



## Master of Science in Nutrition, Dietetics Concentration

### Supervised Experiential Learning (SEL) Placements

The program provides local supervised experiential learning (SEL) experiences within a 60-mile radius (approximately one hour) of Samford's campus in Birmingham, AL, as well as opportunities for distance students. Local students' SEL placements are coordinated by program faculty. Distance students are responsible for securing their own SEL sites and preceptors in the following practice areas: food service, community and public health, nutrition management, clinical nutrition, and a student-selected area. Applicants interested in distance learning are not required to secure preceptors before admission.

Preceptors are Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDN) who are also Licensed Dietitians (LD). In certain circumstances, other professionals may be acceptable, particularly if they are leaders or experts in their field. Exceptions are made for food service management and public health nutrition, where acceptable preceptors may include chefs, registered nurses (RN), nurse practitioners, public health professionals, and individuals with nutrition-related backgrounds. However, for clinical experiences and the capstone experience, the preceptor must be an RDN.

Upon admission to the program, distance students will receive the Samford Distance Preceptor Guide which includes guidance on finding appropriate preceptors, a list of the needed SEL experiences, and examples of how to communicate with potential preceptors. Faculty support students throughout the preceptor search process. Once the preceptor is identified, the clinical coordinator secures a contract, provides an orientation to the preceptor about the program, and supplies the necessary competency list and evaluation forms.

Although distance students complete their SEL and didactic courses away from Birmingham, they are required to attend an initial orientation on campus in August. Additional on-campus learning opportunities are also required for all students.

Contact Megan Kaal, the clinical coordinator for more information at 205-726-4670 or [mmhodes@samford.edu](mailto:mmhodes@samford.edu).