

Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics

Description and purpose of the program: The Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics meets the needs of registered dietitians interested in enhancing their professional practice and developing research skills in the area of nutrition and dietetics. Students will acquire a greater depth in foundational sciences, research methods, advanced knowledge and understanding of current trends and issues in the field of nutrition and dietetics. Graduates will be prepared to assume leadership roles in professional practice. Students enrolled in the Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics may choose between pediatric or adult emphases.

The Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics program is designed to meet the educational needs of practicing registered dietitians. Courses are offered in a distance format at IUPUI or through the Indiana University system schools. The physiology requirement can be taken through Indiana University East. Three master students took advantage of this offering and reported that it met their needs and they enjoyed the course.

The program consists of a minimum of 36 credit hours of course work, which includes a required six credit hour project or thesis.

ADMISSION:

Requirements: Students accepted into the program must complete university, school, and program admission requirements. The minimum admission requirements are as follows:

1. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution (applicant must submit an official copy of all undergraduate transcripts).
2. Cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
3. Three letters of recommendation from those familiar with the applicant's academic and professional performance.
4. Must be registered dietitians through the Commission on Dietetic Registration.
5. Minimum acceptable Graduate Record Examination Scores of 50th percentile for the quantitative and qualitative components of the GRE and an analytical writing score of 4.0 minimum.
6. 300 to 500 word personal statement of academic and professional goals.
7. If applicable, a TOEFL score of at least 600.

Students must be admitted to the Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics program before being permitted to work toward the degree.

NOTE: Due to the online course delivery format, this degree is not available to persons holding F1 or J1 visas.

Prior Course Work Applied Toward Degree Requirements

Up to eight credit hours of graduate work at other institutions may be transferred in partial fulfillment of degree requirements. No course may be transferred from another institution unless the course was completed with a grade of B or higher within five years before matriculation in the Master of Science degree program. A maximum of eight graduate credit hours earned through the Dietetic Internship Program offered by the Department of Nutrition and

Dietetics may be applied to the degree if a grade of B or higher was earned.

Application Materials

An applicant must submit complete application forms to the Office of Academic and Student Affairs, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. Transcripts from all universities attended must be included. Non-Indiana University graduates must submit at least one official transcript from each university attended. However, if the applicant is a graduate of Indiana University, the school will obtain those transcripts directly. A nonrefundable application fee is required from all applicants who never attended Indiana University.

Degree Requirements for the MS in Nutrition and Dietetics

Requirements	Non-Thesis Option Credit Hours	Thesis Option Credit Hours
Science Core Courses	7-9	7-9
BIOC B500 Biochemistry	3	3
PHSL F503 Human Physiology Or	4	4
BIOL 556 Physiology I & BIOL 557 Physiology II	6	6
Research Related Courses	12	12
NURS R505 Measurement and Data Analysis OR	3	3
GRAD G651 Introduction to Biostatistics I		
SHRS N563 Research Methods in Nutrition and Dietetics OR SHRS W520 Evidence Based Critical Inquiry in the Health Sciences	3	3
SHRS N598 Research in Nutrition	6	6
Additional Credits chosen from the following:*	20-21	18-19
SHRS N550 Human Nutritional Pathophysiology I ^{a,p}	3	3
SHRS N552 Human Nutritional Pathophysiology II ^a	3	3
SHRS N570 Pediatric Nutrition I # ^p	3	3
SHRS N572 Advanced Pediatric Nutrition# ^p	3	3
SHRS N576 Leadership in Pediatric Nutrition# ^p	3	3
Other Graduate Level Courses (see list) ^a	varies	varies
Total	36	36

* There are two tracks in the MS in Nutrition and Dietetics; adult^a & pediatric^p. Students interested in adult nutrition enroll in N550, N552. Additional courses that meet the particular interests of the student are approved by the graduate advisor. Students interested in pediatric nutrition enroll in N550, N570, N572 and N576. #E-Learning Graduate Certificate in Pediatric Nutrition Program

Suggested Elective Course List for the N&D Thesis and Non-Thesis Options

SHRS N544 Medical Nutrition Therapy 3 cr
SHRS N567 Management Issues in Dietetics 1 cr
SHRS N574 Nutrition Management of High Risk Neonates and Infants# 3 cr
SHRS N591 Seminar in Nutrition and Dietetics 1 cr
SHRS W510 Trends & Issues in Health Sciences 3 cr
SHRS W562 Psychological Aspects of Disability 3 cr
SHRS W667 Ethical Issues in Rehabilitation Services 3 cr
SHRS W 650 Global Perspectives in Nutrition, Health & Disability
INFO I530 Seminar in Health Informatic Applications 3 cr

Learning Outcome	Assessment	Benchmark	Outcomes	Changes
Critically evaluate research in nutrition and dietetics.	Course grade Project/thesis defense	Each student to pass SHRS N 563 or SHRS W520		
Describe metabolic roles of nutrients in health and disease	Course grade	Each student to pass SHRS N550		
Demonstrate ethical conduct while in program and with regard to research practices	Evaluate ethical conduct Project/thesis	No student to be charged with unethical conduct		
Demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate in writing	Written assignments in courses Acceptance of Project/Thesis	90% of students will exhibit good to excellent writing skills as reflected in grading rubrics All projects/thesis will be accepted		
Conduct guided research or scholarly activity in an area of interest	Project/Thesis	Each student will have their project/thesis accepted by committee		
Contribute to the body of knowledge in nutrition and dietetics	Project/Thesis	Each year 10% of students will have a peer reviewed presentation based on Project/Thesis. 5% of students each year will have a peer reviewed publication		

Addition 2

At the present time, roughly 50% of all registered dietitians are master level educated. The Accreditation Council for Dietetic Education (ACEND) is preparing for the transition from a baccalaureate + internship education model to a coordinated masters level – internship model. During the interim period between the phase out of the current education model and the requirement for the graduate coordinated model, the Commission on Dietetic Registration is encouraging baccalaureate-educated dietitians to complete a master's degree. We expect that the change in education model will create increased demand for master's programs in nutrition and dietetics.

The U.S. Department of Labor Statistics Projections through 2020 forecasts an overall growth in demand of 20% particularly for dietitians engaged in promoting health and wellbeing and prevention and treating illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease. Dietitians with specialized training or who have an MS degree should experience good employment opportunities.

Students may enroll in the MS in Nutrition and Dietetics as full or part-time students. Historically all but three of the graduates of this program were part-time students. Currently, there are 14 students enrolled in the MS in Nutrition and Dietetics. Four of the group first enrolled in fall 2013. Six students are in the thesis/project preparation stage.