DIE6241 Advanced Medical Nutrition Therapy

Spring 2026
4-Credit In-person
Class time: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10:40 a.m. to 12:35 p.m.
Class Location: Dietetics Lab – Building 162

Instructor

Instructor:	Wendy J. Dahl, PhD, RD, FDC, Professor
Department:	Food Science and Human Nutrition
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Office hours:	Tuesdays 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. or by appointment
Assistant Instructor:	Kaylyn Koons, MS, RD, LD
Office:	FSHN Building, 227 Clinical Lab
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Office hours:	Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. or by appointment

Course Description

Opportunity to integrate theories and principles of medical nutrition therapy into clinical practice.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- use critical thinking skills to evaluate social, anthropometric, nutritional, medical, laboratory, pharmacologic, and other relevant patient data/information for all assigned case studies and care plans, and recommend appropriate intervention strategies
- relate the theoretical bases for nutrition/medical intervention strategies with the anatomical, physiological, and/or biochemical changes of selected diseases/conditions
- integrate the theories and principles of medical nutrition therapy into clinical practice
- develop and justify appropriate recommendations for the management of selected diseases/conditions
- understand and use medical terminology and appropriate documentation styles to communicate patients' status with other healthcare professionals
- develop skills in using medical reference materials, and begin to build a professional library
- develop problem-solving skills
- develop professional writing skills
- give and receive constructive criticism

Course Prerequisites

Admission to the Master of Science-Dietetic Internship Program.

Weekly Course Schedule*

Day	Topic	Assessment	Due Date
January 13	Course Introduction and EBN		
14	Infant Feeding Trends Discussion	Infant Feeding Survey	Jan 14
20	Pediatric Growth Assessment		
21	Guest Speaker: Dr. Diana Taft Health Benefits of Breastfeeding		
27	Infant Formula and Calculations		
28	Guest Speaker: Dr. Taylor Judkins Feeding Challenges	Peds Formula Worksheet	Jan 30
February 3	Pediatric Case Study Presentations	Peds Case Studies	Feb 3-4
4	Pediatric Case Study Presentations		
10	Guest Speaker: Kate Kisilwicz Neonatal ICU		
11*	Guest Speaker: TBA Pediatric Cardiology ICU		
17	Guest Speaker: TBA Pediatric Obesity		
18	Guest Speaker: Dr. Vivian Ibanez Pediatric Feeding Disorders	Ped Enteral Case	Feb 20
24	Pediatric EBN Presentations	Peds EBN	Feb 24-25
25	Pediatric EBN Presentations		
March 3	Guest Speaker: TBA Pathophysiology of Diabetes	Diabetes Quiz	Mar 2
4	Guest Speaker: TBA Diabetes Management	Diabetes Assign 1	Mar 6
10	Diabetes Case Study Presentations	Diabetes Cases	Feb 10-11
11	Diabetes Case Study Presentations	Diabetes Assign 2	Feb 13
17	*Spring break – no class*		
18	*Spring break – no class*		
24	Guest Speaker: TBA Living with Diabetes		
25	Diabetes Management Debate	Diabetes Debate	Mar 25
31	Diabetes – EBN presentations	Diabetes EBN	Mar 31-Apr 1
April 1	Diabetes – EBN presentations		
7	Guest Speaker: TBA Pathophysiology of CKD	CKD Quiz	Apr 6
8	Guest Speaker: TBA CKD Management	CKD Assign 1 MNT Abstract	Apr 10
14	Kidney Disease – EBN Presentations	CKD EBN	Apr 14-15
15	Kidney Disease – EBN Presentations		
21	Guest Speaker: TBA CKD and Metabolic Bone Disease		
22	Wrap up	CKD Assign 2 MNT Hot Topics	Apr 22
		Professional Writing Final Exam	Apr 29

*Schedule is subject to change.

Textbooks, Learning Materials, and Supply Fees

- Nelms M, Sucher KP, Lacey K. Nutrition Therapy and Pathophysiology, 5th Ed. Cengage Learning. 2025 or a similar textbook for background reading.
- Extensive outside readings were assigned from various journals, including JPEN, JAND, AJCN, and BJN.

Class Demeanor/Expectations

This is a graduate course, and therefore, class discussions build upon information learned in undergraduate nutrition, disease, physiology, biochemistry, and metabolism. You will be expected to review your undergraduate material or the related textbook chapter and read the assigned material before class. Due to the practical nature of the problem-solving skills developed in class, the material presented cannot be replaced with assigned readings; therefore, class attendance is required. Students are expected to attend all class sessions, arrive on time, and be present for the entire class. An excused absence is any unavoidable, unplanned situation, such as an illness, a death in the family, or a car accident. Proof of illness is required (e.g., note from physician or clinic; vague notes such as "was seen" are not acceptable), death (e.g., obituary), accident (e.g., police report), etc. Please notify the instructor about your situation as soon as possible, leaving a message if necessary (via text message, email, or voicemail). Students are expected to show courtesy to their classmates, instructors, and guest speakers by silencing cell phones before the class begins and refraining from engaging in personal laptop use during class.

Technical Support

UF Computing Help Desk & Ticket Number: All technical issues require a UF Helpdesk Ticket Number. The UF Helpdesk is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/ | 352-392-4357

Grading Policy

Course grading is consistent with UF grading policies.

Course Grading Structure

Assignment Type	Point Value	Percent Final Grade
Pediatric Case Study Presentation	25	5%
Pediatric Enteral Case Study	25	5%
Pediatric Formula Worksheet	25	5%
Hot topic contributions (5 @ 5 pts)	25	5%
Fad Diet Case Study Presentation	25	5%
Hot Topic in Diabetes – Debate	25	5%
Diabetes and Kidney Disease Background Quizzes	50	10%
Evidence-Based Nutrition Presentations (3 @ 25 pts)	75	15%
Diabetes Assignments (2 @ 25 pts)	50	10%
Kidney Disease Assignments (2 @ 25 pts)	50	10%
MNT Research proposal abstract	25	5%
Professional Writing	50	10%
Case Study Final Exam	50	10%
Total	500	100%

Grading Scale

Grade	Points	Percentage
A	465-500	93-100%
A-	450-464	90-92%
B+	435-449	87-89%
B	415-434	83-86%
B-	400-414	80-82%
C+	385-399	77-79%
C	365-384	73-76%
C-	350-364	70-72%
D+	335-349	67-69%
D	315-334	63-66%
D-	300-314	60-62%
E	<300	<60%

Academic Policies and Resources

Academic policies for this course are consistent with university policies. See https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/

Campus Health and Wellness Resources

Visit https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/topics for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

Please contact UMatterWeCare for additional and immediate support.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students at the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Privacy and Accessibility Policies

- Instructure (Canvas)
  - Instructure Privacy Policy
  - Instructure Accessibility
- Zoom
  - Zoom Privacy Policy
  - Zoom Accessibility

Additional information

DIE6241 is Part 1 of a two-semester course designed to provide students enrolled in the combined Master of Science-Dietetic Internship Program with the opportunity to integrate the theories and principles of medical nutrition therapy into clinical practice. Case studies will be used to help students integrate and apply their knowledge of nutrition, dietetics, metabolism, and physiology, with the goal of producing students who can effectively plan and manage the nutritional care of a variety of patients using a critical thinking approach to evidence-based medical nutrition therapy. Topics include pediatrics, nutrition assessment, and evidence-based medical nutrition therapy for obesity, diabetes, and kidney disease.

Fundamental Concepts

Recommending appropriate medical nutrition therapy requires:

1. Understanding physiology, metabolism, and pathology
2. Critical thinking skills
3. Applying evidence-based nutrition principles
4. Knowing where to find information and how to apply information.