

NUTR 596: NUTRITION PRACTICE CAPSTONE

About the Course and Capstone

NUTR 596 is a client-driven, project-based class, where all students work directly with an identified community or government partner to help complete a public health nutrition-focused project that meets the needs of the partner organization.

Depending on need, the NUTR 596 class will work with either one or two community/government partners each year. Students will work in small teams on a task within the overall group project (e.g., qualitative data collection and analysis, quantitative secondary data analysis, etc.). Each team will create their own report section, which will be compiled and delivered as a final report to the community/government partner. All students will be graded on contributions to their team/team assignments, and on the overall final report and presentation to the partner.

Expectations for all students include full participation in in-class work and involvement in all parts of the partner project, which will vary depending on need but will likely include data collection, data analysis, literature review, report writing and recommendation development, and final project presentation. Students will each be individually responsible for components of the analysis and report writing and will be graded on the overall final product.

In addition to the group project, each capstone student will develop an individual learning contract and complete the items in that contract. Students will identify at least two skills/competencies they will gain by completing their project. Capstone students will be graded individually on the completion of their learning contract, as well as on the final product developed for the client. NUTR 596 faculty will use the following process to grade the capstone project:

- Students will submit (1) their final product/deliverable, and (2) a written reflection on how they met the two competencies identified in their learning contract.
- The instructor will review the product/deliverable and ask for any edits before it is considered final.
- The instructor will review student's competencies reflection, and score student's completion/attainment of the two competencies selected by the student on a 1-5 Likert scale.

The School of Public Health provides [additional guidelines](#) for the Integrative Learning Experience (ILE) requirement of the MPH degree, which can be met by this group capstone. An ILE demonstrates synthesis of foundational and concentration competencies. You will be required to select a foundation and concentration (nutritional sciences or public health nutrition) competency and document your attainment as required by SPH in their online portal.

For more information about the capstone individual learning contract, please see the Culminating Project Form on the [Graduate Student Resources page](#).