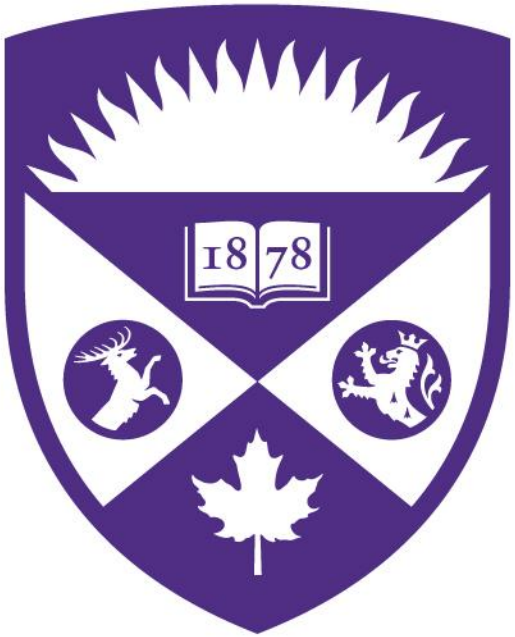
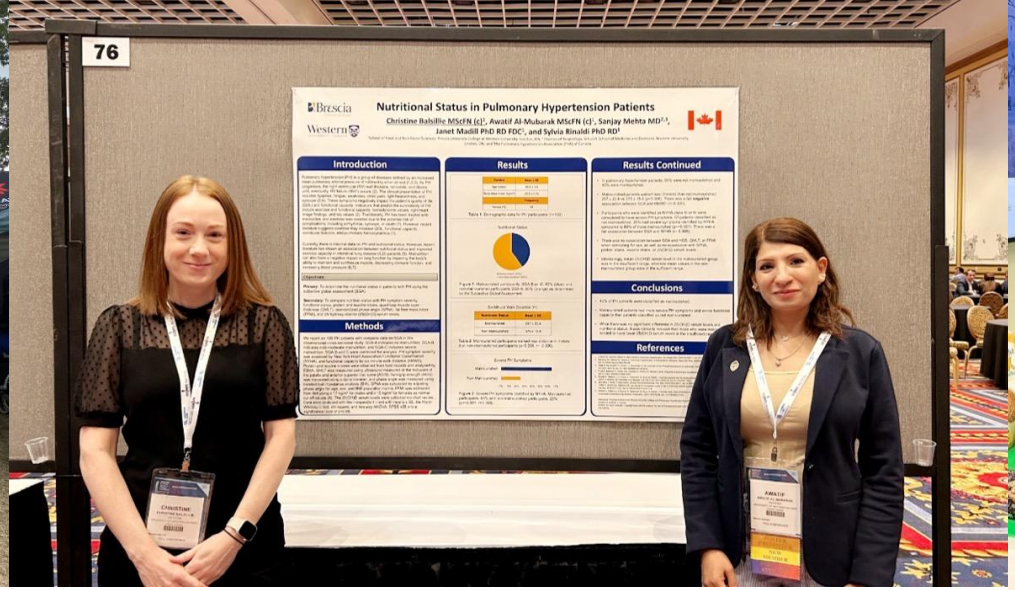


Western

UNIVERSITY · CANADA







Master of Science in Foods and Nutrition (MScFN)

Project-based & Course-based options

Meet our Team



Dr. Danielle Battram
Associate Professor and
Director, Brescia School
of Food and
Nutritional Sciences



Dr. Jasna Twynstra
Associate Professor and
Associate Director, Graduate
Brescia School of Food and
Nutritional Sciences







Meet our Team

- Joy Hoard, Academic Clinical Coordinator
- Lesley Macaskill, Academic Clinical Coordinator
- Michelle Foster, Clinical Placements Coordinator
- Nadia Kirkland, Office Admin - Graduate Programs

Webinar Agenda

1. Learn about our program options
   - MScFN Course-based
   - MScFN, Project-based
2. Application Process
3. The Practicum
4. Statistics after Graduation



Program Option Comparisons – At a Glance

	MScFN (course-based)	MScFN (project-based)
Program Length	12 months (3 terms)	20 months (5 terms)
Full-time or Part-time Options	Full-time only	Full-time only
Practicum-based program	✓	✓
CDRE* eligible after program completion	✓	✓
Academic Research Focus	✗	✓
Master's degree	✓	✓

* CDRE: Canadian Dietetic Registration Exam

MScFN Course-Based Option

Program Duration: September 2027 – August 2028

- 12 months (3 terms)
- Full-time

Online Courses (1.5 credits)

- 3 courses (0.5 credits each)
- Online (synchronous and/or asynchronous)

Practicum (4 credits):

- Approximately 40 weeks, 4 days/week

Milestones

- Academic integrity module
- Gender-Based and Sexual Violence (GBSV) Prevention Education
- Field-based seminar (attend 4 seminars)
- Evidence-Based Practice Project (in practicum)

MScFN Course-based – Program Timeline

Term 1 – Fall (Sept-Dec)	Term 2 – Winter (Jan-April)	Term 3 – Summer (May- August)*
FN9444 Advances in Clinical Nutrition (*online synchronous and/or asynchronous*)	**FN9400** Research and Evaluation in Dietetic Practice (*online synchronous and/or asynchronous*)	**FN9422** Leadership and Policy in Food Environments (*online synchronous and/or asynchronous*)
FN9001 Practicum in Dietetics I (*in placement*)	**FN9002** Practicum in Dietetics II (*in placement*)	**FN9003** Practicum in Dietetics III (*in placement*)
FN9004 Dietetic Professionalism (*in placement*)		
Field-Based Seminar Milestone (attend 4 seminars) (*online synchronous*)		
Gender-Based and Sexual Violence (GBSV) Prevention Education		
Academic Integrity Module		

***Milestone: Practice-Based Project** (in practicum) - experiences to be shared through research day presentations (scheduled for end of term 3).

MScFN Project-Based Option

Program Duration: Sept 2027 – April 2029

- 20 months (5 terms)
- Full time

In-person Courses (2 credits)

- 4 courses (0.5 credits each)
- In-person

Practicum (4 credits)

- Approximately 40 weeks, 5 days/week

Milestones

- Major Research Project - Ongoing throughout the program
- Academic Integrity Module
- Gender-Based and Sexual Violence (GBSV) Prevention Education
- Field-Based Seminars (attend 8 seminars)

MScFN Project-Based - Program Timeline

Term 1 – Fall (Sept-Dec)	Term 2 – Winter (Jan-April)	Term 3 – Summer (May-August)	Term 4 – Fall (Sept-Dec)	Term 5 – Winter (Jan-April)
FN9444 Advances in Clinical Nutrition (*in person**) **FN9711** Nutrition Research and Epidemiology (*in person*)	Pick two of: **F9211** Leadership and Food Management **FN9666** Community Nutrition and Program Planning **FN9111** Food and Nutritional Policies and Regulations (*all in person*)	**FN9001** Practicum in Dietetics I (*in placement*)	**FN9002** Practicum in Dietetics II (*in placement*)	**FN9003** Practicum in Dietetics III (*in placement*)
		FN9004 Dietetic Professionalism (*in placement*)		
		8-10 weeks of research placement (counts towards major research project milestone)		

Major Faculty-Led Research Project Milestone
(ongoing for 5 terms, includes 8 weeks of research placement) (*in person**)

Field-Based Seminar Milestone
(attend 8-10 seminars)
(*in-person*)

Gender-Based and Sexual Violence (GBSV) Prevention Education

Academic Integrity Module

MScFN Program Completion



- Graduates receive a **Master's Degree (MScFN)**
- A step towards becoming a **Registered Dietitian**
  - Completion provides Canadian Dietetic Registration Exam (CDRE) eligibility
  - Can become an RD upon successful completion of CDRE.

- **Possible Careers:** Graduates are employed in hospitals, family health teams, long-term care, food service management, education, industry, public health, private practice, etc.

MScFN Admission Criteria



- Undergraduate degree from a 4-year accredited program in Canada or ACEND in the U.S. (graduated 2023 or later)
- Minimum GPA of 75%* in the last 10 full-course equivalents (FCEs) * Averages between 70-74.9 may be considered on a case-by-case basis

For Graduates > 3 years ago (Canadian accredited program)

- Level 1 result College of Dietitians of Ontario's KCAT

Indigenous Pathway

- 3 designated spots in our practicum programs for indigenous students
- Eligibility:
  - Completion of an accredited undergraduate degree
  - Minimum average of 70% in the last 10 FCE of the accredited undergraduate degree
  - Must self-identify as Indigenous on the online SGPS application
  - Complete Student Declaration of Indigenous Citizenship or Membership Form along with required supporting documentation.

Indigenous Applicants - Brescia School of Food and Nutritional Sciences - Western University

Tuition and Other Costs

OSAP Eligible

Tuition

- Western > Student Finances > Fees & Refunds > Fee Schedules
  - > Graduate – Full Time Canadian/International (tuition and ancillary fees)
  - > Program-Related Tuition Fees (placement fees)

https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student_finances/fees_refunds/index.html

Additional Costs throughout the year:

- Pre-placement health and non-health requirements
- Cost of Living (accommodation, food, etc.)
- Transportation (gas, parking, insurance, transit, etc.)

Student Finances - Office of the Registrar - Western University

MScFN (Project-Based) Research



https://www.uwo.ca/fhs/fns/about/faculty/index.html

Student Research Project examples

Dr. June Matthews



- Mixed methods investigation of food- and agriculture-related courses offered in universities across Canada
  https://doi.org/10.1080/10496505.2023.2255730
- Qualitative study of Canadian farmers' perceptions of economic, environmental, and social aspects of sustainable food production
  https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0299100
- Quantitative investigation of food, nutrition, and hydration issues in Ontario long-term care homes
  https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph22111619

Student Research Project examples

Hospital Projects:

Is catch-up growth appropriate, excessive or not enough for small for gestational age infants (with Dr. Janet Madill)

What does the lipidome and fat profile look like in human milk of small for gestational age infants

Validating the new 2025 Fenton Growth Charts against the older version and a European tool.

Other:

AI project. Developing an app supporting self-efficacy for individuals with type 2 diabetes

How does a self-selected dietary pattern like vegetarianism or vegan diet affect intakes of key nutrients needed during pregnancy



Dr. Brenda Hartman

Student Research Project examples

Dr. Seabrook & Dr. Twynstra



- Does dietitian involvement during pregnancy improve birth outcomes? A systematic review https://doi.org/10.3148/cjdpr-2023-014

- Maternal Eating Disorders and Adverse Birth Outcomes: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. https://doi.org/10.3148/cjdpr-2023-019
- This is the first meta-analysis to investigate the association between maternal eating disorders and adverse birth outcomes.



Student Research Project examples

Effect of a protected mealtime pilot on energy and protein intake in a Canadian hospital

https://doi.org/10.3148/cjdpr-2019-035

Mobile applications to reduce food waste in Canada, a review

https://doi.org/10.1111/cag.12733

The effects of fortification of yogurt with various functional flours on growth and survival of probiotic bacteria and sensory properties of the yogurt

https://doi.org/10.1108/NFS-11-2023-0257

Microbial quality and sensory evaluation of probiotic yogurt fortified with functional seeds

https://doi.org/10.37349/eff.2025.1010101

Dr. Latifeh Ahmadi & Dr. Sharareh Hekmat





Student Research Project examples

- Project- based program -2 years in a row, her students attended the UN FAO World Food Forum in Rome
- Course-based program – student placed with Health Canada evaluated their online Food Safety Course

Dr. Peggy O'Neil



MScFN (Project-Based) Success Story

"The MScFN [project-based] program has been a wonderful experience so far. The professors, coordinators, and preceptors are incredibly supportive. They inspire me to become the best leader I can be in the dietetic profession"



~ Holly Schaafsma, MScFN, RD, PhD
MScFN 2021 Grad
PhD, Health Promotion, April 2025
Post Doc Associate, University of Guelph

*The impact of smartphone app interventions on adolescents' dietary intake
DOI: 10.1093/nutrit/nuad058

International Applicants

For MScFN

Educated in Canada/U.S.

- Graduates with a 4-year accredited undergraduate dietetics degree in Canada or ACEND in the U.S. are eligible to apply

Educated outside of Canada/U.S. or worked as a dietitian in another country

1. Accredited Degree Route
   - Obtain a 4-year accredited dietetics degree from an Accreditation Canada or ACEND-accredited program, **OR**
2. KCAT Route (College of Dietitians of Ontario)
   - Achieve a Level 1 result on the KCAT

International Applicants

For MScFN

MScFN (Course-based)

You will need a valid **post-graduation work permit** and **study permit** for the duration of the program

MScFN (Project-based)

You will need a valid **study permit.**

Contact Western's International Student Services for support and guidance

MScFN Application Process

Application $185 per option

- **November 1, 2026 to January 15, 2027**
- Transcript
- Confirmation of completion of accredited program
- Résumé
- **Supplementary Application form ****
- CASPER

Selection

- Application reviewed by committee
- Interview – **week of February 16, 2027**
- Program acceptance - early March 2027 until filled

MScFN Application process- Transcripts

Current unofficial transcript showing Fall 2026 grades

OR

Official transcript showing accredited dietetic program completion

- Include all past post-secondary transcripts that contain credits applied to your accredited dietetics degree
- Minimum 75% average from your last 10 FCE dietetic program courses

MScFN Application process- Letter of Program Completion

- Signed by your program director
- Confirm you will have met all dietetic program requirements by April 30, 2027

MScFN Application Process- Résumé

- Format
  - 2 pages, **Times New Roman**, 12 font, 1” margins
  - Reverse chronological
- Prioritize dietetic-related experience
  - Hours > 20 hours
  - Description of roles & skills
- Include all post-secondary education

MScFN Application Process- Supplementary Information – Attestation

- Access to reliable transportation
- Provide evidence of meeting health and safety requirements:
  - Vaccinations
  - Vulnerable Sector Screening
- Abide by CDO Code of Ethics

  https://collegeofdietitians.org/programs/practice-advisory-program/professional-practice-resources/code-of-ethics/

Supplementary Information - Placement Regions

- Alberta
- Belleville, Kingston, Brockville
- Greater Toronto Area
- Hamilton / Niagara Region
- Barrie/Orillia
- Cambridge
- Huron-Perth
- London Health Sciences Centre
- London Region
- Owen Sound/Grey Bruce
- Sarnia/Chatham
- Windsor

https://www.uwo.ca/fhs/fns/grad/mscfn-practicum/practicum-overview.ht



Selecting your Top 3 Placement Regions

Considerations:

- Career goals
- Specific placement preferences
- Housing
- Travel
- Personal goals for your practicum year

Note: All students in the practicum programs, regardless of geographical location, will have opportunities to meet all required competencies

Supplementary Information

MScFN Project based Application

2 questions:

1. Briefly describe your research interests.
2. Rank top 5 faculty that aligns with your own research interests.

To learn more about the faculty and their research programs visit Western University < Brescia School of Food and Nutritional Sciences < Faculty Members https://www.uwo.ca/fhs/fns/about/faculty/index.html

Casper 2 (CSP-10211); Nutrition

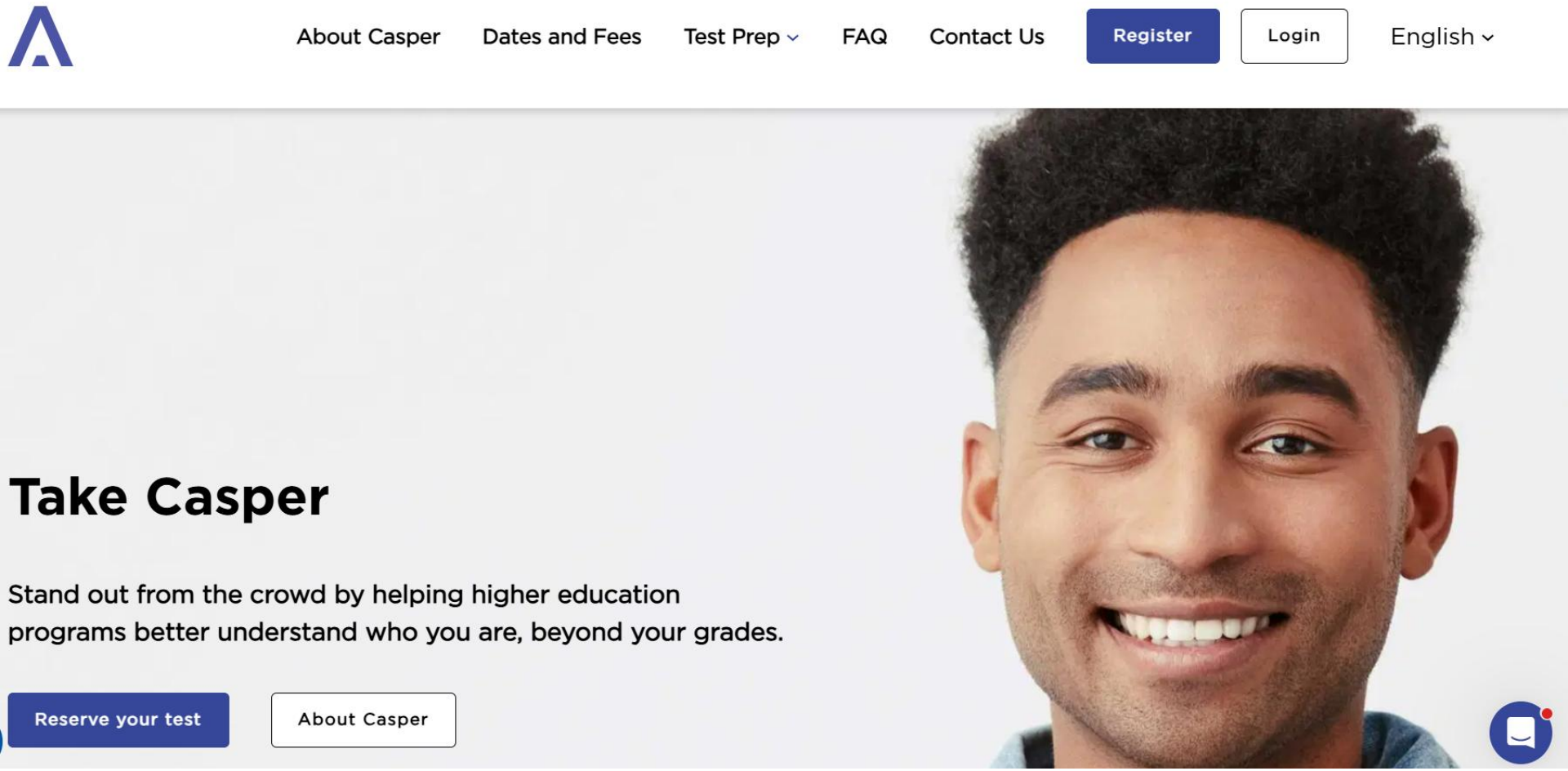
For Course AND Project Based

Casper 2: Online, open-response situational judgment test
https://acuityinsights.app/

- Dates: **Register at least 3 days prior**
- Nov 5, 2026 8:00 PM EST
- Nov 29, 2026 1:00 PM EST
- Dec 1, 2026 8:00 PM EST
- Jan 7, 2027 8:00 PM EST

- Fees are set by Casper: $50 plus $20 distribution fee

Casper 2


About Casper
Dates and Fees
Test Prep
FAQ
Contact Us
Register
Login
English
Take Casper
Stand out from the crowd by helping higher education programs better understand who you are, beyond your grades.
Reserve your test
About Casper

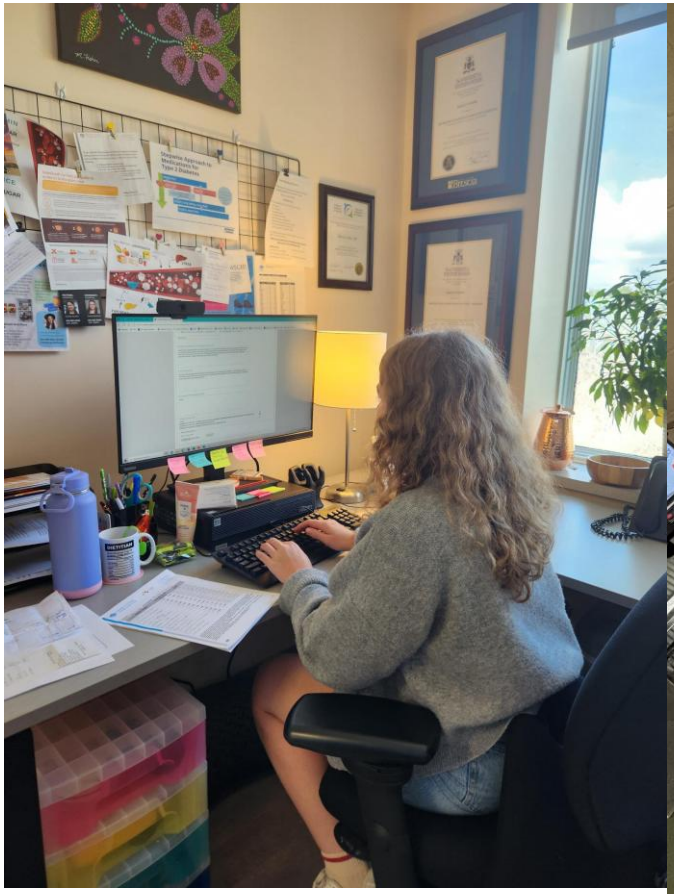
Multiple Mini Interview

For Course AND Project Based

- Virtual interviews
- Email will be sent early February
- Week of February 16, 2027



Practicum







The Practicum Experience

- Diverse Placement Settings
- Comprehensive Dietetic Training (minimum 1250 placement hours + all competencies met)
- Tailored Experience
- Personalized support



Your Practicum Journey

MScFN Project-based & Course-based



Each student is **assigned an Academic Clinical Coordinator (ACC)**.



Each student has a **personalized schedule** designed to:

- Provide opportunities to develop the skills to achieve the ICDEP
- Balance career aspirations with realities of placement planning



Access to **reliable transportation** is **mandatory**.

Placement Structure

	MScFN (project-based) 5 days/week	MScFN (course-based) 4 days/week
Nutrition Care	16 weeks min	16 weeks min
Food Provision	6 weeks min	6 weeks min
Population Health Promotion	6 weeks min	6 weeks min
Academic Research	8-10 weeks	Not applicable
Practice-Based Project	Not applicable	4 weeks min
Flex Weeks	TBD	TBD
Study week	1 week (fall)	1 week (spring)
Vacation	2 weeks	2 weeks

Example Schedules

MScFN Project-based	
Placement (weeks)	**Organization**
Dedicated research weeks (8)	Western
Food provision (8)	St. Joseph's Health Care, Toronto
Population Health Promotion (6)	Communiticare Health Centre, Toronto
Elective/Flex Weeks (4)	Loblaws – head office, Brampton
Nutrition Care (5)	1. Etobicoke Family Health Team
Trillium Health Partners, Mississauga (14)	2. Neurosurgery
	2. Stroke
	4. Renal Outpatients

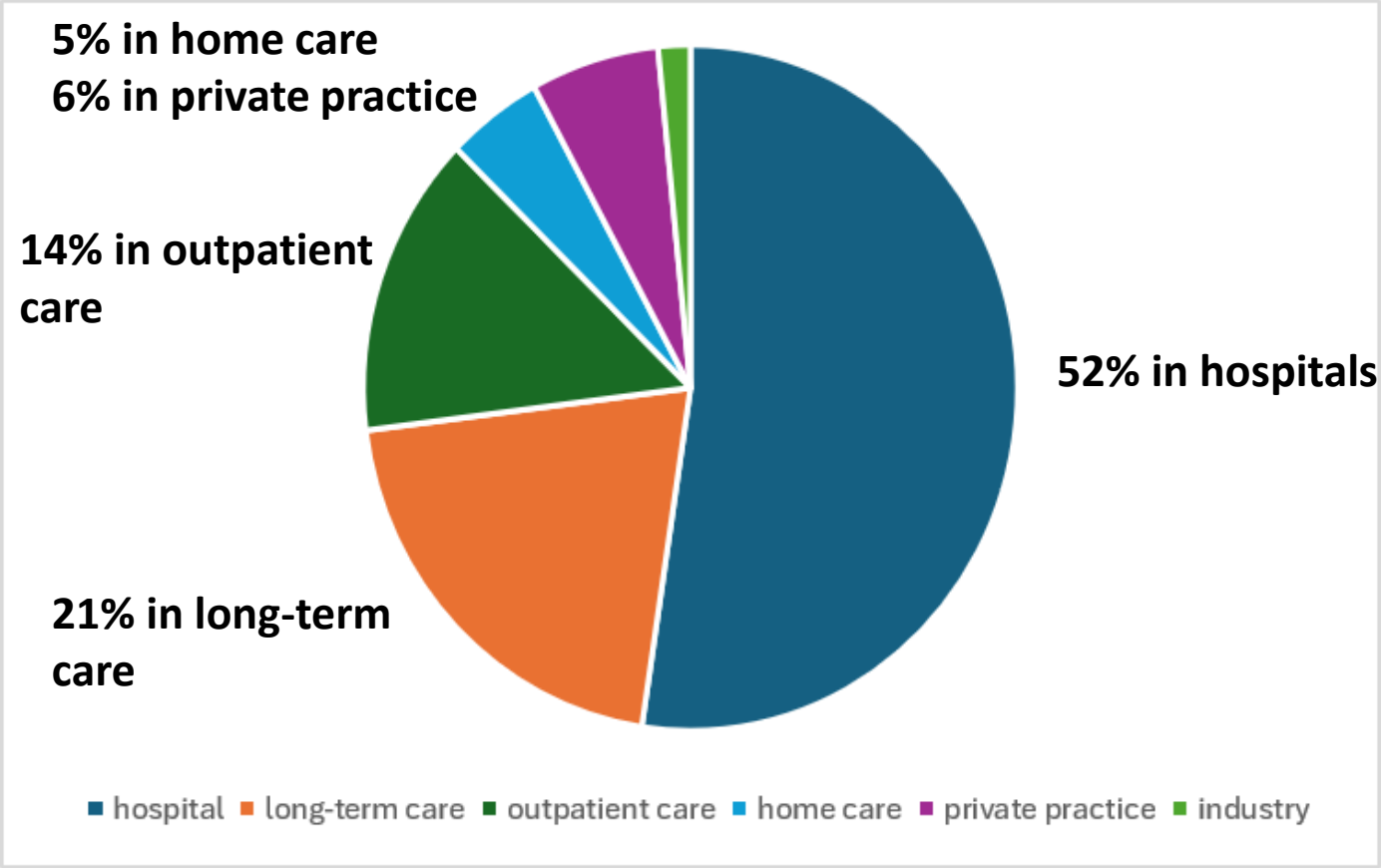
MScFN Course-based	
Placement (weeks)	**Organization**
Project (7)	London Health Sciences Centre/
Population Health Promotion (7)	Southwestern Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre
Food Provision (7)	St. Joseph's Health Care
Nutrition Care at London Health Sciences Centre (19)	1. Pediatric eating disorders
	2. General medicine
	3. Oncology
	4. General surgery

Supporting your Practicum Journey



- Orientation to prepare for practicum
- Educational workshops
- Cohort meetings (monthly)
- Debrief meetings with your ACC (one per term during practicum)
- Additional 1:1 support from your ACC
- Western library access, including PEN
- Western career counselling
- Health benefits and access to student services at Western (this applies even if you are not in London)
- Western financial aid and bursaries available

Where do our recent grads work?

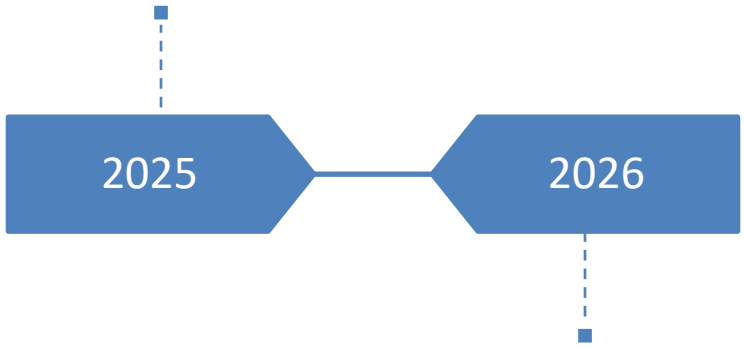


Data is from 2025 and 2026 graduates (n=63)

What % of graduates were offered jobs at placement sites?



18/40 grads (45%)



11/24 grads to date (46%)

Canadian Dietetic Registration Exam

May 2026 Pass rate:

Our students= 100%



MSc and PhD (Thesis-Based)

Health & Rehabilitation Sciences

Field: Food, Nutrition, and Human Ecology

(https://uwo.ca/fhs/programs/hrs/fields/food_nutrition_he.html)

Examples of research areas within the field of Food, Nutrition, and Human Ecology:

- Parenting
- Human development
- Youth sexual health, mental health, resilience, and wellbeing
- Food science
- Food literacy
- Food environments
- Family dynamics
- Maternal and infant nutrition
- Nutrigenomics
- Agriculture education
- Leadership/Policy/Law/Philosophy in human ecology
- Healthy dietary behaviours
- Food product development

does not offer the dietetic practicum

Applications open: November 2026 to January 15, 2027

Want to know more? Drop in and see us

Academic Clinical Coordinator Drop-ins (Room HSB 200P) or virtually





Nov 13, 2026 12:00 – 1:00 PM EST

https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/96228612472?jst=1

Nov 25, 2026 12:00 – 1:00 PM EST

https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/91039215294

Want to know more? Drop in and see us

Drop-ins with Current MScFN Students:

- **Thursday November 26 - Online**
- 6 – 7 pm Eastern Time
- Register here to attend online
- **Tuesday February 23 - Online**
- 6 – 7 pm Eastern Time
- Register here to attend online.



Want to know more? Drop in and see us



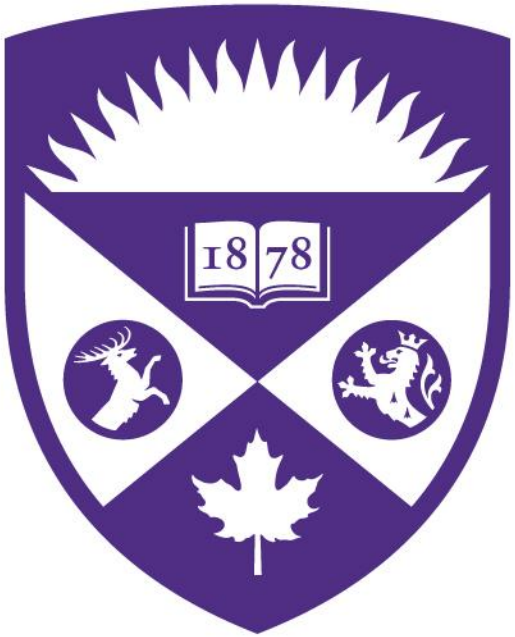




- Program Drop-In Session (led by faculty)
- **Tuesday, December 1 - Online**
- 6 – 7 pm Eastern Time
- Register here to attend online.

WE WELCOME YOUR QUESTIONS

FNSgrad@uwo.ca



Western

UNIVERSITY · CANADA