

Western HealthSciences

Brescia School of Food and Nutritional Sciences

FN 9400 Research and Evaluation in Dietetic Practice Syllabus Winter 2027

Campus Supports

Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. For help with:

- Both physical and mental health, go to [Wellness & Wellbeing](#)
- Studying with disabilities, go to [Accessible Education](#)
- Writing skills, go to the [Writing Support Centre](#)
- Learning skills and strategies, go to [Learning Development & Success](#)
- Contacting the ombudsperson, go to the [Office of the Ombudsperson](#)



Your graduate office (fnsgrad@uwo.ca) can also **guide you** to available campus resources and/or services.

Technical Requirements

 Stable internet connection

 Laptop computer

 Calculator

Important Dates

Term Begins	Classes Begin	Classes End	Exam Period	Term Ends
January 1	January 5	April 9	April 11–22	April 30

January 30, 2026: last day to enrol, declare an audit, or drop a graduate course (without it appearing on the transcript)

February 27, 2026: Last day to withdraw from a graduate course beginning in the winter term without academic penalty. Students who drop after this date will receive an F on their transcript.

Graduate students do not have a reading week, but if there is no class scheduled it can be used for independent study/research.

Contact Information

Course Coordinator/instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Janet Madill	Email: jmadill7@uwo.ca	As per student request

Note: Course information including grades, assignment outlines, deadlines, etc. are available via [OWL Brightspace](#). Download the Brightspace Pulse App to stay up-to-date on course communication and enable your notification settings within “Communications” in the top toolbar. Check the website regularly for course announcements. If you need assistance, visit [OWL Brightspace Help](#) or contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Calendar Course Description (including prerequisites/anti-requisites):

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in Faculty of Health Sciences, as well as any student that has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program. The [Request to Enroll Form](#) must be completed and submitted to the home program for enrolment.

Delivery Mode:

Component	Date(s)	Time
Lecture		

My Course Description

This course explores advanced nutrition topics related to evidence-based practice and research, with an emphasis on individual and population level dietary and nutritional status assessment and population health.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. Apply practice-based research skills to dietetic practice.
2. Identify and evaluate strengths and limitations of currently available dietary intake assessment methods.
3. Use systems thinking in assessing nutrition needs of populations and apply principles of program evaluation.

Course Content and Schedule

Synchronous=S; Asynchronous=AS

Week 1: Wednesday January 6th [S]

- Review of Course outline
- Living Learning Contract
- Review of Assignments
- Assignment of Groups

Week 2: Wednesday January 13th [S]

- *Overview of Journal Club Assignment*
- *Presentation of Journal Club-by Dr. Madill*
- *Articles to be assigned*

Week 3: Wednesday January 20th [S]

- *Student Presentations of Journal Club*

Week 4: Wednesday January 27th [AS]

- *Alexandra Crawford-overview of Systematic Review and Meta Analysis*

Week 4: Wednesday February 3rd [AS]

- Implementation Science-Part 1
- Dr. Madill to provide overview, with class activities
- Readings will be assigned

Week 5: Wednesday February 10th [AS]

- Implementation Science-Part 2
- Discussions of readings

Week 6: Wednesday February 17th [AS]

- *Independent study*

Week 7: Wednesday February 24th [S]

- Implementation Science-Student Presentations

Week 8: Wednesday March 3rd [AS]

- *CCHS data-Part 1*
- *Dr. Madill to provide overview*
- *Readings to be assigned*

Week 9: Wednesday March 10th [AS]

- *CCHS data-Part 2*
- *Discussion of Readings*

Week 10: Wednesday March 17th [S]

- *Student Presentations CCHS data*

Week 11: Wednesday March 24 [AS]

- Systems Thinking-Part 1
- Dr. Madill to provide overview
- Readings to be assigned

Week 12: Wednesday March 31 [AS]

- Systems Thinking-Part 2
- Discussions of Readings

Week 13: Wednesday April 3rd [S]

- Student Presentations- Systems Thinking

Course Materials You Must Acquire and Their Costs

- All materials will be online and at no cost to students

Assessments and Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Component	Weight	Due Date	Flexibility
Practice-based Journal Club assignment	15%	Jan 20 th	1, 2
Implementation Science assignment	25%	Feb 24th	1, 2
Strengths and limitations of dietary intake assessment assignment	25%	March 17th	1, 2
Systems thinking in program evaluation assignment	25%	April 3 rd	1, 2
Participation, includes participation in your assignment presentations, those with which you were assigned and for the Systematic Review and Meta analysis presentation	10%	Throughout	

Notes:

1. All evaluations are considered central to the assessment of learning outcomes in this course. Accordingly, students must provide documentation for any absence from these evaluations. If you miss any of these evaluations, you will not be able to finish this course. Students must not provide medical or compassionate documentation to the instructor.
2. Students are expected to submit this assignment by the deadline listed. Should extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 72 hours past the deadline without a late penalty. No Academic Consideration is required for this extension. Academic Consideration requests may be granted only for extenuating circumstances that began before the deadline and lasted longer than the extension. ***Students must not provide*** medical or compassionate documentation to the instructor.

General information about assessments:

- ☒ All assignments are due at 23:59 EST unless otherwise specified.
- ☒ Students are responsible for ensuring that the correct file version is uploaded; incorrect submissions including corrupt files could be subject to late penalties (see below) or a 0.
- ☒ ***A student might not receive*** the same grade as their group members if it is determined that the distribution of work was not equal.

- ✓ After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days.
- ✓ Prior to the filing of a written request for relief, students must attempt to resolve the concern regarding a mark or grade through informal consultation with the instructor. If the student is dissatisfied with the decision of the instructor or does not receive a decision from the instructor, a written request for relief must be submitted to the Graduate Chair of the School offering this course, within three (3) weeks from the date that the mark was issued.

Use of Artificial Intelligence for the Completion of Course Work

You may use generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot) in this course in ways you believe are ethical, appropriate, and aligned with professional practice, unless an assignment states otherwise. You are responsible for: ensuring all information is accurate and relevant; supporting your work with course materials and appropriate sources; making sure the work reflects your own thinking and judgment. When you use AI, you must clearly explain how it was used. Any errors, omissions, or unsupported claims remain your responsibility. Keep in mind that the more you rely on AI to do the thinking for you, the less you may learn. Struggling with ideas and working through uncertainty are important parts of learning.

Passing Graduate Level Course

The program may require students to withdraw if they fail to meet the following standards: Students must maintain a cumulative average of at least 70% calculated each term over all courses taken for credit, with no grade less than 60%.

Rounding of Grades (for example, bumping a 79 to 80%)

This is a practice some students request. The final grade documented is the grade that you have achieved. There is no rounding to the next grade level, or 'giving away' of marks. Please don't ask me to do this for you; the response will be "please review the course outline where this is presented".

Policy for Accommodation for Late and/or Missed Assignments

In case of missed assessments, a penalty of 10% will be applied for late work without accommodation. Missed assignment more than 7 days late will be assigned a mark of zero without accommodation. In arranging accommodation, instructors will use good judgment and ensure fair treatment for all students. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Graduate Chair of the Brescia School of Food and Nutritional Sciences (see "Appealing a Grade Within this Course" for details on appeals).

INC (Incomplete Standing)

If a student has been approved by the Academic Advising Office (in consultation with the instructor/department) to complete term work at a later date, an INC will be assigned. Students with INC will have their course load in subsequent terms reduced to allow them to complete outstanding course work. Students may request permission from Academic Advising to carry a full course load for the term the incomplete course work is scheduled.

Academic Policies and Statements

Health and Wellness Services

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Academic Support and Engagement - <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca>
2. Wellness and Well-being - <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at <https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at Western [Wellness's Get Help page](#).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca

Student Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at Western University, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit [Western's Code of Student Conduct](#).

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence in the [Scholastic Offences](#) document.

Additionally,

- A) All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for

the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

- B) Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Use of Electronic Devices

During Exams

Unless you have medical accommodations that require you to do so, or explicit permission from the instructor of the course, you may not use any electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, tablets, cameras, smart glass, smart watches, or iPods) during ANY tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations. These devices **MUST** either be left at home or with your belongings at the front of the room. They **MUST NOT** be at your test/exam desk or in your pocket. Any student found with a prohibited device will be referred for investigation of a Scholastic Offence, per the policy listed above. The typical first-offence penalty for possession of a prohibited device is zero on the test or exam.

During Lectures and Tutorials

Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in a particular class.

Online Proctoring

Tests and examinations in this course may be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and the session will be recorded. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

Copyright and Intellectual Property

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. Unless **explicitly** noted otherwise, you may **not** make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.

Accessible Education Western (AE)

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program. Please see the [Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#) for more information.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with [Accessible Education](#) (AE), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AE and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged.

Appealing a Grade Within this Course

You have the right to appeal any grade within this course. The grounds for a grade appeal may be one or more of: medical or compassionate circumstances, extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control, bias, inaccuracy, or unfairness. All grounds advanced in a request for relief must be supported by a clear and detailed explanation of the reasons for the request together with all supporting documentation. For more details information, student can consult the [Procedure for Graduate Student Requests for Relief](#).

Appeals generally proceed in this order:

1. Course instructor (informal consultation)
2. Graduate Chair (submission of written request)
3. SGPS (submission of written request)