

Abbigail Pace, PhD, RDN, LD

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Education

Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama

Doctor of Philosophy, Nutrition, December 2022

Dissertation: Closing the Gap on Strategies to Combat College Student Food Insecurity

Masters of Science, Nutrition, August 2020

Masters Thesis: “Campus Basic Needs Coalition Engagement Assessment” with Alabama Campus Coalition for Basic Needs.

Honors College at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky

Bachelor of Science, Hospitality Management and Dietetics, May 2016

Undergraduate Thesis: “Benefits of the Flexitarian Diet: Educating College Students of Lifestyle Approaches to Reduce the Risk of Developing Breast and Prostate Cancer”

Professional Certifications

Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist (2017 – present), CDR #86069561

Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionist in Kentucky (2022 – present), License #278564

Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionist in Alabama (2017-2021), License # 2788

Work Experience

Assistant Professor (tenure-track), Regular Title Series, July 2025 – present

**University of Kentucky, College of Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Lexington, Kentucky**

- DoE: 60% teaching, 35% research, 5% service
- Nutritional Biochemistry DHN 311), Medical Nutrition Therapy I (DHN 512), Medical Nutrition Therapy II (DHN 517)

Assistant Professor (tenure-track), August 2022 – present

Department of Applied Human Sciences (AHS), College of Education and Applied Human Sciences (CEAHS)

Food & Nutrition Programs – Dietetics and Culinary concentrations

Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky

- DoE: 70% teaching, 10% administration, 10% research, 10% service
- Essentials of Nutrition (NFA 201), Experimental Foods (NFA 323), Bionutrition (NFA 301), Careers in Food and Nutrition (NFA 203)
- Director, Didactic Program in Dietetics (July 2023 – May 2025)
- Committee Appointments:
 - Council on Post-Secondary Education Student Basic Needs Guiding Team – consults for CPE on student food security state-wide efforts (January 2023 – May 2025)
 - University Research Committee – evaluates and awards funds for internal mini and seed grant applications (August 2022 – May 2025)
 - CEAHS Program Review Committee – evaluates and grades program review submitted by CEAHS programs (February 2024 – May 2025)
 - AHS Scholarship Committee – evaluates student department scholarship applications (January 2024 – May 2025)
- Student Food and Nutrition Association, faculty advisor (August 2023 – May 2025)

Visiting Assistant Professor, August 2021- July 2022

Department of Kinesiology and Health Studies

Georgetown College, Georgetown, Kentucky

- Nutrition (KHS 320), Personal Health (KHS 220), Health Behavior Modification (KHS 405), and Measurement & Evaluation in Kinesiology (KHS 410).

Coordinator II, Nutrition Services, Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist, May 2018-June 2021

Health Promotion and Wellness Services, Student Affairs

Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama

- Coordinate Nutrition Services in collaboration with campus wellness programs
- Provide nutrition education and counseling for students, faculty, and staff - Total of 1300 client hours
- Primary Supervisor for the Nutrition Services Graduate Assistant, Auburn University Nutrition Team student volunteers, and Dietetics Interns
- Member of the Eating Concerns Treatment Team
- Provide Outreach Programs on Basics of Nutrition, Auburn Body Positive, Nutrition Care for Eating Disorders, and Question Persuade Refer (QPR)
- Council for the Advancement of Standards of Higher Education HPWS Program Review Chair

Graduate Assistant, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, August 2017-April 2018

Health Promotion and Wellness Services, Student Affairs

Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama

- Provide nutrition education and counseling for students, faculty, and staff
- Supervisor of Nutrition Team volunteers
- Assist Auburn University Dining in collaborations, student outreach, and consultations for nutrition-related disorders
- Development of nutrition-related outreach events, including Eating Disorder Awareness and Basics of Nutrition

Intern, Dietetic Internship, August 2016-May 2017

University of Kentucky Albert B. Chandler Hospital and Lexington Veteran Affairs Medical Centers

Lexington, Kentucky

- 1500 hours of supervised practice to earn qualification for Registered Dietitian Nutritionist National Examination
- Became proficient in nutrition assessment, medical nutrition therapy, nutrition counseling, motivational interviewing, and presenting to large groups
- Research: "Diabetes Diet Education by a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist for Veterans with a Dysvascular Amputation"

Research Intern, National Cancer Institute Cancer Education Program, May-July 2015

University of Louisville

Louisville, Kentucky

- 10-week research program at the University of Louisville Medical Center and James Graham Brown Cancer Center
- Research: "Psychosocial Distress and Malnutrition Biomarkers are Associated with Head and Neck Cancer Progression and Survival"

Teaching Experience

Essentials of Nutrition – NFA 201. (Spring 2024). Department of Applied Human Sciences. Eastern Kentucky University.

Bionutrition – NFA 301. (Spring 2024). Department of Applied Human Sciences. Eastern Kentucky University.

Essentials of Nutrition – NFA 201. (Fall 2023). Department of Applied Human Sciences. Eastern Kentucky University.

Experimental Foods – NFA 323. (Fall 2023). Department of Applied Human Sciences. Eastern Kentucky University.

Essentials of Nutrition – NFA 201. (Spring 2023). Department of Applied Human Sciences. Eastern Kentucky University.

Essentials of Nutrition (online) – NFA 201. (Spring 2023). Department of Applied Human Sciences. Eastern Kentucky University.

Bionutrition – NFA 301. (Spring 2023). Department of Applied Human Sciences. Eastern Kentucky University.

Essentials of Nutrition – NFA 201. (Fall 2022). Department of Applied Human Sciences. Eastern Kentucky University.

Experimental Foods – NFA 323. (Fall 2022). Department of Applied Human Sciences. Eastern Kentucky University.

Nutrition – KHS 320. (Fall 2021 and Spring 2022). Department of Kinesiology and Health Studies. Georgetown College.

Personal Health – KHS 220. (Fall 2021 and Spring 2022). Department of Kinesiology and Health Studies. Georgetown College.

Measurement & Evaluation in Kinesiology. (Spring 2022). Department of Kinesiology and Health Studies. Georgetown College.

Health Behavioral Modification – KHS 405. (Fall 2021). Department of Kinesiology and Health Studies. Georgetown College.

Publications

Hickey A, Brown O, Fiagbor R. Strategies to Combat College Student Food Insecurity: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19320248.2022.2101413>

Kaschak SG, **Pace A**, González SR, Brown ON, and Powers AR. Hunger Free Higher Ed: A Statewide Approach to Food Security in Alabama. Revise and Re-submit. *New Directions in Student Success*

Hickey A, Powers A, Brown, O. Alabama Campus Coalition for Basic Needs Engage Assessment: Developing Best Practices for Campus Coalition Engagement. In Progress.

Hickey A, Powers A, Andrzejewski C, Brown O. Engagement and collaborative efforts of campus-based food security coalitions at two-year colleges in Alabama: A mixed methods inquiry. In progress.

Hickey A, Powers A, Brown O. Comparing engagement and collaborative efforts among food security campus coalitions at two-year colleges and four-year universities in Alabama. In progress

Grants

Hickey, A. & Green, A. (2023) ECU Food Studies Lab Research. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) ECU Faculty Mini-grant competition. \$950 awarded.

Hickey, A. & Green, A. (2023) Food in A Snap! Development And Implementation of a College Student SNAP Screening and Enrollment Process In Rural Appalachia. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). Under Review. \$837,845. Not funded

Hickey, A. (2023). Grant Proposal Development Bootcamp. Sponsored Programs. Eastern Kentucky University. \$2,400 stipend awarded.

Hickey, A., Green, A. (2022). Addressing ECU Student Food Insecurity through Research, Collaboration, and Advocacy. Eastern Kentucky University Cross College Interdisciplinary Collaboration Grant. \$7,383 awarded.

Brown, O. N. (2022). *Alabama Campus Coalition for Basic Needs Forum: Food Security*. Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program. United States Department of Agriculture.

Brown, O. N. (2021). *Alabama Campus Coalition for Basic Needs Forum: Food Security*. Agriculture and Food

Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program. United States Department of Agriculture.

Pace, A.B. & Cook-Newell, M. (2015) *Benefits of the Flexitarian Diet: Educating College Students of Lifestyle Approaches to Reduce the Risk of Developing Breast and Prostate Cancer*. Faculty and Undergraduate Student Engagement Program. FUSE Award #: 15-FA221.

Conference and Invited Presentations

Hickey, A. (2024). Food in a SNAP!: An Update on Efforts to Address Food Insecurity at Institutions of Higher Education in Kentucky. Bluegrass Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Invited Speaker.

Green, A., Mays, A., Weis, J., Koempel, A., Markowitz, L., Abarca, I., Hayden, M., & **Hickey, A.** Food Security and Food Justice in Kentucky. Society of Applied Anthropology. Cincinnati, OH. March 28-April 1, 2023.

Hickey, A., Brown, O., Powers., A. (2023). Addressing College Student Food and Nutrition Insecurity in Kentucky utilizing *Hunger Free Higher Ed* Approach. 2023 Kentucky Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics Annual Conference. Lexington, KY.

Hickey, A., Brown, O., Powers, A. (2022). Alabama Campus Coalition for Basic Needs Engage Assessment: Key Findings for the Development of Campus Basic Needs Coalitions. 2022 Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Hickey, A., Brown, O., Powers, A. (2022). Development of Alabama Campus Coalition for Basic Needs: An Innovative Approach to Address College Student Food Insecurity. 2022 FNCE, Orlando, FL.

Hickey A, Brown, O. (2021). Alabama Campus Coalition for Basic Needs Engage Assessment. 2021 Auburn University Research Symposium, Auburn, AL.

Hickey, A. (2020) *Campus Basic Needs Engage Assessment*. Accepted Panel Contributor. Universities Fighting World Hunger Summit. Lexington, Kentucky. Cancelled due to COVID-19.

Hickey, A. (2020) *Holistic Approach to Campus Eating Disorder Treatment*. Oral Presentation at National Association of Student Personnel Administrators-Alabama. Birmingham, Alabama.

Pace, A. Seibert, A. Rebholz, W. Wilson, L. Bumpous, J.M., Cash, E. (2016). *Psychological Distress and Malnutrition Biomarkers are associated with Head and Neck Cancer Progression and Survival*. Oral Presentation at American Psychosomatic Society (APS) 74th Annual Scientific Meeting. Denver, Colorado.

Pace, A., & Cook-Newell, M. (2016). *Benefits of the Flexitarian Diet: Educating College Students of Lifestyle Approaches to Reduce the Risk of Developing Breast and Prostate Cancer*. Poster presented at Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Annual Meeting. Lexington, Kentucky.

Service

President, Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. June 2025 - present

President-elect, Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. June 2024 – May 2025

Didactic Program in Dietetics, Director. July 2023 – May 2025

Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Board of Directors. June 2023 - present

Student Food and Nutrition Association. Advisor. August 2023 – May 2025

Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. 2024 Annual Conference Committee Chair. January 2023 – May 2024

Student Basic Needs Guiding Team. Commission on Post-secondary education. Member. March 2023- May 2024

Hunger Free Higher Ed Administrative Team. Auburn University. Spring 2019 – present

Council Postsecondary Education Student Basic Needs Action Network. Kentucky. December 2022 – May 2024

EKU Food Studies Lab. In collaboration with Dr. Amanda Green. December 2022 – May 2025

EKU Student Food Security Coalition. March 2023.

Journal of Health Promotion. Peer reviewer. August 2021 – May 2024

Ethnicity and Health. Peer reviewer. September 2022 – May 2024

Awards

Transformational Leadership Award. (2025). Council on Postsecondary Education.

Special Contributions Award. (2024). Bluegrass Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Thank a Professor Award. (2023). Eastern Kentucky University

Thank a Professor Award. (2022). Eastern Kentucky University

Outstanding Dietetic Internship Preceptor. (2020, December). Samford University.

Western Kentucky University Honors College Distinguished Thesis. (2016, May). Western Kentucky University.

Dietetic Undergraduate Research Award. (2016, April). Western Kentucky University.

Memberships

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Active Member, July 2022 – present

Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, President-Elect (2024-2025), July 2022 - present

Bluegrass Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Member, August 2022 - present

