

# M.S. Kinesiology Program Handbook

## Welcome

Congratulations on beginning your graduate education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and welcome to the Department of Kinesiology & Nutrition Sciences. We hope that you will have many positive experiences and interactions during your time with us, and we hope that we can effectively assist you in your growth and development.

## Mission Statement

The Department of Kinesiology & Nutrition Sciences at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas is committed to an interdisciplinary approach to professional preparation within the field of Kinesiology. We strive to create an environment that supports excellence in basic and applied research. Our mission is to provide the students and citizens of the state of Nevada with an academic unit that provides a program of study in the science of human movement for students interested in the allied health professions.

## Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide program specific information that is not found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Students are responsible for understanding and following the policies and procedures delineated in this document and the UNLV Graduate Catalog, as well as the NSHE Code, UNLV Bylaws, and the UNLV Student Conduct Code. Questions about policies should be directed to the Graduate College:

A Graduate Advisory Committee is mandatory and must conform to the Degree Progression Policies and Procedures provided in the graduate catalog. Applicants to the program are strongly encouraged to have a faculty member identified (cooperatively) to serve as their mentor/advisor prior to **application** to the program. This faculty member must have the appropriate level of Graduate Faculty Status in the department and be in good standing in the Graduate College. In addition to the faculty mentor/advisor who serves as the Chair of the thesis or professional paper committee, a minimum of two additional faculty from within the department also serve on the Advisory Committee. The Graduate College Representative, a faculty member with appropriate level of Graduate Faculty status outside of the Department of KNS, is also required to serve on the Advisory Committee. Thus, the Advisory Committee consists of a minimum of three faculty members from within the department and a fourth faculty member from outside of the department.

### Degree Program Benchmarks

The **professional paper prospectus** \_\_\_\_\_ for the

approve the project concept. Following approval of the project concept, the student may proceed with the professional paper.

The **thesis prospectus** precedes the research. At this time, the student presents their thesis proposal to their Advisory Committee in a public forum in both written and oral form. The Advisory Committee may accept the proposal as presented, recommend minor changes to the study design or methodology, or request that the student conduct a major revision and repeat the prospectus. Upon acceptance of the prospectus, the student is allowed to commence their research.

The final examination for the M.S. degree comes in the form of public oral defense of the written thesis or professional paper. The Advisory Committee may extend the defense into cognate fields related to the subject topic. The Advisory Committee determines whether or not the student passes the defense.

### Program Timeline

It is anticipated that this program will require four semesters of graduate student enrollment at 6 to 9 credits per semester. A student may accelerate the timeline by taking additional credits during the summer semesters.

## Graduate Assistantships

The Department of Kinesiology & Nutrition Sciences offers a limited number of Graduate Assistantships to support students. Due to the demand exceeding supply, awards are made competitively based on academic record, timeliness of academic progress and past experiences. Priority is given to students who are making satisfactory academic progress and are within the normal timelines of degree completion. The Department of Kinesiology & Nutrition Sciences reserves the right to not renew or to cancel a GA position due to unsatisfactory academic progress or unsatisfactory performance of the assigned GA (**Please see the Graduate Assistantship Handbook on the Graduate College website.**)

### Professional Code of Ethics/Discipline Guidelines

UNLV Graduate College policy regarding academic integrity can be found [graduate catalog](#).

## Annual Review Procedures

Each winter break and early spring term, graduate students **required** to complete the Graduate Student Individual Development Plan (IDP) form [Formerly known as the Student Annual Review]. The review covers the prior calendar year and assesses student progress, and it establishes reasonable goals for the year ahead.

provide acknowledgement that they have reviewed the IDP.

Reported student data i

mentoring

plans so that students know what they need to do in order to progress successfully through their programs in a timely manner.

Students who are graduating are also required to complete the form in order to record their achievements since the data is also used to track UNLV metrics related to the annual productivity of all students.

Your advisor will evaluate your progress at the end of each semester. You may, at any time, request a meeting with your advisor to discuss any issues, problems, or concerns. We strongly encourage you to communicate with your advisor on a regular basis.

## Probation

If a student fails to successfully progress in their degree program, their department/school will recommend that the student be placed on probation by the Graduate College. Students on probation may be dismissed/separated from their program for failing to successfully meet the conditions of their probation by the deadline provided. Please see the [Probation and Separation](#) section of the Graduate Catalog for more information.

## University Resources



## Writing Center

This is a free service to UNLV students to help you with any writing project, from papers to creative writing, to resumes, and we can work with you at any stage of the writing process. The center can help you brainstorm, make an outline, work on your drafts, or just be a soundboard for your ideas. The center staff can assist you in person, or via [the Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#) page.

## University Policies and Procedures

Last revised	Revised by	Changes summary
March 31, 2020	James Navalta	Removed requirement for pre-prospectus.
March 23, 2023	James Navalta	Addition of Accelerated BS-MS subplan; updated department chair information; included note on Graduate Assistantships (GA); updated Annual Review Procedures; updated University Resources and University Policies and Procedures with new links and information