

Western HealthSciences

Brescia School of Food and Nutritional Sciences

FN9666 – Community Nutrition and Program Planning 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.

Important Dates

Term Begins	Classes Begin	Classes End	Exam Period	Term Ends
January 1	January 8	April 9	April 12–30	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
Dr. June Matthews	jmatth22@uwo.ca	Virtual; by appointment

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):

Advanced study of the principles and practice of community nutrition and education. Based on an understanding of the impact of public policy and social determinants on health, students will explore concepts of health promotion, program planning and evaluation, and current public health priorities.

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: in-person

Component	Date(s)	Time
Lecture		

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the concepts of community nutrition, population health, and social determinants of health.
2. Evaluate population health strategies and programs/interventions using the Population Health Promotion Model.
3. Enhance research, critical thinking, and communication skills through active participation in class discussions and written academic reflections.
4. Value the complexity of, and challenges and opportunities associated with, community nutrition practice in Canada.
5. Reflect upon dietitians' roles in communicating accurate, evidence-based information.
6. Demonstrate professional skills and behaviours (e.g., time and workload management; efficient and effective teamwork; effective and respectful written, oral, and interpersonal communication; leadership; self-reflection; ethics and judgment; as well as independent literature searching, retrieval, and management).

Course Content and Schedule

Class	Topics (Required Reading List posted on OWL Brightspace)
1	Public Health; Population Health Promotion
2	Knowledge Translation
3	Program planning and evaluation; Logic models and their development
4	Population health strategies for increasing awareness
5	Population health strategies for food and nutrition education
6	Population health strategies for skill-building
	Spring Reading Week – Feb. 13-21 (no class)
7	Mid-term academic reflection
8	Population health strategies to build community partnerships
9	Population health strategies to build supportive environments
10	Population health strategies using advocacy
11	Good Friday (no class)

12	Population health strategies to build healthy public policy
13	End-of-term academic reflection

Course Materials You Must Acquire and Their Costs

The Required Reading List is posted on OWL Brightspace. There is **no cost** associated with any of the required reading materials.

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
Mid-term academic reflection	Written responses ¹	40%	Feb. 26	Not applicable - Designated Assessment ²	All
End-of-term academic reflection	Written responses ¹	40%	Apr. 9	Not applicable	All
Participation	Involves asking relevant questions, providing relevant background information, relating current events to the material, and providing clarification of points/issues.	20%		See Attendance Policy	

Details:

- ☒ ¹Reflection is a key aspect of becoming a professional, and reflective writing in an academic setting helps to prepare you for this aspect of your future careers. Reflecting can help you to identify, question, and assess deeply-held assumptions. It can also enhance your analytical and writing skills.
- ☒ ²Designated Assessment: This assessment has been designated as being central to the evaluation of learning outcomes in this course. Accordingly, you must provide documentation for any absence from this evaluation. If you miss this evaluation, you must complete the makeup assessment on Friday, March 5.

General information about assessments:

- ☒ 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

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 assignments 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)