



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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Proposal for a New Degree Program

I. Information and Rationale

A. Primary Contact Information

Institution: University of Alabama at Birmingham

Contact: Melanie A. Hart, PhD

Title: Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs

Email: mhart2@uab.edu

Telephone: 205-975-8034

B. Program Information

Date of Proposal Submission: 8/27/2024

Award Level: Master's Degree

Award Nomenclature (e.g., BS, MBA): MS

Field of Study/Program Title: Nutrition Sciences/Applied Nutrition

CIP Code (6-digit): 19.0501 Foods, Nutrition, and Wellness Studies, General

A general program that focuses on the role of foods and nutrition in human health and wellness.

Includes instruction in nutritional care and education, the planning and provision of food services, the development of consumable food products, life-span nutrition and wellness, the principles of nutrition assessment, and food safety and food composition.

C. Administration of the Program

Name of Dean and College: Andrew J. Butler, PhD, FAPTA, School of Health Professions

Name of Department/Division: Nutrition Sciences

Name of Chairperson: Barbara A. Gower, PhD

D. Implementation Information

Proposed Program Implementation Date: 8/25/2025

Anticipated Date of Approval from Institutional Governing Board: 4/4/2025

Anticipated Date of ACHE Meeting to Vote on Proposal: 6/13/2025

SACSCOC Sub Change Requirement (Notification, Approval, or NA): NA

Other Considerations for Timing and Approval (e.g., upcoming SACSCOC review): NA



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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E. Concise Program Description

Include general opportunities for work-based and/or experiential learning, if applicable.

The proposed Master of Science in Applied Nutrition is a practice-based degree that provides a broad overview of foundational nutrition knowledge to promote nutrition for wellness, health promotion, and disease prevention. Throughout this program, students work to develop appropriate mastery of competencies and skills to apply evidence-based nutrition recommendations and methods to critically evaluate and apply trends, controversies, and evolutions in the nutrition field that impact individuals and resources for nutrition health.

The curriculum will be designed to:

1. Provide didactic instruction in foundation nutrition knowledge: Students will differentiate nutrients by their functions and food sources, and analyze practical situations to provide nutrition resources to the individual.
2. Provide didactic instruction in evidence-based dietary recommendations: Students will evaluate healthy diet concepts using nutrition recommendations designed for the public, like MyPlate, the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) diet, and the Mediterranean diet.
3. Provide experiential learning activities that foster mastery of nutrition counseling to the individual: Students will demonstrate proficiency in the scope of practice and code of professional conduct for nutrition professionals, and demonstrate effective nutrition counseling skills.
4. Provide an internship experience that facilitates student integration of didactic and experiential learning. Students will engage in a nutrition internship setting under the supervision of a qualified preceptor, allowing them to apply classroom knowledge and hands-on skills in real-world scenarios, and demonstrate effective nutrition counseling skills to individuals through internship experiences.

F. Specific Rationale (Strengths) for the Program

List 3 – 5 strengths of the proposed program as specific rationale for recommending approval of this proposal.

1. The proposed degree allows students to engage in career exploration and developing organization-specific skills in nutrition health that are aligned with their career goals.
2. The proposed degree includes an internship experience and students will be matched with a specific industry sector and/or specific employer with supervision, mentoring, and monitoring by practice professionals.
3. The didactic coursework is offered entirely online which allows flexibility in program delivery that is not geographically bound, thereby supporting students who reside in or outside of the Birmingham area, across Alabama, and beyond. Further, students can choose to complete the internship anywhere in the US.
4. The degree requires no additional admission requirements beyond the institution's admissions process/policies for the Master's degree level, thereby supporting students from diverse baccalaureate degree backgrounds.



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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List external entities (more may be added) that may have supplied letters of support attesting to the program's strengths and attach letters with the proposal at the end of this document.

1. Pack Health
2. Element Health
3. UAB University Recreation
4. Cardio-Pulmonary Rehabilitation, UAB Medicine

II. Background with Context

A. Student Learning Outcomes

List four (4) to seven (7) of the student learning outcomes of the program.

1. Students will differentiate nutrients by their functions and food sources, and analyze practical situations to provide nutrition resources to the individual.
2. Students will evaluate healthy diet concepts using nutrition recommendations designed for the public, like MyPlate, the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) diet, and the Mediterranean diet.
3. Students will demonstrate proficiency in the scope of practice and code of professional conduct for nutrition professionals.
4. Students will demonstrate —effective nutrition counseling skills to individuals through practice sessions and internship experiences.

B. Similar Programs at Other Alabama Public Institutions

List programs at other Alabama public institutions of the same degree level and the same (or similar) CIP codes. If no similar programs exist within Alabama, list similar programs offered within the 16 [SREB](#) states. If the proposed program duplicates, closely resembles, or is similar to any other offerings in the state, provide justification for any potential duplication.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Institute of Education Sciences (IES) data system reports the following – Filtered to All Alabama Institutions, All Categories, using the below CIP codes related to human nutrition, All Award Levels, All programs:

- 19.0501 - Foods, Nutrition, and Wellness Studies, General.
- 19.0504 - Human Nutrition
- 30.1901 - Nutrition Sciences
- 51.3101 - Dietetics/Dietitian
- 51.3102 - Clinical Nutrition/Nutritionist

The degree and certificate programs listed below may include some coursework or experiential activities for health promotion, but the field of nutrition and dietetics (i.e., training to become Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)) and the development of research skills is not the primary focus of the proposed program. The proposed Master of Science in Applied Nutrition is a practice-based degree that provides a broad overview of foundational nutrition knowledge to promote nutrition health for wellness, health promotion, and disease prevention.



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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CIP Code	Degree Title	Institution with Similar Program	Justification for Duplication
51.3102	Dietitian Education Program Certificate	UAB	This post-baccalaureate certificate provides training to become RDN.
51.3101	MS in Nutrition Sciences, Clinical Track/Dietetic Internship	UAB	This Master's program provides training to become RDN.
51.3101	MS in Nutrition Sciences, Dietitian Education Program	UAB	This Master's program provides training to become RDN.
19.0504	Human Nutrition	The University of Alabama	This Master's program prepares nutrition professionals to practice dietetics at an advanced level and/or to pursue doctoral study.
30.1901	Nutrition	Auburn University	This Master's program requires students to specialize in general, community, clinical or sports nutrition.
51.3101	Distance Dietetic Internship Program	Oakwood University	This post-baccalaureate certificate provides training to become RDN
19.0501	Master of Science in Nutrition	Samford University	This Master's program provides training to become RDN.
51.3101	Dietetic Internship Certificate Program	Samford University	This post-baccalaureate certificate provides training to become RDN

C. Relationship to Existing Programs within the Institution

1. Is the proposed program associated with any existing offerings within the institution, including options within current degree programs? Yes ☒ No ☐

(Note: Most new programs have some relationship to existing offerings, e.g., through shared courses or resources). If yes, complete the following table. If this is a graduate program, list any existing undergraduate programs which are directly or indirectly related. If this is a doctoral program, also list related master's programs.



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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Related Degree Program Level	Related Degree Program Title	Explanation of the Relationship Between the Programs
Baccalaureate	BS in Biobehavioral Nutrition and Wellness (BNW)	Existing undergraduate degree program which is indirectly related; students who matriculate from the BS BNW are competitive for admission into this proposed graduate degree program.
Post-baccalaureate certificate	Dietitian Education Program Certificate	Shared resources: shared internship sites and web-based software system (E*Value) for tracking internship hours and performance evaluations by preceptors.
Master's	MS in Nutrition Sciences, Clinical Track/Dietetic Internship MS in Nutrition Sciences, Dietitian Education Program	Shared course: NTR 632 Nutrition Counseling and Education Shared resources: shared internship sites and web-based software system (E*Value) for tracking internship hours and performance evaluations by preceptors.

2. Will this program replace any existing programs or specializations, options, or concentrations? **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒

If yes, please explain.

3. Will the program compete with any current internal offerings? **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒

If yes, please explain.

D. Collaboration

Have collaborations with other institutions or external entities been explored? **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒

If yes, provide a brief explanation indicating those collaboration plan(s) for the proposed program.

Have any collaborations within your institution been explored? **Yes** ☒ **No** ☐

If yes, provide a brief explanation indicating those collaboration plan(s) for the proposed program.

The UAB School of Education and Human Studies (SOE) has agreed to allow students to register for select courses that they already offer, which will count toward the elective course requirement. Students can choose to take from the below courses to meet the elective course requirement (3 credit hours) of the proposed program.

CHHS 602 Mental Health/Stress/Wellbeing
CHHS 608 Substance Abuse Prevention/Education



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E. Specialized Accreditation

1. Will this program have any external accreditation requirements in addition to the institution's SACSCOC program requirements? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, list the name(s) of the specialized accrediting organization(s) and the anticipated timeframe of the application process.

2. Does your institution intend to pursue any other non-required accrediting organizations for the program? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, list the name(s) of the organization(s) and the purpose of the pursuit.

If there are plans to pursue non-required external accreditation at a later date, list the name(s) and why the institution is not pursuing them at this time.

Note: Check *No* to indicate that non-required external accreditation will not be pursued, which requires no explanation.

F. Professional Licensure/Certification

Please explain if professional licensure or industry certification is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment in the occupations selected. Be sure to note which organization(s) grants licensure or certification.

No professional licensure is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment. Some clinical and non-clinical employers might have additional on-the-job employer-specific training that is required upon employment.

G. Additional Education/Training

Please explain whether further education/training is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment in the occupations selected.

No further education/training is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment. Some clinical and non-clinical employers might have additional on-the-job employer-specific training that is required upon employment.

H. Admissions

Will this program have any additional admissions requirements beyond the institution's standard admissions process/policies for this degree level? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, describe any other special admissions or curricular requirements, including any prior education or work experience required for acceptance into the program.



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.

I. Mode of Delivery

Provide the planned delivery format(s) (*i.e.*, in-person, online, hybrid) of the program as defined in policy along with the planned location(s) at which the program will be delivered (*i.e.*, on-campus and/or at specific off-campus instructional site(s)). Please also note whether any program requirements can be completed through competency-based assessment.

Hybrid is the planned delivery format for the proposed program; all didactic coursework, which comprises 80% of the curriculum, is offered entirely online. The internship, which comprises the remainder 20% of the curriculum, is in person, and students have the opportunity to complete the internship throughout the US.

J. Projected Program Demand (Student Demand)

Briefly describe the primary method(s) used to determine the level of student demand for this program using evidence, such as enrollments in related coursework at the institution, or a survey of student interest conducted (indicate the survey instrument used), number and percentage of respondents, and summary of results.

A Qualtrics student demand survey was conducted during Spring 2024 term (April 2024) among students enrolled in NTR 222 Nutrition and Health. This course was chosen because it attracts a variety of students from across all schools within the university, particularly majors from Schools of Health Professions, Education, and Nursing.

A total of eight (8) questions were asked to solicit demographic information, interest in pursuing a graduate (MS) degree in Applied Nutrition, and enthusiasm for nutrition emphasis in the curriculum. One of the six questions was open-ended, inviting respondents to provide comments.

In total, 292 responses were recorded from 329 students polled, which represents a high response rate of 89%. The majority (78%) were undergraduate freshmen or sophomore classification, 12% were juniors, 5% seniors, and 5% were non-degree seeking or graduate student. A variety of 24 majors were represented; the greatest prevalence was pre-nursing (52%), Biomedical Sciences (32%), Kinesiology (4%), and Biobehavioral Nutrition and Wellness (4%). Collectively, 56% of respondents reported that they are either somewhat or very interested in pursuing a graduate (MS) degree in Applied Nutrition, 92% reported that students with same/similar major would be somewhat or very interested in pursuing the degree, and 100% reported the nutrition emphasis in the curriculum to be very appealing.

Student comments were positive about the degree. Selected comments follow:

Honestly, I think it would be a great addition to UAB's possible graduate degrees.

I think this is a great program and will open so many wonderful opportunities to students!

I know many people who are interested in pursuing nutrition, and I think this would be of great interest to many students.

I believe this is a really good opportunity for those who wish to pursue nutrition and wellness.



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.

I have a close friend who has always had a passion for this pathway, so this is definitely something I am excited to share with them!

I think it's a really amazing thing to continue to offer better opportunities for students such as this.

K. Standard Occupational Code System

Using the federal Standard Occupational Code (SOC) System, indicate the top three occupational codes related to post-graduation employment from the program. A full list of SOC codes can be found at <https://www.onetcodeconnector.org/find/family/title#17>.

A list of Alabama's In-Demand Occupations is available at <https://www.ache.edu/index.php/policy-guidance/>.

SOC 1 (**required**): 29-1031 Dietitians and Nutritionists (Community Nutritionist)

Briefly describe how the program fulfills a specific industry or employment need for the State of Alabama. As appropriate, discuss alignment with Alabama's Statewide or Regional Lists of In-Demand Occupations (<https://www.ache.edu/index.php/policy-guidance/>) or with emerging industries as identified by [Innovate Alabama](#) or the [Economic Development Partnership of Alabama](#) (EDPA).

Alabama's current rankings are between 45th and 50th in nearly all state metrics for health, wellness, and disease prevention. For instance, in a recent CDC study, Alabama was 6th in the nation among states with the most obese individuals (<https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/prevalence-maps.html#overall>). Diet, weight, obesity, and their associated morbidities are key influencers of health and wellness outcomes. Consistently poor rankings and the diminished health status of many people in Alabama have prompted an initiative to re-visit the state health plan and have led to the development of many other state-wide initiatives such as the UAB Grand Challenge "Healthy Alabama 2030: Live HealthSmart." Further, 8 of the leading causes of death in Alabama have a nutrition connection and include heart disease, cancer, COVID-19, stroke, chronic lower respiratory diseases, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes and kidney disease (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/alabama/al.htm>).

The opportunities to improve health in Alabama are leading to an increased workforce demand for employees trained in nutrition to promote health and disease. The United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (<https://www.bls.gov/>) estimates a much faster than average job growth in Alabama for community nutritionists (7% faster than average growth 2022-2032). Thus, there is a growing industry demand for nutrition health and wellness qualifications that graduates of the MS in Applied Nutrition program will be ideally suited. The proposed graduate major, Master of Science in Applied Nutrition, is designed to meet this need by providing high-impact graduate education to meet existing and emerging employment needs in nutrition for health and wellness in Alabama and across the nation.



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.

Employment opportunities are favorable for Alabama and surrounding states for Nutritionists based on data from US Bureau of Labor Statistics (data from May 2023)

State	Total Employment Opportunities
Alabama	830
Georgia	1,530
Florida	4,430
Tennessee	1,530
Mississippi	580

Retrieved 06/05/2024 from US Bureau of Labor Statistics, available at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dietitians-and-nutritionists.htm#tab-3>

Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics - 29-1031, available at <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes211094.htm#st>



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.

III. Curriculum Information for Proposed Degree Program

- A. Program Completion Requirements: Enter the credit hour value for all applicable components (enter N/A if not applicable).

Curriculum Overview of Proposed Program	
Credit hours required in general education	0
Credit hours required in program courses	27
Credit hours in program electives/concentrations/tracks	0
Credit hours in free electives (approved)	3
Credit hours in required research/thesis	0
Total Credit Hours Required for Completion	30

Note: The above credit hours **MUST** match the credit hours in the *Curriculum Components of Proposed Program* table in Section V.G.

- B. Maximum number of credits that can be transferred in from another institution and applied to the program: 9 credit hours
- C. Intended program duration in semesters for full-time students: 3 semesters
- D. Intended program duration in semesters for part-time students: 6 semesters
- E. Does the program require students to demonstrate industry-validated skills, specifically through an embedded industry-recognized certification, structured [work-based learning](#) with an employer partner, or alignment with nationally recognized industry standards? Yes ☐ No ☒
- If yes, explain how these components fit with the required coursework.
- F. Does the program include any concentrations? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, provide an overview and identify these courses in the *Electives/Concentrations/Tracks* section in the Curriculum Components of Proposed Program Table in Section V.G.



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.

- G. Please provide all course information as indicated in the following table. Indicate new courses with “Y” in the associated column. If the course includes a required work-based learning component, such as an internship or practicum course, please indicate with a “Y” in the WBL column.

Program Name:	Applied Nutrition			
Program Level:	Master's			
Curriculum Components of Proposed Program				
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New? (Y)	WBL? (Y)
General Education Courses (Undergraduate Only)				
	Not applicable			
Program Courses				
NTR 522	Nutrition Fundamentals	3	Y	
NTR 544	Nutrition for Chronic Disease Prevention and Management	3	Y	
NTR 625	Human Nutrition Throughout the Life Cycle	3		
NTR 632	Nutrition Counseling and Education	4		
NTR 681	Foundations in Applied Nutrition I	4	Y	
NTR 682	Foundations in Applied Nutrition II	4	Y	
NTR 683	Nutrition Internship	6		Y
Program Electives/Concentrations/Tracks				
	Approved Elective	3		
Research/Thesis				
	None			
*Total Credit Hours Required for Completion		30		

***Note:** The total credit hours should equal the total credit hours in the Curriculum Overview table (V.B, p. 9).

IV. Program Resource Requirements

A. Proposed Program Faculty*

Current Faculty and Faculty to Be Hired

Complete the following **New Academic Degree Proposal Faculty Roster** to provide a brief summary and qualifications of current faculty and potential new hires specific to the program.

***Note:** Institutions must maintain and have current as well as additional faculty curriculum vitae available upon ACHE request for as long as the program is active, but CVs are **not** to be submitted with this proposal.



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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Current Faculty			
1	2	3	4
CURRENT FACULTY NAME (FT, PT)	COURSES TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
BERTRAND Brenda (FT)	NTR522 Nutrition Fundamentals (Fall Term, 3 CH, G) NTR683 Nutrition Internship (Summer Term, 6 CH, G)	PhD in Nutrition, Auburn University	Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (Commission on Dietetic Registration, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics)
DAVIS Elizabeth (Lizzy)(FT)	NTR625 Human Nutrition Throughout the Life Cycle (Spring Term, 3 CH, G) NTR682 Foundations in Applied Nutrition II (Spring Term, 4 CH G)	PhD in Nutrition Sciences, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)	Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (Commission on Dietetic Registration, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics)
FERGUSON Christine (FT)	NTR625 Human Nutrition Throughout the Life Cycle (Spring Term, 3 CH, G) NTR683 Nutrition Internship (Summer Term, 6 CH, G)	PhD in Human Nutrition, The University of Alabama	Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (Commission on Dietetic Registration, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics)
JOHNSON Maria (FT)	NTR681 Foundations in Applied Nutrition I (Fall Term, 4 CH, G) NTR544 Nutrition for Chronic Disease Prevention and Management (Spring Term, 3 CH, G) NTR683 Nutrition Internship (Summer Term, 6 CH, G)	PhD in Zoology, University of Aberdeen, Scotland	Certified Intrinsic Health & Wellbeing Coach, Intrinsic Solutions, International (National Board for Health & Wellness Coaching (NBHWC) approved training program, 2024) Post-doctoral fellow, Division of Physiology and Metabolism, UAB Dept. of Nutrition Sciences (2001-2022) Post-doctoral fellow, Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research, Dept. of Preventive Medicine, University of Southern California (1999-2001)
KELLY Tara (FT)	NTR632 Nutrition Counseling and Education (Fall Term, 4 CH, G)	PhD candidate in Health Education/Health Promotion, UAB MS in Nutrition Science, East Carolina University	Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (Commission on Dietetic Registration, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics)
Additional Faculty (To Be Hired)			
1	2	3	4
FACULTY POSITION (FT, PT)	COURSES TO BE TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
TBD 1 PT	NTR681 Foundations in Applied Nutrition I (Fall Term, 4 CH, G) NTR682 Foundations in Applied Nutrition II (Spring Term, 4 CH, G)	MS in Nutrition or closely related field	Experience teaching IP, OL, HY

Abbreviations: (FT, PT): Full-Time, Part-Time; (D, UN, UT, G, DU): Developmental, Undergraduate Nontransferable, Undergraduate Transferable, Graduate, Dual: High School Dual Enrollment

Course Modality: (IP, OL, HY, OCIS): In-Person, Online, Hybrid, Off-Campus Instructional Site

Courses Taught/To be Taught – For a substantive change prospectus/application, list the courses *to be taught*, not historical teaching assignments.



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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B. All Proposed Program Personnel

Provide all personnel counts for the proposed program.

Employment Status of Program Personnel		Personnel Information		
		Count from Proposed Program Department	Count from Other Departments	Subtotal of Personnel
Current	Full-Time Faculty	5	0	5
	Part-Time Faculty	0	0	0
	Administration	0	0	0
	Support Staff	2	0	2
**New To Be Hired	Full-Time Faculty		0	
	Part-Time Faculty	1	0	1
	Administration	0	0	0
	Support Staff	0	0	0
Personnel Total				8

****Note: Any new funds** designated for compensation costs (Faculty (FT/PT), Administration, and/or Support Staff to be Hired) **should be included** in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**. Current personnel salary/benefits (Faculty (FT/PT), Administration, and/or Support Staff) **should not be included** in the **Business Plan**.

Provide justification that the institution has proposed a sufficient number of faculty (full-time and part-time) for the proposed program to ensure curriculum and program quality, integrity, and review.

Initially, five (5) full-time faculty from the Department of Nutrition Sciences (DNS) and at least one (1) part-time Credentialed Course instructor will support the didactics of the proposed MS in Applied Nutrition program. Each of the DNS faculty has significant expertise in pedagogy of graduate education, and in program assessment for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) accreditation to maintain program quality, integrity, and review. DNS has agreed to hire part-time Credentialed Course Instructors to co-teach with DNS faculty for two courses (NTR 681 and NTR 682). Additionally, DNS will contract with an external entity to co-create (with DNS faculty) the content for these courses..

C. Equipment

Will any special equipment be needed specifically for this program?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, list the special equipment. Special equipment cost should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

eValue by MedHub is a web-based software system that will be used to build, manage, and report student internship schedules, collect preceptor evaluations, monitor student compliance with internship site placements, monitor progress and performance over time



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.

through preceptor evaluations, and track and validate student internship hours (<https://www.medhub.com>). The cost for this is \$250 per student per academic year.

D. Facilities

Will any new facilities be required specifically for the program? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, list only **new** facilities. New facilities cost should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

Will any renovations to any existing infrastructure be required specifically for the program? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, list the renovations. Renovation costs should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

E. Assistantships/Fellowships

Will the institution offer any assistantships specifically for this program? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, how many assistantships will be offered?

The expenses associated with any *new* assistantships should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

F. Library

Provide a brief summarization (one to two paragraphs) describing the current status of the library collections supporting the proposed program.

Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences (LHL) is part of the UAB Libraries system comprised also of Mervyn H. Sterne Library, Lister Hill Library at University Hospital, Reynolds-Finley Historical Library, UAB Archives, and the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences. UAB Libraries provide access to an array of rich and diverse scholarly resources that inform intellectual, cultural, social, and economic transformation of its community. In 2017, UAB Libraries created one catalog for all libraries to utilize which allows users to look at all libraries' holdings and UAB's licensed content. The catalog is accessed through the library management system Ex Libris and has seamless cloud-based single search capability; this increases access to resources and has more support for distance and international students and researchers.

LHL is the largest biomedical library in Alabama and one of the leading such libraries in the South. The Nutrition, Health & Wellness holdings are integrated into both the health sciences and general library collections. Items integrated into the health sciences library collection are organized according to the National Library of Medicine classification system while those integrated into the general library collection are organized according to the Library of Congress classification system. Faculty, staff, and students can readily access electronic journals, books, and databases from their computers both on and off campus. To facilitate off-campus access to licensed resources, the libraries maintain proxy servers that are accessed using Blazer IDs, UAB computer login names. This enables current students, faculty, and staff to access information resources from wherever they are if they have an internet connection. No



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.

special equipment or computer configuration is required. Additionally, faculty, staff and students have electronic access to the print journal and book collections on and off campus through UAB Libraries' Document Delivery service, which has a 12-hour turnaround.

Will additional library resources be required to support the program?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, briefly describe how any deficiencies will be remedied, and include the cost in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

G. Accreditation Expenses

Will the proposed program require accreditation expenses?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, briefly describe the estimated cost and funding source(s) and include cost in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

H. Other Costs

Please explain any other costs to be incurred with program implementation, such as marketing or recruitment costs. Be sure to note these in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

Marketing costs for web, print, and other media marketing for this program have been included in the budget. The cost for this is \$10,000 per academic year.

The Department of Nutrition Sciences (DNS) shall contract with an external entity to co-create (with DNS faculty) course content for select new program courses (e.g., NTR 681). This is a one-time cost included in the budget for Year 1. The cost is \$16,000 total.

I. Revenues for Program Support

Will the proposed program require budget reallocation?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, briefly describe how any deficiencies will be remedied and include the revenue in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

Will the proposed program require external funding (e.g., Perkins, Foundation, Federal Grants, Sponsored Research, etc.)?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, list the sources of external funding and include the revenue in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.

Please describe how you calculated the tuition revenue that appears in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**. Specifically, did you calculate using cost per credit hour or per term? Did you factor in differences between resident and non-resident tuition rates?

Tuition revenue was calculated using cost per credit hour per term. For the proposed program, 80% of the program courses are online (24 of 30 credit hours), in which the cost per credit hour is the same, regardless of residency status. For the internship course (NTR 683 Nutrition Internship, 6 credit hours), which comprises the remainder 20% of the total program credit hours, we used a residential tuition rate for tuition revenue calculations.

New Academic Degree Program Summary/Business Plan

Use the Excel form from ACHE's Academic Program webpage located at <https://www.ache.edu/index.php/forms/>, named **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan**, to complete the New Academic Program Degree Proposal.

Instructions and definitions are provided in the Excel file. **The New Academic Degree Program Business Plan should be uploaded as an Excel file (.xlsx) in the Academic Program Review (APR) Portal.**

Steps for Submitting the New Academic Degree Proposal

1. Complete the **New Academic Degree Proposal** document.
2. Attach the letters of support from external entities listed in *Section I.D.* at the end of the **New Academic Degree Proposal** document.
3. Save the **New Academic Degree Proposal** document as a **.pdf file**.
4. Complete the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan** and save as an **.xlsx file**.
5. Login to the Academic Program Review (APR) Portal at apr.ache.edu using your ACHE-provided login information. If you are not a designated user for your institution, contact your designated user.
6. Provide responses to questions in the APR Portal.
7. Upload the **New Academic Degree Proposal .pdf file** in the APR Portal.
8. Upload the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan .xlsx file** in the APR Portal.
9. Click to "Validate" the proposal and then address any issues with your submission.
10. Once validation is clear, click "Review" to check your responses before submitting. If all looks good, click "Submit" at the bottom of the review screen.
11. The system will then prompt you to "Lock" the submission. Your proposal is considered submitted only once it has been locked within the APR Portal.

ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY								
INSTITUTION:	University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)							
PROGRAM NAME:	Applied Nutrition						CIP CODE:	19.0501
SELECT LEVEL:	GRADUATE (MASTER'S)							
ESTIMATED *NEW* EXPENSES TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED PROGRAM								
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	TOTAL
FACULTY	\$15,000	\$15,450	\$15,914	\$16,391	\$16,883	\$16,883	\$17,339	\$113,860
ADMINISTRATION/STAFF								\$0
EQUIPMENT	\$1,500	\$2,250	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,750	\$2,750	\$16,750
FACILITIES								\$0
ASSISTANTSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS								\$0
LIBRARY								\$0
ACCREDITATION AND OTHER COSTS	\$26,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$86,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$42,500	\$27,700	\$28,414	\$28,891	\$29,383	\$29,633	\$30,089	\$216,610
NEW REVENUES AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT								
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	TOTAL
REALLOCATIONS								\$0
EXTERNAL FUNDING								\$0
TUITION + FEES	\$101,576	\$139,566	\$159,504	\$159,504	\$159,504	\$179,442	\$179,442	\$1,078,538
TOTAL REVENUES	\$101,576	\$139,566	\$159,504	\$159,504	\$159,504	\$179,442	\$179,442	\$1,078,538
ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.</i>								
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	AVERAGE
FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	No data reporting	5	6	6	6	7	7	6.17
PART-TIME ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT		4	4	4	4	4	4	4.00
TOTAL ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT		9	10	10	10	11	11	10.17
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT		7	8	8	8	9	9	8.17
Validation of Enrollment			YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS								
<i>Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the average annual degree completions.</i>								
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	No data reporting	7	8	8	8	9	9	8.17

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

Resolution

Granting Initial Approval and Submission to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) for a Proposal for a Master of Science (M.S.) Degree in Applied Nutrition (CIP 19.0501)

WHEREAS, the Department of Nutrition Sciences received feedback about its Notice of Pending Proposal (NPP) for a New Program of Instruction from The University of Alabama System campuses for the Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Applied Nutrition on July 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Alabama aims to enhance state health metrics by focusing on health, wellness, and disease prevention, recognizing that nutrition plays a crucial role in the prevention of eight of the leading causes of death in Alabama, and there is an increasing demand for trained nutrition professionals; and

WHEREAS, the M.S. degree in Applied Nutrition offers a practice-based program to enable students to develop competencies and skills to apply evidence-based nutrition recommendations and critically evaluate trends, controversies, and advancements in the field that impact individuals and resources for nutrition health; and

WHEREAS, coursework for this program is expected to be offered entirely online and the program is proposed for implementation for fall 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama that it grants approval of and permission to submit to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) of a Proposal for a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Applied Nutrition (CIP 19.0501) at The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

RAY L. WATTS, M.D.
President

February 15, 2025

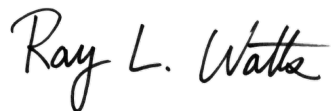
Chancellor Sid J. Trant
The University of Alabama System
500 University Boulevard East
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Dear Chancellor Trant:

The School of Health Professions at UAB proposes establishing a M.S. in Applied Nutrition. The Department of Nutrition Sciences will coordinate the degree. It is practice-based and offers a comprehensive overview of foundational nutrition knowledge. Students enrolled in the program will develop proficiency in the competencies and skills necessary to provide evidence-based recommendations and counseling that promote nutrition for health and wellness to individuals and groups. Additionally, students will acquire the ability to critically assess emerging trends, controversies, and developments within the field of nutrition.

The proposal has been thoroughly reviewed here at UAB and has my full support. If you approve, please include this item on the Board's agenda for its April 4, 2025 meeting and then forward it to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. If additional information is needed, we will be pleased to provide it.

Sincerely,



Ray L. Watts, M.D.
President

RLW:khn

Attachments

cc: Dr. Janet Woodruff-Borden
Dean Andrew Butler
Dr. Tonja Johnson
Mrs. Kirsten Burdick

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

1070 Administration Building | 701 20th Street South

Mailing Address:

AB 1070 | 1720 2ND AVE SOUTH | BIRMINGHAM AL 35294-0110

phone: 205.934.4636 | fax: 205.975.8505

www.uab.edu

February 17, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ray Watts, M.D.
President

FROM: Janet Woodruff-Borden, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

SUBJECT: Academic Affairs Items for April 4, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting

For the April 4, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting, we are submitting the following Academic Affairs items from the following UAB Deans:

Teresa Taber-Doughty, Dean of the School of Education and Human Sciences

- Discontinue EdS in Education: K-6 and 6-12 Collaborative Teacher with Reading
- Discontinue EdS in Education Elementary Education Concentration
- Discontinue EdS in Education with Concentration in Early Childhood Education
- Discontinue MAEd in Early Childhood Education Alternative Master's Teacher Certification Concentration
- Discontinue MAEd in Elementary Education Alternative Masters Certification Concentration
- Discontinue MAEd Reading Specialist
- 15-Hour Undergraduate Certificate Health Coaching

Kecia Thomas, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

- Theatre Education Concentration within the B.S. in Theatre

Andrew J. Butler, Dean, School of Health Professions

- Closure of the M.S. in Occupational Therapy
- B.S in Medical Laboratory Science
- M.S. in Applied Nutrition

Christopher L. Shook, Dean, Collat School of Business

- Changing the Name of the B.S. in Industrial Distribution to the B.S. in Distribution
- Establishment of a Science, Innovation, and Technology Concentration within the B.S. in Distribution

These requests have my full endorsement for submission to the Board of Trustees for review and approval at their April 4, 2025, meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions.

JWB/khm



Janet Woodruff-Borden, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Executive Summary – Master of Science in Applied Nutrition

The proposed Master of Science in Applied Nutrition, housed in the Department of Nutrition Sciences in the School of Health Professions at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, is a practice-based degree that will provide a broad overview of foundational nutrition knowledge. Students in the program will develop mastery of the competencies and skills needed to provide evidence-based recommendations and counseling promoting nutrition for health and wellness to individuals and groups and to critically evaluate trends, controversies, and evolutions in the nutrition field.

Students will pursue coursework in health behavior change theories, motivational strategies, and foundational nutrition knowledge. In addition, they will complete an internship that integrates their didactic learning with experiential learning in a professional setting that aligns with their career goals, with mentorship and guidance from industry professionals and under the supervision of a qualified preceptor.

The MS in Applied Nutrition coursework is offered entirely online, allowing students the flexibility to complete the program from anywhere in the United States. The degree requires no additional admissions requirements beyond the University of Alabama's admissions process and policies for the master's degree level, thereby supporting students from diverse baccalaureate degree backgrounds.

Alabama's current rankings are between 45th and 50th in nearly all state metrics for health, wellness, and disease prevention. In a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control, Alabama was ranked sixth in the nation among states with the most obese individuals. Consistently poor rankings and the diminished health status of many people in Alabama have prompted an initiative to re-visit the state health plan and have led to the development of many other state-wide initiatives, such as "Live HealthSmart Alabama," the inaugural winner of the UAB Grand Challenge. Further, eight of the leading causes of death in Alabama – heart disease, cancer, COVID-19, stroke, chronic lower respiratory diseases, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, and kidney disease – have a nutrition connection. The opportunities to improve health in Alabama have led to an increased workforce demand for employees who are trained in evidence-based practice in health and wellness. The MS in Applied Nutrition is designed to meet this demand by providing a high-quality graduate education in nutrition for health and wellness for students in Alabama and across the nation.



**University of
Alabama System®**

Board Rule 502

Notice of Pending Proposal (NPP) for a New Program of Instruction

(To be completed by the Provost's Office)

1. Institution

(Please select more than one institution for cooperative, joint, and shared degree programs.)

- UAB

2. Date of NPP Submission (mm/dd/yyyy):

05/29/2024

3. Contact Information

<i>Institutional Contact Person:</i>	Katrina Mintz
<i>Telephone:</i>	205-934-2753
<i>Email:</i>	kmintz@uab.edu

4. Program Identification

<i>Program Name:</i>	Applied Nutrition
<i>Degree Nomenclature:</i>	Master of Science

5. CIP Code

<i>2-digit CIP Code:</i>	19 FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES/HUMAN SCIENCES
<i>4-digit CIP Code:</i>	19 FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES/HUMAN SCIENCES ~ 19.05 Foods, Nutrition, and Related Services
<i>6-digit CIP Code:</i>	19 FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES/HUMAN SCIENCES ~ 19.05 Foods, Nutrition, and Related Services ~ 19.0501 Foods, Nutrition, and Wellness Studies, General

6. Program Mode of Delivery

Provide the planned delivery format(s) (i.e., in-person, online, hybrid) of the program along with the planned location(s) at which the program will be delivered (i.e., on-campus and/or at specific off-campus instructional site(s)). Please also note whether any program requirements can be completed through competency-based assessment.

- Online

7. Select a meeting for Board consideration:

- September 12-13, 2024

8. Is the proposed academic degree program currently listed on your campus Three-Year Academic Program Planning Report that is annually submitted to the Board of Trustees?

- No

If no, please explain.

The M.S. in Applied Nutrition will be listed in the upcoming Academic Three Year plan to be submitted to the Board of Trustees submitted in September, 2024.

9. Provide a brief description of the program.

The proposed Master of Science in Applied Nutrition is a practice-based degree that provides a broad overview of foundational nutrition knowledge to promote nutrition for wellness, health promotion, and disease prevention. Throughout this program, students work to develop appropriate mastery of competencies and skills to apply evidence-based nutrition recommendations and methods to critically evaluate and apply trends, controversies, and evolutions in the nutrition field that impact individual and resources for nutrition health. The curriculum will be designed to: 1. Provide didactic instruction in health behavior change theories, motivational strategies, and foundation nutrition knowledge to promote nutrition health for wellness, health promotion, and disease prevention; 2. Provide experiential learning activities that foster client relationship building to support nutrition education for nutrition health for wellness, health promotion, and disease prevention

for individuals; and 3. Provide an internship experience that facilitates student integration of didactic and experiential learning in a professional setting, under the supervision of a qualified preceptor.

10. Relationship of program to other programs within the institution.

10.1. How will the program support or be supported by other programs within the institution?

The proposed program will support the Department of Nutrition Sciences (DNS) Master's programs, by providing an opportunity for those who lack the undergraduate prerequisite requirements for other DNS Master's Programs, but who still want to promote nutrition for wellness, health promotion, and disease prevention. The proposed program can support other Graduate programs from across UAB campus, as students take one Graduate course (3 CH) within the program curriculum that supports their acquisition of education and skills for the job market. The graduate elective course may be offered by DNS, the School of Health Professions, and other Schools across UAB campus.

10.2. Will this program replace any existing program(s) or specialization(s), option(s) or concentration(s) within existing programs?

- No

11. If this program is similar or duplicative of any other programs in the system or the state, please give your rationale for program duplication.

Using the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Institute of Education Sciences (IES) data system, we identified three post-baccalaureate certificates and four Master's degrees with CIP codes 51.3101 Dietetics/Dietitian, 51.3102 Clinical Nutrition/Nutritionist, 19.0501 Foods, Nutrition, and Wellness Studies, General, and 19.0504 Human Nutrition. These degree and certificate programs may include some coursework or experiential activities for health promotion, but the field of nutrition and dietetics and the development of research skills is not the primary focus of the proposed program. The proposed Master of Science in Applied Nutrition is a practice-based degree that provides a broad overview

of foundational nutrition knowledge to promote nutrition health for wellness, health promotion, and disease prevention.

12. Do you plan to explore possible program collaboration with other institutions? Please explain.

At present, there are no plans for program collaborate with other institutions.

13. Please describe the need and/or level of student demand for this program.

Alabama's current rankings are between 45-50th in nearly all state metrics for health, wellness, and disease prevention. For instance, Alabama is 5th in the nation among states with the most overweight individuals. Diet, weight, obesity, and their associated morbidities are key influencers of health and wellness outcomes. The opportunities to improve health in Alabama are leading to an increased workforce demand for employees who are trained in evidence-based practice in nutrition for health promotion and disease prevention. MS in Applied Nutrition program graduates will have a range of employment opportunities available in both public and private sectors, including, but not limited to local and state government, individual and family services, outpatient settings, and social advocacy organizations. The US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates a much faster than average job growth in Alabama for Health Educators (8-10% faster than average growth 2021-2031), Community Health Workers (11% or higher), and for Fitness and Wellness Coordinators (8-10%), for which graduates will be qualified to seek employment.



Attachment C to Board Rule 502 New Program Proposal Supplement

In addition to the items ACHE has requested for program proposals, please include the following additional items when developing and submitting academic program proposals to the System Office and the Board of Trustees for approval.

1. Institution:

UA

UAB

UAH

2. Program Identification

Program name:

Degree Nomenclature:

Date of NPP submission:

3. Six-digit CIP Code:

4. Executive Summary (not to exceed two pages)

5. Steps taken to determine if other UA System institutions might be interested in collaborating in the program.

6. Summary of other campus comments, internal to the UA System or external (if any), regarding your plans for developing this program. Please include substantive feedback from the pre-proposal process.

7. Describe the process that will be used by your institution for routine internal and/or external program review.

8. Describe the process that will be used in assessing program outcomes (to include student learning outcomes).

9. Other pertinent information, if any.

June 7, 2024

Barbara Gower, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Nutrition Sciences
University of Alabama at Birmingham
1675 University Boulevard, Webb 616B
Birmingham, AL 35233

Dear Dr. Gower,

I am writing in support of the new Master of Science in Applied Nutrition program in the Department of Nutrition Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The students who participate in this master's program will graduate with the knowledge, experience, and skillset we are looking for in our company.

At Pack Health, we specialize in addressing chronic conditions and comorbidities that are influenced, in part, by lifestyle behaviors such as healthy eating. Pack Health provides patient education and nutrition counseling for better health. We support our clients' health and wellness plans by engaging, educating, motivating, and counseling individuals through our online platform. MS in Applied Nutrition students will gain a solid foundation in nutrition education, including health behavior change theories and motivational strategies, making them ideal interns and, ultimately, Pack Health employees.

Pack Health is based in Birmingham, Alabama, making it an excellent opportunity for UAB students to get on-the-job experience in an internship and for us to help train our future employees. I am excited about the MS in Applied Nutrition program and look forward to seeing it come to fruition. You have my full support.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Ginter
Vice President and General Manager, Pack Health



June 21, 2024

Barbara Gower, PhD
Professor and Chair
Department of Nutrition Sciences
University of Alabama at Birmingham
1675 University Boulevard, Webb 616B
Birmingham, AL 35233

Dear Dr. Gower,

I am writing this letter in support of the new Master of Science in Applied Nutrition program proposed by the Department of Nutrition Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. As CEO and Founder of Element Health Inc. I know the value of nutrition, health, and well-being services and education. Since 1991, Element Health has been providing clinical nutrition and corporate health and well-being programs and services to clients throughout the United States with a goal of advancing the health and well-being of the individuals and organizations. At Element Health, our innovative and sustainable health and well-being programs are rooted in research and best practices with national recognition. Our team includes experts in the fields of nutrition, dietetics nursing, public health, health education, and exercise science.

The MS in Applied Nutrition program offers valuable didactic instruction in nutrition - as well as health behavior change theories and motivational strategies. This nutrition and health education will significantly benefit students in their understanding of health improvement and participant engagement. Future students may also assist individuals and organizations by promoting nutritional health for overall wellness and disease prevention. Students will also benefit from the opportunity to participate in internships, providing hands-on experience and insights into the operations of various companies. This will prepare them for real-world positions upon graduation.

On behalf of Element Health, I fully support the development of the Master of Science in Applied Nutrition program at UAB.

Sincerely,

Rebecca K. Kelly, PhD, RDN, FAND

June 3, 2024

Barbara Gower, PhD
Professor and Chair
Department of Nutrition Sciences
University of Alabama at Birmingham
1675 University Boulevard, Webb 616B
Birmingham, AL 35233

Dear Dr. Gower,

As the Assistant Director of Fitness and Wellness for University Recreation at UAB, I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the Master of Science in Applied Nutrition program proposed by the UAB Department of Nutrition Sciences.

I've worked in the health and fitness industry for over 15 years both as a practitioner and an administrator. In my experience, nutrition is the foundation of good health and well-being. The capacity that it serves a human body is exponential. I've seen good nutrition not only allow a person to reach their fitness goals, but improve pain and inflammation, reduce stress and stress hormone response, reduce chronic diseases, improve emotional well-being, and so much more.

There are innumerable benefits to providing a well-rounded education in lifestyle and nutrition sciences. The most important being the availability of skilled practitioners with an ability to help people understand the basic components of food and nutrition while addressing their habits and behaviors around food. Getting people unstuck so they can move forward to look and feel better is a giant step toward improving the well-being of our community. Nutrition support not only plays a major role in accomplishing this, but it is required.

From what I understand, the MS in Applied Health will teach students the role nutrition plays in human health and wellness and how to provide preventive care and support lifestyle changes around nutrition. In addition to online coursework (which allows students from all over the country to participate), the program will require students to complete in-person internships that will give them hands-on experience they can use in their careers. Nutrition is not "one size fits all," and this program will enable students to gain organization-specific experience that aligns with their career goals and ultimately supports improved community well-being.

As a lifelong advocate of good health and physical fitness, I fully support this proposed MS in Applied Nutrition program.

Sincerely,
Krissi Williford, MS
Assistant Director of Fitness and Wellness

June 6, 2024

Barbara Gower, PhD
Professor and Chair
Department of Nutrition Sciences
University of Alabama at Birmingham
1675 University Boulevard, Webb 616B
Birmingham, AL 35233

RE: Support for UAB's Master of Science in Applied Nutrition

Dear Dr. Gower,

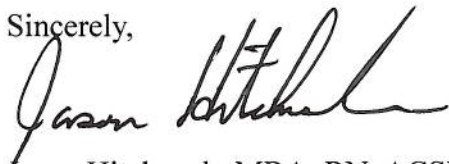
I am writing in support of the new Master of Science in Applied Nutrition program proposed by the Department of Nutrition Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

As manager of Cardio-Pulmonary Rehabilitation Services at UAB Medicine, I can affirm the need for individuals trained in the nutrition sciences to educate and counsel patients who are undergoing cardiac or pulmonary rehabilitation. Many of our patients lack a general understanding of how nutrition affects their overall health and well-being. We need experts with the knowledge and skillset to teach, counsel, and motivate people to change their lifestyles and eating habits with the goal of managing their chronic health conditions and preventing future illness.

The new MS program will provide students interested in a career in nutrition counseling with the education and life experience necessary to pursue these careers. This program's approach is unique, and the students it graduates will be of great value to the workforce in many varied areas of healthcare, both in hospitals, clinics and other areas of care.

I fully support the MS in Applied Nutrition and am excited about the possibility of providing internships for students in the program.

Sincerely,



Jason Hitchcock, MBA, RN, ACSM-CEP | Manager
UAB Cardio-Pulmonary Rehabilitation

Cardio-Pulmonary Rehabilitation	The University of
Spain Rehabilitation Center R480	Alabama at Birmingham
1717 6 th Ave S.	Mailing Address:
Birmingham, AL 35249 - 6842	SRC R480
P: 205.975.5400	619 19 th St S
F: 205.975.5402	Birmingham, AL 35249 - 6842