



# Food and Nutrition Practicum

Info Session

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# Outline for Today's Session

## What, Why, When, Where, and How ...



What is the Food and Nutrition Practicum (FNP) Program?



What are the benefits of the FNP?



Where do students complete the FNP?



How long does it take to complete the FNP?



How much does the FNP cost (i.e., tuition)?



Do students get paid while doing FNP?



What is the eligibility criteria?



How do students apply?

# What is the Food and Nutrition Practicum Program?

The Food and Nutrition Practicum (FNP) is a program that combines coursework with a work experience in the food or nutrition fields.

There is a growing interest in career areas besides dietetics: food studies (science, security, service, etc.), international nutrition, research, education, and health integration. The FNP combines course work with a one term work experience in a wide variety of these areas.

Graduates of this program will gain valuable experience for their future careers:

... Skills and knowledge, connections and networking, boost their resume and job applications or walk into a career ...





# What would I do on a Food and Nutrition Practicum?

The FNP is completed off campus at an external (“sponsoring”) organization (“placement”)

Placements may be at a range of food industry, food service, community, and research facilities.

Students will engage in the work of the placement and complete all assignments, learning activities, and reports assigned by a sponsor supervisor at the sponsoring organization.

Students will also complete a work term report/project by in the work term.

*See FNP Terms and Conditions for more detail on expectations.*





## How long does it take to complete the FNP?

- Practicum is completed at a placement during one academic semester
- 1 semester (minimum 14 weeks):
  - Fall (Sept – Dec)
  - Winter (Jan – Apr)
  - Summer (May – Aug)
- Full-time, 35 to 37.5 hours/week, 5 days/week, Monday–Friday

## So, is it a “course” or a “work term”? Both!

- The FNP is considered a 1.0 unit course for students in the BScAHN (Nutrition or Dietetics) or MAHN or MScAHN degree
- Students admitted into the FNP program complete it in 1 semester as a 1.0 unit course (NUTR4500) in addition to the other units required for the BScAHN, MAHN or MScAHN degree
- The fee for practicum is the same as a 1.0 unit undergraduate course (NUTR 4500) for students in both in BScAHN and GAHN programs

# The FNP is NOT a dietetic internship!

| <b>Food and Nutrition Practicum Program</b>  | <b>Internship Education Program</b>  |
|--|--|
| Work experience for students who do not want to be Registered Dietitians but would like to expand their skills in an area of the food and nutrition industry             | Accredited program for students hoping to become Registered Dietitians   |
| One 1.0 unit course (NUTR 4500)<br>[Tuition for 1.0 unit is equivalent to 2 courses]<br>Completed in 1 semester (min. 14 weeks)<br>Full-time, 35 hours/week, 5 days/week | Three 1.0 unit courses (NUTR 4501, NUTR 4502, NUTR 4503)<br>[Tuition for 3.0 units is equivalent to 6 courses]<br>Completed in 3 semesters (42-48 weeks total)<br>Full-time, 35 hours/week, 5 days/week            |
| Flexible activities in one or more job roles at the sponsoring organization while completing 1 major project or reflection paper   | Adheres to dietetic scope of practice and strict criteria for competency achievement and documented evidence of activities, including completion of 2 major projects, 1 case study, and 1 dietetic practice update |
| Unpaid, little to no financial compensation (paid positions or stipends depend strictly on the external sponsoring organization on an individual basis)                  | Unpaid, little to no financial compensation (some external sponsoring organization may provide a stipend or one-off bursary, but those occasions are rare and on an individual basis)                              |

# Where do students complete practicum?

- Each student is matched to an organization based on sponsor suitability and the student's prior experiences and career aspirations
- Sponsoring organizations depend on:
  - Prior Partnership Agreements with MSVU
  - Timing/semester
  - Sponsor capacity
  - Location & Placement Requirements
- Sponsor solicitation is carried out by the Nutrition Support & Practicum Advisor and the FNP Faculty Supervisor. Students should not directly contact potential placements.
- Based on sponsor availability and industry area, students may be provided with a list of available placements to rank preference
- While all efforts will be made to meet expectations, students must understand that this does not mean they will get their desired placement
  - Please Note: Some sponsors may wish to interview students
  - Students also may need to relocate



Students accepted into the FNP will meet with the FNP Faculty Supervisor to discuss details necessary for placement matching, including:

- Career goals and preferred industry area
- Preferred term for the placement (Fall, Winter, or Summer)
- Specified placement requirements (e.g., access to a vehicle if commuting is necessary) and if additional documentation is needed (e.g., health screening)
- International students will need to discuss timelines for study permits and will be instructed to consult with the Student Advisors at the International Education Centre



# Examples of Sponsoring Organizations



Phoenix



ZerolN™



# Student Supervision

Students are overseen by 2 supervisors while completing practicum:

- Department of Applied Human Nutrition
  - Faculty Supervisor
- External Sponsoring Organization
  - Sponsor Supervisor



# Important to Note

- Students may be required to relocate for practicum and expect little to no financial compensation
- Having a class 5 driver's license and reliable vehicle is an asset
- International students should contact the MSVU International Student Office for information about the work permit
- Enrollment is limited (based on available placements) and admission is competitive
- The Practicum is not a dietetic internship and students in the IEP are not eligible for the FNP

# How much does the FNP cost?

- Tuition (equivalent to 1.0 unit of UG coursework)
- Other Expenses (only if applicable):
  - Temporary relocation
  - Gas and mileage
  - Criminal Record Check + Vulnerable Sector Search
  - Immunizations

Do students get paid by the sponsoring organization while completing practicum?

- Short answer: No
- However, some may have stipends, bursaries, put you on payroll



# Eligibility Criteria

**The FNP is available to students in the BScAHN, MAHN and MScAHN programs.**

## **For students in the BScAHN (nutrition or dietetics) program:**

- To be eligible for the FNP, students must have completed 15.0 units (normally 3<sup>rd</sup> year of study) and achieved a minimum GPA of 2.7 in 10.0 of the required academic units completed and a grade of at least C- in each of these units.
- Note: Students may apply in the year they will be completing the 15.0 units.
- Note: For students who complete the FNP (NUTR 4500) before all units of coursework, they must fulfil the requirements of the 20.0 unit degree (and overall GPA of 2.7 and a grade of at least C- or more in all courses counted for the degree beyond the first 5.0 units taken) to have the FNP program recognized as part of the BScAHN degree and their parchment.

## **For students in the MAHN or MScAHN program:**

- To be eligible for the FNP, students must have successfully completed 2.0 units.
- Note: Students may apply in the year they will be completing the 2.0 units.
- Note: For students who complete the FNP (NUTR 4500) before all units of coursework, they must fulfil the requirements of the 5.0 unit degree to have the FNP program recognized as part of the MAHN or MScAHN degree and their parchment.

For more information, please see Program Requirements ([msvu.ca](http://msvu.ca))



# FNP Requirements

To pass the  
FNP, students  
must  
successfully:

In addition to the previously noted criterion ...

- Participate in weekly or biweekly meetings with their Faculty Supervisor and other practicum students throughout the semester
- Receive a positive Midterm and Final Evaluation (conducted and reviewed by their Sponsor Supervisor and Faculty Supervisor)
- Submit a Project Report or Final Paper
- Be debriefed in a final meeting with their Faculty Supervisor



# Examples of Past Projects ...



# How to Apply

- Application form found on our website ([www.msvu.ca](http://www.msvu.ca), FNP tab under AHN webpage)
  - Or email Jillian Ruhl ([jillian.ruhl@msvu.ca](mailto:jillian.ruhl@msvu.ca)) for a copy of the instructions
- Submit your application to the Department of Applied Human Nutrition Chair
- Resume
- Letter of intent
- Transcripts (if from an external institution) or retrieved internally if only MSVU
- Criminal Record Check including a Vulnerable Sector Search, if applicable (email Jillian)
- Health Screening Form, if applicable (email Jillian)



# FNP Selection

- The Selection Committee (in AHN department) will review and score each application based on academic transcript, resume, and written statement
- Faculty may be asked to provide their recommendations
- Final selection will be based on placement availability and may vary year to year
- Applicants will be advised of their admission to the FNP program by the end of the semester that they submitted their application (usually 1 month before end of term)

# Application Results

Successful applicants will be notified by email about acceptance into the FNP program and documentation to be review and signed to confirm acceptance. These include:

- A Formal Offer Letter
- Terms and Conditions Form
- Change Program Form

If the student would like to accept the offer, they must submit signed copies of these documents to the specified contact and by the deadline in the offer letter.

Please note: If admitted to the FNP, students must be prepared to relocate for the practicum and to accept little to no financial compensation.



**Thank you for listening!**

All questions welcome!

Please do not hesitate asking to have any info repeated!



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