

**RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (RHOP)
PROGRAM STANDARDS for the MEDICAL NUTRITION OPTION
Participants and Alternates**

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS:

Chadron State College
Peru State College
Wayne State College

COURSE WORK

Participants and alternates are hereafter referred to collectively as “students”.

Students must:

1. Complete all prerequisites courses for UNMC Master of Medical Nutrition (MMN) program, listed under the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions (CAHP) admissions website.
2. Complete a course of study culminating in a bachelor’s degree in four academic years. Any exception to this time frame must be approved by both the undergraduate college advisor and the MMN Program Director.
3. Obtain approval from the undergraduate advisor before registering for or dropping any class.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

The following Academic Standards apply to remain in good standing and continue in the RHOP Medical Nutrition Option.

Students must:

1. Receive a grade above C- in all prerequisite courses
2. Maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

RHOP academic probation will be allowed for only two semesters. Probation is recommended and communicated by the designated undergraduate advisor responsible for monitoring student performance. The undergraduate advisor, in consultation with the MMN program director, will determine student requirements to improve academic performance to be removed from RHOP academic probation. RHOP academic probation results if a student:

1. Earns less than a “C-” in any required prerequisite course. The course must be retaken, and the student will be placed on RHOP academic probation the following semester.
2. Cumulative or semester GPA falls below 3.0.
3. Withdraws from one or more classes which results in dropping below the required full-time academic enrollment status (defined as 12 credit hours per semester)
4. Withdraws from all classes without prior approval of the undergraduate advisor and the MMN program director.

ATTACHMENT A

UNMC College of Allied Health
RHOP Medical Nutrition Program Standards (5-2025)

DISMISSAL

Dismissal from RHOP constitutes formal action by the MMN program director in consultation with UNK. The student will be dismissed from the RHOP Program if the student does not:

1. Comply with the terms of academic probation.
2. Complete all the recommendations for improving academic performance.
3. Obtain a grade of “C” or better in a required course that has been retaken.
4. Raise their cumulative GPA to 3.0 or higher after two semesters of remediation.
5. Satisfactorily complete the undergraduate coursework as defined by academic standards for good standing.
6. Satisfactorily complete the professional development requirements.

Immediate dismissal from RHOP may result from illegal or unprofessional behavior. A copy of the dismissal notices and terms provided to the student by the undergraduate institution will be shared with the MMN program director.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A student who chooses the RHOP PH Option is expected to be dedicated to a career in rural practice. To enhance their understanding and knowledge of the field, students are expected to:

1. Log professional development submit electronically to the undergraduate advisor. Some of the experiences must be related to rural Nebraska so the student develops significant knowledge of Medical Nutrition practice in rural Nebraska.
2. Attend required events conducted by UNMC for RHOP participants.
3. Visit UNMC at the Omaha or Kearney campus during regularly scheduled RHOP trips.
4. Participate in on-campus activities that enhance their ability to interact with people.
5. Visit, work, or volunteer with people across a variety of age ranges in a variety of settings (school, hospital, community center, camp, clinic, day care, nursing home, health screen, etc.).
6. Students are strongly encouraged to shadow a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist.

PROCEDURE FOR CHANGING DATE OF ENTRY

Any RHOP student wishing to change the date of admission into the professional phase of the program must petition in writing to both the undergraduate advisor and the MMN program director. The petition should state in detail the reasons for the requested change, the proposed new date of admissions, and what academic preparation will continue for entry into the MMN professional program at UNMC. A decision whether to allow the change or not will be made as soon as possible after the submission of the request.

ALTERNATE TRANSITION TO PARTICIPANT STATUS

ATTACHMENT A

UNMC College of Allied Health

RHOP Medical Nutrition Program Standards (5-2025)

If any of the candidates selected as participants in this class and in this option decide not to accept a position, withdraw after entering the program, or are dismissed from the program, the RHOP admissions interview team from UNMC and the undergraduate institution may select a replacement from among the alternates in that class. Academic accomplishments, progress within the curriculum, and participation in professional development activities as described in the Program Standards will be considered in the selection of an alternate to fill each vacancy. A second interview may be requested.

ENTRANCE OF PARTICIPANTS INTO THE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

While successful completion of the requirements for the undergraduate phase of the Medical Nutrition option will normally guarantee admission to the UNMC professional phase of the program, students must also complete the formal application process during their final undergraduate year. Prior to matriculation into the professional phase, the student must:

1. Meet all academic and professional development standards and personal behavior requirements according to the RHOP Agreement and Standards.
2. Apply through the Dietetic Inclusive Centralized Application Service (DICAS) following designated deadlines of the senior year.
3. Meet the minimum admissions requirements of the UNMC Master of Medical Nutrition program.