

Final Project in Applied Human Nutrition FRAN*6750 Fall 2017, Winter & Spring 2018

Course Outline

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Class time/location: 2:30-5:20pm in room MINS 128

Course Description

The goal of this course is for students to gain skills in applied implementation research for dietetic services in public health, management, food services and/or clinical contexts. Students will be exposed to a number of approaches and will develop selected research skills. The course also includes a research project to be completed over the course of the Masters of Applied Nutrition (MAN) program. The format includes formal class instruction as well as individual mentoring.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Design and execute research projects in various dietetic practice settings. This includes completing funding applications, ethics applications, data collection, data entry, data analysis and presentation of results. Students will demonstrate these skills by completing their practice-based research projects.
2. Analyze and interpret basic quantitative and qualitative data by completing course assignments and completing data analysis within their research projects.
3. Communicate in written, verbal and visual forms with a variety of audiences (funders, researchers, lay people) about their research by writing research proposals and reports and presenting proposals and research projects to fellow students and co-investigators.
4. Demonstrate productive teamwork and group communication skills.

Research Projects

In the F17 semester, students, in consultation with the course instructor will decide on a research project that normally will be conducted in the W2017 semester.

Projects vary from year to year and have included:

- Quality assurance review or audit
- Development of a research proposal with literature review
- Secondary data analysis
- Key informant interviews
- PEN project pathway development
- Patient or client surveys
- AHN faculty research

The breadth and depth of the projects are constrained by the time available and are developed in conjunction with the course instructor and co-investigators. Students will be expected to dedicate on **average of 3-4 hours a week to the project over the course of 3 consecutive semesters.**

Organization – Unique Features of Course

- This course is organized to allow MAN students to complete graduate level research projects that meet the requirements of internship.
- The “course” runs all year.
- The format is a blend of traditional classroom work with individual/group advising.
- The research process ALWAYS involves the unexpected; projects WILL evolve.
- All decisions on the completion of the projects are negotiated with the co-investigator(s), with final decisions on course completion made by the course instructor and MAN coordinator.
- Students may work individually or in groups, depending on the project and in consultation with the course instructor.
- Communication with your team-mates, co-investigators and the course instructor is critical- Use Courselink, Skype, teleconference, Doodle, and others as needed. Courselink will be the official repository for the course.
- Most deadlines can be flexible, to account for other priorities, except for certain dates, such as oral presentations and submission of graduate studies documents. Need for changes must be communicated to the team.
- As in thesis advising, there will be multiple opportunities for discussion and feedback. Generally, the student is responsible for seeking advice as needed (and early). The emphasis is on developing an excellent product that will be useful or publishable, not on comparing students to each other.

Advisory Committee and Forms

- Each student has an advisory committee and an individual program of study in Graduate Studies. For MAN, the committee for reporting purposes consists of the course instructor or faculty advisor (for those doing a project with other AHN faculty) and the MAN coordinator. Preceptors do not have “faculty standing”. Each semester the thesis committee must report on overall student progress (mainly in research) to Graduate Studies. All forms are found on the Graduate Studies site.
- The Advisory Committee and Graduate Degree Program forms are completed once in the program in December (student completes and faculty advisor and student sign).
- The Semester Evaluations are completed each semester by the course instructor (or other AHN faculty), signed by ALL parties (Dec, April, August). Students are encouraged to add commentary on their progress. “Grading” is Satisfactory/Some Concerns/Unsatisfactory.

Method of Evaluation

Completion of IHI Courses (QI 101 and QI 102) (F17)	5%
Completion of ethics course (F17)	5%
Quantitative Data Analysis Assignment (F17)	10%
Research proposal – “elevator speech” (F17)	5%
Research proposal - written (F17)	20%
Interim research report (W18)	12%
Final written research report - written (S18)	20%
Final project poster presentation (S18)	10%
Effort/Progress in project (assessed by preceptor or faculty advisor)	10%
Participation in CESI Study or alternative assignment (1% for completing part 1, 2% for completing part 2)	3%

Resources

Required Online Courses

IHI Open School. Complete QI 101 Introduction to Health Care Improvement and QI 102 How to Improve with the Model for Improvement. Feel free to complete the full basic certificate if you wish, but this is not required.

<http://www.ihl.org/offerings/IHIOpenSchool/Pages/default.aspx>

Panel on Research Ethics. TCPS 2: CORE — Tutorial. <http://tcps2core.ca/welcome> (8 modules)

Basic Research Skills

Basic SPSS Version 25 to complete analysis of dataset – go to software distribution site at: <http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get-assistance/maps-gis-data/data-analysis/spss>

Typical Course Administration Content

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise Dr. Forbes in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the graduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e2232.shtml

Academic Misconduct

https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e2709.shtml

The University takes a serious view of academic misconduct and will severely penalize students, faculty and staff who are found guilty of offences associated with misappropriation of others' work, misrepresentation of personal performance and fraud, improper access to scholarly resources, and obstructing others in pursuit of their academic endeavours.

In addition to this policy, the University has adopted a number of policies that govern such offences, including the policies on Misconduct in Research and Scholarship and the Student Rights and Responsibilities regulations. These policies will be strictly enforced.

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/research/for-researchers/research-integrity-and-conflict-of-interest>

Course instructors are allowed to use software to help in detecting plagiarism or unauthorized copying of student assignments. Plagiarism is one of the most common types of academic misconduct on our campus. Plagiarism involves students using the work, ideas and/or the exact wording of other people or sources without giving proper credit to others for the work, ideas and/or words in their papers. In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin.com to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to prevent plagiarism in the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences.

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

Resources

The Graduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to graduate programs:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/>