

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](#)