



MSND Certification of Comprehensive Knowledge

Degree candidates are expected to achieve comprehensive knowledge in the area in which the degree is to be offered. Upon the candidate's successful completion of this graduation requirement, the Graduate Coordinator will electronically document achievement of the Certificate of Comprehensive Knowledge. Programs may designate completion of the examination as "pass" or "pass with distinction."

Part I: Requirements

- A. Satisfactory completion of a technical writing manuscript. Degree-seeking students, in good standing, will submit their systematic review from Research Methods in Nutrition and Dietetics (NTR 5600) to the course instructor by the last class day of the semester. Student performance will be evaluated by the MSND Coordinator and the NTR 5600 course instructor using the MSND Certificate of Comprehensive Knowledge Assessment Rubric with a minimum score of 35/50 necessary for passing and a 46/50 for a "Pass with Distinction."
1. In the event that the MSND Graduate Coordinator is also the professor of NTR 5600, another nutrition and dietetics graduate faculty member or the Director of Nutrition and Dietetics will evaluate the paper.
 2. The MSND Graduate Coordinator will notify the student within 2 weeks as to whether he/she passed or failed. Arrangements for remediation requirements and/or revising/resubmitting will be the responsibility of the MSND Graduate Coordinator and, if needed, following consultation with the Director of Nutrition and Dietetics and/or the nutrition and dietetics graduate faculty members.
 3. If a student does not successfully pass with a minimum score of 35/50 (70%), the student will be offered one additional attempt to submit an updated/revised draft based on additional guidance by the reviewers. The MSND Graduate Coordinator will communicate to the student the terms under which the deficits will be met. The MSND Graduate Coordinator will provide guidance through the remediation process. The communication regarding the remediation will be in writing to the student and copied to the Director of Nutrition and Dietetics. The opportunity to successfully complete the requirements must be completed by midterm of the next semester or unless stated otherwise by the MSND Graduate Coordinator, and must be completed within the six-year time limit on graduate coursework included on the student's study plan. In the event that a student does not pass the comprehensive knowledge component, the student is dismissed as a degree-seeking candidate in the MSND program.

Part II. APPEAL PROCESS

If a student chooses to appeal the revocation of their candidacy status after failure of the Comprehensive Knowledge requirement, they may submit an appeal in writing to the Council on Graduate Studies with a copy sent to the MSND Graduate Coordinator and Director of Nutrition and Dietetics. The written appeal request must be received no later than the Midterm Day of the following term (after the revocation of the candidacy status). After the appeal is received, a time for the remediation hearing will be scheduled by the MSND Graduate Coordinator with the Nutrition and Dietetics graduate faculty and the student will be notified in writing of the remediation date. The majority (over 50%) of the graduate faculty present at the remediation hearing will need to agree that the student demonstrated sufficient competency in order to overturn the revocation of the student's candidacy status. In the event that the student does not pass with the graduate faculty, the student will not be eligible for degree candidacy status for the MSND degree.