

I would like to welcome everyone today. Glad we have such a nice turnout. And this is going to be an information session for Brescia's two practical training programs. So, the first being our diploma and dietetic education and practical training the DDEPT. And the second being the Master of Science in food and nutrition, or the MScFN. Specifically, we'll be talking about the internship stream today. And we'll start today with some introductions. And then some housekeeping. One second here. Oh, there, great.

So, we'll start with introductions. So, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Kathy McKay, and I'm one of the dietetic education coordinators here at Brescia. And I will hand it over to the rest of my team who's going to be involved today.

To continue on with our introductions.

Everyone, my name is Helen Toews, and I am a dietetic education coordinator. I am located in Hamilton. I've been doing this role for about 13 years and I look forward to meeting you.

Hello, everybody. My name is Joy Hoard. I'm one of the dietetic education coordinators here at Brescia. Thank you for joining us today.

There we go. Hi, everyone. My name is Stephanie Turnbull, and I'm the graduate program coordinator at Brescia University College. I'm very pleased to be here today and to have this opportunity to meet all of you.

Hi, everyone. I'm Leslie Macaskill. I'm another one of the dietetic education coordinators. I'm here in front of beautiful Ursuline. Hall at Brescia. So, look forward to meeting you all and answering any of your questions you have today.

And I'm Lauren Francis. I'm the administrative assistant for the school of Food and Nutritional Sciences. Hope we have a good time.

Great, thanks so much team. And in terms of our housekeeping today, we're going to ask that everybody ensure that their microphone is muted, particularly during the whole presentation. Yes. And also, that you keep your videos off in terms of questions. And I guess the format of today, we're going to start with a formal presentation. And then we'll move in for the last part of the session, "question and answer", period. Now as we're going through the questions, you might notice that questions kind of arise or as we're going through the presentation. So, feel free as we're going through the presentation to enter those questions into the chat. We will table any questions until we get to the end of the presentation, and then we'll facilitate our "question and answer" period through the chat. So, we'll have people enter their question to the chat. And that's how we'll answer it for the latter part of the presentation. Let's go to the next slide. So, our agenda for today, we're going to give a little bit more information basics about our programs. We're going to talk about admission requirements and the application process, as well as the selection process. We're going to cover program

costs and funding, and also what you get with program completion. So, with that, I would like to hand it over to my colleague, Helen to take it from here.

Sorry, now, I'm unmuted So, um, Brescia offers two programs that can lead to qualification to register with a provincial regulatory body we have the DDEPT program, and the MScFN internship stream. And on the next slide, I'm going to go through a little bit about the difference between the two programs. So, we'll talk about their structure and their length. Altogether, there are approximately 50 students in the practicum portion of the program at any given time. This year, there are 13 in the MScFN and 35 in the DDEPT program. And those that ratio stays about the same from year to year, but the exact number will be different this year compared to next year but approximately the same. The DDEPT program is three terms long so it begins in May, and it finishes in April the following year. There are three classes that are taken, mandatory classes that are taken in the program. They're full time and they relate to dietetic simulation, regulatory, and legal and ethical issues in dietetics, as well as practice-based research. The research projects are submitted by dietitians across the province, and they address a real-life question or issue in their practice. Some examples of past research projects include determining the Food and Nutrition related learning needs of patients attending a hospital cardiac rehab program, how to incorporate food play into a child life curriculum in a pediatric oncology population, how to redesign a hospital diet based on current heart healthy eating guidelines, and planning and testing food insecurity messaging for the public. The practicum is a full time 40-week program that begins in June and finishes in April the following year. I'll invite Stephanie to describe a little bit more about the MScFN program.

So, for the MScFN program, it is five terms of continuous study. So, for those applying now, the program would begin in September 2021 and continue each term until the end of April 2023. Students are enrolled in two courses during term one and another two courses during term two making a total of four courses over the first two terms in the program. During this time, students are also beginning to work with their Brescia faculty research supervisor on their research project. Research is a large component of the MScFN program and students interested in research tend to find this aspect of the program very rewarding. Many of our graduates have had their work published and some have gone on to do PhD programs. During terms three to five of the program, MScFN internship stream students are engaged in the full-time dietetic practicum. While completing the research project, they began during the first two terms of the program. You may find detailed information regarding the courses, faculty and research by visiting the MScFN program page of the Brescia website.

Next slide. Thank you. The practicum experience is the same for both the DDEPT and MScFN program. It is a full-time immersive experience. Full time means being at placement Monday through Friday, eight hours a day. It may include some weekends or evenings depending on the work schedule of your preceptor. Additionally, you'll need to spend time outside of placements to complete projects and to prepare for the next

day's learning activities. Placements are located through Ontario and in this past year, we've been exploring virtual placement options with preceptors across the country. As a result, your preceptor may be in a different time zone than you are, and you may need to adjust your schedule to meet the expectations for that placement. Access to a car and your G2 driver's license are required. And in all cases, students should expect to be relocated and travel during the practicum. Placements are as much as possible routes in the listed geographical areas. For the DDEPT program, you'll identify your preferred regions in the application process. And for those students in the MScFN program. We have a conversation around preferred regions in your first semester year one. When choosing a region, consider your resources and personal supports available to you in the area. You can choose various locations if you're willing to relocate to more than one region. And we also invite you to list other locations that may not be specified on our list. And we'd be happy to have a conversation with you about looking for placements in that area. So, for example, if you come from the community and you'd like to do a placement in the community where you grew up, we're happy to look at that with you. London Health Sciences Center and Hamilton Health Sciences except a core group of students every year 12 going to Hamilton and 9 going to London. These programs have a primarily clinical focus, so please be mindful of that when you're making your geographical selections.

Next slide please. The practicum is designed so that each student has the opportunity to build the skills they need to meet the integrated competencies for dietetic education and practice, which are one of the core requirements needed to write the Canadian dietetic registration exam. Each student will have their own unique schedule, and no two students will have the same schedule. There are 40 weeks of placement, which are divided up with nutrition care being a minimum of 16 weeks, a minimum of 6 weeks in population and public health, a minimum of 6 weeks in management, research is typically 4 to 10 weeks, and the flex weeks can be added to nutrition care, population and public health, management, or research. Additionally, we have about 20 days dedicated to education throughout the placement weeks, and here we focus on things like motivational interviewing, diabetes, renal and dysphasia management, inferential nutrition, nutrition and health and indigenous populations, public health, eating disorders, self-care, reflective practice and examination preparation. Next slide, please.

What does a placement look like? When you're in your placements, I strongly encourage you to take advantage of all the learning opportunities in front of you. Now is the time to learn. Get involved, ask questions, step out of your comfort zone and try on something new. We expect that you're professional in all your interactions. This is your opportunity to develop hands on skill and dietetic practice. In all placements, students are supervised and evaluated by a preceptor that is an employee of the organization. Preceptors are usually registered dietitians but may also be non-dietitian professionals such as food service managers. Preceptors are responsible and accountable for your activities during placement. Nutrition care placements are typically in hospitals, long term care homes, Family Health teams, diabetes education centers,

and outpatient clinics. Here you'll review patient charts, interview patients and perform physical assessments. You'll develop and implement nutrition care plans, provide nutrition counseling, and document the care that you provide in the patient's chart. Population and public health placements are typically in public health units in community health organizations, private practice, and nongovernmental organizations. Here we develop, implement, and evaluate public health programs, population health programs. You may research nutrition topics, develop education resources, and planning community nutrition programs, you'll get a chance to consult with community stakeholders to assess their needs. You'll participate in community health activities, such as cooking classes, education sessions, and writing nutrition blogs. Food Service Management placements are often in the food service department, long term care homes, hospitals, or an industry. Here you participate in the foodservice operations and management as you evaluate processes for preparing patient meals, snacks, the delivery of meals, purchasing, storage, aging, storage, waste reduction and disposal. You'll participate in many developments, budgeting and staff scheduling. And you'll have a chance to participate in recruitment processes as well as the education staff and resources. Sorry, staff and volunteers. Next slide.

Admission requirements with the DDEPT program. You need to graduate from a degree from a dietetic program accredited under PDEP. So, you either have graduated in 2018 or later, or you're just about to graduate this spring. Your program can also be accredited in the United States under ASCEND. We're looking for a minimum GPA of 70% in the final two years of your program, or in your last 10 full time course equivalents. We will ask for the contact information for two references with a minimum of one being a professional reference. You'll need to submit evidence of a class G2 driver's license and English literacy is required. The application will ask you to describe your relevant work and or volunteer experience. I'll ask Stephanie to describe the admission requirements for the MScFN program.

Thanks Helen. Similar to the DDEPT program and undergraduate degree from a dietetic education program which is accredited by PDEP or ASCEND from 2018 or later, English literacy, and relevant work or and or volunteer experience are required for the MSFN program. Undergraduate courses in research and statistics are also required, and contact information for two references with at least one being a professional reference that minimum average of 78% on the last 10 full course equivalent credits. This is typically the last two years of your education and is calculated by counting backwards from your most recent course, excluding grades from anyfirst-year courses. Applicants will also be asked to submit proof of a G2 driver's license or equivalent if applying from another province. If you are currently working towards your G2, instead, you may provide proof that your G2 will be completed prior to the start of the MScFN program in September 2021. Okay, Helen.

The applications for the DDEPT program open on December the 7th with a firm close on January the 15th. The application fee is \$100. We only accept applications through

our online portal. So please go online and visit the Brescia website the DDEPT program for all the application instructions.

And applications for the MScFN program are now being accepted. And the deadline to apply is January 15th, 2021. And this is also a firm deadline. The application fee is \$120. Before starting your application, we strongly encourage you to review the information found on the Brescia website at the link shown on this slide, which can be found from the MScFN internship stream program page in the "How to Apply" section. There you will find very detailed information to help you understand the application process, what will be required with your application. And the link to the application can be found there as well. And I'll hand it over to Joy to talk about some application components.

Thank you, Steph. Yes, I'm going to walk you through the required components for the application. For both the DDEPT and MScFN programs starting with transcripts. You will be required to submit transcripts for all post-secondary institutions that you have attended. If you are currently enrolled in school, you will need to include your fall term grades. Now, we are able to allow you to submit unofficial transcripts at the time of application, but if we do accept you into one of our programs, we will require official transcripts at that time. Your resume should be a maximum of two pages in reverse chronological order, meaning your most recent experiences should appear first. We need you to include your education, your volunteer and employment history, including total number of number of hours for each of those experiences. You do not need to include any high school experiences on your resume. I also want to add that when you're describing the tasks that you performed in each of those job or volunteer experiences, please be specific. Don't leave us in that position of guessing what kind of skill you developed during that time. So, for example, if you were a dietary aide at a long-term care home, and you did more than say prep food or deliver trays, let's say you help patients fill out a menu or you're helping the manager order inventory. Make sure that you have that down on the resume so we fully understand the scope of what you did there and we can kind of determine what kind of skills you might have gained from those experiences. Moving on to the cover letter, the cover letter needs to be a professional letter. It should not be any longer than one page. It needs to discuss describe why you are a good fit for the program that you're applying to. You want to include your experiences, skills and personal qualities that will contribute to success in the program. So again, just a little bit of advice here, try to avoid just listing skills that you might have, tell us how you developed those skills. So, you can use specific examples from your volunteer work experience and talk about what skills you developed from those experiences and then how those skills are going to bring you success in the program. That's what we want to see. We also want to see your commitment to undertake the program. For the MScFN applicants, you will also be required to fill out supplemental questions. And I believe that's part of the online application. Next slide, please.

Okay, so in terms of references, you will need to provide contact information for two referees. So, we do not require reference letters, just the contact information. The referees should be individuals that know you well. Okay, so they should have first-hand knowledge of your abilities and your potential to succeed in a practicum program. So, a good example of a referee you might want to use is someone that directly supervised you in a work or volunteer experience. So, this could be within Brescia for perhaps a club, so that might actually be a professor that supervised you and that's totally fine. So, you might view that as a combination academic professional, which is fine. Or you know, what might be a supervisor of one of your work experiences. So those are good examples of referees that we'd like to see. As already mentioned, you will need to provide proof of a class G2 Ontario driver's license, students must have access to a vehicle. This is really important and be able to drive unattended throughout Ontario during the practicum portion of the program. Lastly, you will need to include a confirmation of completion of the PDEP accredited program form signed by your accredited undergraduate dietetics education university program administration - that is a mouthful. Next slide, please.

So before beginning your application, please review the detailed information provided on the Brescia website. So, the links are provided below here on this slide. Next slide, please.

So, in terms of communication during the selection process, obviously, it's really crucial that we're able to effectively communicate with you during this time. Sorry, I just have a pop-up box here. I'm going to close. So, all notifications from Brescia will be directed to you through your email address. So, if possible, use your school email for all aspects of the application process. It is your responsibility and I'd highly recommend checking your email on a regular basis. So, every couple of days throughout the selection period, and also double check your junk folders as well. Because sometimes that has happened where important emails have ended up there. Emails to applicants might include updates on the selection process and or questions required by the admissions committee in reviewing your application, as well as invites to interviews. Next slide. Kathy....

Oh, sorry, you did change it. And online interview process will be held in mid to late February for selected applicants. Those selected to participate, as I've already mentioned, will be notified by email the week before. Attendance is mandatory for consideration of program acceptance. Notification of program acceptance will be made to successful applicants starting in early March 2021. Now I'm going to turn it over to Stephanie to go over the financial information.

Thanks Joy. The tuition fees for the DDEPT program are \$12,766 and 24 cents. This is the total cost for all three terms in the program. The tuition fees for the MScFN program are \$4,587 and 76 cents per term. So, each term costs that amount. Okay. For both programs, these costs include tuition and salary and other program fees. And the fees I'm quoting are the fees domestic students are paying this year and could be slightly different next year. Okay, next slide, please.

We also would like to prepare you for some of the costs beyond tuition for students in a practicum program. Students can expect some costs related to educational and professional memberships and training, as well pre practicum. Costs include Dietitians of Canada membership, liability and accident insurances, immunizations, police checks, mask fit testing. As well there will be costs associated to the logistics of practicum such as relocation, and accommodation, parking, gas and other car related costs like professional attire, so these are all costs to also consider. Next slide please.

Both the MScFN program and the DDEPT program are OSAP eligible programs. Students in the DDEPT program will also be eligible to apply to bursaries and scholarships that are available through Brescia and will receive more information about this during their program orientation. There is also more information about tuition funding and funding eligibility on the Brescia website if you would like to learn more about that. Next slide, please.

For applicants to the MScFN program there are two scholarships available through Western University Graduate Studies. These are the Ontario graduate scholarship or OGS, and the Canadian graduate scholarship or CGS. Please find information regarding eligibility application process and how to apply details from the Western University graduate study scholarship website. For those interested I'll encourage you to seek out this information as soon as possible as the deadlines are fast approaching with the CGS deadline coming up on December 1, which does not leave a lot of time to get references and other items for the application in place. In addition to those two scholarships, students in the MScFN program will be encouraged to apply for employment at Brescia as course assistance, markers, and proctors. As well as a number of Brescia donor funded awards. In addition to these opportunities, MScFN students in past have received a stipend at the beginning of their third term in the program to assist with program expenses just before the practicum begins. The amount is subject to administration and government funding, but this year to give you an idea was \$3500 for each student. Okay, next slide, please. Oh, back to joy.

So, upon successful completion of the DDEPT program, you will receive a Western University Diploma in Dietetic Education and Practical Training. Or if you complete the MScFN program, you will receive a Western University Master of Science in Foods and Nutrition. I think at this point, we're going to do a brief poll. Kathy, do you have that ready to go?

Yes. And I forgot to do my poll at the start as well. So anyway, two quick polls we'll do. Oh, right. Yeah, Lauren, do you want to? First one we just want to get to know you guys a little bit better and where you're from. So, Lauren, do want to pull up the first poll. Pretty close tie between a Brescia and Guelph a good representation from Ryerson and a few others Atlantic Canada. Another. Cool.

All right, Lauren, can you pull up the next poll? All right.

So definitely interest in both of our programs. So that's great. Yep. And then actually, we do have one final poll, I believe. Lauren, do you want to pull up our last poll? All right, that was is Brescia your top choice for food and nutrition, post grad studies and majority said yes. And some it's not. And that's okay, too. We're a great program. And there's lots of great programs out there as well. And you guys are doing the right thing, getting that information, because then you can make an informed decision.