

HUN 4936 Topics in Human Nutrition: Medical Nutrition Research

Spring 2026

3-Credit online synchronous and in-person research activities

Class meeting time: Wednesdays: 3:00 p.m. to 4:55 by Zoom
Fridays: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Room 227 FSHN Building
Attendance: Required

Instructor

Instructor: Wendy J. Dahl PhD RD FDC, Professor
Department: Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN)
Office: FSHN Building, Room 207
Phone: 352-294-3707
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Office hours: Tuesdays 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. or by appointment

Teaching Assistant

Teaching assistant: Melissa Moreno
Email: mel.moreno@ufl.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course introduces students to medical nutrition research – exploring how foods, nutrients, and dietary patterns can help manage and treat diseases, as well as enhance health and well-being. Students will become part of a nutrition research team, review relevant evidence, collect publishable research data, and gain knowledge and skills related to best practices in conducting clinical nutrition research.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to

1. Explain the scientific process as it relates to medical nutrition research.
2. Describe the ethical principles of conducting human research.
3. Discuss Good Clinical Practice (GCP) for conducting clinical trials.
4. Identify characteristics of healthful dietary patterns and how they contribute to the management of disease and health conditions.
5. Evaluate relevant scientific literature.
6. Demonstrate basic skills in planning and conducting nutrition research
7. Analyze and synthesize data and discuss research findings.
8. Communicate research findings and the importance of medical nutrition research.

Course Prerequisites

None

Textbooks, Learning Materials, and Supply Fees

- Access to a laptop or desktop computer.

- Additional Course information and materials are posted on Canvas.

Instructor Interaction Plan

Students are required to check their email account daily (Monday through Friday) and respond to course- or program-related requests, inquiries, and other communications in a timely manner. The instructor will respond to e-mail, typically within 24 hrs.

Class Demeanor/Expectations

Students are expected to attend all classes, arrive on time, and leave when the instructor dismisses them. Students are expected to show courtesy to their classmates and instructor by muting electronic devices and refraining from using personal electronic devices for any purpose other than class activities during class time. They should also avoid engaging in personal conversations, chats, or text exchanges during class time.

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

Weekly Course Schedule

| Week | Topic | Assessment | Due Dates |
|-------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------|
| January 14 | Introduction to course | IRB and HIPAA Training | January 21 |
| 21 | Introduction to Medical Nutrition Research – Graduate Student Guest Speakers | | |
| 28 | Research Teams: Guest Speaker | Good Clinical Practice Training | January 28 |
| February 4 | Dietary Assessment Methods | Scientific reading 1 | February 4 |
| 11 | Research Study Overview and IRB | Activity 1 | February 11 |
| 18 | Questionnaire development | Scientific reading 2 Activity 2 | February 18 |
| 25 | Questionnaire validity testing/Draft URS Abstract due March 1st | Belmont Report Reflection | February 25 |
| March 4 | Data collection/discussion | Scientific reading 3 Activity 3 | March 7 |
| 11 | Data collection/discussion | Scientific reading 4 Activity 4 | March 11 |
| 18 | Spring Break | | |
| 25 | Data analysis/statistics | Scientific reading 5 | March 25 |
| April 1 | Data synthesis/poster preparation | Literature Review | April 1 |
| 7 | Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) | Activity 5 | April 8 |
| 15 | Research recap and next steps | Teamwork Reflection | April 15 |
| 22 | Student Medical Nutrition Research presentations | MNR presentation | April 22 |

*Topics are subject to change due to progress related to research activities. In-person research activities are in addition to the schedule above. IRB: Institutional Review Board

Grading Policy

Course grading is consistent with [UF grading policies](#).

Course Grading Structure

| Assignment Type | Point Value | Percent of Final Grade |
|---|-------------|------------------------|
| IRB training completed | 25 | 5% |
| Good Clinical Practice training completed | 50 | 10% |
| Belmont Report Reflection | 25 | 5% |
| Scientific reading and assignments (5 at 20 points each) | 100 | 20% |
| Literature Review and Study Design Proposal | 75 | 15% |
| Oral Presentation | 50 | 10% |
| Teamwork Reflection | 25 | 5% |
| Research activities, data collection and in-class activity reflections (estimated 5 at 30 pts each) | 150 | 30% |
| | 500 | 100% |

Grading Scale

| Grade | Points | Percentage |
|-----------|---------|--------------|
| A | 467-500 | 93.34-100% |
| A- | 450-466 | 90-93.33% |
| B+ | 433-449 | 86.68-89.9% |
| B | 417-432 | 83.34-86.67% |
| B- | 400-416 | 80-83.33% |
| C+ | 383-399 | 76.68-79.9% |
| C | 367-382 | 73.34-76.67% |
| C- | 350-366 | 70-73.33% |
| D+ | 334-349 | 66.68-69.9% |
| D | 317-333 | 63.34-66.67% |
| D- | 300-316 | 60-63.33% |
| 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 of 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](#)