

Bachelor of Nutrition/ Master of Dietetics and Food Innovation

Expectations of Students

Summary

The following list of expectations have been developed to help prospective students make informed choices about future study and professional requirements. UNSW Sydney encourages applications from students with disabilities and from diverse backgrounds.

Students with disabilities or health conditions are encouraged to register with [Equitable Learning Services \(ELS\)](#). This will enable them to have a learning plan with reasonable adjustments to support their learning/studies.

This program involves physical skills or knowledge that can only be developed to an adequate standard through in-person attendance for classes and assessment. If you are undertaking a course with this kind of content and you have difficulty meeting attendance requirements, you need to reach out to the Program Authority, relevant Course Convenor or ELS to discuss whether any reasonable adjustments or extra support may be available.

1. Legal, ethical and behavioural requirements

Dietitians (and Nutritionists) in Australia play a critical role in the provision of healthcare to the community. As such, the practice of dietetics is governed by Dietitians Australia, a code of conduct, standards, guidelines and policies, which means Accredited Practising Dietitians are both responsible and accountable for ensuring professional and safe behaviour in all contexts. As a student enrolled in the UNSW Dietetics Program, you will be registered as a student with Dietitians Australia. As such you will be required to:

- demonstrate knowledge and compliance with relevant national and state laws, professional regulation and scope of practice.
- meet ongoing immunisation requirements, including those introduced after the commencement of the program.
- understand and appropriately manage ethical issues in both academic and clinical environments.
- demonstrate self-awareness and ensure that your personal opinions, attitudes and behaviours do not adversely affect others; and

- comply with requirements relating to informed consent, confidentiality, and privacy with patient information in academic and clinical environments.

2. Communication requirements (verbal, written and non-verbal)

Effective communication is a core competency for practice as a dietitian. You will be expected to:

- communicate effectively in spoken English and comprehend spoken English delivered at conversational speed.
- understand and respond to English verbal communication accurately, appropriately and in a timely manner.
- comprehend and communicate effectively in written English in a timely manner.
- interpret non-verbal communication from others and respond appropriately with regard to the circumstances.
- demonstrate the ability to adjust your communication style or approach if required to assist or support a client with communication challenges; and
- communicate respectfully regardless of gender, sexuality, age, cultural, religious, socio- economic and educational background; and
- utilise a range of information technology platforms.

3. Cognitive and intellectual requirements

The role of a dietitian can be mentally challenging. As a dietetic student and as an Accredited Practising Dietitian, you will be required to:

- acquire knowledge, process information, analyse, think critically and synthesise information to apply theory to the practice of dietetics.
- utilise numeracy and literacy skills to solve problems which require several cognitive skills including focus, memory and have attention to detail; and
- demonstrate mental capacity to work constructively in diverse and changing academic and clinical environments, which may at times be challenging and unpredictable.

4. Sensory abilities

The practice of dietetics may require sensory abilities with high acuity. As such, it is expected that you can:

- accurately gather and interpret information provided through touch.
- demonstrate adequate hearing/auditory ability (with or without hearing aids or other similar assistance) and respond accurately and comprehend auditory information and instructions; and
- demonstrate adequate visual ability (with or without visual aids or similar) to assess patient appearance, behaviour, posture, movement, and your physical surroundings in a timely manner acceptable for patient safety.
- differentiate between foods using taste.



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5. Physical strength and mobility

Dietetics is a profession that is physically demanding and requires gross motor function, manual dexterity as well as fine motor skills. Practitioners are expected to be able to:

- apply fine motor and gross motor skills to undertake required learning, assessment, and patient examination (including anthropometry), and
- provide basic life support as required.

6. Sustainable performance

The practice of dietetics can require consistent and sustained level of mental as well as physical performance over time. Therefore, it is expected that you can:

- perform repetitive activities with a high level of concentration in an assigned period to provide safe and effective care.

Support for students

- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Equitable Learning Service: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- Mind Hub (Online Mental Health Support): <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/mind-hub>
- Student Support Advisors: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/study-support-and-education-support-advisors>
- Special Consideration: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>



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