

Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Food Science Dietetics Specialization

PROGRAM DETAILS

In Alberta, the University of Alberta's [Dietetics Specialization](#) is 4-years in length and is the **only approved and accredited program in the province**. Students have a specific course sequence, the same as their cohort classmates, and will not deviate from that pattern for the 4 years in the program.

Years 1, 2 & 3 is academic course study and the final year 4 is internship training*. Student's gain hands-on and lab-clinical training during the program and internship placements. Students will have access to train in the world-class Human Nutrition Research Unit which houses equipment for comprehensive nutritional assessments, including a DEXA body scan machine and Bod Pod.

*Note: Internship is a professional placement or practicum which takes place at approved sites across Alberta during a student's final year of specialization. Rural Placement Requirement: All interns are required to relocate to communities outside of the metro Edmonton and Calgary areas during their time in the internship. Requests for waivers of the relocation requirement will only be considered in cases where there is a duty to accommodate and the intern is [registered for accommodations](#).

PRE-PROFESSIONAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission, students must complete ALL of the following courses by the end of Winter semester immediately prior to admission:

- BIOL 107 - Introduction to Cell Biology
- CHEM 101 - Introductory University Chemistry I
- CHEM 102 - Introductory University Chemistry II
- CHEM 261 - Organic Chemistry I
- *6 units in ENGL OR 3 units in ENGL and 3 units in WRS
- NUTR 100 - Nutrition and Well-being
- STAT 151 - Introduction to Applied Statistics I

For detailed information on these pre-professional courses, [please refer to the current calendar](#).

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1. **Competitive Admission GPA**

Minimum Admission GPA is 3.0. Admission to the program is highly competitive and largely, but not solely, based on GPA. Alberta students who present an admission GPA of 3 or greater (4-point scale) are best placed for competitive admission. Admission GPA is calculated on all coursework completed in the most recent terms of study (Fall/Winter) provided they contain a minimum of 24 credits. If those two terms contain less than 24 credits, then all work in the term(s) prior will be included in the calculation until the minimum total of 24 credits has been reached. If a student has less than 24 units of study, all transferrable postsecondary coursework completed so far at time of admission will be used to determine competitive GPA.

*For Fall 2025 admission, Fall 2024 and previous grades will be used to calculate each student's initial admission average. This average will contribute to a student's application package score and will be considered for offering interview invitations. Spring/Summer 2024 grades will be included in this calculation if they are available.

After winter term grades are available, students' admission averages will be recalculated on the last 24 credits including winter term grades to ensure they still meet the minimum 3.0 GPA needed for admission to this program.

2. **Spoken English Proficiency**

Applicants are required to demonstrate Spoken English Proficiency by meeting [one of the specified requirements](#).

3. **Full-Time Study Requirement**

Your academic history must demonstrate that you can reasonably handle a full-time academic program. The Admission Committee considers a variety of factors in evaluating applications including academic success in a full-time course load in a minimum of two consecutive semesters.

4. **Letter of Intent**

This will be available for you to fill out in your application portal once you apply. The letter of intent provides an opportunity for you to convey career goals, knowledge of the profession, employment or volunteer experience, and other personal attributes.

5. **Two Letters of Professional Reference**

Professional references only, e.g. former employers, supervisors, professors, coaches,

advisors etc. No references from family or friends. Applicants will have the opportunity to include the contact information for references when applying to the program. Applicant's references will be given access to the reference form, which will need to be submitted before the application deadline.

6. Multiple Mini Interview

The [Dietetics Specialization MMIs](#) are designed to identify those applicants who best demonstrate the personal characteristics, attitudes, and behaviours needed to become competent, caring dietitians. The MMI format is an evidence-based approach that is commonly used to select individuals who wish to pursue degree programs in the health sciences. The Dietetics program uses the Kira platform for the MMI process.

The MMI process consists of:

- Seven, recorded oral interview questions, and
- One, written MMI response

ADMISSION APPLICATION FORMULA

Applicants are ranked on their academic achievement in the following:

- Completion of prerequisite courses
- Overall academic achievement (emphasizing recent academic performance)
- The content and format of their Letter of Intent
- The strength of their Letters of Reference
- Performance in the Multiple Mini Interview process

Applications will be reviewed by the Admission Committee based on the following:

- Letter of Intent: 20%
- Letters of Reference: 10%
- GPA: 70%

Applicants will be invited to complete a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) and successful applicants will be selected based on:

- Multiple Mini Interview: 50%
- Aggregate Score (GPA/Letter of Intent/Letters of Reference): 50%

QUOTA

The Dietetics Specialization program is currently accepting up to 50 students. Up to 30% (15 out of 50) places in the Dietetics Specialization program may be available to competitive out of province applicants/residents (Note: all admission requirements will remain in effect including pre-requisite courses and multiple-mini interview)

Note: Because the number of candidates who meet the minimum requirements for admission exceeds the quota, it should be understood that eligibility does not guarantee admission. Admission is determined on a competitive basis.

Note: Any transfer credit relevant will be assessed at the time of admission to the Dietetics Specialization. Given that the program is cohort-based if a student receives transfer credit, it will not accelerate degree progress.

IMPORTANT DATES

Application Deadline: Extended to May 1, 2024

Supporting Documents Due: May 1, 2024

Notification & Multiple-Mini Interviews: May 2024

FAQ

What is the recommended path for admission?

Enroll in the [BSc in Nutrition and Food Science General Program](#). Apply to the Dietetics Specialization program during the completion of your pre-professional year.

Can you check my transcript to see if I meet the prerequisite requirements?

If you would like to know if previously completed post-secondary courses would meet the admissions requirement, please send us a [list of specific courses](#) that you think may be equivalent - along with a detailed course syllabus. Please note that we are **unable to look at the entire transcript** until after you have submitted an application for Dietetics Specialization.

Can I take this program online?

No, Dietetics Specialization program is offered as in-person only. There are many clinical and lab studies incorporated into this program that require students to be on campus.

CONTACT

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