



**THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM**

**Chair, Department of Nutrition Sciences
School of Health Professions
Birmingham, Alabama**

THE SEARCH

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (“UAB”) School of Health Professions (“SHP” or “the school”) welcomes applications and nominations for the position of Chair, Department of Nutrition Sciences (“Chair”).

One of the nation’s premier research universities, UAB includes one of the nation’s largest academic health science centers, comprised of the schools of medicine, dentistry, optometry, nursing, and public health, as well as [UAB Health System](#)—the third largest public hospital in the country. The university is ranked 12th (top four percent) in the nation among public universities and 27th overall (top four percent) in federally funded research expenditures. In 2021 UAB was recognized by *Forbes* as the best large employer in the country and America’s No. 4 best employer for diversity. In September 2021, UAB received the 2021 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine.

The [UAB School of Health Professions](#) is one of the largest and most well-respected health professions schools in the nation and offers more than 30 programs to students at the certificate, bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral levels. SHP offers one of UAB’s largest undergraduate majors, biomedical sciences. The school also houses several centers and institutes. The school’s faculty have more NIH funding than any other school of its type in the country and the school’s total research funding was over \$20 million in 2021.

Based in the Webb Nutritional Sciences Building, the [Department of Nutrition Sciences](#) (“DNS” or “department”) is highly regarded for incorporating nutrition and lifestyle research and education to prevent and treat chronic disease and facilitate optimum metabolic health. DNS utilizes a precision approach to better understand how key factors impact the development and management of chronic diseases. The department has 27 full-time faculty members, more than 95 staff, and approximately 140 students and postdoctoral fellows engaged in education and research in a broad array of areas including diabetes, obesity, cancer, aging, circadian patterns, and developmental origins.

The Chair will join DNS in a period of unprecedented growth and momentum. The department has distinguished and long-standing nutrition research programs, a broad portfolio of nutrition education programs, including a highly regarded graduate dietetic program. The department launched a new undergraduate major in Biobehavioral Nutrition and Wellness in 2021 and is

preparing for a comprehensive renovation of the Webb Nutrition Sciences Building that will include a state-of-the-art metabolic kitchen. DNS has a robust and growing portfolio of extramural research funding and hosts the NIH-funded Nutrition Obesity Research Center (NORC) and the Diabetes Research Center (DRC), and was recently awarded a \$10.8 million NIH grant to establish a Nutrition for Precision Health Center. In addition, DNS maintains significant involvement in the UAB NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The department seeks in its next Chair an outstanding scholar with intellectual breadth who will articulate and execute on a bold vision for DNS. Ideal candidates will have a record of academic and administrative excellence, mentoring, scientific leadership, and research in a university setting, as well as an established record of commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. They will also have a doctoral degree from an accredited institution and relevant to nutrition sciences, along with a record of teaching, research and scholarship, and service excellence commensurate with a tenured faculty appointment at the rank of professor in the School of Health Professions.

The UAB School of Health Professions has retained national executive search firm Isaacson, Miller to assist in this important recruitment. Confidential inquiries, nominations, and applications may be directed to the firm as indicated at the end of this document.

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

The University of Alabama at Birmingham's story is one of remarkable growth in size, quality, reputation, and impact. UAB traces its roots to the 1859 founding of the Medical College of Alabama and the 1936 establishment of the Birmingham Extension Center of the University of Alabama. In 1945 the University's Medical Center was founded in Birmingham, and in November 1966, the Extension Center and the Medical Center were administratively merged to form the "University of Alabama in Birmingham," an organizational component of the University of Alabama (in Tuscaloosa). In 1969 UAB became an independent institution, one of the autonomous universities within the newly created three-campus University of Alabama System.

Today, UAB is a comprehensive urban university with a nationally recognized academic health center. More than 22,000 students call UAB home at any given time. UAB is the only public, four-year degree granting university in the state's largest metropolitan area and serves as the biomedical university for the state; its impact in the health sciences reaches far beyond the region and country. Its strengths in the health sciences are remarkable; schools of medicine, health professions, dentistry, optometry, nursing, and public health are co-located in downtown Birmingham. Schools of engineering, business, education, and arts and sciences are also on the same campus and offer further opportunity for collaboration.

With more than 23,000 employees, UAB and its affiliated health system is the largest single employer in the state. Forbes named UAB its best large employer in America for 2021 as well as

America's best employer for diversity. UAB is ranked the number one Young University in the US and in the top 12 worldwide in Times Higher Education World University Rankings, 2019 Young University Rankings. UAB closely ties knowledge generation to the intellectual, cultural, social, and economic benefit of its city, state and beyond. UAB ranks 31st in federal funding (based on 2018 figures) and is ranked 15th among public universities. A Carnegie-classified R1 "Very High Research Activity" university with 3,000 faculty, UAB's research program is second to none in the state.

The campus is in the heart of downtown Birmingham, a city that has enjoyed an epic revitalization in recent years, with the advent of numerous residential, sporting, music, and outdoor entertainment developments. The Summit serves as a creative hub of style and taste for Birmingham with food, fashion, and special events. In addition, two professional and minor league sports teams settled in the city in the past decade, along with the newly formed United States Football League which will have their inaugural season in 2022. It is also a foodie town; a recent James Beard Foundation award-winning bar and grill and many other southern restaurants about which food critics are raving join a burgeoning craft brewery scene.

UAB School of Health Professions

The School of Health Professions offers more than 30 highly rated programs at the certificate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels that are designed to meet the needs of the 21st century health care environment. The school is organized into five departments: clinical and diagnostic sciences, health services administration, nutrition sciences, occupational therapy, and physical therapy, and is home to several centers and institutes. The school also offers an honors program for undergraduates along with degree offerings in rehabilitation science through an interdisciplinary partnership with the departments of occupational therapy and physical therapy. The school enjoys an innovative research partnership in rehabilitative science with the Lakeshore Foundation, a Birmingham-based philanthropic foundation focused on rehabilitation healthcare with over \$80 million in assets. To date, the UAB/Lakeshore Research Collaborative has led to over \$50 million in grants and economic impact.

Andrew J. Butler, MPT, MBA, PhD, became dean of UAB School of Health Professions in July 2019. He joined UAB after serving as Associate Dean for Research and, earlier, as Professor and Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy at the Georgia State University Lewis College of Nursing & Health Professions. Previously, Dean Butler held faculty positions in Rehabilitation Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine. Butler has a special interest in neurorehabilitation, functional neuroimaging, and transcranial magnetic stimulation.

UAB Department of Nutrition Sciences

The Department of Nutrition Sciences has a rich history of clinical nutrition education and research that predates the University of Alabama at Birmingham itself. As far back as the 1920s, physicians at Hillman Hospital were studying the benefits of folic acid in the treatment of major nutrient deficiency diseases. In 1963, the University of Alabama Hospital (UAH) and Hillman Clinics inaugurated the Dietetic Internship program, and in 1964, a division of nutrition was established within the UAB Department of Medicine.

In 1977, UAB established a university-wide Department of Nutrition Sciences. In 1983, the department moved into the Webb Nutrition Sciences building, funded with a generous donation from Birmingham philanthropist Charles B. Webb, Jr., honoring the memory of his wife, Susan Mott Webb.

In 2000, Department Chair Dr. Weinsier was awarded a Nutrition Obesity Research Center (NORC) grant funded by NIDDK/NIH. The NORC is one of only 11 in the U.S. Dr. W. Timothy Garvey, who succeeded Dr. Weinsier as chair in 2004, established the UAB Diabetes Research and Training Center, which later became the Diabetes Research Center (DRC) in 2008. It is one of only 16 in the U.S., and the only DRC located in the Deep South.

Department of Nutrition Sciences research seeks to better understand metabolic, behavioral, and environmental factors that impact health in order to prevent chronic metabolic disease (obesity, diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease, etc.) and promote optimum wellness. Investigators use state-of-the-art techniques for assessing body composition, energy metabolism, and metabolic health in humans and animal models. The department hosts the NIH-funded DRC and the NORC. Both provide a wealth of core services to assist investigators in the department and across the UAB campus. Today, 106 investigators from 43 academic units are based within the NORC; its investigators have been awarded 63 R01 grants and have secured \$41 million in direct funding. The DRC has 249 investigators from 37 academic units. DRC investigators had 129 publications on PubMed in 2021. The new Nutrition for Precision Health Center will collect new data on the many potential predictive factors that are believed to affect how individuals respond to different foods or dietary routines to enable clinicians to create effective, personalized nutrition regimens.

In education, DNS offers a range of graduate programs, including both an MS and a PhD in Nutrition Sciences. Graduate students have the opportunity to work one-on-one with internationally renowned faculty from the NIH-funded NORC and DRC. At the master's level, students may choose from five different tracks, two of which are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. UAB is also a leader in training students to be Registered Dietitians, housing several pathways for students to be eligible to sit for the credentialing exam.

Projected enrollment for Fall 2022 is about 100 students at the master's degree level and 24 at the PhD level. In 2021, DNS launched a new undergraduate major in Biobehavioral Nutrition & Wellness as well as a minor in Nutrition. The undergraduate program has grown quickly and projected enrollment for Fall 2022 is about 90 students.

DNS is committed to providing evidence-based lifestyle wellness services to the public to improve overall health and well-being, and planning is underway to establish clinical programs for long-term weight management, optimizing nutrition, achieving an active lifestyle, and improving sleep quality. The DNS lifestyle wellness services will provide faculty and students opportunities to engage in clinical research and help deliver clinical services to the public.

ROLE OF THE CHAIR

The Chair is primarily responsible for providing broad, strategic leadership that advances the educational, research, and clinical initiatives of the department. Reporting to the Dean, the Chair leads a team of 27 faculty, including four direct reports (the Vice Chairs of Research, Education, Clinical, and Administration), and more than 95 staff. The Chair will:

- Provide strategic, diplomatic, collaborative leadership and guidance that will grow and enhance current departmental programs and foster future academic collaborations throughout the UAB community and beyond;
- Maintain an active research portfolio;
- Oversee and advise program directors in their management of accreditation and academic programs;
- Manage personnel-related activities, including but not limited to recruitment, hiring, evaluation, recommendation, etc.;
- Coordinate the DNS budget process and monitor all budgets, contracts, and other funds;
- Maintain appropriate records for DNS employees and students;
- Maintain open and ongoing communication with DNS program directors, faculty, and staff;
- Provide leadership in academic and professional goal setting and curriculum review/development for all DNS programs;
- Promote and maintain appropriate communications with affiliating institutions and agencies associated with the Department;
- Interact effectively with other UAB Schools, including the School of Medicine, School of Public Health, and School of Nursing;
- Provide constructive feedback and assistance to faculty, staff, and students concerning their professional development and performance;
- Assume responsibility for coordinating and preparing departmental reports;

- Support plans for professional growth and excellence for faculty and staff, and play a key role in mentoring junior faculty;
- Ensure that faculty are consistently recognized among the top in their field of expertise;
- Develop and refine policies to achieve academic and faculty goals and objectives; and
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Dean, School of Health Professions.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Define and execute on an ambitious, compelling vision and strategy for DNS

The world-renowned DNS is among the top nutrition sciences departments in the nation. The Department is home to three NIH Centers and in recent years has recruited numerous internationally prominent faculty to its already world-class faculty. Research funding has grown immensely, including multiple new NIH R01 grants awarded. Its educational programs have expanded, both in enrollment in the master's and PhD programs and the recent launch of the new undergraduate Biobehavioral Nutrition and Wellness major. Building on this success, the Chair will develop and execute a strategic plan that leverages this remarkable growth and momentum to accelerate the department's future growth and excellence. The plan must consider and build on the department's strong culture of collaboration and interconnectedness across research, education, and clinical services such that they grow and flourish as a unified whole.

Foster productive collaboration within DNS, across the university, and beyond

Nutrition is fundamental to health, and nutrition science is relevant to a great many disciplines. As such, DNS faculty and staff collaborate closely with colleagues across the university and UAB Health System, many of whom utilize programs and services provided within DNS such as state-of-the-art techniques to assess body composition, energy metabolism, and metabolic health in humans; DNS will soon open a new metabolic kitchen and a new indirect calorimetry suite. The Chair will vigorously promote continued high levels of collaboration within DNS and with colleagues across the university, in the community, and with peer organizations across the country and internationally.

Nurture a positive and diverse community

Morale is high within DNS, and faculty, staff, and students enjoy a diverse, collaborative, and wellness-centered environment that generates a spirit of innovation and creativity. The Chair will continue to foster this culture and ensure that the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion are embedded in departmental culture and in the daily lives of faculty, staff, and students. The Chair will make certain that all stakeholders feel heard, valued, and included. In particular, they will identify effective means of outreach to make certain that students enrolled in both online

and in-person programs feel firmly connected to DNS. In addition, the Chair will promote a community that celebrates faculty, staff, and student success, and broadcasts excellence and achievement in research and programmatic work.

Ensure the long-term financial sustainability of DNS

UAB recently transitioned to a Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) model of budgeting. The current annual budget for DNS is \$5.8 million, with a majority from tuition and grants. The Chair will bring financial skills and an understanding of RCM together to maximize the financial health of the department. In addition to wisely stewarding existing resources, expanding NIH funding, and developing new revenue streams, the Chair will effectively secure resources within UAB for the department and play a key role in a future capital campaign to fund the Webb Building renovation. As such, the Chair will partner with senior leadership and the advancement team to increase philanthropic support from new individual, corporate, and foundation donors.

Recruit and retain faculty

As DNS continues to grow and key faculty approach retirement, the Chair will capitalize on the department's strengths, including its national and international standing, staff and faculty excellence, and impressive breadth of its research enterprise, to recruit world-class talent. The Chair will provide career guidance and mentor faculty and staff, recognizing the unique goals of each and identifying opportunities for professional growth and advancement. Furthermore, the Chair will foster a culture of intellectual generosity, encouraging all researchers to take an active interest in their colleagues' work and be willing to mentor those more junior.

ABOUT BIRMINGHAM

The campus is located in the heart of downtown Birmingham. Located in the heart of the Southeast, Birmingham is a metropolitan city of one million people and a thriving nexus of medicine, banking, research, and development. It is a short drive from Atlanta, Nashville, New Orleans, Memphis, the Blue Ridge Mountains, and Gulf Coast beaches. Birmingham has been recognized as an "All America City" by the National Civic League as one of the top 10 American cities to live and work, and one of the top 10 entrepreneurial and job growth hot spots in America.

Birmingham, with 99 diverse neighborhoods, has more green space per capita than any other major city in the nation. It has been designated Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation for nearly 30 years in a row. It is home to Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve with 14 miles of trails, 1,000+ acres of biodiverse urban forest, and 150 species of birds. It is also home to Red Mountain Park with 15 miles of trails and Alabama's largest dog park – named one of the "10 Great Southern Dog Parks" by *Southern Living Magazine*.

Downtown Birmingham has enjoyed a revitalization in recent years, with the development of nearby [Railroad Park](#) — a national award-winning urban park — and its adjacent Regions Field — a national award-winning stadium, home to the minor league [Birmingham Barons](#). Two professional and minor league sports teams put down roots in the city in the past decade, along with the [Birmingham Stallions](#) of the newly formed United States Football League which will have their inaugural season in 2022 along with the [Birmingham Squadron](#) an American professional basketball team based in Birmingham. The team is the NBA G League affiliate of the National Basketball Association (NBA)'s New Orleans Pelicans. These projects and teams have kickstarted major growth in surrounding districts, including craft breweries, boutique shops, restaurants, loft and apartment buildings, innovative workspaces, and hotels.

Birmingham is also a renowned culinary destination having been named America's "Next Hot Food City" by *Zagat's*, Top 10 "Unexpected U.S. Cities with a Surprisingly Good Food Scene" by *Fodor's*, and since 2018, the home of four James Beard Award winning chefs and restaurants.

There are a host of attractions only a short walk from UAB's campus, including the Birmingham Civil Rights District National Monument. This area encompasses the historic sites that played significant roles in the Civil Rights Movement — places such as the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Kelly Ingram Park, and the [Birmingham Civil Rights Institute](#)—a major destination for visitors from around the world.

Birmingham's cultural scene is thriving with museums, galleries, theatres, and live music venues. Birmingham is home to multiple music, art and film festivals including Sidewalk Film Festival, which *USA Today* named one of "Ten Great Places for a Fabulous Film Festival." In addition, Birmingham has a professional ballet company, a professional opera company, the Alabama Symphony Orchestra (based at UAB's Alys Stephens Performing Arts Center), a [School of Fine Arts](#), the [Jazz Hall of Fame](#), and the recent restoration of the historic [Lyric](#) and [Alabama Theatre's Red Mountain Theatre Company](#) is a non-profit professional theatre organization with an emphasis on musical theatre. With its own unique Cabaret Theatre located right in the heart of downtown Birmingham's Theatre District and summer Mainstage productions performed at the Virginia Samford Theatre (formerly Town and Gown), Red Mountain Theatre Company continues to bring both well-known national performers and incredible local talent to the Birmingham stage.

Because of all this, and because of its sports history, Birmingham was selected to serve as the host city of the [2022 World Games](#).

TO APPLY

Nominations, inquiries, and applications (including a CV and cover letter) should be sent to:

Amy Segal, Partner
Jean Jacoby, Managing Associate

Annah Wells, Associate
Olivia Correll, Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller
www.imsearch.com/8632

Unless explicitly stated in the job posting, it is UAB's expectation that an employee of UAB will reside in the State of Alabama as of the date the employment begins.

UAB is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer committed to fostering a diverse, equitable and family-friendly environment in which all faculty and staff can excel and achieve work-life balance irrespective of, race, national origin, age, genetic or family medical history, gender, faith, gender identity and expression as well as sexual orientation. UAB also encourages applications from individuals with disabilities and veterans. A pre-employment background check investigation is performed on candidates selected for employment.