

Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Family Sciences

NUT4014 Practices in Nutrition Education and Dietary Counseling

2 Units

Spring 2026

January 12 - May 1

(Finals Week: May 4-8)

Hybrid

Meeting Days: Thursdays

Meeting Times: 10:00 - 10:50am

Meeting Location: Evans 121

Final Exam: (Day/Time):

Instructor: Crystal Karges, MS, RDN, IBCLC

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Phone: (619) 849-2390

Office Location and Hours: Evans 133. Office hours are open door policy and [online by appointment](#)

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Course Description

Practical experience in techniques that will enhance patient/client communication for nutrition education. Discussion and application of counseling methods, adult learning, motivation theory, lesson planning, group communication techniques, medical charting techniques and the general nutrition care process.

Prerequisite: NUT2025

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the physiological, psychological, and environmental influences on human communication.
2. Compare and contrast functional and dysfunctional interpersonal communication.
3. Identify how motivational interviewing, social marketing and other approaches to client behavior change can impact nutrition education/ health promotion strategies.

4. Determine how modes of communication can best be employed in nutrition education and dietary counseling for diverse populations with a wide range of needs.
 5. Compose remedies for common communication problems in groups.
 6. Apply nutrition assessment tools in counseling sessions to determine dietary adequacy.
 7. List evidence-based strategies that work effectively with difficult clients.
 8. Explain how cultural and other differences impact personal communication.
 9. Describe how cultural and environmental factors can influence food patterns and health beliefs of individuals.
 10. Demonstrate qualities and processes which are integral to effective counseling of culturally diverse individuals.
 11. Display professional behavior toward classmates, instructor and clients.
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Program Learning Outcomes

PLO 1. Demonstrate content knowledge of food and nutrition as well as concepts and theories of nutrition across a broad range including: lifecycle stages, cellular nutrition, disease prevention and medical therapy; food and food systems; development, modification, and evaluation of recipes, menus, and food products.

PLO 3. Identify and assess scientific research evaluating current evidence-based research related to dietetics.

PLO 5. Develop and articulate their own professional philosophy and personal code of ethics within the dietetics profession.

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation Knowledge and Skills for Entry-Level Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) Based on 2014 ERAS

KRD 2.1. Students must be able to demonstrate effective and professional oral and written communication and documentation.

KRD 2.2. Students must be able to demonstrate counseling techniques to facilitate behavior change

KRD 2.3. The curriculum must include opportunities to understand governance of dietetics practice, such as the Scope of Dietetics practice and the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics; and interdisciplinary relationships in various practice settings.

KRD 3.1. Students must be able to use the nutrition care process to make decisions, to identify nutrition-related problems and determine and evaluate nutrition interventions.

KRD 3.2. Students must be able to develop interventions to affect change and enhance wellness in diverse individuals and groups.

KRD 3.3. Students must be able to develop an educational session or program/educational strategy for a target population.

Institutional Learning Outcomes

1. Learning, Informed by our Faith in Christ

Students will acquire knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world while developing skills and habits of the mind that foster lifelong learning.

2. Growing, in a Christ-centered Faith Community

Students will develop a deeper and more informed understanding of others as they negotiate complex professional, environmental, and social contexts.

3. Serving, in a Context of Christian Faith

Students will serve locally and/or globally in vocational and social settings.

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

Beto, J.A. & Holli, B.B. (2023) [*Nutrition Counseling and Education Skills: A Practical Guide \(8th ed.\)*](#). Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Tribole, E. & Resch, W. (2020). [*Intuitive Eating: A Revolutionary Anti-Diet Approach \(4th ed.\)*](#). St. Martin's Essentials.

Note: Students are responsible for having the required textbooks prior to the first day of class. Students are also encouraged to begin reading the books in preparation for the class as soon as possible.

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law. All supplemental materials posted on this

course site (including articles, book excerpts, or other documents) are provided for your personal academic use. These materials may be protected by copyright law and should not be duplicated or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

Course Credit Hour Information

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 2-unit class delivered over 15 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 75 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided below and in the Canvas modules.

Estimated Time to Complete Course

<i>Activity Category</i>	<i>Time-to-Complete (Hours)</i>
Required Reading	9
Discussions	4
Reflective Journals	15
Assignments	12.5
Projects/Exams	22.5
In-Class Activities	12
Total:	75

Assessment and Grading

Course Assignments

<i>Assignment Category</i>	<i>Points</i>
Therapeutic Diet	100

Counseling Video Sessions	225 (3 at 75 points each)
Personal Philosophy of Eating	50
Intuitive Eating Journal/Book Club	170
Discussions	25
Midterm	50
Final Exam	100
Attendance and Participation	70 (5 points x 14 weeks)
Total	790

It is important to read the comments posted in the gradebook as these comments are intended to help students improve their work. Final grades will be posted by the due date as posted in the Academic Calendar.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used for all exams and final course grades:

- 93 – 100% = A
- 90 – 92% = A-
- 87 – 89% = B+
- 83 – 86% = B
- 80 – 82% = B-
- 77 – 79% = C+
- 73 – 76% = C
- 70 – 72% = C-
- 67 – 69% = D+
- 63 – 66% = D
- 60 - 62% = D-

- Less than 59% = F
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Final Examination Policy

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for **one** of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

Course Policies and Procedures

As an *instructor*, I have the responsibility to be prepared and conduct the class to facilitate learning and contribute to your growth in the field. IF at any time you do not understand a concept explained in class, please raise your hand and let me know you're struggling to understand. Most likely you are not the only student confused. We don't want to move on to a new topic without mastering the current topic.

As a *student*, you have a responsibility to attend class, motivate yourself to learn, be prepared to participate, complete required assignments and provide a good learning environment for your fellow peers. This includes staying off your cell phone unless it is related to the class discussion.

The following behaviors will help you succeed in this course:

1. Attend class every session.
2. Be aware of the due dates on assignments---I give you plenty of time to complete them, there is no excuse for late assignments. Plan ahead for potential technological errors.
3. Come to class and take notes--- I will identify important points to know for quizzes and exams
4. Communication is important. If you have to miss class let me know, I am more willing to work with those who let me know what is going on.
5. Check Canvas frequently, I will keep the class updated about upcoming assignments.

6. Actively engage in class discussion. This is a learning environment....no question asked is dumb. Most likely other students have a similar question. It is OK to make mistakes.
 7. Technology is to be used for learning ONLY—You will lose participation points each day you are on your cell phone or using your computer for non-class purposes.
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Incompletes and Late Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

PLNU Spiritual Care

Please be aware that PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as a whole person. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If you have questions, prayer requests, or a desire to meet with the chaplain, you can contact your professor or the [Office of Spiritual Life and Formation](#).

State Authorization

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow distance education outside of California.

PLNU Copyright Policy

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PLNU Recording Notification

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when, in reality, they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course.

For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

During the first week of class, you will be asked to submit an Academic Honesty Verification Statement. Submitting the statement is a requirement of this course. By submitting the Academic Honesty Verification Statement, you will be verifying all assignments completed in this course were completed by you. Carefully review the Academic Honesty Statement below.

Statement: "In submitting this form, I am verifying all the assignments in this course will be completed by me and will be my own work."

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g, ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2533). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

Language and Belonging

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars, we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice-free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities

such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination, you can find more information on reporting and resources at the [PLNU Nondiscrimination webpage](#).

If you (or someone you know) have experienced a bias incident regarding language, you can find more information on reporting and resources at [PLNU Bias webpage](#).

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students. If you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available through the [Title IX Office](#). Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors via our [Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy](#).

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources via our [Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy](#).

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. Therefore, regular attendance and participation in each course are minimal requirements.

If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student

may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

Students who anticipate being absent for an entire week of a course should contact the instructor in advance for approval and make arrangements to complete the required coursework and/or alternative assignments assigned at the discretion of the instructor. Acceptance of late work is at the discretion of the instructor and does not waive attendance requirements.

Refer to [Academic Policies](#)[Links to an external site.](#) for additional details.

Synchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

For synchronous courses that have specific scheduled meeting times (including in-person, hybrid, and synchronous online courses), absences are counted from the first official meeting of the class regardless of the date of the student’s enrollment. For courses with specific attendance requirements, those requirements are outlined in the course syllabus.

Note: For synchronous courses with an online asynchronous week, refer to the Online Asynchronous Class Attendance policy listed below.

Online Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

Students taking online courses with no specific scheduled meeting times are expected to actively engage throughout each week of the course. Attendance is defined as participating in an academic activity within the online classroom which includes, but is not limited to:

- Engaging in an online discussion
- Submitting an assignment
- Taking an exam
- Participating in online labs
- Initiating contact with faculty member within the learning management system to discuss course content

Note: Logging into the course does not qualify as participation and will not be counted as meeting the attendance requirement.

Course Modality Definitions

1. Online Courses: These are courses with class meetings where all instruction and interaction are fully online.
 1. Synchronous Courses: At least one class meeting takes place at a designated time.
 2. Asynchronous Courses: All class meetings are asynchronous.
 2. Hybrid Courses: These are courses with class meetings that take place both in the classroom and online synchronously and/or asynchronously.
 3. In-Person Courses: These are courses that meet in person with the instructor and students in a physical classroom setting. With approval by the area dean, this may include up to 25% of qualified class interactions through a Learning Management System (such as Canvas).
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Use of Technology

In order to be successful in the online or hybrid environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](#) information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers, microphone, or webcams compatible with their computer available to use. Please note that any course with online proctored exams requires a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible nor allowable) to complete exams online.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

Loma Writing Center

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar

polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage](#) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

- [Appointment Calendar](#)
- [Website](#)
- Email: writingcenter@pointloma.edu

Assignments-at-a-Glance

The course summary below lists our assignments and their due dates. Click on any assignment to review it.