



SUBJECT	Tuition Master of Nutrition and Dietetics
SUBMITTED TO	Finance Committee
MEETING DATE	February 3, 2021
SESSION CLASSIFICATION	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
REQUEST	<p>Action requested - Approval</p> <p>IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Finance Committee, in accordance with authority delegated by the Board of Governors, approves tuition for the Master of Nutrition and Dietetics of \$4,167.76 per instalment for domestic students and \$9,953.48 per instalment for international students for a minimum of seven instalments resulting in an overall program fee of \$29,174.31 for domestic students and \$69,674.33 for international students, subject to increases as approved by the Board of Governors.</p>
LEAD EXECUTIVE	Dr. Andrew Szeri, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver
SUPPORTED BY	Dr. Pam Ratner, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Enrolment & Academic Facilities Dr. Simon Bates, Associate Provost Teaching & Learning

PRIOR SUBMISSIONS

The subject matter of this submission has not previously been considered by the Finance Committee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UBC's Faculty of Land and Food Systems (LFS) is proposing a Master of Nutrition and Dietetics (MND), a graduate-level health professional program that meets credential requirements for graduates to license as a Registered Dietitian in Canada. This 28-month program will be offered on a full-time basis, consisting of courses and practice education (practicum/internships) placements. Graduates of the program will be eligible to license in Canada upon passing the national exam and registering with a provincial regulatory college (e.g., the College of Dietitians of British Columbia). The program would be the first of its kind in Western Canada.

Pending approval from the UBC Vancouver Senate, the Board of Governors, and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training, the program will launch in September 2022. Proposed tuition fees are \$4,167.76 per instalment for domestic students and \$9,953.48 per instalment for international students for a minimum of 7 instalments resulting in an overall program fee of \$29,174.31 for domestic students and \$69,674.33 for international students. We anticipate enrolling 12 students in the first year (10 domestic, two international), with an expected 20 students (16 domestic and two international) students per year at steady state. Enrolment in the undergraduate dietetics program is not expected to be impacted. The program is committed to supporting Indigenous, Black, and other persons of colour (IBPOC) who may be faced with systemic and financial barriers to pursuing dietetics education and will commit 4% of tuition revenue for financial aid to IBPOC students, in addition to the scholarships and bursaries available to all students.

Please note: This proposal is pending Senate approval (February 10, 2021). The proposal was reviewed and approved at the Graduate Curriculum Committee on December 11, 2020 and will be reviewed at the Senate Admissions Committee on January 13, 2021 and the Senate Curriculum Committee on January 25, 2021.

The Office of the Vice-President Students, in partnership with LFS, conducted a student consultation (Oct 7, 2020 to Nov 9, 2020) regarding the tuition proposal (as per Policy LR4). Both the Alma Mater Society (AMS) and Graduate Student Society (GSS) showed support for the proposal. GSS requested clarity on: (1) the tuition cost compared to the UBC Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) and Occupational Therapy (MOT) programs and (2) how the program plans to support prospective and enrolled international students. Our program detailed specific considerations for tuition compared with the MPT and MOT programs, namely that Dietetics is a program that does not receive seat-based funding from the Ministry of Health. We clarified that international students will be supported by existing LFS and Dietetics program advisors.

The MND program will position UBC as a leader in dietetics education in Canada, while also delivering on several of the University's Strategic Plan strategies including:

[Strategy 1: Great People](#) The program will engage great people such as students, community leaders, and researchers.

[Strategy 9: Knowledge Exchange](#) Research competency is integrated and supported throughout the program.

[Strategy 13: Practical Learning](#) The program prioritizes practicum placements for hands-on student learning.

[Strategy 16: Public Relevance](#) The practice-based research projects will directly impact communities.

[Strategy 17: Indigenous Engagement](#) The program integrates Indigenous curriculum to improve health care for Indigenous peoples and uses the UBC Indigenous Strategic Plan as a guiding framework.

Currently, the only pathway to becoming a registered dietitian in BC is a competitive five-year undergraduate program at UBC that graduates approximately 36 students per year. Approximately 35-40% of students who apply already have an undergraduate degree. The MND program will attract applicants from a variety of areas: students with health science, kinesiology, and biology/physiology backgrounds; individuals trained as dietitians external to Canada who wish to license in BC or Canada; and mid-career professionals who wish to change careers and pursue dietetics. It is anticipated that new job opportunities for dietitians will be created as the Ministry of Health continues to invest in primary care, mental health, and long-term care services – settings where dietitians play integral roles as part of the healthcare team. Many existing jobs are filled by dietitians with out-of-province education to meet labour demand. BC's labour market outlook estimates that there will be 830 job openings for dietitians and nutritionists in the province over the next 10 years. This program will help meet BC's labour shortages, create an efficient route to credential as a dietitian for those who hold existing undergraduate degrees, and support training graduate-level dietitians who can meet increasing leadership demands in interdisciplinary health care in BC.

The program has been designed to meet the national accreditation standards and competencies required for entry-level dietetic education and practice, while also including coursework that integrates various priorities identified by the Ministry of Health, in particular leadership training and interprofessional collaboration, and by UBC Dietetics Alumni — advanced counselling, Indigenous People's health and entrepreneurship. Throughout the program, students will be engaged in applied research and leadership opportunities to enhance their interdisciplinary skills and contribute to community-based projects. Practicum courses are strategically placed after completion of specific courses in order for students to apply and integrate various components of dietetic practice immediately in real world settings. Students will be learning from community leaders and subject matter experts throughout their program.

APPENDICES

1. Tuition and Fee Assessment Details
2. Student Tuition Consultation Report

Tuition and Fee Assessment Details

Program Description: Master of Nutrition and Dietetics

Anticipated Start Date: September 2022

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per instalment – Note 1	\$4,167.76	\$9,953.48
Minimum No. of Instalments	7	7
Continuing Fees per Instalment (assessed after 7 instalments)	\$776.01	\$2,984.09
Application Fees (Graduate) – Note 2	\$108.00	\$168.25
Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit	N/A	N/A
Other Faculty and Course Fees	N/A	N/A

Note 1 – Proposed tuition will be subject to increases as approved by the Board. Tuition and student fees are charged in three equal instalments payable in January, May, and September.

Note 2 – This is the current fee for the 2021W application cycle and is subject to increases as approved by the Board.

MASTER OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS
STUDENT TUITION CONSULTATION REPORT

The Vice-President, Students Office, in partnership with the Faculty of Land and Food Systems, conducted a student consultation regarding the tuition proposal for a Master of Nutrition and Dietetics. This report outlines the consultation process and summarizes student feedback including the student representatives' submission verbatim in Appendix 2.

Student Representative Bodies Invited to the Consultation

- Alma Mater Society (AMS)
- Graduate Student Society (GSS)

Mode of Consultation

The consultation consisted of an e-consultation and a face-to-face meeting. Student representative groups were invited to the consultation through email, and asked to distribute the invitation to their constituents as they felt appropriate. Student representative groups were also offered a face-to-face meeting to discuss the tuition proposal. A meeting was not requested by student representatives.

Basis of Consultation: The consultation was based on a tuition proposal and rationale document created by the Faculty of Land and Food Systems. Please see Appendix 1 for the invitation and tuition rationale document.

Timelines: The e-consultation was conducted over the period of October 7th 2020 to November 9th 2020.

Summary of Student Feedback: Submissions were received from the AMS and GSS. The verbatim submissions are in Appendix 2, along with the Faculty response.

Organization	Summary
GSS	<p>DOMESTIC TUITION CONCERN “Given the striking similarities between these programs, we would appreciate clarification on why the domestic tuition for the MND program is \$29,174.31, while the domestic tuition for UBC’s MOT and MPT is \$15,877.</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT “The GSS would like to know if there is a mitigation strategy in place to ensure the financial viability of the program in the event that the international recruitment target cannot be met.”</p> <p>ADVISING SUPPORT Given that the MND program appears to be designed for the BC context and that there is a good deal of complexity to the provincial health care model, the GSS asks the Faculty of Land and Food Systems to clarify what advising supports it will provide to both students and prospective students of the MND program. Additionally, the GSS would like clarification on how the MND program plans to manage and support international students.</p> <p>SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS AND RACIALIZED STUDENTS “Finally, the GSS would like further clarification on how the MND program will support its Indigenous and racialized students, with specific attention to international students. [...] The GSS asks the Faculty how they will reconcile these barriers given the current social climate, as well as provide further information on the direct resources or programs they will enact to support BIPOC students of this program.”</p>

<p>AMS</p>	<p>TIMELY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT “The AMS foresees that the reduction in the required years of education in order to become RD certified will put MND graduates into the workforce at a faster rate than previous years. This is an especially timely and important aspect of the MND program, considering the expected increase in demand for services in the mental health, primary care, seniors’ care, chronic disease management, and resource management sectors of the post-COVID-19 context.”</p> <p>EQUITABLE TUITION “Compared to other similar type programs such as the MSc Human Nutrition (Dietetics Credentialing) program at McGill, the proposed tuition fees for the MND program seem equitable.”</p> <p>FINANCIAL SUPPORT ALLOCATION APPRECIATED “The AMS is pleased to hear that the program is allocating 4% of tuition revenue towards financial support targeted specifically for Indigenous students and other racialized students who might be facing financial barriers. The AMS is intent on ensuring that there is continuous and adequate evaluation of the financial aid allocation process in order to guarantee that the dynamic needs of prospective students are met, regardless of their economic status.”</p>
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APPENDIX 1: INVITATION TO CONSULTATION AND TUITION RATIONALE DOCUMENT

Good afternoon!

There is a proposal by the Faculty of Land and Food Systems to create a Master in Nutrition and Dietetics Graduate degree (MND).

In order to inform the program leads and the Board of Governors with regards to the **tuition proposal** for this program, the University is undertaking a consultative process to get your comments as student representatives, and provide an opportunity for students to provide individual comments on the tuition proposal if they wish. **Please note: the scope of this consultation process is limited to the tuition proposal.**

The consultation will consist of:

1. e-consultation

Please find attached a document which outlines the details of the tuition proposal, including:

- an overview of the program,
- the student consultation that has happened to date,
- the tuition rationale for the program, and
- the proposed tuition.

Please share the document and this email as you see appropriate. **Comments on the tuition proposal and student organization submissions can be provided confidentially to Natasha Moore - Analyst, Vice President Students Office (natasha.moore@ubc.ca).**

2. Face to Face meeting

If requested by student representatives, we can arrange a face-to-face meeting with the program leads regarding this tuition proposal. Please advise as soon as possible if you would like us to arrange a meeting.

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS WILL END ON MONDAY 9TH NOVEMBER, 2020.

Confidentiality

Comments will be collected by the Vice-President Students Office, and only analysts within that office will know the identity of individual students submitting comments. At no time will anyone outside of the Vice President Students Office know the identity of individual students who submit comments to this consultation. Your comments will only be used for the purposes of the tuition consultation.

Comments from individual students will be stripped of any identifying information to ensure confidentiality, but otherwise will be provided to the responsible program leads and Board of Governors verbatim.

Comments received from student organizations will be reported as coming from those organizations, and provided to the responsible faculty and Board of Governors as received. There will also be a summary report of the consultation developed for the Faculty and Board of Governors.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the process.

Thank you

Natasha

NEW PROGRAM TUITION CONSULTATION

Faculty of Land and Food Systems – Master in Nutrition and Dietetics Graduate Degree

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The proposed 28-month Master in Nutrition and Dietetics (MND) is a professional graduate degree program aimed at meeting national accreditation standards for dietetic education, and meeting student- and Ministry-identified educational priorities for dietitians.

Registered Dietitians (RDs) are a recognized health profession as outlined by the Provincial *Health Professions Act*. Dietitians are an essential part of the healthcare system and the demand for dietetics expertise is growing as the province positions itself to invest more into primary care, mental health, care for the aging population, health promotion, and chronic disease management. Currently, the only dietetics training program in BC is available from UBC with the BSc (Food, Nutrition and Health – Major Dietetics) degree – a program that is 5 years in length and may pose financial and time-based barriers to potential applicants. Further, our current program only accepts 36 students per year (about 40% of the applicant pool), and remains highly competitive for admission.

There is an urgent need in the province to expand our program to meet the health needs of British Columbians and support growing work opportunities. The 2019 BC Labour Market Outlook classifies dietitians as a “high opportunity occupation” and projects an average of 82 job openings each year over the next ten years. As the only training program for future dietitians, UBC has a mandate to meet provincial health profession shortages by increasing training capacity. Additionally, the Ministry of Health has indicated a gap in the workforce of Allied Health Professionals equipped for more leadership capacity. The proposed MND program is positioned to meet more leadership and research roles with its focus on leadership, research, and social justice concepts compared to the undergraduate Dietetics program.

This new program targets applicants with an existing baccalaureate degree in a related field, who also meet specific prerequisite criteria, looking to transition to the field of dietetics. Approximately 35-40% of applicants to the undergraduate Dietetics Major have a pre-existing undergraduate degree. The newly proposed MND program would allow applicants who have an existing undergraduate degree to obtain RD credentialing more efficiently. The program would meet national accreditation standards for graduates, including required Practice Education Placement (PEP) hours needed to practice as Registered Dietitians in Canada. Students will be required to complete 87.5 credits and a minimum of 1250 hours of practicum.

We anticipate that the MND will admit approximately 18 students, increasing the total number of graduated dietitian trainees to approximately 50 each year. Thus, the MND program will help meet projected workload shortages in BC.

Objectives:

- Assess food and nutrition needs of individuals, communities, and populations as part of interprofessional teams;
- Use a health equity lens to promote the health needs of individuals, communities, and populations;
- Lead, organize, monitor and evaluate food provision services to support the health of a group or organization;
- Enhance dietetic practice using evidence- and practice-based research skills;
- Lead dietetics and interprofessional teams to advance health through food and nutrition; and,
- Provide culturally appropriate and safe dietetic service to people from diverse socio-cultural backgrounds, including Indigenous Peoples.

STUDENT CONSULTATION DURING THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Feedback surveys of current Dietetics undergraduate students and alumni were conducted in July 2020. Of the respondents (n=115), 82% indicated “Very positive” or “Somewhat positive” response to the proposed program. Respondents (n=116) indicated the following priority areas of a master’s level education in dietetics: (1) Counselling, (2) Social Justice issues, (3) Business/Leadership, (4) Indigenous health, and (5) Clinical nutrition.

Results from a recent survey of students and alumni who completed the BSc Dietetics program with a previous undergraduate degree (n=34) solidified the need and demand for the Program, as 97% of respondents indicated they would be “interested” or “very interested” in this Program, citing not wanting “two bachelor degrees” and “become a registered dietitian in a shorter time frame” as their top motivations.

The Dietetics Program has conducted annual feedback surveys of Dietetics Major graduates immediately after completing their last semester of practice education placements since 2007. Results from these surveys have informed the development of curriculum and design of the MND program.

The UBC Dietetics Program Advisory Committee was formed in 2019, comprising of dietitians from various practice areas and various geographic regions across BC. The Committee provides high-level feedback on Dietetics program initiatives and includes a student representative and a new graduate representative. The feedback from the student and recent graduate committee members regarding program objectives and proposed curriculum was very favourable.

TUITION AND FEES RATIONALE

Domestic:

The proposed tuition for the entire program is \$29,174.31 CAD*.

Students will pay \$4,167.76 CAD per instalment for a minimum of 7 instalments.

International:

The proposed tuition for the entire program is \$69,674.33 CAD*.

Students will pay \$9,953.48 CAD per instalment for a minimum of 7 instalments.

** Continuing fees will apply for students who exceed the intended 28-month (7-instalment) schedule.*

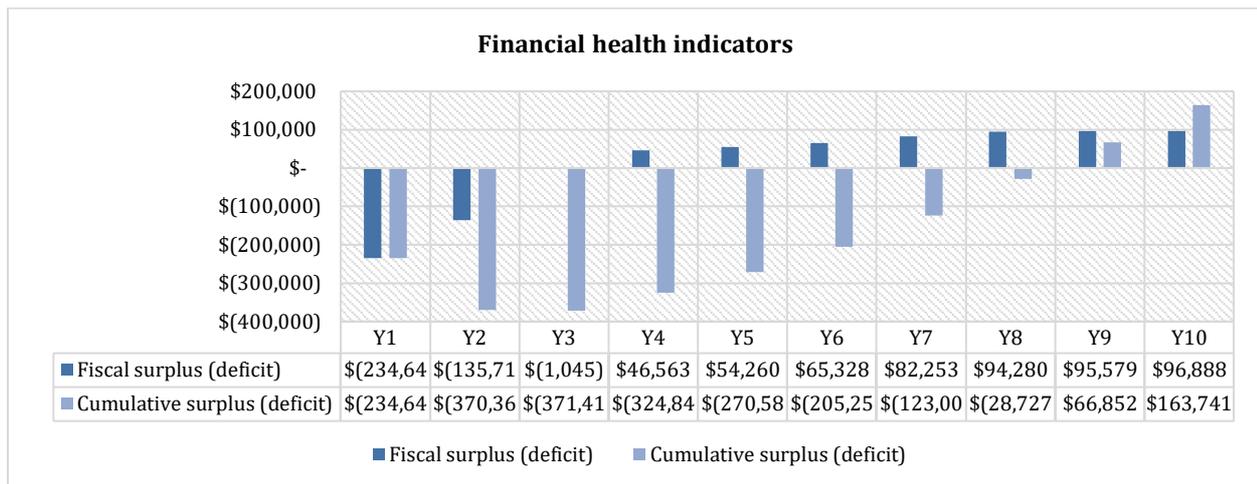
Application fees are proposed to be \$108.00 for domestic applicants and \$168.25 for international applicants, in alignment with the currently approved graduate application fees for applications to be received for 2021W. These fees are subject to increases as approved by the Board of Governors.

The program budget was developed with assistance of the Provost’s Office Strategic Decision Support (SDS) unit. An overview of the financial viability of the program is shown in **Table 1**. Considerations influencing the propose tuition:

- In the first two years of the program, estimated student enrolment will be: 12 students (10 domestic, 2 international). Student enrolment is projected to reach a steady state by the fourth year: 18 students (16 domestic, 2 international), for a maximum of 60 students total in the Program in a given year. There is potential capacity to enrol greater than 20 students/year.
- It is anticipated that at least 10% of annual student enrolment will be by international applicants.
- Several courses include sessional instructors as well as guest lecturers (subject area experts) and the Dietetics Program is committed to providing fair and equitable compensation for their expertise and time.

- Costs include teaching, program administration, program operations (student practicum coordination, preceptor support), marketing, and technical support. The largest budgeted expenditure will be for faculty and staff positions for the program.
- Our program is committed to supporting Indigenous students and other racialized students who may be faced with financial barriers to pursue higher education. The Program is committing 4% of tuition revenue to support students (financial aid).

Table 1. Financial Modelling of the MND Program.



Tuition fees have been estimated using comparisons between other UBC Allied Health Programs (e.g., Occupational Therapy, Speech Language Pathology, Physical Therapy, etc.) and the only other Canadian Dietetic Program that is comparable in offering.

Tuition fees have accounted for curriculum requirements (**Table 2**), including significant program staffing requirements to coordinate and support integrated student practice education placements in all three program years (**Table 3**).

Table 2. Course Requirements of the MND Program.

YEAR TAKEN		REQUIRED COURSES	CR.	PREREQUISITES	
1	T1	Research Methods in Human Nutrition	HUNU 500	3	-
		Advances in Human Nutrition	HUNU 550	3	FNH 250 or equivalent BIOL 201, BIOC 202, or equivalent
		Nutrition Assessment Across the Lifespan	HUNU 510	3	FNH 250 or equivalent BIOL 155, 153, CAPS 301, or equivalent
		Professional Dietetic Practice I	FNH 380	3	-
	T2	Food Theory and Applications	HUNU 540	4.5	FNH 200; CHEM 111,113 or CHEM 121,123 or equivalents
		Counselling Skills in Dietetics	HUNU 545	3	HUNU 510
		Population and Public Health Dietetics	HUNU 573	3	-
	Nutrition Care I	HUNU 575	3	HUNU 500, 510, 550	
T3	Dietetics Practice Education Placement I	HUNU 579	3	HUNU 545, 575	
2	T1	Business & Entrepreneurship in Dietetics	HUNU 515	3	-
		Food Provision and Management	HUNU 541	3	HUNU 540, 573, 575
		Leadership in Dietetics and Health	HUNU 560	3	-
		Nutrition Care II	HUNU 576	4	HUNU 500, 575, 579
	T2	Nutrition Care III	HUNU 577	4	HUNU 525 (or corequisite), 545, 573, 575, 576, 579
		Professional Dietetic Practice II	HUNU 580	3	FNH 380, HUNU 579
		Indigenous Health in Dietetics	HUNU 525	3	-
	Dietetics Practice Education Placement II	HUNU 581	3	HUNU 500, HUNU 581	

	T3	Dietetics Practice Education Placement III	HUNU 582	12	HUNU 579, 581
3	T1	Dietetics Practice Education Placement IV	HUNU 583	12	HUNU 579, 581, 582

Table 3. Overview of Practicum Hours

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug
	Winter Term 1				Winter Term 2				Summer			
MND Y1									HUNU 579 [439 hours ¹]			
MND Y2					HUNU 581 [117 hours ²]				HUNU 582 [439 hours ¹]			
MND Y3	HUNU 583 [439 hours ¹]											

¹ Hours are calculated as follows, using 13 weeks minimum: [7.5h/day * 5 days/week * 13 weeks = 487.5h]; some placements may exceed 13 weeks.

² Hours are calculated using an average of 9h/week: [9h/week*13 weeks = 117h]

There are other graduate-level dietetics programs in Canada, however only McGill University has a comparable program; it is also an entry-to-practice, accredited program with integrated practicum. The other Canadian graduate dietetics programs require students to have completed an accredited dietetics undergraduate program; many dietetics training programs across Canada do not include an integrated practicum and therefore do not meet eligibility for graduates to write the qualifying examination to obtain the Registered Dietitian designation. McGill University tuition for Quebec students is [significantly subsidized](#) by the Government of Quebec, and is therefore not included here. McGill also requires a “qualifying year” of course prerequisites which is not included in the tuition calculation of the program. An overview of comparable programs is listed below (**Table 4**).

Table 4. Comparable Entry-to-Practice Allied Health Graduate Programs

	UBC Dietetics	UBC Dietetics	McGill Dietetics	UBC Medicine	UBC Medicine	UBC Medicine	UBC Medicine	UBC Medicine
Name	Master in Nutrition and Dietetics	BSFN (Dietetics Major) ¹	MSc Applied, Human Nutrition (Dietetics Credentialing) ²	Master of Occupational Therapy	Master of Physical Therapy	Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology	Master of Science in Genetic Counselling	Master of Health Administration
Duration	28 months	3 years + 2 prerequisite years	24 months + 1 qualifying year	24 months	26 months	24 months	24 months	24 months
Tuition Costs (\$ CAD)								
Domestic	29,174	31,800	21,970	15,877	15,877	10,191	41,960	30,978
International	69,674	201,040	50,105	89,552	91,798	n/a ³	44,086	51,636

¹ The BSFN (Dietetics Major) is the only accredited dietetics training program in BC.

² McGill is currently the only Canadian program with an entry-to-practice Master’s dietetics program with integrated practicum. It includes a Qualifying Year, followed by 74 required credits (incl. practicum); 52 credits are required to be eligible for MSc program, of which 30 can be taken in qualifying year. Otherwise, students advised to apply to BSc (Nutrition - Dietetics).

³ UBC Master of Science Program in Speech-Language Pathology does not accept International students.

PROPOSED TUITION AND FEES

Program Description: Master of Nutrition and Dietetics Graduate Degree

Anticipated Start Date: September 2022

	Domestic	International
Tuition fees per instalment ¹	\$4,167.76	\$9,953.48
Minimum No. of Instalments	7	7
Continuing Fees per Instalment (assessed after 7 instalments)	\$776.01	\$2,984.09
Application Fees (Graduate) ²	\$108.00	\$168.25
Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit	N/A	N/A
Other Faculty and Course Fees	N/A	N/A

¹ Proposed tuition will be subject to increases as approved by the Board. Tuition and student fees are charged in three equal instalments payable in January, May, and September.

² This is the current fee for the 2021W application cycle and is subject to increases as approved by the Board.

APPENDIX 2: STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

There was a submission from the GSS and AMS and a response from the Faculty to questions raised.



**GRADUATE
STUDENT SOCIETY**
UBC VANCOUVER

Thea Koerner House
225 - 6371 Crescent Rd. Vancouver
604.822.3203
gss.ubc.ca

Submission to the UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems regarding the tuition for the new Master in Nutrition and Dietetics

November 9, 2020

Dear Faculty of Land and Food Systems and Members of the Board of Governors,

This submission is sent on behalf of the Graduate Student Society of UBC in response to the feedback request from the UBC VP Students Office on tuition for the creation of a 28-month professional Master in Nutrition and Dietetics (MND).

As a Society we try to provide feedback that reflects the dual desires of graduate students:

- That the University be able to meet its goal of providing outstanding and relevant programs for graduate students.
- That graduate education at UBC should be affordable and accessible.

The proposed MND program appears to be an exceptional program, offering students a highly relevant degree. As outlined in the proposal, this 28-month professional graduate degree will meet national accreditation standards for dietetic education, allowing graduates of the program to become certified Registered Dietitians (RDs). Dietitians are an integral part of any healthcare system, as nutrition and diet are central to healthy individuals and communities.

At UBC, a program in dietetic education is a new way to understand student health after months of social isolation, unemployment, grief, and the overwhelming stress of the COVID-19 crisis, as well as providing new opportunities to investigate the long-term problems of food security and nutrition on campus. Diet expertise is also playing an increasingly important role in primary care, mental health, geriatric care, health promotion and policy, and chronic disease management, which are all areas that the province plans to invest in.

The BC Ministry of Health has also identified dietitians as a growing occupation, projecting an average of 82 job openings in this area each year for the next decade. UBC's competitive BSc in Food, Nutrition, and Health (Major Dietetics) is currently the only dietetics training program in BC. The GSS recognizes there is a significant need in both BC's labour market and healthcare system for RD's, and we strongly believe this new graduate program will be important in meeting these provincial demands. We also believe developing this program as a graduate degree will be effective and efficient for getting RDs trained and into BC's workforce, as it will work on a shorter timescale than the current certifying BSc. It is our pleasure to provide



feedback on tuition for this program in three key areas: Tuition for Domestic Students, Program Advising, and Supports for International and BIPOC Students.

Domestic and International Student Tuition

The proposed tuition for domestic students of this program is \$29,174.31. When benchmarked against comparable UBC programs, like UBC's Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) and Master of Physical Therapy (MPT), the domestic tuition for the MND program is nearly double that of these similar programs. The benchmark exercise provided in the MND proposal compared several UBC Allied Health graduate programs, and the GSS appreciates these comparisons – however, we propose that it is more accurate to compare the proposed MND program against only the UBC's MOT and MPT in this exercise. This is because the MOT and MPT programs are most comparable to the MND program – all three programs are professional, medical master's that provide national accreditation in their respective fields. These programs are also all similar lengths (24-28months), with similar admission requirements, emphasis on health and clinical research, and practicum requirements (all require clinical practicums of 30+ weeks). Given the striking similarities between these programs, we would appreciate clarification on why the domestic tuition for the MND program is \$29,174.31, while the domestic tuition for UBC's MOT and MPT is \$15,877.

Regarding international tuition, the MND proposal states that the program aims to admit 16 domestic students and 2 international students for each cohort, with the proposed international tuition being \$69,673.33 for the entire program. This anticipates that at least 10% of annual student enrolment will be by international applicants. The GSS would like to point out that the revenue from the 2 international students will make up 23% of the tuition revenue for each cohortⁱ. It is particularly important to be mindful of international student revenue in the Covid-19 society. While international students already face higher tuition costs than domestic students, they also face a number of different issues including tightened travel regulations and decreased scholarship and financial aid eligibility, which has caused high numbers of these students to alter their course loads. The GSS would like to know if there is a mitigation strategy in place to ensure the financial viability of the program in the event that the international recruitment target cannot be met.

Program Advising

A key reason for the development of this graduate program (as emphasized in the proposal) was that BC's labour market and healthcare system is in need of RDs, and this is a more efficient pathway to certification compared to a 4-year BSc. As the GSS understands it, dietitians in Canada are a recognized health profession and are required to register under the appropriate dietetic regulatory body in the province in which they practice. For example, in BC the College of Dietitians of British Columbia (CDBC) is the provincial regulatory board that dietitians must be registered with if they want to be an RD in BCⁱⁱ. Understanding these provincial regulations is important, because health standards vary across provinces, so an RD registered in BC cannot work as an RD in another province, unless they are also registered in that province.



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STUDENT SOCIETY**
UBC VANCOUVER

Thea Koerner House
225 - 6371 Crescent Rd. Vancouver
604.822.3203
gss.ubc.ca

Given that the MND program appears to be designed for the BC context and that there is a good deal of complexity to the provincial health care model, the GSS asks the Faculty of Land and Food Systems to clarify what advising supports it will provide to both students and prospective students of the MND program. This is critical, especially for those who may be unfamiliar with the provincial system, such as out-of-province and International students. The MND is designed to be a program that benefits BC and retains graduates as workers in BC – prospective students must therefore be properly informed about how this program works so they are able to make the best choice for themselves and their education. Additionally, given the high tuition for the proposed program and domestic application fee of \$108.00 and an international application fee of \$168.25, advising must ensure students understand what this program entails before they apply. This includes providing advising and public information on the difference between the BSc in Food, Nutrition, and Health (Major Dietetics) and a Master in Nutrition and Dietetics, as these programs have very different goals and target groups.

Additionally, the GSS would like clarification on how the MND program plans to manage and support international students. As outlined above, the MND program is specialized for the BC region. However, international students are not Canadian residents, and so this regional specialization is a barrier to them working post-grad in non-BC contexts due to the specific certifications this program confers.

Supports for BIPOC and International Students

Finally, the GSS would like further clarification on how the MND program will support its Indigenous and racialized students, with specific attention to international students. International students are more likely to be non-white individuals, and already face a large financial barrier to pursuing higher education in the form of higher tuition. The GSS asks the Faculty how they will reconcile these barriers given the current social climate, as well as provide further information on the direct resources or programs they will enact to support BIPOC students of this program.

The GSS would like to thank the University for the opportunity to provide input in this process. We look forward to meeting the first students of the MND and supporting their success at UBC and in B.C.'s healthcare system.

Sincerely,

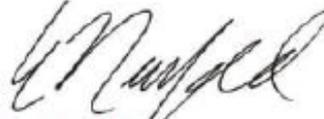


Nicolas Romualdi
VP University & Academic Affairs
vpacademic@gss.ubc.ca



**GRADUATE
STUDENT SOCIETY**
UBC VANCOUVER

Thea Koerner House
225 - 6371 Crescent Rd, Vancouver
604.822.3203
gss.ubc.ca



Mimi Neufeld
Policy Assistant
policy@gss.ubc.ca



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STUDENT SOCIETY**
UBC VANCOUVER

Thea Koerner House
225 - 6371 Crescent Rd, Vancouver
604.822.3203
gss.ubc.ca

ⁱ Based on 16 Domestic Students with a tuition of \$29,174.31 and 2 International Students with a tuition of \$69,674.33.

ⁱⁱ <https://www.dietitians.ca/Become-a-Dietitian/Education-and-Training/Regulatory-colleges-and-registration-to-practice>



**TUITION CONSULTATION FOR THE NEW MASTER IN NUTRITION AND DIETETICS
(MND) GRADUATE PROGRAM**

Submission to the Faculty of Land and Food Systems and Board of Governors

November 9th, 2020

Dear Program Leads and Board of Governors,

This submission is made on behalf of the Alma Mater Society (AMS) of UBC Vancouver in response to the feedback request from the VP Students Office regarding the Master in Nutrition and Dietetics Graduate Program within the Faculty of Land and Food Systems.

Considering the mandate to meet recent provincial health profession shortages in BC - with an emphasis on the leadership and research aspects of the job sector - the proposed MND program seems to meet the principles of the mandate. The MND program also seems to present a more streamlined and inclusive approach to acquiring RD credentials, which allows students with baccalaureate degrees in related fields to undertake an RD accreditation degree in 28 months, rather than 5 years. This is especially important to demographics such as students who have already spent 4-5 years undertaking an undergraduate degree and would otherwise have to spend another 5 years gaining RD credentials. Moreover, the reduced duration of the RD accreditation process works methodically with the integrated practicum in the MND program to allow students to simultaneously develop the academic and professional aspects of their education; rather than segregating the academic and practical aspects between years 1 to 4 and then year 5, respectively.

The AMS foresees that the reduction in the required years of education in order to become RD certified will put MND graduates into the workforce at a faster rate than previous years. This is an especially timely and important aspect of the MND program, considering the expected increase in demand for services in the mental health, primary care, seniors' care, chronic disease management, and resource management sectors of the post-COVID-19 context. Further, the research and leadership components of the MND program is expected to be significantly valued in the provincial food policy service sector, as the dynamic relationship between food services industries and the public is re-evaluated to fit the COVID-19-informed environment. The AMS is keen to advocate for

the education of prospective RD's to include research surrounding the amendment of policies and best practices that will support the changing nutritional needs of the youth, the adult, and the elderly populations after months of social isolation, unemployment, grief, and the overwhelming stress of enduring the COVID-19 crisis.

Compared to other similar type programs such as the MSc Human Nutrition (Dietetics Credentialing) program at McGill, the proposed tuition fees for the MND program seem equitable. The AMS is pleased to hear that the program is allocating 4% of tuition revenue towards financial support targeted specifically for Indigenous students and other racialized students who might be facing financial barriers. The AMS is intent on ensuring that there is continuous and adequate evaluation of the financial aid allocation process in order to guarantee that the dynamic needs of prospective students are met, regardless of their economic status.

The AMS extends gratitude to the University for including students in this consultation process. Going forward, the AMS is interested to be kept up to date on the systematic and ongoing evaluation process to assess program effectiveness and learning outcomes from prospective MND graduates and professors.

Warmly,

		
Georgia Yee VP Academic and University Affairs AMS of UBC Vancouver	Morgan Lorenz AVP University Affairs AMS of UBC Vancouver	Chloei Andres Policy and Research Commissioner AMS of UBC Vancouver



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Faculty of Land and Food Systems
Dietetics Program
Food, Nutrition and Health
230-2205 East Mall
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z4

Phone 604 822 2502
fnh.admin@ubc.ca
www.dietetics.landfood.ubc.ca

November 24, 2020

Dear Graduate Student Society and Members of the Board of Governors,

Thank you for the support and consultation on the proposed Master of Nutrition and Dietetics (MND) program. The Faculty of Land and Food Systems is pleased to respond to the Graduate Student Society's consultation inquiries. Please see our responses below.

Domestic and International Student Tuition

- 1) *Given the striking similarities between these programs, we would appreciate clarification on why the domestic tuition for the MND program is \$29,174.31, while the domestic tuition for UBC's MOT and MPT is \$15,877.*

The proposed tuition and financial modelling for the MND program was completed with extensive consultation and oversight from the Strategy and Decision Support Unit in the Provost Office as well as our Faculty's Director and Associate Directors of Finance.

Our proposed MND program will not receive any seat-based funding for domestic students from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, unlike the Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) and Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) programs. In addition to the MOT and MPT programs, other health professional programs at UBC, such as Pharmacy, Midwifery, and Medicine, also receive government funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. Seat funding helps offset the program's costs for tuition by helping cover program expenses. Therefore, tuition costs for these other health professional programs are reduced for students, whereas the proposed MND program requires higher tuition to cover the cost of program expenses.

Previous efforts made by the existing undergraduate Dietetics Program to advocate for commitment by the Ministry to provide additional seat-based funding have not been successful. Thus, the cost of tuition is necessary to fund the human resources required to adequately operate and coordinate the MND program. Our program has engaged students (both domestic and international) to understand their viewpoints on tuition - with many agreeing our benchmark is fair and reasonable as it is comparable to what they pay at the undergraduate level (see **Appendices A-C**).

- 2) *The GSS would like to know if there is a mitigation strategy in place to ensure the financial viability of the program in the event that the international recruitment target cannot be met.*

As part of the environmental scan and background research conducted, data suggests there will be a high interest from international students. Demographic information and surveys of program alumni and current students, consultation with the College of Dietitians of BC (CDBC), as well as informal consultation with McGill University, all showed great interest from international students and potential

applicants to the program. The current undergraduate Dietetics program admits between 1-4 international students per year.

Should our program be faced with unforeseen circumstances, such as the COVID-19 crisis or other uncontrollable factors that affect international applicants, the UBC MND Program has planned to reduce program staffing to remain financially viable. This will not affect program integrity. These scenarios have been carefully discussed with the Faculty's Director of Finance.

Program Advising

- 3) *Given that the MND program appears to be designed for the BC context and that there is a good deal of complexity to the provincial health care model, the GSS asks the Faculty of Land and Food Systems to clarify what advising supports it will provide to both students and prospective students of the MND program.*

Existing advising supports will be available to MND students, including UBC Dietetics Program Staff and Faculty of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies Admissions Staff. Advising related to the dietetics profession, licensure, protected acts, and registration policies, will continue to be directed to the College of Dietitians of British Columbia through existing channels, as they are responsible for regulating the profession in BC and are prepared to field these types of questions. If the program is approved, the MND program also budgets for an additional 1.0 FTE staff in the first year, and another 0.8 FTE staff to support the program, which will include additional student advising.

- 4) *Additionally, the GSS would like clarification on how the MND program plans to manage and support international students.*

As the MND program will be a graduate program, students will have advising support through the LFS Grad Office and the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies in LFS regarding general UBC issues. Like all international students at UBC (graduate, undergraduate, non-degree, etc.), these students will also receive support by the International Student Development team, which includes Registered Canadian Immigration Consultants for help with visas, study permits, work permits, health insurance coverage, and transitioning to life in Canada: <https://students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/international-student-advising>.

A dietetics-specific orientation package addressing issues pertinent to international dietetics students (dietetics and professional practice in Canada, regulation, job prospects, etc.) will be developed and available on the Dietetics Program website for students to access prior to the start of the academic year. For program-specific support (such as coursework, professional practice queries, etc.), the projected number of international students (two per year) will be supported with one-on-one advising by Dietetics Program staff to ensure a smooth transition into graduate studies at UBC. If international student seats exceed two per year, there is possibility of allocation additional program staffing time for a group orientation seminar prior to or at the start of the academic year. Our program anticipates adequate staffing capacity to support expanded international student numbers than the projected two per year.

Graduates of the MND program who are international will contribute points towards the Federal Skilled Worker Program, increasing their likelihood of Express Entry to immigrate to Canada after completing the program.

Supports for BIPOC and International Students

- 5) *Finally, the GSS would like further clarification on how the MND program will support its Indigenous and racialized students, with specific attention to international students. [...] The GSS asks the Faculty how they will reconcile these barriers given the current social climate, as well as provide further information on the direct resources or programs they will enact to support BIPOC students of this program.*

The UBC Dietetics Program is committed to indigenizing its curriculum and promoting curriculum that is culturally sensitive and safe. The MND program [as well as the BSFN (Dietetics Major) program] is currently underway on a joint project with McGill University on creating educational toolkits that incorporate more indigenous-specific and diverse cultural contexts, case studies, scenarios, and curriculum elements which course instructors will be able to use to integrate into courses and students can access to gain better exposure to dietetics education in a more culturally safe and sensitive manner. The Dietetics program is also undertaking a research and consultation project on how to improve the admissions process to support a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive applicant pool. UBC Dietetics is working with our Indigenous Academic Advisor, Joel Liman, on improving access and supports for Indigenous students, such as waiving application fees, providing additional academic advising opportunities, access to health and wellness resources, and potentially a mentorship program with Indigenous dietitians in the community. The MND program has also included in its budget a 4% allocation of program revenue to support Indigenous and racialized students who already face multiple systemic barriers.