



Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences (ALES) Dietetics Specialization Tip Sheet 2023

PROGRAM DETAILS

In Alberta, the University of Alberta's [Dietetics Specialization](#) is the only approved and accredited program in the province. Applicants compete to enter the Dietetics Specialization following a pre-professional year. Internship is a professional placement or practicum. It takes place at approved sites across Alberta during a student's final year of specialization.

The Dietetics Specialization is 4-years in length and admits 50 students per year to the annual cohort. Applicants must apply to the Dietetics Specialization and it has a minimum admission & maintenance GPA of 3.0 (see Additional Requirements below for details).

Students will have a specific course sequence, the same as their cohort classmates, and will not deviate from that pattern for the 4 years in the program. Years 1, 2 & 3 is academic course study and the final year 4 is internship training*. Student's will gain hands-on and lab-clinical training during the program and internship placements. Students will have access to train in the world-class Human Nutrition Research Unit which houses equipment for comprehensive nutritional assessments, including a DEXA body scan machine and Bod Pod.

*Note: Rural Placement Requirement: All interns are required to relocate to communities outside of the metro Edmonton and Calgary areas during their time in the internship. Requests for waivers of the relocation requirement will only be considered in cases where there is a duty to accommodate and the intern is [registered for accommodations](#).

IMPORTANT DATES

Application Deadline: February 1, 2024

Document Deadline: February 1, 2024

Notification of Interview: early April 2024 (Date TBD)

Multiple-Mini Interviews: May 2024 (Date TBD)

Admission Offers: June 15, 2024

INSTRUCTIONS

You can apply at uab.ca/apply. Late applications will not be accepted.

PRE PROFESSIONAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission, students must complete ALL of the following courses by the end of Winter semester immediately prior to admission:

- BIOL 107 - Introduction to Cell Biology
- CHEM 101 - Introductory University Chemistry I
- CHEM 102 - Introductory University Chemistry II
- CHEM 261 - Organic Chemistry I
- *6 units in ENGL OR 3 units in ENGL and 3 units in WRS
- NUTR 100 - Nutrition and Well-being
- STAT 151 - Introduction to Applied Statistics I

Note: If students are granted transfer credit from a previous study, it will **NOT** accelerate the student's degree progress. For detailed information on these pre-professional courses, [please refer to the current calendar](#).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Competitive Admission GPA

Minimum Admission GPA is 3.0. Admission to the program is highly competitive and largely, but not solely, based on GPA. Alberta students who present an admission GPA of 3 or greater (4-point scale) are best placed for competitive admission. Admission GPA is calculated on all coursework completed in the two most recent terms of study (Fall/Winter) provided they contain a minimum of 24 credits. If those two terms contain less than 24 credits, then all work in the term(s) prior will be included in the calculation until the minimum total of 24 credits has been reached.

*For Fall 2024 admission, Fall 2023 and previous grades will be used to calculate each student's initial admission average. This average will contribute to a student's application package score and will be considered for offering interview invitations. Spring/Summer 2023 grades will be included in this calculation if they are available.

After winter term grades are available, students' admission averages will be recalculated to ensure they still meet the 3.0 admission GPA needed for admission to this program.

2. Spoken English Proficiency

Applicants are required to demonstrate Spoken English Proficiency by meeting [one of the specified requirements](#).

3. Full-Time Study Requirement

Your academic history must demonstrate that you can reasonably handle a full-time

academic program. The Admission Committee will be looking for academic success in a full-time course load in a minimum of two consecutive semesters.

4. Letter of Intent

This will be included in your application portal once you apply. The letter of intent provides an opportunity for you to convey career goals, knowledge of the profession, employment or volunteer experience, and other personal attributes.

5. Two Letters of Professional Reference

Professional references only, e.g. former employers, supervisors, professors, advisors etc. No references from family or friends. Applicants will have the opportunity to include the contact information for references when applying to the program. Applicant's references will be given access to the reference form, which will need to be submitted before the March 1st extended deadline.

6. Multiple Mini Interview

The [Dietetics Specialization MMIs](#) are designed to identify those applicants who best demonstrate the personal characteristics, attitudes, and behaviours needed to become competent, caring dietitians. The MMI format is an evidence-based approach that is commonly used to select individuals who wish to pursue degree programs in the health sciences.

The MMI process consists of:

- Seven, one-on-one, oral interviews, and
- One, written MMI response

TIPS & TRICKS

Recommended Path for Admission

- Enroll in the [BSc in Nutrition and Food Science General Program](#).
- Take all courses outlined in the pre-professional requirements.
- Apply to the Dietetics Specialization program during the completion of your pre-professional year.

*Please note: Any transfer credit relevant will be assessed at the time of admission to the Dietetics Specialization program. Given that the program is cohort-based if a student receives transfer credit, they would not be able to advance more quickly than their cohort.

Out of Province Students

Up to 30% (15 out of 50) places in the Dietetics Specialization program may be available to competitive out of province applicants/residents. Please note: all admission requirements will remain in effect including pre-requisite courses and multiple-mini interview.

ADMISSION APPLICATION FORMULA

Applicants are ranked on their academic achievement in the following:

- Prerequisite courses
- Overall academic achievement (emphasizing recent academic performance)
- The content and format of their Letter of Intent
- The strength of their Letters of Reference
- Performance in the Multiple Mini Interview process

Applications will be reviewed by the Admission Committee based on the following:

- Letter of Intent: 20%
- Letters of Reference: 10%
- GPA: 70%

Applicants will be invited to complete a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) and successful applicants will be selected based on:

- Multiple Mini Interview: 50%
- Aggregate Score (GPA/Letter of Intent/Letters of Reference): 50%

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

General Inquiries: ales.recruiting@ualberta.ca

FAQ

Can you check my transcript to see if I meet the prerequisite requirements?

If you would like to know if previously completed post-secondary courses would meet the admissions requirement, please send us a [list of specific courses](#) that you think may be equivalent - along with a detailed course syllabus. Please note that we are **unable to look at the entire transcript** until after you have submitted an application for Dietetics Specialization.

Can I take this program online?

No, Dietetics Specialization program is offered as in-person only. There are many clinical and lab studies incorporated into this program that requires students to be on campus.