

## **Frequently Asked Questions (updated August 2025)**

**GPA:** Grade Point Average is the weighted sum of the grade points earned divided by the number of courses attempted. Grade points are number values that correspond to the letter grades that you will be given when you complete a course and that will appear on your transcript. Courses with a “W” (withdrew) are not included in the GPA; courses with a “F” are included. The sessional GPA refers to the GPA you earned in a particular semester. The cumulative GPA is calculated using all courses taken to that point in time and appears on your official transcript. Only the most recent grade in repeated courses is included in the GPA.

**Pre-requisite:** A pre-requisite is a course that you must take prior to taking another course. First and second year courses are often pre-requisites for upper year courses.

**Overload:** Overload is when a student takes more than 5 courses in one term.

**Credit hours:** Credit hours are the means by which your degree program requirements are laid out and the value that each course you complete has toward completing your degree program. Each semester-long course is worth 3 credit hours. The Bachelor of Science in Nutrition degree program requires that you complete 120 credit hours, which is 40, semester-long courses worth 3 credit hours each.

**Minor:** A minor is a secondary focus of your degree program. All Acadia students must complete a minor. For the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition program, a minor is 12 credit hours (4 courses) in one subject other than Nutrition, with a minimum C- grade in each course.

**Honours:** Honours is an addition to your degree program that you may complete if you wish. Honours may be completed with any of the BSN degrees offered by SND. If you choose to complete a degree with Honours, you will earn a BSN with Honours. You have two options to complete an honours: a) Thesis route - admission to the thesis route requires agreement of a faculty member in the School to supervise the thesis; b) Dietetic Practicum (NUTR 4033 and NUTR 4043 - requires acceptance to the Acadia Dietetic Practicum Program). In addition to the specific course requirements for your degree program, a GPA of 3.33 is required for Honours. Additionally, a minimum of 48h in Nutrition courses must each be passed with a minimum B-grade. Students must complete 120 credit hours.

### **How many courses do I take each term?**

To be considered a full-time student, you have to take 3 courses in each of the fall and winter terms. The normal course load is 5 courses per term; to complete the requirements for your undergraduate degree within 4 years, you would need to complete 10 courses per year, or 5 per term. Note that the 4 year timeframe does not include a dietetic practicum, should you apply and be selected for a practicum position.

### **Can I take more or fewer than 5 courses in a term?**

You can register for up to 5 courses per term using the self-service course registration system (MyAcadia). It is possible to take more than 5 courses, which is called overload. Your GPA needs to be at least 2.5 to overload by one course, and at least 3.0 to overload two courses. If you wish to take fewer than 5 courses and want to complete the requirements for your undergraduate degree in four years, you will need to overload at some point during your program or take intersession courses in the spring and/or summer months. Note that overloading is not recommended. You may also take courses from other universities if preapproved by the appropriate unit and you have not already transferred 60 credit hours, or 20 courses, which is the maximum.

### **If I fail a course, how can I catch up?**

If it is a required course for your program, it will need to be repeated. If it is an elective, you may either repeat the course, or you may take another elective course. If the exact same course is repeated, only your most recent grade will be included in the calculation of your Grade Point Average (GPA).

### **Can I drop a course?**

Students should always check the program advising sheet and progress report in self-service before dropping a course to ensure they are aware of any consequences. If you have checked the advising sheet, and checked your course plan in self-service, and are still unsure about dropping a course, check with the Director of the School. If you drop a course that is a pre-requisite for another course, you won't be able to take the next level course, which may mean that completing the requirements for your undergraduate degree takes longer than 4 years. Dropping courses may affect scholarships/bursaries/student loans.

### **Can I do a double major with Kinesiology?**

The program we offer with Kinesiology is an "option," which includes 15 credit hours in Kinesiology.

### **What does "option" mean? If I do the Nutrition/Kinesiology "option," can I still do dietetics? What will show on my transcript?**

"Option" means that students can take courses in Kinesiology, which would normally be restricted to Kinesiology students. 15 credit hours in Kine are required. Students can do the Nutrition/Kinesiology option with Dietetics in 4 years, although it requires very careful planning and timetabling to fit in all the required courses for both options. There is also a Consumer Food Option. Options show on the transcript but not on the degree parchment. Our students graduate with one of: Bachelor of Science in Nutrition; Bachelor of Science in Nutrition with Honours; Bachelor of Science in Nutrition with second major in Biology; Bachelor of Science in Nutrition with second major in Chemistry or Bachelor of Science in Nutrition with second major in Psychology.

### **Can I do a second major with Biology? Chemistry? Psychology?**

You can do a second major with Biology, Chemistry and Psychology. Following are the requirements:

- Bachelor of Science in Nutrition with second major in Biology (30 credit hours in Biology).
- Bachelor of Science in Biology with second major in Nutrition (30 credit hours in Nutrition).
- Bachelor of Science in Nutrition with second major with Chemistry (30 credit hours in Chemistry).
- Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with second major in Nutrition (30 credit hours in Nutrition).
- Bachelor of Science in Nutrition with second major with Psychology (33 credit hours in Psychology)
- Bachelor of Science in Psychology with second major in Nutrition (30 credit hours in Nutrition).

With the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition with second major in Biology, Chemistry or Psychology, it is **not possible** to also complete the Dietetics option in four years.

**I want / need to take a course but I don't have the pre-requisites completed yet. What should I do or who should I contact?**

Taking a course without the pre-requisites is not recommended; you are not likely to do well in a course if you have not taken the pre-requisites. In rare occasions there may be extenuating circumstances that mean you may be approved to take a course before taking, or at the same time as taking, the pre-requisite. In order to take a course for which you do not yet have the pre-requisites completed, you must contact the professor who is teaching the course to seek their permission. Permission is granted at the discretion of that professor.

**I want to overload one (or both) terms. Does my GPA have to be at a certain level?**

To overload one course (for a total of 33 credit hours), the GPA from the previous year must be at least **2.5**. To overload two courses (for a total of 36 credit hours), the previous year GPA must be at least **3.0**. First year students are **not allowed** to take more than 30 credit hours over the fall and winter term, but you may take additional courses in the spring/summer intersession.

**A course that I want to take is full. What do I do?**

If it is a **core nutrition course**, you may contact Lynn Coleman, SND's Administrative Assistant for help. Students must have the pre-requisites completed or permission of the professor. If it is a **non-nutrition course**, the student must contact the **department offering the course** to see if they can be registered or placed on a waiting list.

**What minor should I do? Does it show on my transcript?**

There are two "built-in" minors in our program because you are required to complete four Biology courses and four Chemistry courses as part of your Bachelor of Science in Nutrition degree. As long as you achieve a C- or better in each course, these courses will fulfill the requirement for you to complete a minor. However, you may also do a minor in another subject. Minors are shown on the transcript.

### **What electives can I take? Any suggestions? How do I know if it's an Arts or Science course?**

Review the program advising sheet and the progress report in self-service for the number of electives that you are required to complete for your BSN degree. Electives can be anything you want to take, as long as you have completed any necessary pre-requisites. At least two of your elective choices must be courses from the Faculty of Arts (**over and above the significant writing requirement**). A list of some suggested electives is posted on our website and on the bulletin board by Lynn's office. A list of courses by faculty is posted on our website.

There are a few things to consider when selecting elective courses. You may want to select courses that align with your **professional goals**. For example, if you are interested in working in food, nutrition, or health within the business or entrepreneurial sector, such as working with a food company doing product development or starting your own business, you may wish to take electives in business. You may also wish to select courses that align with your **personal interests**. For example, if you love poetry, consider taking electives in English. You may also wish to take a chance and expand your learning into an area that you know little about, but that sounds different, interesting, or challenging; often these are the most rewarding courses!

### **Do I need to get a certain mark in my Nutrition courses or just a passing grade?**

To meet graduation requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition, you must achieve a C- or better in all of the required Nutrition courses included in your program. For students in the Dietetics option, the required courses also include those courses required to apply for a dietetic practicum (Nutr 3013, 3033, 3553, 4013, 4023, 4553). If you earn less than C- in any of these courses, the course(s) must be repeated. For students doing Honours, 48 credit hours in Nutrition courses must be completed with a grade of B- or better. If you are admitted to the Acadia Dietetic Practicum Program, you are expected to maintain a high academic standing in any remaining nutrition courses and maintain a minimum 2.67 GPA. Failure to do so will lead to a review of your acceptance to the practicum program.

### **What are the requirements to apply for Acadia's Dietetic Practicum Program?**

To be eligible to apply for Acadia's Dietetic Practicum Program, you must earn a B- or higher in each of these courses: Nutr 1323 (Human Nutrition 2), Nutr 1343 (Food 2), Nutr 2013 (Principles of Nutritional Assessment) and Nutr 2023 (Communications in Nutrition and Dietetics). You must also be a full-time Acadia student for at least one complete academic year before the year in which you apply to the practicum program and have a GPA of 2.67 or higher.

### **Who is my academic faculty advisor?**

Dr. Liesel Carlsson is the faculty advisor for all Nutrition students.

### **I am interested in studying abroad. What is the process?**

The Acadia Exchange website contains a lot of important information:

<https://exchangeprogram.acadiau.ca/GlobalLearning.html>

The Director of the School of Nutrition and Dietetics must give approval for any nutrition student wishing to study abroad. After reviewing the information on the Exchange website, you must make an appointment to meet with the Director to further discuss the process and seek approval.

### **What happens if I fail a course that has a lab?**

Procedure on retaking labs in the School of Nutrition and Dietetics if a student fails a course with a lab:

- For Management in Dietetics (NUTR 4013/4023) the retaking of the lab component of the course is a requirement.
- For Food 1 and 2 (NUTR 1333/1343) and Sensory Evaluation of Food (NUTR 4223):
  - If a student has secured  $\geq 70\%$  in the lab component of a course, they have a choice to either retake the lab or use the lab grade previously obtained.
  - If a student receives  $< 70\%$  in the lab component of a course, they are required to retake the lab.
- If a student retakes any lab, they need to follow all lab requirements, and the grade they secure in the retake is the grade that will be incorporated in the final grade (they do not get to choose the higher grade, it is the most recent grade that is used).
- If any Nutrition courses with a lab are added to the curriculum going forward, a decision on the procedure regarding retaking labs if a student fails the course will be made on a case-by-case basis.