

AMBER BROWN MCFADDEN, MPH, RD

SUMMARY

Highly skilled professional with experience in nutrition program research, clinical research, and software development. Possess expert knowledge of public health nutrition, food and nutrition programs, health promotion, and biomedical sciences. Adept at leading project tasks independently, indulging data analysis, and coordinating team activities. Demonstrated success in implementing technical projects, scientific writing, and innovative problem-solving. Eager to contribute to a dynamic team dedicated to advancing public health nutrition and promoting community wellness through innovative, data-driven solutions.

ADVANCED TECHNICAL SKILLS

Data Collection: Blaise AMPM ▪ ASA24 ▪ MS Access

Data Analysis: Food Intake Analysis System (FIAS) ▪ NVivo ▪ Survey Net ▪ Excel

Project Management: Microsoft Teams ▪ GitLab ▪ Power Automate ▪ Planner

Productivity: Outlook ▪ PowerPoint ▪ Visio ▪ Word ▪ Copilot Generative AI

Visual Arts: Adobe Creative Suite ▪ Adobe Captivate ▪ Affinity Photo

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

M.P.H. Health Promotion & Behavioral Science - University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, TX
GPA: 3.8

B.S. Foods and Nutrition - University of Houston, Houston, TX GPA: 3.8 Summa Cum Laude

B.S. Zoology Biomedical Science - University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK GPA: 3.63

R.D.N. Registered Dietitian (Commission on Dietetic Registration) – 2012 to present

Licensed Dietitian – Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

ClickUp Novice Certificate, 2024

Photography Certificate, 2020

EXPERIENCE

Westat

Senior Research Associate Frisco, Texas December 2022 - Present

- Led multiple project tasks for dietary assessment, school meal program, and nutrient database contracts.
- Collaborated on study design, implementation, analysis, reports, and professional presentations.
- Designed and implemented project management procedures and schedules.
- Monitored project budget expenditures.
- Planned and executed monthly team meetings with contracting officers and collaborators.
- Worked with teams to plan data collection and analyze food, menu, and dietary intake for multiple studies.
- Led novel software development to analyze food logs for the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 2nd National Food Acquisition and Purchase Study Field Test (FoodAPS-2).
- Created multimedia training materials for field data collectors and nutrient coding teams.
- Supervised daily workloads and monitors time budgets of the nutrient coding team.
- Contributed to capture planning and proposal development for federal contracts.

Lead Research Associate Frisco, Texas December 2020 – December 2022

- Wrote comprehensive nutrition study methodology documents.
- Collaborated on study implementation, analysis, reports, and presentations at the National Nutrient Databank Conference and the American Public Health Association conference.
- Collaborated with multiple team members on planning, data collection, and analysis for Infant & Toddler Feeding Practices Study (ITFPS-2), Summer Food Service Program Study (SUMS), and FoodAPS-2.
- Lead development of data collection software using the Agile framework.

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- Met with federal clients at the USDA Economic Research Service and Office of Disease Prevention and co-writes communications to share study progress.
- Created study training materials for data collectors and data coding teams.
- Supervised daily workloads and monitored time budgets of three to eight dietary coders and software developers.

Research Associate Oklahoma City, OK May 2012 – December 2020

- Organized and deployed virtual dietary coding center procedures, coding conventions, and communication methods.
- Supervised coding of 24-hour dietary recalls in Survey Net, conducted quality control reviews for dietary studies including the Infant & Toddler Feeding Practices Study (ITFPS-2) and Summer Food Service Program Study (SUMS).
- Updated probe database for the National Cancer Institute's Automated Self-Administered 24-Hour Recall dietary assessment tool to recent version of the Food and Nutrient Database for Dietary Studies (FNDDS).
- Authored, designed and published training video series for USDA's 2nd National Food Acquisition and Purchase Study Pilot (FoodAPS ADCM) study.
- Evaluated food and nutrient databases and APIs suitable for FoodAPS ADCM food acquisition data collection via mobile app.

Mystery Maracuja Visual Arts

Founder Frisco, TX August 2000 - Present

- Photography editing, restoration, enlargement and headshots, portraits, and merchandise.
- Graphic design of printed documents, invitations, merchandise, promotional products, t-shirts, and websites.
- Visual arts: canvas art, custom artwork, digital graphics, logos, presentations, slideshows, and videos.
- Custom designed accessories, garments, and jewelry.

The University of Texas School of Public Health

Dietetic Intern Houston, TX January 2011 - May 2012

- Completed 1200 supervised practice hours in the areas of clinical dietetics, food service, school food service, and community nutrition concurrent with Master of Public Health coursework.
- Completed Rotations: Spring Branch Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Clinic; Ben Taub General Hospital Food and Nutrition Services; and Dickinson Independent School District Child Nutrition Department, Memorial Hermann Northwest Clinical Nutrition, and CAN DO Houston.

Graduate Research Assistant Houston, TX July 2010 - December 2010, May 2011 - December 2011

- Assisted with data collection for The Impact of the Nutrition Environment in the Fire Service on Health and Safety Research Study.
- Developed data collection tools for field interviewers including the food habits questionnaire, portion size estimate tool, and pantry survey.
- Completed nutrition assessments in the field using 24-hour dietary recalls.
- Coded 24-hour dietary recalls using FIAS.
- Evaluated the 2010 FIAS for functionality and accuracy.
- Coordinated 36th National Nutrient Databank Conference by participating in the Local Arrangements Committee.

Gusto Practicum Volunteer Houston, TX July 2010 - August 2010

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- Completed needs assessment and focus groups to identify barriers to healthy lifestyle habits for the women living in the main residential facility at the Women's Home.

UTMD Anderson Cancer Center, Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders

Data Analyst Houston, TX December 2007 - July 2010

- Built and deployed electronic web-based forms and Access databases to collect and store protocol data.
- Coordinated patient recruitment, data collection, supplies, and reporting for diabetes clinical research studies.
- Revised and submitted amended protocols to Internal Review Board.
- Prepared data and posters for abstracts and presentations.

Administrative Assistant Houston, TX November 2005 - December 2007

- Selected relevant research articles for research protocols and manuscripts.
- Revised and edited scientific manuscripts.
- Monitored/balanced department budget activity on assigned accounts.
- Organized and submitted electronic NIH grant applications via Grants.gov.

AFFILIATIONS

- National Nutrient Database Conference Steering Committee 2025
- American Public Health Association 2022 -2025
- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics since 2007
- Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- Wellness at Westat (2019 – 2021)

PUBLICATIONS

Utilization of multiple food and nutrient databases to code food logs in the FoodAPS-2 field test. Brown McFadden, A., Palmer Zimmerman, T., and Douglass, D. (2025) Journal of Food Composition and Analysis, Volume 145, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jfca.2025.107851>.

Development of the Purchase to Plate Crosswalk and Price Tool: Estimating prices for the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) foods and measuring the healthfulness of retail food purchases. Carlson, A., Tornow, C., Page, E., **Brown McFadden, A.**, Palmer Zimmerman, T. (2022). Journal of Food Composition and Analysis, Volume 106, 104344. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jfca.2021.104344>.

“My fries were the size of an iPhone”: How portion size is reported in the Fuel 2 Fight Study. **Brown, A.**, Douglass, D., Jahnke, S.A., Poston, W.S.C., Haddock, C.K., and Day, R.S. (2013). Procedia Food Science, 2, 129-133. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.profoo.2013.04.020>

TECHNICAL REPORTS

Developing the food description databases for FoodAPS-2 web collection to identify items in real time. Task 3 Report – Testing Recommended Alternate Databases (for Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture). Zimmerman, T., Douglass, D., Heller, A.T., Gearing, M.E., **Brown McFadden, A.**, and May, L. (2018). Rockville, MD: Westat.

Developing the food description databases for FoodAPS-2 web collection to identify items in real time (for Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture). Gearing, M.E., Douglass, D., **Brown, A.**, and Zimmerman, T. (2017). Rockville, MD: Westat.

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PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Bridging Distances: Optimizing Remote Project Coordination with Microsoft Teams. Brown McFadden, A. (2025, January). Westat Field Training Brown Bag. Rockville, Maryland.

Utilization of Multiple Food and Nutrient Databases to Code Food Logs in the FoodAPS-2 Field Test. Brown McFadden, A., Douglass, D.; Zimmerman, T. (2024, May). 42nd National Nutrient Databank Conference, Ottawa, Canada. Available at:
https://www.nutrientdataconf.org/_files/ugd/0a50d8_9d31ca6d27564f87ad221348ffd4560e.pdf

USDA Summer Meals: The Nutritional Quality of Summer Lunches. Brown McFadden, A. (2022, November). American Public Health Association's APHA 2022 Annual Meeting and Expo, Boston, Massachusetts.

Approaches to building and maintaining a virtual dietary coding team. Brown, A., Douglass, D., and Zimmerman, T. (2019, April). Texas Academy Annual Conference and Exhibition, Arlington, Texas.

The Food Study app and website: Self-administered reporting for USDA's National Food Study Pilot. Brown, A., Heller, A.T., Malola, M.G., Pathak, A., Reifer, A., Yan, T., Maitland, A., Crofts, C., Davis, B.A., Garner, D.C., Bonilla, E., Genoversa-Wong, K., Choi, J., De Rienzo, G., and Machado, J. (2017, April). FedCASIC, Suitland, MD.

Lessons learned from training field staff to perform multiple data collection roles for the National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey Alternative Data Collection Method Study. Brown, A., Bonilla, E., Genoversa-Wong, K., Choi, J., De Rienzo, G., Machado, J., May, L., and Kirlin, J. (2017, April). FedCASIC, Suitland, MD.

Nutrition strategies for a healthy weight. Brown, A. (2017, March). Westat Fitness Center, Rockville, MD. Available at: <https://prezi.com/itoduvx2b6en/nutrition-strategies-for-a-healthy-weight/>.

Tailoring dietary coding procedures for intakes of children 12-24 months old in the Infant and Toddler Feeding Practices Study (ITFPS-2). Douglass, D., Brown, A., Zimmerman, T., McNutt, S., and Magness, A. (2016, May). 39th National Nutrient Databank Conference, Alexandria, VA. Available at:
https://www.nutrientdataconf.org/PastConf/NDBC39/Program_Guide.pdf.

Utilizing Microsoft SharePoint to support coding dietary intakes. Brown, A., Douglass, D., Zimmerman, T., and McNutt, S. (2016, May). 39th National Nutrient Databank Conference, Alexandria, VA. Available at:
https://www.nutrientdataconf.org/PastConf/NDBC39/Program_Guide.pdf.

Winning the low sugar challenge. Brown, A. (2016, May). Westat Fitness Center, Rockville, MD. Available at:
https://prezi.com/ehwclcbstrfbt/winning-the-low-sugar-challenge/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy.

Your holiday nutrition strategy. Brown, A., Douglass, D., Zimmerman, T., and McNutt, S. (2015, November). Westat Fitness Center, Rockville, MD. Available at: <https://prezi.com/yh-vedkqpiit/how-to-meet-your-nutrition-goals/>.

Overcoming nutrition roadblocks. Brown, A., Douglass, D., Zimmerman, T., and McNutt, S. (2015, May). Westat Healthy Steps Program Meeting, Rockville, MD. Available at: <https://prezi.com/yh-vedkqpiit/how-to-meet-your-nutrition-goals/>.

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Public health nutrition research and childhood obesity. Brown, A. (2015, April). Social and Behavioral Science in Public Health at the University of Oklahoma School of Public Health, Oklahoma City, OK.

Microsoft tools enhance training and management of off-site dietary coders. Brown, A., Douglass, D., Zimmerman, T., and McNutt, S. (2015, March). FedCASIC Workshops, Suitland, MD.

Public health nutrition research and childhood obesity. Brown, A. (2014, November). Social and Behavioral Science in Public Health at the University of Oklahoma School of Public Health, Oklahoma City, OK.

AMPM interview methodology for infants in the Infant and Toddler Feeding Practices Study (ITFPS-2).

Douglass, D., **Brown, A.**, Zimmerman, T., Owens, T., and McNutt, S. (2014, May). 38th National Nutrient Databank Conference, Portland, OR. Available at:

https://www.nutrientdataconf.org/PastConf/NDBC38/NNDC38_PosterAbstracts.pdf.

Dietary coding methods for infants in the Infant and Toddler Feeding Practices Study (ITFPS-2). Brown, A., Douglass, D., Zimmerman, T., Harrison, G., Owens, T., and McNutt, S. (2014, May). 38th National Nutrient Databank Conference, Portland, OR. Available at:

https://www.nutrientdataconf.org/PastConf/NDBC38/NNDC38_PosterAbstracts.pdf.

Common alternatives for portion size. Day, R.S., Owens, A., Douglass, D.L., Poston, W.S.C., Haddock, C.K., and Jahnke, S.A (2011, April). 35th National Nutrient Databank Conference, Bethesda, MD.

Hyperglycemia, hypertriglyceridemia, and hypercholesterolemia in a phase I trial of the combination of an mTOR inhibitor and IGF-1 receptor inhibitor. Busaidy, N., Kurzrock, R., LoRusso, P., **Owens, A.**, Chen, H.X., Doyle, L., Zhang, J., Lawhorn, K., Chandhasin, C., and Naing, A. (2010, June). American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Increased insulin requirements in patients with diabetes receiving hyper-CVAD. Brady, V., Crawford, K., Levesque, C., **Owens, A.**, Lavis, V., and Busaidy, N.L. (2009, April). M.D. Anderson Division of Internal Medicine Research Retreat, Houston, TX.

Glycemic management of hospitalized patients receiving tube feeding in a cancer center. Crawford, K., Levesque, C., Brady, V., **Owens, A.**, Busaidy, N.L., and Lavis, V. (2009, April). M.D. Anderson Division of Internal Medicine Research Retreat, Houston, TX.

Depression screening in patients with diabetes and cancer. Levesque, C., and Owens, A. (2009, April). M.D. Anderson Division of Internal Medicine Research Retreat, Houston, TX.

The relationship of C-peptide levels after partial pancreatectomy with subsequent insulin. Levesque, C., and **Owens, A.** (2009, April). M.D. Anderson Division of Internal Medicine Research Retreat, Houston, TX.

Increased insulin requirements in patients with diabetes receiving hyper-CVAD. Brady, V., Crawford, K., Levesque, C., **Owens, A.**, Busaidy, N.L., and Lavis, V. (2008, August). American Association of Diabetes Educators National Meeting, Washington, DC.

Glycemic management of hospitalized patients receiving tube feeding in a cancer center. Crawford, K., Levesque, C., Brady, V., **Owens, A.**, Busaidy, N.L., and Lavis, V. (2008, June). Multinational Association of Supportive Cancer Care/International Society of Oral Oncology Symposium, Houston, TX.