

USU MDA PRECEPTOR NEWSLETTER FALL 2023



Master of **Dietetics Administration**

The First USU MDA Class

The new USU MDA cohort is a remarkable group of 35 students from diverse backgrounds completing rotations from California to Georgia to Indiana. The MDA program is a 1-year Future Education Model that provides 1000+ hours of supervised practice and a masters degree in leadership and management. The year began with an engaging orientation program that provided hands-on training in a range of essential skills. These activities included oral nutrition supplement tasting, the placement of feeding tubes, health screenings, injection technique practice, and the instruction of blood glucose testing skills. These practical experiences have equipped the students with invaluable competencies as they prepare to embark on their rotations. As the program gets started, we are excited to see their growth as they learn clinical skills, teach nutrition lessons, assess and educate patients, counsel WIC clients, and develop leadership skills. Students are beginning to identify their master's projects. We will be sharing more information about the master's project with preceptors in the coming months. We're looking forward to seeing the impact our students will have as they work with preceptors to implement their projects next summer.

PRECEPTOR RESOURCES

The USU MDA is committed to promoting inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA) in the dietetics profession. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, in collaboration with ACEND, offers an array of educational resources and opportunities on their website to support dietitians in continuous learning and growth in these essential areas. Preceptors can find the list of recorded [webinars](#) and [stories, resources, and handouts](#) on the Academy's website. This a a great opportunity for some free CPEUs and to learn how to best support diverse student learning.

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/about-acend/diversity-equity-and-inclusion>

ChatGPT

Have you had the chance to use ChatGPT? ChatGPT is a large language model-based chatbot developed by OpenAI. You can access the program here: <https://chat.openai.com/>

What can you use it for?

- Simplifying reading levels of developed content
- Ideas for titles of classes or presentations
- Help create case studies
- Writing assistance - letters/emails
- Personalized learning

Greetings from #FNCE



USU MDA faculty had the opportunity to attend the Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo (FNCE) in Denver, Colorado this year. This is always a great networking event, but most importantly to the USU MDA team is the chance to connect with past, current, and future students. Two events, the supervised practice fair and exhibit booth, provided occasions to spread the word about the USU MDA and answer questions to prospective students.



Current USU MDA student Cynthia Simpson is the 2023 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics scholarship winner from the National Organization of Blacks in Dietetics and Nutrition. Lacie celebrated with her at the AND Foundation Event.



Nikki and Maria are enjoying the exhibit booth, where FNCE attendees and prospective students can obtain information about the USU MDA (and get some awesome swag!)



And, a little FNCE fun!

Master of **Dietetics Administration**



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Application period
December 1-February 15

Locations

100% online coursework

Supervised Experiential Learning
in the location of your choice

For Students who

Have completed a bachelor's degree and have an ACEND Verification Statement • Are looking to obtain the RDN credential • Are strong critical thinkers with good time management and organizational skills

career options

Clinical nutrition • Food service directors • Child nutrition programs • Public health • Outpatient counseling • State health department • Private practice • Pharmacological sales • Corporate wellness

Utah State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution and is committed to a learning and working environment free from discrimination, including harassment. For USU's non-discrimination notice, see equity.usu.edu/non-discrimination.



The Master of Dietetics Administration program

at USU is a unique one-year program that combines a master degree and supervised experiential learning. Through a distance format, students gain the skills necessary to become entry-level registered dietitian nutritionists. The program empowers students to develop leadership skills through learning, critical thinking, discovery, and engagement. Graduates use their experience and individual perspectives to improve the health and well-being of the communities they serve.

The MDA program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) and offers flexible learning experiences that help students become registered dietitians faster. Throughout the program, students receive one-on-one support from a faculty mentor and instruction from a variety of dietetic professionals. Combined with a minimum of 1,000 hours of hands-on training, students complete the program ready for a successful career.

After the completion of this program, graduates are eligible to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians.



College of Agriculture & Applied Sciences
UtahStateUniversity

MDA.USU.EDU

PROGRAM PLAN

Here is a tentative program of study. Students in the program will register for classes based on program requirements and supervised experiential learning schedules.



FALL SEMESTER

NDFS	605	Advanced Community Nutrition	2
NDFS	1	Clinical Nutrition Experience	7
NDFS	625	Advanced Clinical Nutrition	2
NDFS	0	Dietetics Career Essentials	1
NDFS	625	Dietetics Leadership & Management I	3
	1		
		Total Credits	15
	645		
	0		

SPRING SEMESTER

NDFS	605	Community Nutrition Experience	3
NDFS	0	Food Service Management Experience	5
NDFS	635	Advanced Food Service Management	2
NDFS	0	Dietetics Leadership & Management II	3
	635		
	1		
		Total Credits	13
	678		
	0		

Summer SEMESTER

NDFS	657	Communication Techniques in Dietetics	3
NDFS	0	Research Principles in Dietetics	3
NDFS	658	MDA Master's Project	3
	0		
		Total Credits	9
	698		
	0		



For a list of all program information visit mda.usu.edu

