paste in documents

Tech support is available to students during the days and times listed on the [Information Technology Services webpage](#). A telephone hotline, (717) 796-4444, is available seven days a week to help with technological problems. This hotline is staffed by the University’s Information & Technology Services staff and provides ‘real person’ assistance. Support is also available via email, [techsupport@messiah.edu](mailto:techsupport@messiah.edu), and through the University’s private portal, FALCONLink.

## **Canvas**

Canvas is Messiah University's learning management system. A [student guide](#) is available on the platform. Instructions for learning how to use and navigate Canvas are also available in the [Passport to Canvas: Quick Start Guide for Students](#).

## **FERPA Compliance**

Please see the current version of Messiah University [School of Graduate and Professional Studies \(SGPS\) Catalog](#) for current policies and compliance information.

The Graduate Catalog is updated in August of each year.

## THE RDN CREDENTIALING PROCESS

To earn the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) credential, which may also be called the Registered Dietitian (RD) credential, an individual must complete a multi-step process:

**STEP ONE:** Complete a bachelor's degree and receive a verification statement from an [ACEND-accredited program](#).

**STEP TWO:** Complete a graduate degree in order to be eligible to take the Commission on Dietetic Registration [registration examination for dietitians](#). CDR requires a minimum of a master's degree to be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist.

**STEP THREE:** Complete an ACEND-accredited supervised practice [dietetic internship program](#) or Individual Supervised Practice Pathway. Messiah's MS/DI combines Steps Two and Three.

**STEP FOUR:** Pass the Commission on Dietetic Registration's dietetic [registration exam](#).

**STEP FIVE:** Gain [licensure](#) in your state of practice, if applicable.

For additional information on dietetics education, contact ACEND at: Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995, Phone: 312-899-0040 Ext. 5400, [acend@eatright.org](mailto:acend@eatright.org) or [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org).

For additional information about the RDN credential, contact the [Commission on Dietetic Registration](#), 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995, Phone: 312-899-0040 Ext. 5500, [cdr@eatright.org](mailto:cdr@eatright.org) or [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org).

## PROGRAM COSTS

### Application and Tuition

Description	Cost Estimate
<b>Deposit</b> (applied to student account)	\$200
<b>Tuition</b> (2024-25, based on \$780 credit hour) <i>(2025-2026 tuition announced in spring 2025)</i>	\$27,300 (35 credits)

### Other Program Costs

Description	Cost Estimate
<b>Housing and Food</b> (MS/DI students are required to provide their own off-campus housing in Central Pennsylvania)	varies
<b>Travel</b> (MS/DI students are required to provide own transportation to practice sites; travel costs depend on living location; rotation sites are within ~1 hour of Messiah's main campus.)	varies
<b>Final Undergraduate Transcript</b>	\$2 – \$10
<b>Textbooks</b>	\$500 – \$900
<b>Automobile and Health Insurance</b>	varies
<b>Personal Professional Liability Insurance</b>	\$35
<b>Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Background Check</b>	\$22
<b>FBI Background Check</b>	\$30
<b>Pennsylvania Child Abuse Clearance</b>	\$13
<b>ServSafe Manager Course</b> (if student does not already have a valid certificate)	\$180
<b>Health Status Documentation</b> (Recent PPD test for tuberculosis, MMR and hepatitis B vaccination, chicken pox or vaccination, flu vaccine, others as required by rotation sites)	varies
<b>Conformity with University Computer Requirements</b> (Current computer requirements can be found on the College Information Technology Services Technology Recommendations Web Page. In addition to the standard computer requirements, MS/DI students will need a printer/scanner and a laptop with the capacity for video conferencing.)	\$1,000 – \$2,000
<b>Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Student Membership (required)</b>	\$58 / year (6/1-5/31)
<b>Attendance at Professional Meetings/Conferences</b>	\$500 – \$1,000
<b>Black scrub top with program logo (required)</b> <a href="https://flynnohara.com/shop/messiah-grad-dietetics-pa072">https://flynnohara.com/shop/messiah-grad-dietetics-pa072</a>	\$35 – \$40
<b>Black scrub slacks (required; student choice of vendor)</b>	\$15 – \$30
<b>Black lab jacket with logo (optional)</b> <a href="https://flynnohara.com/shop/messiah-grad-dietetics-pa072">https://flynnohara.com/shop/messiah-grad-dietetics-pa072</a>	\$40 – \$50
<b>Food Service Slip-Resistant Shoes (required; student choice of vendor)</b>	\$50
<b>Polo Shirt with logo (required)</b> <a href="https://messiahugear.com/collections/dietetic-internship">https://messiahugear.com/collections/dietetic-internship</a>	~\$50
<b>Black fleece jacket with logo (optional)</b> <a href="https://messiahugear.com/collections/dietetic-internship">https://messiahugear.com/collections/dietetic-internship</a>	\$75

## ACADEMIC & PROGRAM CALENDAR

The Messiah University MS/DI program calendar aligns with the Graduate Academic Calendar. [Academic calendars](#) can be found on the Messiah University website.

## VACATIONS, HOLIDAYS & LEAVES OF ABSENCE

### **Vacation Days**

Students in the MS/DI program have time off as scheduled in the graduate school academic calendar, including fall break and spring breaks. If supervised practice hours are missed due to illness or other circumstances, this pre-scheduled time off may be utilized for make-up hours according to facility Preceptor availability. Remediation plans may require additional time on site.

### **Holidays**

The MS/DI program will follow the University holiday schedule (Thanksgiving, Christmas break, Good Friday); however, while in supervised practice, the holiday schedule of the Preceptor site takes precedence over the University schedule.

### **Leaves of Absence**

Due to the accelerated pace of the MS/DI program, taking a Leave of Absence is not permitted. Students needing to take time off will have to withdraw and re-apply for a different cohort. Situations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Program Director, who will determine if extenuating circumstances warrant an exception to this policy and whether a student may be permitted to complete program requirements in an arrangement that does not require withdrawal from the program.

### **Guidelines for use of make-up days and hours**

*(beyond minimum required rotation hours)*

If a day is missed due to extenuating circumstances (e.g. sick, snow day) it may be necessary to use a make-up day. However, if an MS/DI student has exceeded the required hours for the MS/DI program rotation, the Program Director and Preceptor have the discretion to waive the make-up day requirement. The MS/DI student must contact the MS/DI Program Director with an explanation of the situation including number of days off, reason why off, and proposal for how hours will be made-up OR anticipated number of hours completed in rotation. The Program Director, in consultation with the assigned Preceptor, will consider rotation hours completed, progression with assignments, and how well the MS/DI student is meeting competencies in order to make a decision.

## GRADUATION AND PROGRAM COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation requirements for the Master of Science in Dietetics and Nutrition degree are:

- A. Current requirements from the Mesiah University Graduate Catalog:  
<https://messiah.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2025-2026/graduate-catalog/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements-and-commencement>
- B. Additional requirements specified by the Department of Science and Nutrition:
  1. Score of 80% or better on the RDN practice exam given at the end of the program
  2. Meet all core competencies as outlined in the ACEND 2022 Standards

## FINANCIAL AID, LOAN DEFERMENTS

Please see <https://www.messiah.edu/grad-fin-aid/>.

## STUDENT PERFORMANCE MONITORING & ASSESSMENT

Assessment of each student's progression is shared by the assigned Preceptors and the course faculty.

- Preceptors will monitor and assess the student's day-to-day activities, including review and evaluation of daily tasks and assignments, while the student is in supervised practice.
- Periodically, (approximately every two to three weeks, or when Preceptors change) the MS/DI student and Preceptor will each assess the student's level of performance for each of the ACEND competencies addressed in the rotation they are in.
- The MS/DI student and Preceptor will compare their evaluations, and discuss the intern's strengths, weaknesses, and strategies for improvement.
- Evaluation forms will be submitted to the Messiah faculty member teaching the course using the Trajecsyst online clinical recordkeeping system.
- The Messiah faculty member teaching a course will assign a course grade. For supervised practice courses, grades will be determined by combining the Preceptor ratings and the other course activities.

At the end of a course, MS/DI students must demonstrate that they have met the expectations of performance for a new entry level registered dietitian for each of the ACEND competencies addressed in the course in order to earn a grade of a B or better. A remediation plan may be considered for certain competencies as deemed necessary by Preceptor and course faculty.

MS/DI students whose performance is significantly below expectations will fail the course and be dismissed from the program. However, if the course instructor deems that extenuating circumstances—such as a problem with the experience site or an unanticipated personal emergency—warrant an exception to this policy, a student may be offered the opportunity to apply for an incomplete grade. See for descriptions of Program Grading Standards.

## INTERN RETENTION

MS/DI students who do not succeed in the program will be counseled by the Program Director. The Program Director will make recommendations on career path options based on the student's abilities. These recommendations can include additional education outside of the MS/DI program and alternative careers within the Nutrition and Dietetics industry.

## SUPERVISED PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION

MS/DI students will track supervised practice hours and activity in the professional work setting, simulation, case studies and role- playing using the [Trajecsyst](#) clinical record keeping software. Preceptors will review hours, confirm, and sign off.

Hours for prior learning are not currently granted for admission to the Messiah University Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics/Dietetic Internship. Students with prior learning or a current RDN credential may want to consider the available MBA with Dietetics Concentration offered elsewhere.

## INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

### **Health Insurance**

Health Insurance is mandatory for all students: <https://www.messiah.edu/engle-center/health-services/health-insurance/>

Students will be automatically enrolled in the Messiah University sponsored [Student Health Insurance](#) plan. If you are covered by your own plan, or your family's health insurance plan, you need to submit an online request to waive the Messiah University sponsored plan. Waiver requests will be reviewed by [Messiah University's Engle Health Center](#) and the decision will be communicated via email to the students Messiah University email address.

If out of state, please review your current plan to be sure that your benefits extend to the Pennsylvania area.

If a student's health insurance policy changes during the MS/DI, the student is required to provide the Messiah University Engle Health Center with a copy of the new insurance card and the Dietetic Administrative Assistant proof of new insurance.

### **Allied Health Professional Liability Insurance**

MS/DI students are required to have Allied Health Professional Liability Insurance valid through the end of the program. Professional Liability Insurance for MS/DI program activities can be obtained from your choice of insurer.

Proliability has a student option <https://www.proliability.com/>. Most recent fee was \$35/year; get current estimate through the website.

### **LIABILITY FOR SAFETY IN TRAVEL TO/FROM CLINICAL SITES**

MS/DI students are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from practice sites and classes. A personal vehicle is recommended, including all required vehicle insurance. Travel with preceptors is not permitted by the University due to insurance and liability reasons. Public transportation is not readily available in the area.

MS/DI students are responsible for their own safety and for following all Pennsylvania Vehicle Code rules and regulations. Messiah University is not responsible for personal injury, accident, or financial loss suffered by the MS/DI student during travel.

### **INJURY OR ILLNESS DURING SUPERVISED PRACTICE**

MS/DI students who are injured during supervised practice activities should immediately notify their Preceptor and the MS/DI Program Director. MS/DI students will be responsible for the costs of treatment for illness and injury and are required to have health insurance to help cover these costs.

The agreement between Messiah University and the agencies providing supervised practice experiences states: "In the case of an unexpected medical expense incurred during the experience, the student will be responsible for all fees/charges."

When an MS/DI student is injured during a supervised practice activity, the course faculty member will complete a Messiah University Incident Report, available in the human resources section of [FALCONlink](#).

## BACKGROUND CHECKS

### Background Checks

Acceptance into Messiah University's MS/DI program requires successful completion of 3 required background checks. All costs associated with obtaining these clearances are the responsibility of the student. If an MS/DI student has existing clearances, it may be possible to use them if they will remain valid for the duration of the MS/DI program. Students should contact the MS/DI program administrative assistant for approval of existing clearances. Background check results must be submitted a minimum of two weeks prior to orientation.

- FBI Criminal History Clearance
- PA State Police Criminal Background Check (PATCH)
- Pennsylvania Child Abuse Clearance

## MS/DI STUDENT ROLE AT ROTATION SITES/COMPENSATION PRACTICES

The purpose of a supervised practice experience is to promote the development of professional competence in the student. MS/DI students are not yet fully ready to assume the duties of a practicing professional and should not be used to replace employees. The agreement between Messiah University and the agencies providing supervised practice experiences states that "The Agency shall maintain a sufficient level of staff support so that an assigned student will not be expected to perform in lieu of a staff member." Messiah University does not allow MS/DI students to be paid for their supervised practice experience.

## FILING OF COMPLAINTS

Messiah University makes every effort to resolve student complaints internally, using policies and procedures outlined in the current School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) Catalog. The institutional complaint process for graduate residential students is the same for all students regardless of physical location. It is expected that students will fully utilize any and all such administrative procedures to address concerns and/or complaints in as timely a manner as possible.

Messiah University has established processes for graduate student complaints that fall under specific categories including, but not limited to, concerns founded upon: academic-related issues, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and harassment or discrimination. These policies and procedures are available at the links below:

- [Grade Dispute Procedures](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Providing Accommodations for Students With Disabilities](#)
- [Non-Discrimination Policy](#)
- [Harassment and Grievance Procedures](#)

## Other Appeals

It is acknowledged that complaints may sometimes arise regarding MS/DI program policy or personnel. This complaint may be of a personal nature or may involve or be related to an administrative decision made by the instructor, Preceptor, or rotation site.

To voice a complaint the complainant(s) should adhere to the following guidelines.

**Before a formal complaint is initiated:**

- The complainant(s) should make a reasonable attempt to discuss the issue openly and in the spirit of mutual trust and respect with the party against whom the complaint is being made within 10 working days of the time that the issue or problem arises.
- If the discussion with the party against whom the complaint is being made is not productive, the complainant(s) should bring the issue to the attention of the MS/DI Program Director. If the issue involves the Program Director, students should go directly to the DPD Director. In the event that no resolution has been achieved via discussion:
- The complainant(s) may file a written and signed complaint with the Program Director within 30 days of the alleged incident. The Program Director shall have 10 working days in which to render a written decision. If the issue involves the Program Director, the complaint should be filed with the DPD Director.
- If the complainant(s) wishes to appeal the written decision, a written and signed complaint must be submitted to the Dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies within 10 working days of the Program Director/DPD Director decision. The Dean shall investigate and render a decision in writing within 30 days, which decision shall be final.
- Retaliation either for filing a complaint or for participating in the review of a complaint is strictly prohibited.

Documentation regarding a complaint will be maintained in the appropriate University records as designated by the University's records retention policy.

**General Complaint Outside Due Process**

For complaints that fall outside of the University's internal due process, such as those that may be submitted by personnel, patients, students, or other stakeholders affiliated with a clinical, fieldwork, practicum, or other setting, individuals may submit a written statement or complete a General Complaint Outside Due Process Form (found in the current [Graduate Catalog](#) under "General Policies and Procedures," and then "General Complaint Outside Due Process") within 30 days of the offending incident to the respective Program Director.

A complaint related to the Program Director or associated with the graduate school or a specific graduate program should be submitted to the Dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies.

A complaint related to the Dean should be submitted to the Provost. When appropriate, other University offices or personnel may be consulted when addressing the complaint.

All grievances filed in good faith will be taken seriously and reviewed with university personnel as appropriate for addressing the complaint. The University will respond to the complainant in a timely fashion.

Retaliation for either filing a complaint or for participating in the review of a complaint is strictly prohibited.

Documentation regarding the complaint will be maintained in the appropriate University records as designated by the University's records retention policy.

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Documentation regarding the complaint will be maintained in the appropriate University records as designated by the University's record retention policy.

## Submission of Written Complaints to ACEND

Students should initially follow all department and university policies and procedures for processing complaints. Students may submit complaints related to ACEND program noncompliance only after all department and university procedures have been exhausted.

ACEND does not intervene on behalf of individuals or act as a court of appeal for individuals in matters of admissions, appointments, promotions, or dismissal of faculty or students. ACEND acts only upon a signed allegation that the program may not be in compliance with the Accreditation Standards or policies. The complaint must be signed by the complainant. Anonymous complaints are not considered. The Complaint Investigation Form is available on the [ACEND Filing a Complaint web page](#).

## PROGRAM RETENTION & REMEDIATION PROCEDURES

Throughout the Internship, Preceptors and faculty will assess each student's progress toward the ACEND supervised practice competencies, discussing strategies for strengthening weak areas (see [Student Performance Monitoring & Assessment](#)). If the ACEND competency evaluations for supervised practice courses reveal an MS/DI student is not progressing towards a rating of Proficient or Competent in the course competencies, the Messiah faculty member teaching the course, with input from the supervised practice Preceptor, will discuss the problem area with the MS/DI student and formulate a remediation plan.

If the issue continues to persist at the midpoint of a course, the faculty member teaching the course will communicate the issue to the Program Director, who will discuss remediation opportunities with the intern. The MS/DI student will follow the remediation plan and provide documentation of the remediation to the faculty member teaching the course and to the Program Director. Remediation plans may include tutorials, additional reading, projects, experience, or other actions that will help the MS/DI student achieve a proficient level of performance.

If an MS/DI student receives two C+ or below grades by the final end-of-rotation experience evaluation, or by the end of two sub-rotations in the acute care medical nutrition therapy rotation, they may be dismissed from the program. This will be determined by the Program Director in conjunction with the Preceptor.

Failure to demonstrate progression or failure to meet all requirements of a remediation plan will result in dismissal from the program.

## DISCIPLINARY & TERMINATION PROCEDURES

At the end of each semester, the Program Director will review each intern's course grades (which include competency evaluations and other assignments). MS/DI students must meet ACEND competencies for successful completion of the MS/DI, which translates to a minimum of a B grade.

**Academic Probation**—Any MS/DI student earning one grade of C+ or C will be placed on academic probation. The Registrar will notify the MS/DI student in writing of the probation and will provide a copy of the communication to the Director. A written plan to address the deficient areas will be developed by the MS/DI student in collaboration with the professional development course faculty member and MS/DI Program Director.

**Program Dismissal**—MS/DI students who accumulate more than two grades of C+ or lower, or who fail any program course will be dismissed from the MS/DI program at the conclusion of the semester in which the course occurred. Earlier dismissal may occur in the case of failure to progress in a remediation plan or of two or more rotation evaluations of C/C+ or less.

## **Dismissal for more than two Grades of C+ or C or for one Failing Grade**

MS/DI students who earn a failing grade or more than two grades of C+ or C in Messiah University MS/DI courses, will be dismissed from the program effective at the conclusion of the part of term in which the failing grade or second grade C or C+ was assigned. Such courses will not be permitted to be taken at another institution and transferred to Messiah University.

## **Notice of and Appeal for Academic Dismissal**

The Registrar will notify the MS/DI student in writing of the academic dismissal and will provide a copy of the communication to the professional development course faculty member and MS/DI Program Director. An MS/DI student may appeal the academic dismissal—within the time limit stated in the dismissal notification—by filing a written petition with the Registrar, stating the reason for the appeal. The MS/DI student must also send a copy of the appeal to the Internship Director. Appeals are reviewed by a subcommittee of the Graduate Council, whose decision is final. The Registrar will notify the MS/DI student in writing of the appeal decision and will provide a copy of the communication to the professional development course faculty member and to the Internship Director. If the dismissal appeal is granted, the MS/DI student will be eligible to continue one semester on academic probation. If good academic standing is not achieved within one semester, the MS/DI student will be academically dismissed from the University.

## **Dismissal for Conduct**

An MS/DI student behaving in a manner which violates the [Pennsylvania Code of Professional Conduct for the Licensed Dietitian-Nutritionist](#), or the [Messiah University Graduate Student Code of Conduct](#) places patients and clients at risk of harm. MS/DI students who behave in any way inconsistent with these codes will be dismissed from the MS/DI and notified in writing by the Program Director.

## **Appeal of Dismissal for Conduct**

MS/DI students who wish to appeal their dismissal must provide a written letter of appeal to the Assistant Provost/Dean of School of Graduate Programs within 7 calendar days of receiving the notice of dismissal. The Assistant Provost/Dean of School of Graduate Programs will investigate the matter and provide a decision within 30 days of receiving the appeal. The Dean's decision is final.

## **Reapplication**

MS/DI students who are dismissed from the MS/DI program are not eligible to reapply to the program for 2 years after the academic year in which the dismissal occurs.

## **WITHDRAWAL AND REFUND OF TUITION**

The Messiah University MS/DI is designed to be completed in three semesters for the 1-year track, or 6 semesters for the 2-year track. MS/DI students who elect to withdraw from the program will need to reapply in order to continue at a later time. The Messiah University procedures for withdrawing from graduate programs are found at [Course Withdrawals](#).

Regarding individual courses: If a student decides not to continue in a course once that course has started, the only option is withdrawal from the course, with assessment of a drop fee.

Regarding program withdrawal: Tuition refunds are based on the number of calendar days a student has completed with respect to the official date of withdrawal. There are no tuition refunds after the student has completed at least one third of the program. All requests for withdrawals must be emailed to the Registrar's Office from the student's Messiah email account to [gradregistrar@messiah.edu](mailto:gradregistrar@messiah.edu). The Graduate Refund Policy can be found in the Tuition and Fees section of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) Catalog.

## VERIFICATION STATEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to complete the MS/DI program within 1 year or 2 years, according to their chosen track. If unusual circumstances warrant an extension, all program requirements must be completed within 18 months for the 1-year track, or 36 months for the 2-year track.

To receive an ACEND Verification Statement verifying completion of supervised practice requirements, MS/DI students must:

- Earn a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.0 in the program courses
- Score of 80% or better on the RDN practice exam given at the end of the program
- Meet all core competencies as outlined in the ACEND 2022 Standards
- Complete a minimum of 1,000 supervised practice hours

The Messiah University MS/DI Program Director will:

- Notify Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) of a student's program completion
- Provide a digital copy of an ACEND verification statement to each MS/DI student successfully completing the program no later than 6 weeks after the program requirements have been completed. A paper copy will be provided upon request.

## PRIVACY OF INFORMATION & ACCESS TO MS/DI STUDENT FILE

### **Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and Access to University Records**

See the School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) Catalog: [Messiah University-Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 \(FERPA\) and Access to University Records](#)

## ACCESS TO SUPPORT SERVICES

### **Support Services**

Messiah University is committed to the legal requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Office of Academic Accessibility works with academic offices and campus departments to facilitate the inclusion and full participation of students with disabilities. When appropriate, efforts will be made to negotiate reasonable accommodation of student/intern needs with third party facilities, so that the MS/DI student can meet the expectations of the program. The Office of Academic Accessibility can be reached by email at [caa@messiah.edu](mailto:caa@messiah.edu).

### **Free Virtual Counseling and Wellness Resource**

Messiah's on-campus MS/DI graduate students have free access to TimelyCare, the virtual counseling and wellness platform that the university has made available to graduate students in several of the allied health programs. Students may receive 12 counseling sessions per calendar year as well as health appointments for colds, dermatology, nutrition, and other needs. Learn more and find links at: <https://www.messiah.edu/engle-center/health-services/graduate-students>

Students are not billed for using TimelyCare, and it does not go through their health insurance. Students should use their Messiah credentials to access the services.

On-campus graduate students interested in face-to-face counseling services can obtain a list of recommender providers from The Engle Center. Students are welcome to set up appointments at any of these off-campus locations, but please be aware that wait times may be high and students are responsible for any billing and/or proof of insurance coverage. Questions related to billing and insurance should be directed to the counseling practice.

## **SUPERVISED PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES**

In the 1-year track and the second year of the 2-year track, the summer session of the MS/DI requires 100 hours of supervised practice with an anticipated 6-10 hours a week of additional course assignments, plus additional time for other graduate courses. The fall and spring semesters of the 1 year track requires MS/DI students to complete full time (32 hours per week) supervised practice in a professional setting plus an additional 10-15 hours per week of additional course activities related to supervised practice as well as additional time for graduate courses and assignments. MS/DI students will be expected to adhere to the work schedule, behavior, and dress requirements of each supervised practice facility, including facility policies for the use of personal electronic devices such as tablets, computers, and cell phones. MS/DI students who are frequently late or who display behaviors which are not in keeping with supervised practice facility policies and/or the AND code of conduct will be removed from the program.

Many of the additional course activities will require online or computer based communication and assignments. To successfully complete these activities, MS/DI students must be familiar with Adobe, basic word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software such as Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint and have a laptop or desktop computer which meets the program requirements, as well as a reliable internet connection and a printer/scanner.

The intensive MS/DI program schedule will make additional paid employment a challenge. MS/DI students who choose to work outside of the MS/DI program hours are advised to limit their work to 10 hours per week or less on weekends if following the 1-year track or in the second year of the 2-year track. Students can work more hours in the first year of the 2-year track that align with their courses and additional coursework requirements. Supervised practice and other MS/DI program activities will not be rescheduled to avoid conflicts with employment.

During the supervised practice experiences:

- MS/DI students are expected to work an 8-hour day, or the site-provided supervised practice schedule, during the same time as their Preceptor(s). MS/DI students are expected to be on time (ideally, early) and well prepared each day.
- MS/DI students who are frequently unprepared, tardy, or absent will be dismissed from the program.
- MS/DI students will be provided with contact information for each Preceptor / practice site. MS/DI students should confirm their Preceptor's daily schedule, as well as the procedure to follow in the event of an emergency, with their Preceptor at least one week before each rotation begins.
- Supervised practice sites vary greatly in their response to adverse weather. Health care facilities need to continue providing good care to patients, and schools often delay or close. When the potential for bad weather occurs, MS/DI students should confirm the site's policy with their Preceptor in advance.

## **Lunch & Supervised Practice Hours**

The following guidance applies to School Food Service, Long Term Care rotation, and WellSpan (Inpatient, Outpatient, and Food Service):

During lunch, MS/DI students can choose to:

- Eat with their Preceptor
- Catch up with fellow interns
- Catch up on assignments
- Participate in an on-site special event

If an MS/DI student has an appointment and needs to arrive / leave a little early, they must receive pre-approval from their Preceptor and course instructor. Once this has been done, the MS/DI student may then work during lunch in order to make up the time. This may be done on occasion but not as a regular practice.

MS/DI students may choose to work over lunch and count the hours. However, choosing to do so does not mean the MS/DI student can leave early for the day (or arrive late the next day), nor end the overall rotation early. The only exception to this is mentioned above and requires pre-approval.

Supervised practice and other MS/DI activities will not be rescheduled to avoid conflicts with employment.

## **Electronic Devices**

The use of personal electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, laptop computers) during class time or supervised practice activities is restricted to note-taking, faculty-led class activities, and when directly related to assignments or the duties of supervised practice experiences. No texting or emailing during class or supervised practice is allowed. Cell phones must be placed on silent mode during classes and supervised practice. Cell phone recorded greetings should be professional, as faculty, Preceptors, or potential employers may be calling you.

## **Social Media**

Social media and public networking sites (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube) should not refer to faculty, clinical instructors, patients/clients, sites or other potentially confidential sensitive information. It is recommended that MS/DI students maintain privacy settings to limit those who have access to their pages. It is also recommended that students wait until they have graduated from the program before adding Preceptors to social media accounts. LinkedIn connections may be initiated while in the program.

## **HIPPA and Patient Confidentiality**

Patient/client confidentiality is of primary importance. MS/DI students are required to respect patient/client privacy in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Patient/client and employee information (both documented and undocumented) is confidential. MS/DI students shall never discuss details about patients/clients in a non-confidential place (elevator, hallway, break room, etc). MS/DI students must not discuss patients/clients or their cases with anyone except with the Preceptor or other health professionals in that facility as needed to be informed about patient care. MS/DI students may be required to complete additional HIPAA training at individual rotation sites. MS/DI students shall not communicate any information which violates ethical and legal obligations regarding patient/client privacy and confidentiality. For additional information about patient/client privacy and confidentiality visit HIPAA at: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/index.html>.

## **MS/DI STUDENT CONDUCT & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

MS/DI students are expected to behave in ways consistent with:

- [Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession](#)
- [Pennsylvania Code of Professional Conduct for the Licensed Dietitian-Nutritionist](#)
- [Messiah University Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Messiah University Graduate Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Revised 2024 Scope and Standards of Practice for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist](#)

Violations of these standards should be reported to the course faculty member and Program Director so that appropriate intervention can take place.

Students must read and confirm their acceptance of these standards on the Acknowledgment Page of this handbook.

Violation of these standards will be addressed by the appropriate individuals and/or governance group. All reported violations or suspected violations will be documented in writing by the Program Director, including the incident, the process by which the incident was addressed, and any sanctions resulting from the incident. Copies of the report will be provided to the Assistant Provost/Dean of School of Graduate Programs, the University Registrar, and the intern.

## **Violation Reporting**

Violations of the Messiah University Graduate Student Code of Conduct should be reported as follows:

**All incidents of general concern and conduct violations should be reported directly to:**

Jennifer Fisler, Dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies, [jfisler@messiah.edu](mailto:jfisler@messiah.edu), 717-796-1800 ext. 7278.

**Any concerns regarding interpersonal violence may be directed to the Title IX Coordinator:**

Amanda Coffey, VP of Human Resources & Compliance, [ACoffey@messiah.edu](mailto:ACoffey@messiah.edu), 717- 796-1800 ext. 3320.

Appropriate procedure and intervention, including possible disciplinary hearings if necessary, address violations of the Code of Conduct. Disciplinary procedures are designed to educate students, ensure community responsibility, promote restoration and treat students justly.

## MESSIAH UNIVERSITY GRADING SYSTEM

### **Messiah University Grading Policy**

See the Gading Matrix and Policy in the School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) Catalog:

<https://messiah.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2025-2026/graduate-catalog/academic-policies-procedures/grading-policy/>

### **Good Academic Standing**

An MS/DI student must earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 to remain in good academic standing at Messiah University. Cumulative GPA calculations occur at the end of each semester.

### **Grade Dispute Procedures**

See the Grade Dispute Procedures in the School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS) Catalog:

<https://messiah.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2025-2026/graduate-catalog/academic-policies-procedures/grade-dispute-procedures/>

# ONE-YEAR PROGRAM COMPLETION PLAN



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
NUTRITION AND DIETETICS /  
DIETETIC INTERNSHIP

## ONE-YEAR Completion Plan

**35 credits—1,000 hours of supervised practice—Full-time cohort model**

### Semester 1 – Summer

Number	Course	Term Schedule (early, late, full)	Credits	Total
ATHT 501 <small>[AT]</small>	Professional Standards and Expectations	One-week on-campus Summer Intensive	1	
NUTR 506	Foundations of Supervised Practice in Nutrition and Dietetics		3	
NUTR 602	Introduction to Capstone		2	
			6	

### Semester 2 – Fall

Number	Course	Term Schedule (early, late, full)	Credits	Total
NUTR 608	Capstone Project I		3	
NUTR 610	Seminar in Medical Nutrition Therapy		1	
NUTR 611	Supervised Practice in Medical Nutrition Therapy		8	
ATHT 643 <small>[AT]</small>	Nutrition for Recovery and Performance		2	
			14	

### Semester 3 – Spring

Number	Course	Term Schedule (early, late, full)	Credits	Total
NUTR 618	Capstone Project II		2	
NUTR 620	Seminar in Community Nutrition		1	
NUTR 621	Supervised Practice in Community Nutrition		4	
NUTR 627	Supervised Practice in Food and Nutrition Services Management		4	
NUTR 625	Leadership in Food and Nutrition Management		1	
*ATHT 657 <small>[AT]</small>	Epidemiology and Public Health		2	
NUTR 634	Professional Development in Nutrition and Dietetics		1	
			15	

[AT] = Shared courses with Master of Science in Athletic Training  
\* Asynchronous Online Course with the option for in-person attendance

## TWO-YEAR PROGRAM COMPLETION PLAN

TWO-YEAR Completion Plan						
35 credits—1,000 hours of supervised practice—Full-time cohort model						
Semester 1 – Summer		Course	Term Schedule (early, late, full)		Credits	Total
Number		Course	One-week on-campus Summer Intensive		1	
ATHT 501	[AT]	Professional Standards and Expectations			2	
NUTR 602		Introduction to Capstone			3	
Semester 2 – Fall						
NUTR 608		Capstone Project I			3	
NUTR 610		Seminar in Medical Nutrition Therapy			1	
ATHT 643	[AT]	Nutrition for Recovery and Performance			2	
Semester 3 – Spring						
NUTR 618		Capstone Project II			2	
NUTR 620		Seminar in Community Nutrition			1	
NUTR 625		Leadership in Food and Nutrition Management			1	
*ATHT 657	[AT]	Epidemiology and Public Health			2	
NUTR 634		Professional Development in Nutrition and Dietetics			1	
Semester 4 – Summer						
NUTR 506		Foundations of Supervised Practice in Nutrition and Dietetics			3	
					3	
Semester 5 – Fall						
NUTR 611		Supervised Practice in Medical Nutrition Therapy			8	
Semester 6 – Spring						
NUTR 621		Supervised Practice in Community Nutrition			4	
NUTR 627		Supervised Practice in Food and Nutrition Services Management			4	
					8	

[AT] = Shared courses with Master of Science in Athletic Training  
\* Asynchronous Online Course with the option for in-person attendance



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
DIETITICS /  
DIETETIC INTERNSHIP

## APPENDIX A – CRITERIA TO DETERMINE POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS

Required Skills and Abilities	Examples of the application of the skills and abilities
<b>COGNITIVE Skills and Abilities</b>	
Retain knowledge and acquire new knowledge.	Retain and use foundation knowledge for the dietetics profession. Keep up to date with frequent changes in the scientific evidence base for dietetics practice. Locate and apply current regulations and practice guidelines.
Utilize quantitative reasoning and mathematical skills (add, subtract, multiply, divide, calculate ratios and Percentages; apply algebraic equations).	Calculate and evaluate nutrient needs and the nutrient content of food, oral supplements, and intravenous feedings. Analyze financial and productivity data.
Critical thinking for effective clinical reasoning and clinical judgment	Identify cause-effect relationships, link signs and symptoms to potential nutrition problems; predict the outcome of nutrition interventions and evaluate their effectiveness. Evaluate emerging research. Make Judgments which are safe for patients.
<b>PERSONAL &amp; INTERPERSONAL Skills and Abilities</b>	
Manage personal behavior and emotions	Practice in compliance with the ADA / AND Code of Ethics as well as federal, state, and institutional policies. Maintain client / patient confidentiality. Manage time to meet deadlines. Respond appropriately to criticism and suggestions for improvement. Work effectively in a fast-paced and stressful environment.
Perform self-assessment and recognize when guidance of assistance is needed.	Perform self-assessment and develop personal goals and objectives for professional portfolio. Refer to other professionals or services when a patient/client's need is beyond an individual's scope of practice.
Develop relationships with individuals and groups	Establish rapport with clients/patients and other health professionals and support personnel. Apply leadership skills.
Work cooperatively with others.	Demonstrate negotiation skills. Interact in a non-judgmental way with clients/patients with a variety of habits and beliefs.
<b>COMMUNICATION Skills and Abilities</b>	
Oral communication	Interview patients and provide effective nutrition education and counseling. Provide effective individual and group nutrition education and counseling.
Written communication	Obtain written information from the medical record and professional journals and apply in nutrition care. Interpret and use medical terminology and abbreviations accurately. Provide written information which is clear, concise, accurate, and in the appropriate format (for example medical charting, teaching materials, evidence summaries).
Computer skills	Use current informatics technology to develop, store, retrieve and disseminate information.

<b>PHYSICAL &amp; SENSORY Skills and Abilities</b>	
Motor abilities and physical stamina	Move to and within assigned practice locations (patient rooms, community agencies, institutional kitchens.) Demonstrate food preparation techniques and use of feeding interventions such as tube feeding or adaptive feeding equipment.
Auditory	Hear conversation sufficient to perform an assessment of health and nutrition needs and to work collaboratively with other healthcare providers.
Vision	Read documents and medical equipment (charts, lab reports, feeding pumps and other electronic equipment.) Observe client characteristics related to nutrition assessment such as color, muscle and fat mass, and fluid accumulation.
Tactile	Perform physical assessment related to nutrition status such as skin turgor and muscle tone.



**Master of Science in Nutrition / Dietetic Internship Student Handbook Acknowledgement**

Each year, students must review and acknowledge that they understand the contents and agree to abide by all procedures, policies and guidelines specified in these resources.

- The Messiah University MS/DI Student Handbook (*this document*)
- The [Messiah University School of Graduate and Professional Studies Catalog](#)
- The [Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession](#)
- The [Pennsylvania Code of Professional Conduct for the Licensed Dietitian-Nutritionist](#)
- The [Messiah University Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- The [Messiah University Graduate Student Code of Conduct](#)

This acknowledgement is a quiz assignment in the Graduate Dietetics Orientation course in Canvas.