



Department of Health Professions

Dietetics Program,  
Professional Nutrition and Dietetics  
Concentration  
Student Handbook

2024-2025

*Official curriculum requirements are listed in the JMU Undergraduate Catalog. In the case of discrepancies, the University Catalog represents the official curriculum. This document was reviewed by the Dietetics DPD Director on April 28, 2025.*

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### **A Request to Prospective and Declared Students Who Use This Handbook**

As you might imagine, staying abreast of the dynamic field of nutrition and dietetics is difficult. Every effort was made to make this handbook current and complete; but the author realizes that sometimes an element that deserves attention is missed. If you find content that you question or believe warrants further consideration, feel free to e-mail, call, or write Dr. Jennifer Walsh at [walsh5jr@jmu.edu](mailto:walsh5jr@jmu.edu), 540-568-6362, 2024 Health and Behavioral Studies Building, MSC 4315, 235 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Harrisonburg, VA 22807.

## WELCOME

The purpose of this handbook is to provide answers to your questions about the major and the profession. Additionally, it informs you of program requirements and your responsibilities as a student in the program. It should assist you in planning your course schedule and in preparing for graduation and your post-graduation goals. Please keep this handbook and refer to it during your matriculation through JMU. You are responsible for all University and Program regulations specified in the JMU catalog for the year you entered the university and those guidelines that are reviewed in this handbook. Finally, this serves as an invitation to consult with any of the faculty in the dietetics program for advising or if you have questions related to reaching your professional goals.

Jennifer Walsh, PhD, RD,  
Director, Didactic Program in Dietetics

## GLOSSARY

### **Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)**

With more than 70,000 members, the Academy is the largest professional organization of food and nutrition professionals. It was founded in 1917 (as the American Dietetic Association) and serves the public by promoting optimal health, nutrition, and well-being. Academy members represent a diverse mix of professionals who work in settings ranging from health care facilities and universities to businesses and government or community agencies to private practice. Most dietetics professionals choose to belong to the Academy because of the variety and quality of membership benefits, including skill-building, networking, legislative involvement, and public relations.

### **Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)**

ACEND is the Academy's accrediting agency for education programs that prepare students for careers as registered dietitians or dietetic technicians. The council exists to serve the public by establishing and enforcing eligibility requirements and accreditation standards that ensure the quality and continued improvement of nutrition and dietetics education programs. Programs meeting ACEND standards are accredited. The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education.

### **Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR)**

CDR is the credentialing agency for the Academy. This commission is responsible for protecting the nutritional health and welfare of the public by establishing and enforcing minimum competency for entry-level practice, and standards and qualifications for dietetic registration. Registration is a voluntary credential. The components for dietetic registration include meeting examination eligibility requirements, earning a passing score on the registration examination, and participating in continuing professional education. Registration assists in insuring entry-level competency as well as continuing competency and development of dietetics professionals.

### **Didactic Program in Nutrition & Dietetics (DPD)**

The DPD provides required dietetics coursework leading to a Bachelor's degree. Graduates of DPD programs who are verified by the program director may apply for ACEND-accredited Dietetic Internships (DI). Completion of a DI and a graduate degree are one path to earn eligibility for taking the CDR registration examination for dietitians.

### **Dietetic Internship (DI)**

Prior to entering a DI, individuals must complete at least a Bachelor's degree and DPD requirements. DIs must provide at least 1000 hours of supervised practice that usually is completed in 9-12 months. Individuals who have completed a graduate degree and a DI will be verified by the DI program director for eligibility to complete the CDR registration examination for dietitians. A list of all accredited dietetic internships is found on the Academy's website at

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs/program-directory>.

### **Graduate Programs (GP)**

Upon graduation from a DPD program, students have multiple pathways to pursue the CDR registration examination for dietitians. An ACEND-accredited graduate program (GP) is a competency-based dietitian nutritionist program that integrates coursework and at least 1,000 hours of experiential learning. Individuals who complete an ACEND-accredited GP will be verified by the GP

director for eligibility to complete the CDR registration examination for dietitians. A list of all accredited graduate programs is found on the Academy's website at <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs/program-directory>.

### **Coordinated Programs (CP)**

Upon graduation from a DPD program, students have multiple pathways to pursue the CDR registration examination for dietitians. An ACEND-accredited coordinated program (CP) has graduate-level dietitian coursework and at least 1,000 hours of supervised practice. Individuals who complete an ACEND-accredited CP will be verified by the CP director for eligibility to complete the CDR registration examination for dietitians. A list of all accredited graduate programs is found on the Academy's website at <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs/program-directory>.

## **MISSION STATEMENTS**

### **James Madison University Mission**

We are a community committed to preparing students to be educated and enlightened citizens who lead productive and meaningful lives.

### **College of Behavioral Health and Studies Mission**

We engage students, faculty and communities in learning, scholarship and service in health and behavioral studies to inspire responsible contributions to our world.

### **Department of Health Professions Mission**

The mission of the Department of Health Professions is to produce leaders in the dynamic healthcare industry through innovative practices in education, leadership, scholarship, and service.

### **Didactic Program in Dietetics Mission**

We are a program dedicated to providing quality education preparing students for careers in nutrition and dietetics.

## **BECOMING A REGISTERED DIETITIAN NUTRITIONIST**

The Bachelor of Science in Dietetics may be a first step toward registration as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RD/RDN). The RD/RDN credential is a national credential that requires a graduate degree and supervised practice/experiential learning with successful completion of a national registration examination. The Professional Nutrition and Dietetics Concentration in the Dietetics major at JMU is accredited as a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics  
120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190  
Chicago, IL 60606-6995  
(312) 899-4876

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) reviews complaints that relate to a program's compliance with the accreditation/approval standards. ACEND is interested in the sustained quality and continued improvement of dietetics education programs but does not intervene on behalf of individuals or act as a court of appeal for individuals in matters of admission, appointment, promotion or dismissal of faculty, staff or students.

A copy of the accreditation standards and of ACEND's policy and procedure for submission of complaints may be obtained by contacting the Education and Accreditation staff at The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995 or by calling 1-800-877-1600, ext. 4872. Written complaints should be mailed to the Chair, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics at the above address.

## DIDACTIC PROGRAM IN DIETETICS (DPD) AT JMU

Students in the Professional Nutrition and Dietetics Concentration in the Dietetics major at JMU are prepared for a career in nutrition and dietetics with the assumption they will pursue dietetic registration through an ACEND-accredited graduate-level program. Following graduation from the university, the student must complete an ACEND-accredited graduate program, coordinated program, or dietetic internship that is paired with a graduate degree. After this experience, students will be eligible to take the registration examination that, when successfully completed, will qualify them to practice as a RD/RDN. Note that, while RD/RDNs in Virginia are not required to be licensed, most states require licensure or certification for RD/RDNs, see more at <https://www.eatrightpro.org/advocacy/licensure/licensure-map-and-statutes-by-state>.

The Dietetics program gives students a wide view of dietetics careers including, but not limited to, clinical dietetics, administrative dietetics, community dietetics, food service, education, and research. The program is primarily didactic; however, it strives to provide an experiential learning environment conducive to personal and professional growth. The courses offered are designed to prepare students with knowledge requirements necessary for a career in nutrition and dietetics with readiness for an ACEND-accredited DI, CP, or GP. Students completing the Professional Nutrition and Dietetics Concentration in the Dietetics major at JMU and meeting all DPD Core Knowledge Assessments will earn a Verification Statement upon their degree conferral. The Verification Statement is necessary to be eligible for ACEND-accredited DI programs.

## DPD GOALS AND MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES

**Goal #1** - The program will prepare graduates for supervised practice and graduate programs to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist.

- At least 80% of students complete program requirements within 3 years (150% of planned program length). (RE 2.1.c.1.a)
- At least 60% percent of program graduates apply for admission to a supervised practice program prior to or within 12 months of graduation. (RE 2.1.c.1.b.1)
- Of program graduates who apply to a supervised practice program, at least 50% percent are admitted within 12 months of graduation. (RE 2.1.c.1.b.2)
- The program's one-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%. (RE 2.1.c.1.c)
- At least 90% of supervised practice program directors will report satisfaction of graduate's preparedness for ACEND supervised practice/graduate program.

**Goal #2** – The program will prepare graduates to collaborate in interprofessional/interdisciplinary teams.

- At least 80% of supervised practice program directors will report satisfaction of graduate's ability to collaborate interprofessionally.
- At least 80% of graduates will report that they were prepared adequately for participating in interprofessional teams.
- At least 80% of graduates will indicate opportunities for interprofessional education as satisfactory.

## CORE KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENT

Core Knowledge Assessments are another measure of program effectiveness. Passing each assessment is required to earn a verification statement so remediation will be provided but may not affect the course grade.

**Domain 1. Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice: Integration of scientific information and translation of research into practice. Knowledge Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:**

KRDN 1.1 Demonstrate how to locate, interpret, evaluate and use professional literature to make ethical, evidence-based practice decisions.

KRDN 1.2 Select and use appropriate current information technologies to locate and apply evidence-based guidelines and protocols.

KRDN 1.3 Apply critical thinking skills.

**Domain 2. Professional Practice Expectations: Beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviors for the nutrition and dietetics practitioner level of practice. Knowledge Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:**

KRDN 2.1 Demonstrate effective and professional oral and written communication and documentation.

KRDN 2.2 Describe the governance of nutrition and dietetics practice, such as the Scope of Practice for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Nutrition and Dietetics.

KRDN 2.3 Assess the impact of a public policy position on the nutrition and dietetics profession.

KRDN 2.4 Discuss the impact of health care policy and different health care delivery systems on food and nutrition services.

KRDN 2.5 Identify and describe the work of interprofessional teams and the roles of others with whom the registered dietitian nutritionist collaborates.

KRDN 2.6 Demonstrate cultural humility, awareness of personal biases and an understanding of cultural differences as they contribute to diversity, equity and inclusion.

KRDN 2.7 Describe contributing factors to health inequity in nutrition and dietetics including structural bias, social inequities, health disparities and discrimination.

KRDN 2.8 Participate in a nutrition and dietetics professional organization and explain the significant role of the organization.

KRDN 2.9 Defend a position on issues impacting the nutrition and dietetics profession.

**Domain 3. Clinical and Client Services: Development and delivery of information, products and services to individuals, groups and populations. Knowledge Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:**

KRDN 3.1 Use the Nutrition Care Process and clinical workflow elements to assess nutritional parameters, diagnose nutrition related problems, determine appropriate nutrition interventions and develop plans to monitor the effectiveness of these interventions.

KRDN 3.2 Develop an educational session or program/educational strategy for a target population.

KRDN 3.3 Demonstrate counseling and education methods to facilitate behavior change and enhance wellness for diverse individuals and groups.

KRDN 3.4 Practice routine health screening assessments, including measuring blood pressure and conducting waived point-of-care laboratory testing (such as blood glucose or cholesterol). 11 ▪ 2022 Standards for Didactic Programs

KRDN 3.5 Describe concepts of nutritional genomics and how they relate to medical nutrition therapy, health and disease.

KRDN 3.6 Develop nutritionally sound meals, menus and meal plans that promote health and disease management and meet client's/patient's needs.

**Domain 4. Practice Management and Use of Resources: Strategic application of principles of management and systems in the provision of services to individuals and organizations. Knowledge Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:**

KRDN 4.1 Apply management theories to the development of programs or services.

KRDN 4.2 Evaluate a budget/financial management plan and interpret financial data.

KRDN 4.3 Demonstrate an understanding of the regulation system related to billing and coding, what services are reimbursable by third party payers, and how reimbursement may be obtained.



KRDN 4.4 Apply the principles of human resource management to different situations.  
KRDN 4.5 Apply safety and sanitation principles related to food, personnel and consumers.  
KRDN 4.6 Explain the processes involved in delivering quality food and nutrition services.  
KRDN 4.7 Evaluate data to be used in decision-making for continuous quality improvement.

**Domain 5. Leadership and Career Management: Skills, strengths, knowledge and experience relevant to leadership potential and professional growth for the nutrition and dietetics practitioner. Knowledge Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:**

KRDN 5.1 Perform self-assessment that includes awareness in terms of learning and leadership styles and cultural orientation and develop goals for self-improvement.  
KRDN 5.2 Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge and experiences relevant to the position desired and career goals.  
KRDN 5.3 Practice how to self-advocate for opportunities in a variety of settings (such as asking for needed support, presenting an elevator pitch).  
KRDN 5.4 Practice resolving differences or dealing with conflict.  
KRDN 5.5 Promote team involvement and recognize the skills of each member.  
KRDN 5.6 Demonstrate an understanding of the importance and expectations of a professional in mentoring and precepting others.

# ADMISSION TO THE DIETETICS PROGRAM

## Admission to JMU

Admission to JMU as First Year or Transfer student is required to apply to the Dietetics Program.

### First Year Student Admission

Admission to JMU is competitive and strong applicants are selected based on the following criteria:

- *Core Academic Courses:* English, social science, foreign language, lab science and mathematics\*
- *Grades:* Mostly A's and B's in core academic courses
- *Rigor of Coursework:* Honors, AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, Cambridge International

Other things considered include involvement in extracurricular activities and additional information found in the letter of recommendation and in the personal essay.

Students can earn college credit for AP, IB, DE and CI courses taken in high school. More info: [jmu.edu/admissions/earncredit](http://jmu.edu/admissions/earncredit)

\*Mathematics requirement: One full year beyond Algebra II in a course for which Algebra II is a prerequisite. Course recommendations may include Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Math Analysis, Trigonometry, Probability/Statistics, Finite Math, Advanced Functions and Modeling and Computer Math. Courses that **do not** meet this requirement include Algebra Functions and Data Analysis, Computer Science, AP Computer Science and Consumer Mathematics.

### Transfer Admission Requirements

The transfer admission process at JMU is competitive. To be eligible to apply for transfer admission, a student should have completed or be in the process of completing at least 24 credit hours post-high school graduation. If a student has less than 24 credit hours post high-school graduation, we recommend that the student first [reach out to your regional recruiter](#) to get advice on when is the best time to apply. Associate degree-completers and those with two years of completed college credits are given priority consideration in the admission process. Due to the competitive nature of our admissions process, JMU offers admission to a very small number of students who only have one year of college coursework at their previous institution. The evaluation of the high school transcript still plays a large role in our review process for applicants with less than two years of college course work. In most cases, students will need to have more than one year of college course work before transferring to JMU.

JMU is seeking applicants who have completed at least one college-level course in the four core academic areas of English, mathematics, laboratory science and social science, with As and Bs. Admission to JMU does not necessarily guarantee admission into your intended major. For information on majors that have additional requirements, please view our [Admission and Progression Standards](#).

## Admission to the Dietetics Major

Any student admitted to JMU can **declare** dietetics as their major and will be permitted to enroll in NUTR 280 and NUTR 295. However, to make progress in the major beyond the first few courses, students need to apply and be **admitted** to the major. A maximum of five years is required for completion of the program. The Dietetics DPD does not have a prior learning policy; previous student experiences occurring prior to program enrollment will not be considered for credit.

The program follows the JMU [Academic Calendar](#), [Enrollment Dates](#), and [Dates and Deadlines](#) for adding, dropping, or withdrawing from courses.

### Application and Admittance Process

Students wishing to be admitted to the dietetics major at JMU must apply in the spring semester during which requirements will be met, usually in the sophomore year. Prerequisites to apply for the major include: completion of all prerequisite courses with a 2.7 prerequisite cumulative grade point average (GPA) or above and completion of most of the JMU General Education requirements. Prerequisite courses that must be completed with a grade no lower than a "C-" (1.7) prior to admission to the dietetics major include: CHEM 131, CHEM 131L, CHEM 132, CHEM 132L, BIO 270, BIO 270L, HTH 210, NUTR 280, and NUTR 295. Equivalent coursework taken at other schools and AP or IB credit will be accepted.

A student with a grade point average below 2.7 in prerequisite courses will be referred to Career and Academic Planning for assistance in selecting a major other than dietetics and will not be allowed to register for any junior-level nutrition courses. Students with grades of D+, D, D-, or F in the listed prerequisite courses will need to repeat those classes and receive a grade of C- (1.7) or better before admission to the program. According to university regulations, a student may repeat a maximum of two courses on a repeat/forgive basis. The grade earned in retaking the class will be used in the calculation of their grade point average (GPA) for admission. However, the student should be aware that the original grade earned will still be printed on the transcript. Any other course may be retaken on a repeat/credit basis and all grades earned will be used in computing GPA for prerequisite courses.

Students who complete the application and meet the GPA requirement in the prerequisite courses will be invited to an interview with dietetic program representatives. A score sheet outlining those criteria and their respective weights is shown below. Each member of the admission committee will rate the applicants independently during the interview process. A compilation of those ratings will be used to make final admission decisions.

Current students at JMU who change their major to dietetics will follow the application procedure outlined. A change after the sophomore year may result in a delay of graduation beyond the traditional four years. Students transferring to JMU from other educational institutions with junior status or higher and the prerequisites completed will be allowed to apply to the major at orientation or during their first semester of enrollment. Other transfer students will complete the application process as outlined.

Students who are not admitted to the major may reapply in subsequent years if they meet the admission criteria. If all courses are not yet completed, provisional admission may be offered contingent upon successfully meeting course requirements prior to start of the fall semester.

The application deadline is February 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. Guidance and a link to complete the online application may be obtained on the program website:

<https://www.jmu.edu/chbs/healthprof/dietetics/application.shtml>.

Applications submitted online must include the following:

- All application fields completed thoroughly.
- Official transcripts from all colleges and universities other than James Madison University sent electronically or mailed to the Dietetics Program Administrative Assistant or uploaded at the space provided within the application.  
Dietetics Program Administrative Assistant:  
Stephanie Lewis  
235 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, MSC 4315  
Harrisonburg, VA 22807  
Email: [lewisse@jmu.edu](mailto:lewisse@jmu.edu)
- Unofficial JMU transcript uploaded at the space provided within the application.

## Applicant Evaluation Form

The Applicant Evaluation Form is completed for each program applicant based on faculty/staff assessment of applicants for five components: 1) completion of all application elements, 2) GPA in prerequisite courses, 3) interview, 4) essay, and 5) Honors/Extracurricular Activities & Volunteer/Work Experience.

<b>Applicant Name:</b>		
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
<b>Complete Application (-5 points penalty)</b>	0 points	
<b>GPA in Prerequisite Courses</b> (prerequisite credit hours complete x prerequisite GPA x 0.5)	40 points	
<b>Interview (based on rubric)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oral Communication (Expression of Ideas and Grammar/ Confidence)</li><li>• Professionalism</li><li>• Knowledge and Interest in the Dietetics/Nutrition Field</li><li>• General Attitude</li><li>• Integrity</li></ul>	30 points	
<b>Personal Essay (based on rubric)</b>	25 points	
<b>Honors and Extracurricular Activities &amp; Volunteer and Work Experience</b> 1=no work experience 2=entry-level work experience 3=work experience with other activities/volunteer experience 4=leadership or professional work/volunteer experience 5=leadership or professional work/volunteer experience in dietetics	5 points	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>100 points</b>	
<b>Decision (admit, admit with conditions, or deny)</b>		

## **Progression in the Dietetics Major**

Students admitted to the dietetics major can expect four semesters of full-time coursework. To remain in the major, students must meet the following criteria:

1. The student will maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.8 or higher in the major.
2. The student will earn a minimum grade of C- or higher in all major-specific nutrition and health courses. Students who do not earn a grade above "C-" in all major-specific nutrition and health courses will not be verified as eligible for admission to a post-graduate dietetic internship program (the student will not receive a Verification Statement through the Accreditation Council on Education in Nutrition and Dietetics), but will still be permitted to graduate with a B.S. in Dietetics.
3. The student will earn a passing grade in all remaining major-specific science courses. Students are expected to progress with their cohort and complete major requirements within two years of admittance to the program. They will have a maximum of five years to complete major and graduation requirements once they are admitted to the program. University policy indicates a maximum of 7 years for undergraduate degree requirements to be met and it is expected that students admitted to the program will have already completed two of the seven years. Students who are not making adequate progress in the major will be advised to consult with the program director to develop a plan for completing the dietetics major. If an adequate plan is not developed, the student will be referred to the University Career Center for counseling.

## **Progression of Courses**

Classes in the Dietetics major must be completed in a prescribed order with all prerequisite courses completed as listed in the JMU Undergraduate Catalog and the Dietetics, Professional Nutrition and Dietetics Concentration Student Handbook. A student will be permitted to take courses only after all the requirements (all prerequisites with acceptable grades as listed above) have been met. Faculty members in the Dietetics Program will not issue overrides to allow a student to enroll in a course without completing the prerequisites. If a student has not successfully completed the prerequisite courses, they will not be permitted to enroll in nutrition classes until those prerequisites are completed, which may result in a delay in graduation beyond the traditional four years. Access to academic and program status is available through the [MyMadison portal](#). Students also may request access to their program-specific file from the program director at any time in-person or by email.

## **Probationary Status**

The following are situations where an admitted Dietetics student would be placed on program probation or removed from the Dietetics program.

### Major class grades:

1. A student who receives a grade of D+, D, D-, or F in a major-specific course (all NUTR and HTH classes) while their major GPA remains above 2.8 will be allowed to continue in the program and advised to repeat the course the next time it is offered. Students will be allowed to repeat the course only once. If the course grade earned in the repeated class is below a C- in NUTR or HTH

classes, the student may opt to continue in the major without earning a verification statement.

2. A student fails a major-specific science course (CHEM 241, CHEM 241L, CHEM 260, CHEM 260L, BIO 245, BIO 245L, BIO 290, or BIO 290L) while their major GPA remains above 2.8 will be placed on probation in the Dietetics major and will be allowed to continue in the program and repeat the course the next time it is offered. Students will be allowed to repeat the course only once. If the course grade earned in the repeated class is not passing in major science courses, the student will be dismissed from the Dietetics major and referred to the University Career Center for counseling. Students will be allowed only one repeat of an individual course and no more than two repeated courses in the entire program.
3. If a student decides to repeat a course at another institution for transfer credit, the student must have pre-written permission from the JMU Registrar, Dietetics Program Director, and the JMU Instructor of Record for the transfer class. Students will be reminded that grades from another institution do not transfer for any courses that student has already earned a grade for at JMU. After completion of the repeated course, students must send their official transfer transcripts to the JMU Registrar. Failure to comply with these stipulations will result in denial of other institution class credit.
4. A student who receives an unacceptable, but passing, grade (lower than a C- but still passing) during their last semester and chooses not to repeat the course at its next offering will be allowed to graduate but will not be verified as eligible for admission to a post-graduate dietetic internship program (the student will not receive a Verification Statement).

A student on probation will be notified in writing by the program director and will be strongly encouraged to meet with the director to determine the feasibility of, and an appropriate plan for, repeating the class. The student must sign the probationary letter and return an original copy to the program director within 14 days of receipt of the letter.

#### Grade Point Average:

1. A student whose major grade point average falls below 2.8 will be placed on probation in the Dietetics major and allowed up to two semesters to raise the GPA to the requisite 2.8 needed to continue. If this occurs at the end of fall semester, the student will be allowed to enroll for the spring semester; if it occurs at the end of spring semester, the student will be given the summer and/or fall to achieve a satisfactory GPA.
2. A student who fails to achieve the requisite 2.8 by the end of the probationary term will be dismissed from the major, referred to the University Career Center for assistance in selecting a major other than dietetics, and will be dropped from all dietetics courses for which the student had registered.
3. A student whose cumulative GPA for the major falls below 2.8 during their final semester will be allowed to graduate, but will not be verified as eligible for admission to a post-graduate dietetic internship program (the student will not receive a Verification Statement).

A student on probation will be notified in writing by the program director and will be strongly encouraged to meet with the director to determine the feasibility of, and an appropriate plan for, raising their major GPA. The student must sign the probationary letter and return an original copy to the program director within 14 days of receipt of the letter.

A student on probation is encouraged to seek assistance with material in courses that are being repeated. Help is available from faculty members during office hours, [Peer-Assisted](#)

[Study Sessions](#), and the [Science and Math Learning Center](#). Lists of upper-division students who have offered to serve as paid tutors is available in the departmental offices of Chemistry and Biology.

## Appeal Process

Any academic admission or disciplinary decision (i.e., not admitted, placed on probation, dismissal) may be appealed. This appeal will be viewed and voted on by the Dietetics Appeal Committee.

The appeal process for Dietetics is as follows:

- The student must make their appeal in the form of a formal letter to the Dietetics Appeals Committee through the Dietetics program director within two weeks of receipt of a decision letter (i.e. probation, dismissal, or denial). The student must include all materials that may substantiate the appeal.
- Once an appeal is received, a committee will be assembled. The committee will be formed on an as-needed basis and will be comprised of five members. Members will be Dietetics and/or Health Professions faculty.
- The committee will hear the case within two weeks from the date of receiving the appeal and will notify the student of their decision in writing within one week of the meeting date.
- If the student disagrees with the committee's decision and wishes to take further action, the student must appeal, in writing, to the Department of Health Profession's Academic Unit Head.
- If the student disagrees with the Department of Health Profession's Academic Unit Head's decision and wishes to take further action, they will then pursue action through the University's Grievance Procedure for Students in the undergraduate catalog at: <https://catalog.jmu.edu/content.php?catoid=54&navoid=2893#grievance-procedure-for-students>

## ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING

Students will be assessed in each course in the DPD in the manner specified on the course syllabus. Assessment of ACEND Core Knowledge Assessment are identified in course syllabi. Feedback will be provided to the student in a timely manner for all assessment activities. Remediation for any core assessments not passed is offered in the same course by the instructor. In the case remediation is not completely successfully, the program director may offer remediation in the following semester.

## VERIFICATION STATEMENTS

Verification Statements required by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics will be issued to all students who complete DPD requirements, including Core Knowledge Assessments and awarding of the Bachelor's degree. Forms will be processed as soon as the Registrar has posted the degree to the student's record, normally within one month following graduation and no later than 6



weeks after graduation. An electronic copy of the Verification Statement will be emailed using the student's JMU email address. The Verification Statement is necessary to be eligible for ACEND-accredited Dietetic Internship (DI) programs.

## GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

JMU has policies addressing grade review, discrimination, harassment, and general grievance procedures for issues not addressed above listed in the Undergraduate Catalog. For class and grade issues, students are encouraged to address their grievances first with the professor but may contact the DPD director or Department of Health Profession's Academic Unit Head if resolution of the grievance cannot be achieved or the student is uncomfortable approaching the faculty member.

Students may use the following procedures depending on the type of grievance:

- Discrimination or Harassment:  
<https://www.jmu.edu/oeo/how-to-file-a-complaint/student-procedures.shtml>
- Grade Review:  
<https://catalog.jmu.edu/content.php?catoid=54&navoid=2893&hl=grade+review&returno=search#grade-review-procedure>
- General Grievance:  
<https://catalog.jmu.edu/content.php?catoid=54&navoid=2893#grievance-procedure-for-students>

ACEND® has established a process for reviewing complaints against accredited programs in order to fulfill its public responsibility for assuring the quality and integrity of the educational programs that it accredits. Any individual, for example, student, faculty, dietetics practitioner and/or member of the public may submit a complaint against any accredited program to ACEND. However, the ACEND board does not intervene on behalf of individuals or act as a court of appeal for individuals in matters of admissions, appointment, promotion or dismissal of faculty or students. It 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. See procedures for Filing a Complaint at: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/public-notice-and-announcements/filing-a-complaint>.

## PROTECTION OF STUDENT PRIVACY

Student privacy is maintained through adherence with JMU Student Privacy policy #2112 (<https://www.jmu.edu/jmu-policy/policies/2112.shtml>) Based on this policy identifiable information are protected and include:

- Name of the student
- Student's parent(s), or other family members
- Student's address
- Personal identifier such as a social security number or student number

- List of personal characteristics or other information which would make the student's identity easily traceable

## EQUITABLE TREATMENT

Program faculty participate in diversity training every year to meet the varied needs of students to create an inclusive learning environment of respect and value for all identities (e.g., race, ethnicity, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, age, abilities, etc.). Student who have an adverse experience due to inequitable treatment through a program-related activity are encouraged to contact the Dietetics Program Director and/or the Department of Health Professions Academic Unit Head. The JMU [Office of Equal Opportunity](#) and JMU [Title XI](#) office both offer reporting processes and support for students who have experienced harassment, retaliation, discrimination and/or sexual misconduct and other [discrimination on the basis of sex or gender](#).

## COURSES REQUIRED FOR THE DPD AT JMU

An overview of the courses required for the program is at:

[https://catalog.jmu.edu/preview\\_program.php?catoid=54&poid=23380](https://catalog.jmu.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=54&poid=23380).

Program courses are offered in an in-person delivery mode with the exception of three courses offered through a hybrid (blended) delivery mode in which the course is held through both in-person and online formats.

**The required courses include the following:**

### **Prerequisites**

- CHEM 131 & 131L General Chemistry I/L
- CHEM 132 & 132L General Chemistry II/L
- BIO 270 & 270L Human Physiology/L
- NUTR 280 Nutrition for Wellness
- HTH 210 Medical Terminology
- NUTR 295 Foundations of Nutrition Practice

### **Foundational Courses**

- MATH 220 Elementary Statistics
- PSYC 101 or 160 General Psychology or Life Span Human Development
- HIST 225 or POSC 225 US History or US Government
- SCOM 121 or SCOM 122 or SCOM 123 Fundamental Human Communication: Presentations or Individual Presentations or Group Presentations
- WRTC 103 Rhetorical Reading and Writing

### **Core Courses**

- BIO 290 & 290L Human Anatomy/L
- HTH 354 US & Global Healthcare Sys.
- IPE 415 Healthcare Ethics
- NUTR 340 The Science and Culture of Food
- NUTR 350 Emerging Research in Nutrition & Dietetics
- NUTR 384 Clinical Nutrition I
- NUTR 385 Nutrition Throughout the Lifecycle
- NUTR 482 Nutrition & Metabolism
- BIO 245 & 245L General Microbiology/L
- CHEM 241 & 241L Organic Chemistry/L
- CHEM 260 & 260L Concepts of Biochemistry/L
- NUTR 363 Quantity Food Production
- NUTR 380 Global Nutrition
- NUTR 394 Culinary Nutrition Therapy
- NUTR 465 Management in Dietetics
- NUTR 484 Clinical Nutrition II
- NUTR 485 Community Nutrition
- NUTR 486 Counseling Skills for Dietetics
- NUTR 495 Senior Seminar in Dietetics

## CREDITS TRANSFERRED FROM OTHER SCHOOLS

Credit will be awarded for transferred courses equivalent to courses offered at JMU in which the student has earned a grade of "C" or better.

After the student has been approved for JMU admission, the Office of the Registrar will evaluate the transcript(s) of each transfer student to show the credits accepted by the university.

Transfer credit will not be accepted to meet dietetics major requirements for the following courses:

NUITR 295	Foundations of Nutrition Practice
NUTR 363	Quantity Food Production
NUTR 482	Nutrition and Metabolism
NUTR 484	Clinical Nutrition II

With the exception of some degrees in General Studies, General Education requirements will be waived for those students who have completed either the Associate in Arts, Associate in Sciences, or the Associate in Arts and Sciences degree within the Virginia Community College System. Students who complete one of these associate degrees and are offered admission will receive junior-level status. For more details, consult the [Transfer Credit Equivalency Guide](#). Receiving junior-level status at JMU does not assure full admission to the dietetics program.

## ETHICAL AND HONOR STANDARDS

Students are expected to abide by all university policies and procedures including the JMU Honor Code. These are outlined in the [Undergraduate Catalog](#) and additional information is available in the JMU Student Handbook at <http://www.jmu.edu/judicial/handbook.shtml>. Infractions may result in removal of the student from the DPD program or the university.

## RESOURCES FOR SUCCESS AT JMU

- [Learning resources](#) are available to all JMU students through the Learning Centers in the Student Success Center. Programs are staffed by full-time faculty within the disciplines and provide additional instructional support for a variety of academic assignments and activities.
- [Communication Center](#) - The Communication Center helps students develop skills in public speaking, library research, small group communication, and advocacy through workshops, individual and small group tutoring, and online resources. The Center also offers consulting and course-embedded tutoring to help faculty integrate communication instruction in their courses.
- [JMU Libraries Student Services](#) – Libraries at JMU offer an array of support through space, resources, research help, tech support, developing new skills, and fostering creativity.
- [Multilingual Student Services](#) – Multilingual Student Services offers tutoring and workshops to help multilingual students improve their proficiency using academic English. This center also assists faculty and staff with inclusive practices to support linguistic diversity.
- [Peer-Assisted Study Sessions](#) - Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS, or Supplemental Instruction) provides student-facilitated academic support for difficult courses across campus,

especially in science and math. Evening study sessions reinforce course content and help students develop study skills.

- [Science & Math Learning Center](#) - The Science and Math Learning Center offers walk-in tutoring and online resources to help students understand course content, homework assignments and lab reports in first and second year physics, chemistry, math, and statistics courses.
- [University Writing Center](#) - The University Writing Center offers tutoring, workshops, and online resources to support all types of writing, including class assignments, scholarly articles, fiction and personal narratives, and professional writing. The Center also offers consulting and course-embedded tutoring to help faculty integrate writing instruction in their courses.

Other resources for individual development are also available at JMU. Student organizations recognized by JMU are listed at [https://beinvolved.jmu.edu/home\\_login](https://beinvolved.jmu.edu/home_login). Of special interest is the James Madison University Dietetic Association (JMUDA). All dietetics majors are encouraged to join the student dietetic association on campus. Membership is limited to students majoring in dietetics and the association is run by students. Many opportunities for service in the community and volunteer experiences are available through JMUDA.

## RESOURCES FOR WELLBEING AT JMU

### Mental Health Support

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with academic performance and/or negatively impact daily life. Support for mental health challenges at James Madison University is available at the Counseling Center (CC) located within the Student Success Center on the 3rd floor, Suite 3100. More information is available about CC services by visiting the website: <https://www.jmu.edu/counselingctr/> or calling the Center ([540-568-6552](tel:540-568-6552)). The services are free and confidential.

JMU has also partnered with TimelyCare, a virtual health and well-being platform, to provide you with 24/7 access to virtual mental health care from anywhere in the United States at no cost. Download the TimelyCare App or visit <https://timelycare.com/jmu> to register and get started today. Other available support resources to consider on campus include, but are not limited to the: [Office of the Dean of Students](#), [Health Center](#), [Well Dukes](#), [Learning Success Strategies](#), & [Office of Disability Services](#).

If there is ever an immediate concern for your safety or the safety of another individual, please call 911. In case of a mental health emergency (e.g., thoughts or plans to kill yourself, thoughts of seriously harming others, recent sexual assault) M-F 8am-4:30pm, when the University is open, crisis services are available through the CC. After hours and/or on weekends: students can call the Center ([540-568-6552](tel:540-568-6552)) and press “1” to connect to the after-hours crisis line. Alternatively, all students may go to the Emergency Room at the Sentara RMH Medical Center, 2010 Health Campus Drive, Harrisonburg, VA, 22801, ([540-689-1414](tel:540-689-1414)), call the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline ([988](tel:988)), and/or utilize the Crisis Text Line (text “HOME” to 741741).

### Basic Needs Support

There are resources available through the [The Student Support Hub - JMU](#) if you encounter your basic needs not being adequately met, such as needing food or hygiene products, during your time in the program. You may also reach out for support from the Dietetics program director related to concerns with housing, health, food instability, or other personal challenges.

## TUITION AND OTHER COSTS OF THE DPD

The Dietetics major is designed to be completed in eight regular semesters. Tuition and fee charges for the academic sessions are available on the University Business Office website <http://www.jmu.edu/ubo/>. The tuition and fees listed contribute to general maintenance and operation, instruction, and other university service costs, including recreational and health-service facility costs. The fees also support student activities such as the Student Government Association, University Program Board, and student publications. The university reserves the right to adjust tuition and fee charges because of rising costs or other conditions upon approval of the JMU Board of Visitors. Note that guidance on [course withdrawal](#) and [withdrawal from the university](#) is available on the Registrar's website with implications on tuition fees and potential refunds.

Basic technology to engage in the learning process is necessary for both in-person and hybrid program courses. Specific guidance for students regarding technology requirements, including hardware and software, and Online Learning Readiness, especially for hybrid course delivery modes, is available at Madison Online: <https://www.jmu.edu/online/resources/index.shtml>

Please note that a camera to engage in hybrid courses is required to allow for identification of students. Web-conference software used for hybrid courses are secure and fully supported by JMU IT Services (<https://www.jmu.edu/computing/help-and-support/it-help-desk.shtml>). Students will be required to use their JMU username and password to access the web-conferencing software for use in hybrid courses. Note that course examinations may be hosted online through the classroom management learning system, Canvas, though students are still in-person in a classroom setting when completing the examinations.

Cost to students include program expenses which are in addition to [tuition and fees](#) charged by the university. Textbooks for your classes are available from the JMU Bookstore or other sources. It is very difficult to estimate cost of textbooks and other course materials as the amount can vary greatly. An estimate is \$300 - \$400 per semester, depending on the number and selection of courses you are taking.

Other expenses associated with the DPD professional program might include:

- Textbooks (estimated at \$300-\$400/semester) = \$1200-1600
- Lab coats (2 at \$50 each) = \$100
- Non-slip shoes = \$100
- Laboratory fees (\$40 for each of the 3 courses held in a foods lab) = \$120
- Student Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics membership (\$58.00 per year) = \$116

Total program expenses (estimated) = \$2000

## PROGRAM CONDUCT

All students are expected to adhere to the JMU Standards of Conduct available in the Student Handbook at <https://www.jmu.edu/osarp/handbook/osarp/standardsandpolicies.shtml>

As students are preparing to become a nutrition and dietetics professional, it is expected that they will exhibit professionalism in the program through behavior, demeanor, and dress that show respect to fellow students, faculty, and administrators and all persons encountered through learning activities on and off campus. In addition to expectations indicated below, syllabi will further clarify course specific professionalism standards.

**Attendance** - Students are expected to attend all classes, laboratory sessions, and off-campus experiences punctually in order to take full advantage of the learning opportunities within the JMU Dietetics program. In the case that attendance is not possible, communication with the course instructor is required prior to the class time or as soon as possible regarding the reason for absence. It is the responsibility of each student to make up necessary course work missed due to absence or tardiness. For off-campus experiences, students are expected to arrive at the site of assignment at the scheduled time.

Certain absences are considered excused based on [Academic Affairs Policy #16](#) and faculty must excuse the absences and provide equitable and reasonable adjustments to graded assessments. These categories of excused absence are Required by Applicable Law, Official University Functions, University Recognized Academic Functions, and Other. It is at the discretion of faculty whether to excuse any other absences not indicated within Academic Affairs Policy #16.

**Classroom Engagement** - Students are asked to contribute to an atmosphere of mutual respect in the classroom and a positive learning environment by following these guidelines:

1. Prepare for class and discussions by having completed assigned readings and work before class time.
2. Listen actively when the professor or another classmate is speaking.
3. Use verbal and non-verbal communication that is respectful.
4. Use electronic devices in the classroom as appropriate per course syllabi.
5. Submit assessments, including assignments and exams, when due.
6. Leave classrooms and/or labs clean and in good working condition. Note that personal belongings are your own responsibility and the program is not responsible for damage or loss.

**Professional Behavior**– Students are expected at all times to behave in a manner consistent with the standards set forth in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics [Code of Ethics](#). Students may not share information, photos or identifiable content in any format (verbal, online, etc.) about current or past clients or patients in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Students are to reflect professional behavior as a representative of JMU, the dietetics program and the profession.

**Professional Dress** – There are several learning activities in the program that require professional dress. Faculty will assist with clarifying expectations for dress for specific course and/or program activities. An established uniform is required in for courses held in foods labs including Quantity Foods Production (NUTR 363), Culture and Science of Food (NUTR 340),



and Culinary Nutrition Therapy (NUTR 394). Specific requirements are described in individual class syllabi and may refer to jewelry and piercing restrictions.

**Conduct Remediation** - If a pattern of problematic behaviors that do not reflect professionalism is noted, an intervention plan will be implemented. For instance, if a student has been asked to leave the class due to distracting use of electronic devices and this behavior occurs again, the student will be required to meet with course faculty to plan and implement a course of action to remedy this behavior.

Should a student's personal conduct adversely affect other students, the program, the University, or under certain conditions, the student themselves and the Dietetics Program will investigate the circumstances surrounding the conduct. Such conduct may result in disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Written reprimand/warning in student's academic record with expectations for improvement
- Program probation with remediation, including educational activities (written paper, oral presentation, watching a video, journaling or self-reflection)
- Grade adjustment
- Program dismissal

## APPLYING FOR A GRADUATE-LEVEL ACEND PROGRAM

After students have earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics [Professional and a Verification Statement from the Program Director, they must complete graduate-level education to be eligible to complete the CDR registration examination for dietitians. Those who complete the registration examination and pass may practice as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RD/N) and use the credential.

Graduate-level education can be completed in three ways: 1) ACEND-accredited Graduate Program (GP), 2) Dietetic Internship (DI) paired with a graduate degree, and 3) Coordinated Program (CP). More information about the types of ACEND-accredited programs is available at: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs/about-accredited-programs>

The ACEND Program Directory includes all accredited programs, including GPs, DIs, and CPs, and is available at: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs/accredited-programs-directory>. The information provided for each accredited program includes the name and address of the Program Director so that they can be contacted for more information. Note that a DPD verification statement is required for DI eligibility.

Dietetics faculty members will assist students in applying for graduate-level programs. NUTR 295 Foundations of Nutrition Practice and NUTR 495 Senior Seminar address the application process and routes to dietetic registration. Standardized application documents will be completed in draft form during NUTR 495 Senior Seminar. Students are encouraged to communicate directly with program directors to discuss application procedures specific to their program and with the DPD Director for assistance in completing application materials. More information about the application process for DIs, GPs, and CPs is available at

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/application-process-for-students>.

Students are encouraged to begin thinking about graduate programs early in their academic program and attending informational sessions well before the year that their applications are due. They should begin examining goals, considering preferred type of programs (e.g., general, clinical, foodservice, community) and location, and contemplating program formats (distance, on-site, online) and full- versus part-time status. Students may benefit from reviewing program websites, communicating with program directors, and attending program open houses, which are often hosted online.

The following credentials are helpful for students to be competitive for the review process:

<b>Credential</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Grades	A 3.0 or better GPA
Work or Volunteer Experience	Paid and/or volunteer. Clinical experience, especially in a hospital setting, is highly encouraged as well as nutrition and dietetic-related experiences in other settings such as foodservice, outpatient clinics, long-term care, public health, schools, and community. Many other work experiences can be very valuable. Most graduate-level ACEND programs are looking for individuals whose work or volunteer experience contributes to personal growth, is people-oriented, and/or involves responsibility and decision making.
Extra-Curricular Activities	University clubs and organizations (e.g., Student Dietetic Association), sports, community service projects, etc.
Letters of Recommendation	Required from several professors and possibly a work supervisor.

Tuition for programs varies widely, from \$1800 to over \$30,000. Other living expenses also need to be considered. Students should check with each program about expenses. Accredited programs associated with a regionally accredited university qualify for government-sponsored loan programs. Students should check the program website or contact the Program Director to see if financial aid is available. Note that programs may have scholarships, assistantships and/or offer a stipend as well.

Students may apply to as many programs as they like; most students apply to 4-6 programs. The Academy has contracted with Liaison International to provide and support a [Dietetic Internship Centralized Application System \(DICAS\)](#) which is used by most accredited programs to accept applications.

The following table has general dates set by ACEND for the application process timeline. Note that the dates are based on when the DI, GP, or CP would start and application due dates will vary by program.

	<b>Programs to Start in Spring</b>	<b>Programs to Start in Summer/Fall</b>
Dietetic Internship Centralized Application System (DICAS) opens for application cycle	August	August
Application deadline	Varies	Varies
Latest date for programs to notify applicants of decision.	November 1	March 1
Earliest date for programs to applicants' decision to accept an offer.	November 15	March 15
Latest application due date for spring start.	December 15	July 15

Dietetics faculty members are interested in and concerned about students and can be very helpful in providing support throughout the entire application process and especially to students not accepted into a graduate-level program. The Dietetics Program Director can suggest alternatives and discuss how to improve application materials and/or qualifications, apply to other programs, reapply later, and/or obtain a job in a dietetics-related area. Program faculty and staff are committed to supporting and mentoring students to pursue ACEND-accredited graduate-level programs, even upon graduation.

## DIETETICS FACULTY

Mailing address for all faculty members is:  
James Madison University  
Health Professions Department, MSC 4315  
235 Martin Luther King Jr Way  
Harrisonburg, VA 22807

Departmental FAX number: 540-568-3336

### **Ana Abad-Jorge, Ed.D., MS, RDN, FAND**

Associate Professor  
Phone: 540-568-7084  
Email: [abadjoar@jmu.edu](mailto:abadjoar@jmu.edu)

EdD, Walden University, Higher Education and Adult Learning  
MS, University of Florida, Food Science and Human Nutrition  
BS, Rollins College, Biology

Ana Abad-Jorge has taught at JMU since January of 2020. Prior to this, she served as the Program Director for the Bachelor of Professional Studies in Health Sciences Management and at the School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS) at the University of Virginia. Ana has taught a variety of health sciences courses, both online and face-to-face, in her academic career, including: Introduction to Health Care Management, Research in the Health Sciences, Women's Health Issues, Global Health Care, Clinical Nutrition I and II, and Field Experience in Dietetics.

Prior to transitioning her career to academia in February of 2014, Ana had a 27-year healthcare career in clinical nutrition at UVA Health System. There, she served as a pediatric registered dietitian/nutritionist (RDN) in a variety of clinical areas including acute pediatrics, pediatric clinics, the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and within the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). She also served as the program director for the UVA Health System Nutrition and Dietetics Internship Program for 19 ½ years. Ana has a number of publications in the area of pediatric and neonatal nutrition support, nutrition education, and higher education. She currently serves as a program reviewer with the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) and is a Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (FAND).

### **Jeremy Akers, PhD, RD**

Associate Professor  
Phone: 540-569-8974  
Email: [akersjd@jmu.edu](mailto:akersjd@jmu.edu)

PhD, Virginia Tech, Nutrition in Sports and Chronic Disease  
MS, James Madison University, Nutrition and Physical Activity  
BS, Radford University, Clinical Dietetics

Jeremy Akers' areas of interest are nutrition, physical activity, and behavioral therapies for long-term weight loss maintenance (WTLM), obesity and chronic disease in post collegiate athletes, and translation of WTLM interventions. Jeremy served as the Obesity Prevention Nutritionist for the Virginia Department of Health, Division of WIC and Community Nutrition Services for almost four years. His job involved developing community obesity prevention programs, managing health department grants, obesity data collection and developing the Virginia Healthy Weight State Plan. Jeremy has worked with various communities, organizations, and individuals to promote community coalition building, sports nutrition, and healthy lifestyles.

**A. Laura Dengo, PhD**

Associate Professor

Phone: 540-568-8971

Email: [dengofal@jmu.edu](mailto:dengofal@jmu.edu)

PhD, Virginia Tech, Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise

MSc, Virginia Tech, Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise

Laura Dengo worked from 2010-2013 with the INCAP Comprehensive Center for the Prevention of Chronic Disease as the project coordinator for a community-based intervention to lower the risk of cardiovascular diseases. From 2013-2015, she worked as a research associate at EARTH University for a joint project with American University of Beirut entitled "Feasibility study for a Global Master's Program in Health and Sustainable Development". She joined James Madison University in 2017 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Professions – Dietetics program. She currently teaches a variety of courses in the undergraduate and graduate programs: Nutrition for Wellness, Global Nutrition, Sports Nutrition, Nutrition and Exercise, Nutrition Assessment and Research Methods. Laura's research interests include: obesity and cardiovascular diseases; worksite wellness and adherence to healthy lifestyle habits; and integrative health strategies for weight management and chronic disease prevention/treatment.

**Michelle Hesse, PhD, RD**

Associate Professor

Phone: 540-568-6570

Email: [hessmx@jmu.edu](mailto:hessmx@jmu.edu)

PhD, The Ohio State University, The Ohio State University Nutrition Program

BS, College of Saint Elizabeth, Foods and Nutrition

Michelle Hesse rejoined the JMU Dietetics faculty in 2020 and currently teaches Culture and Science of Food, Culinary Nutrition Therapy, Foundations of Nutrition Practice, and Interprofessional Ethical Decision-making in Healthcare. From May 2018- July 2020, she served as the Director of Agency Relations and Programs at the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.

Prior to 2018, Michelle was a faculty member in the Dietetics program with research focusing on evaluating the nutritional quality of foods in food banking systems. Together with JMU colleagues and students and BRAFB staff Nourish was developed; a cloud-based platform implemented by the Food Bank to make informed procurement decisions based on nutritional quality.

Michelle currently serves as the Blue Ridge Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (BRAND) Co-President Elect and is a consultant for the Food Bank on various health and nutrition initiatives.

**Danielle Torisky, PhD, RD**

Associate Professor

Phone: (540) 568-6579

E-mail: [toriskdm@jmu.edu](mailto:toriskdm@jmu.edu)

PhD Community / Public Health Nutrition, Virginia Tech

MS Community / Public Health Nutrition, Virginia Tech

BS Home Economics with a minor in Nutrition and Fine Arts, Seton Hill College

Danielle Torisky's current research and presentations focus on food in the Civil War period. Dr. Torisky worked as a public health nutritionist in the Virginia Department of Health prior to coming to JMU in 1991. She teaches at both undergraduate and graduate levels; courses currently include NUTR 280 Nutrition for Wellness, NUTR 362 Food Service Systems, NUTR 363 Quantity Food Production, NUTR 385 Lifecycle Nutrition, and NUTR 650 Nutrition Education & Counseling.

**Jennifer Walsh, PhD, RD**

Associate Professor & DPD Director

Phone: (540) 568-6263

E-mail: [walsh5jr@jmu.edu](mailto:walsh5jr@jmu.edu)

PhD Food and Nutrition Science, University of Maine

MS Food and Nutrition Science, University of Maine

BS Food Science and Human Nutrition, University of Maine

Jennifer Walsh teaches Management in Dietetics (NUTR 465), Community Nutrition (NUTR 485), Senior Seminar (NUTR 495), Counseling Skills in Dietetics (NUTR 486) and is the undergraduate Dietetics program director. She has conducted nutrition education and eating behavior research for over 15 years primarily among audiences with limited resources. She previously was the Nutrition Education Coordinator at the University of Florida for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and oversaw the state team and provided guidance to county faculty and staff. She is a registered dietitian and a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior.

## MEDIA RELEASE

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby give my consent to be captured on any forms of media including but not limited to photography, video, audio, etc. recorded by staff, faculty, or student of James Madison University. I understand that the images or recordings are to be used for teaching and informational/marketing publications which may also include usage for public or commercial communication, website, and/or social media. Social media usage will only be used for purposes of highlighting student and program achievements and will be monitored by Dietetics program faculty. I release faculty, staff, students, and programs within James Madison University from any responsibility associated with usage described above.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## DECLARATION OF AGREEMENT PAGE

**James Madison University  
Didactic Program in Dietetics  
Student Handbook**

My signature below indicates that I have a copy of the Dietetics Program Student Handbook, have read it completely, and will abide by the policies in this manual through all phases of the program.

This form will be maintained in my student file in the program office. I understand that I will not be allowed to complete senior-level classes (those numbered 400 and above) unless this form is on file.

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Student Full Name (print)

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Signature of DPD Student

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Date