

Western HealthSciences

Brescia School of Food and Nutritional Sciences

FN9422 Leadership and Policy in Food Environments Syllabus Summer 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
May 1	May 3	July 23	July 26-27	August 31

September 30, 2025: last day to enrol, declare an audit, or drop a graduate course (without it appearing on the transcript); National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and non-instructional day

October 31, 2025: Last day to withdraw from a graduate course beginning in the fall 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
TBD		

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):

This course explores advanced topics in the areas of dietetic practice, with a focus on the broader food environment including theories, laws, public policies, and ethics.

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: online

Component	Date(s)	Time
Lecture		

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Apply food and nutrition legislations and regulations and explore the impact of these on a variety of dietetic settings.
2. Examine leadership and human progress in the context of ethics, duty to others, law/justice, and humanity.
3. Research and resolve issues in government affairs, public policy, and advocacy.

Course Content and Schedule

Week	Topic	Study material	Evaluations due
1	Leadership in Food Environments	Videos: 1. What are food environments? 2. Systems thinking in nutrition. 3. Leadership roles for dietitians.	Discussion Board Participation
2	Food and Nutrition Legislation	Videos: 1. Canadian food law. 2. Federal and provincial responsibilities. 3. Regulation vs. policy. 4. Professional accountability.	Activity #1: Map a local food environment and identify one leadership opportunity.
3	Government and Public Policy	Videos: 1. How public policy is made. 2. Policy cycle. 3. Evidence in policymaking. 4. Political realities.	
4	Leadership Theory	Videos: 1. Transformational leadership. 2. Adaptive leadership. 3. Servant leadership. 4. Leading change in healthcare.	Discussion Board Participation
5	Ethics, Justice, and Equity	Videos: 1. Ethical principles. 2. Food justice. 3. Health equity. 4. Indigenous food sovereignty.	

Week	Topic	Study material	Evaluations due
6	Death, Dying, and Nutrition Leadership	Videos: 1. Nutrition at end of life. 2. Artificial nutrition and hydration. 3. Ethics and legislation. 4. Leadership during difficult conversations.	
7	Evidence for Policy	Videos: 1. Research for policymakers. 2. Knowledge translation. 3. Systematic reviews. 4. Dealing with uncertainty.	Discussion Board Participation
8	Advocacy	Videos: 1. Advocacy strategies. 2. Stakeholder analysis. 3. Building coalitions. 4. Communicating with policymakers.	
9	Food Environments Across Practice Settings	Videos: 1. Hospitals. 2. Schools. 3. Long-term care. 4. Community nutrition.	Activity #2 Compare how one nutrition policy operates in two different settings.
10	Emerging Policy Issues	Videos: 1. Ultra-processed foods 2. Sugar taxes 3. School food programs 4. Front-of-package labels 5. Social media misinformation	Discussion Board Participation
11	Building a Policy Recommendation	Videos: 1. Writing executive summaries. 2. Policy briefs. 3. Anticipating counterarguments. 4. Presenting recommendations.	
12	Leadership Reflection and Future Directions	Videos: 1. Leadership in action. 2. Lessons from the course. 3. Careers in policy. 4. Lifelong advocacy.	Case Study Due

Course Materials You Must Acquire and Their Costs

- Videos and any course readings will be posted on the course Brightspace page.
 - Cost: No additional cost

Assessments and Evaluation

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

Assessment	Format	Weight	Due Date	Grading Flexibility	Learning Outcome
Discussion Board Participation	Written	10% each (total 40%)	By 11:59pm on date specified	72-hour no late penalty ¹	All
Weekly Activities	Written	15% each (total of 30%)	By 11:59pm on date specified	72-hour no late penalty ¹	All
Case Study	Written	30%	By 11:59pm on date specified	72-hour no late penalty ¹	All

Details:

1. 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.

Course-specific conditions:

1. A minimum of 60% must be achieved to pass the course.
2. To progress through the program, the term average must not be below 70%.

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.
- ☒ 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.
- ☒ Any grade appeals on term work must be initiated with the instructor within 3 weeks of the grade being posted.

Use of Artificial Intelligence for the Completion of Course Work

No Use: Generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot) must not be used for the assignments in this course. Using AI to generate content for the assignments will undermine your learning and will be treated as a scholastic offense. All writing, ideas, and analysis must be your own, supported by topic-relevant sources that you have engaged with, read, and cited.

You may use generative AI tools for non-assessment purposes only, such as clarifying unfamiliar terminology, helping you understand concepts after you have engaged with course materials, practicing explanations or questions for self-study, etc.

If you are unsure whether a specific use of AI is allowed, you are expected to ask before using it.

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)