Dietetics and Nutrition

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The Program in Dietetics and Nutrition offers graduate studies leading to a Master of Science or a Doctor of Philosophy in Dietetics and Nutrition. The M.S. program is designed to meet the needs of professional practitioners as well as students with undergraduate degrees in related fields. The Ph.D. program prepares graduates to assume leadership roles in research, academia, government agencies, private industry and community-based organizations. Our doctoral program allows students to study and work side-by-side with nationally known educators, researchers, and practitioners who serve as mentors. Both graduate programs afford students the option of completing the requirements for eligibility to take the national registration exam to become a Registered Dietitian.

Master of Science in Dietetics and Nutrition

Admission Requirements

Minimum entrance requirements under current University Graduate School must be met. For the M.S. this includes a 'B' (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) average in all upper division coursework. Prospective applicants must have completed the following courses with a grade of "C" or higher:

CHM 1045	General Chemistry I	3
CHM 1045L	General Chemistry Lab I	1
CHM 2210	Organic Chemistry I	4
CHM 2210L	Organic Chemistry Lab I	1
CHM 2211	Organic Chemistry II	3
CHM 2211L	Organic Chemistry Lab II	1
	OR	
CHM 2200	Survey of Organic Chemistry	3
CHM 2200L	Survey of Organic Chemistry Lab	1
MCB 2000	Introductory Microbiology	3
MCB 2000L	Introductory Microbiology Lab	1
PCB 3702	Intermediate Human Physiology	3
OR		
HSC 3549	Clinical Physiology for Health Professionals	3
HUN 2201	Principles of Nutrition	3
HUN 4240	Nutrition and Biochemistry	3
OR		
BCH 3033	General Biochemistry	3

Students who are candidates for the Master of Science degree in Dietetics and Nutrition must complete a minimum of 37 semester hours of graduate study including at least 30 hours at this University. All course work must be recent enough to be relevant to the contemporary field of nutrition.

Graduate students wishing to become a Registered Dietitian can be considered for admission into the FIU Coordinated Program in Dietetics. The Coordinated Program (CP) is currently granted continuing accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation of Dietetics Education of The American Dietetic Association, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000, Chicago, Illinois 60606, (312) 899-0040, ext. 5400.

The program combines didactic requirements with supervised practicum experience. Graduates from the CP are eligible to sit for the National Registration Examination for Dietitians.

Graduate students having successfully completed a Didactic Program in Dietetics will be evaluated for course equivalency prior to admission into the CP. Upon determination that they have the necessary coursework equivalents (and applied labs), students must pass the DIE 4963 Comprehensive Dietetic Examination before placement in the supervised practice component of the CP.

The student must make formal application to the Coordinated Program by February 1 before Summer admission. This special application form can be obtained from the department. Criteria for admission include grades in prerequisite course work, work experience, and letter of application. Students accepted into the CP will undergo a background screening and drug testing. Twelve graduate credits of supervised practice experiences (DIE 5946 & 5947) must be completed by graduate students.

Costs of the program to students in addition to tuition and fees (including a $50/credit practicum fee) include: providing transportation to practicum sites, lab coats and professional attire, annual laboratory tests at the student health services clinic.

Students must meet all graduation requirements for the M.S. in Dietetics and Nutrition degree in order to receive the verification statement of Coordinated Program completion.

Each student's program will be planned to support his/her career goals through consultation with an assigned faculty advisor. Retention and graduation in the Master's program requires maintenance of a 3.0 GPA and student may not receive more than 2 grades of "C+" or less.

Course Requirements
Required Core: (26 credits)
Master Thesis Option

The thesis option provides the student the opportunity to conduct original research and to report this in a scholarly manuscript. This option is especially well suited to a student who plans on pursuing a PhD degree. Students who select this option must choose a major professor to act as the chair of their thesis committee and two additional committee members. Before beginning work on a thesis, a student must present a proposal to their committee for approval. The committee will direct and supervise the work carried out by the student. Student must take a minimum of 6 credits of DIE 6971 Thesis in Dietetics & Nutrition.

Research: (14 credits)

DIE 6568	Research Methods	3
DIE 6937	Graduate Seminar in Dietetics (*two semesters, 1 credit each*)	2
DIE 6971	Thesis in Dietetics and Nutrition	6
STA 6166	Statistical Methods in Research	3

Masters Project Option

Master's Project is a non-thesis option. It affords the opportunity to conduct applied research, program planning, or program evaluation on a specific dietetics and nutrition problem, topic, or existing program in either a community or institutional setting. Students who select the Master's Project must choose a major professor to direct their project. The advisor and the student may identify other resource persons to serve in an advisory capacity for the project. Before beginning the project, student must present a project concept proposal to the major professor. This project will be approved by the Graduate Program Director. Student will write a project report and present the study at an announced open forum similar to the thesis defense. This report will not be on file in the FIU library. Student must take 3 credits DIE 6907 Individual Study in Dietetics and an additional 3 credits in coursework in consultation with major professor.

Research: (8 credits)

DIE 6568	Research Methods	3
DIE 6937	Graduate Seminar in Dietetics *(two semesters, 1 credit each)*	2
STA 6166	Statistical Methods in Research	3

Coursework: (6 credits)

DIE 6907	Individual Study	3
Additional course (approved by major advisor)		3

Nutrition Core: (9 credits)

Students must take at least three out of five courses. One course must be in macro-nutrients, one in micro-nutrients.

HUN 5245	Nutrition and Biochemistry	3
HUN 6307	Carbohydrates and Lipids	3
HUN 6327	Proteins	3
HUN 6335	Functions of Vitamins	3
HUN 6355	Minerals in Human Nutrition	3

Public Health Core: (3 credits)

PHC 6500	Foundation of Public Health Practice	3

Recommended Electives[1]: (11 credits)

ANT 6469	Graduate Medical Anthropology	3
DIE 6368	Advanced Techniques in Dietetic Practice	2
DIE 6368L	Advanced Techniques in Dietetic Practice Lab	1
DIE 6929	Specialized Short Course in Dietetics and Nutrition	1
FOS 6236	Food Toxicology and Food Safety	3
HUN 5123	Ethnic Influences on Nutrition and Food Habits	3
HUN 5621	Food, Nutrition and Communication	3
HUN 6248	Sports Nutrition	3
HUN 6254	Drug and Nutrient Interaction	3
HUN 6255	Nutrition and Wellness	3
HUN 6257	Physio/Psychology of Food Intake	3
HUN 6266	Nutritional Assessment	3
HUN 6295	Contemporary Issues in Food and Nutrition	3
HUN 6435	Nutrition and Aging	3
HUN 6522	Public Health Nutrition	3

[1]Courses that are not listed as recommended electives may be taken as approved by advisor/Program Director.

Doctor of Philosophy in Dietetics and Nutrition

Ph.D. students must complete a minimum of 55 hours after M.S. degree or a minimum of 75 hours beyond the B.S. degree. The stated minimum does not include remedial coursework. Students who did not complete PHC 6500 Foundations of Public Health prior to admission to the PhD program must complete PHC 6500 as part of the program of studies. Coursework will be planned with the advisor and the dissertation committee to support the student's research interests and career goals. A 3.0 GPA must be maintained, and all courses needed for graduation must be completed with a grade of "C+" or higher.

Required Courses

Research & Methods Core: (15 credits)

(Prerequisites: PHC 6706 or equivalent; PHC 6709 or equivalent)

PHC 6718	Quantitative Analysis in Health and Urban Affairs II	3
PHC 6710	Qualitative Research Methods in Public Health	3
PHC 6703	Epidemiology Methods: Experimental Design	3
	or	
Approved Experimental or Clinical Research Methods Course		3
HUN 6266	Nutritional Assessment	3
PHC 7981	Research Concepts and Proposal Development	3

Seminar: (minimum 3 credits)

DIE 6937	Graduate Seminar in Dietetics & Nutrition (course may be repeated 3 times, minimum)	1

Nutrition Science: (0-9 credits)[1]

HUN 6285	Nutrition & Metabolism I (CHO&Lipids)	3
HUN 6286	Nutrition & Metabolism II (Proteins)	3
HUN 6287	Nutrition & Metabolism III (Vit&Min)	3

[1]Do not need if equivalent previously taken at the graduate level.

Dietetics: (minimum 13 credits)[2]

HUN 7408	Nutrition Across the Lifespan	3
HUN 7523	Community Nutrition	3
HUN 7524	Nutrition Science and Implications for Community Health	3

[2]A program of study will be developed with the assistance of a major professor and dissertation committee. More than 13 credits may be required for the student to achieve competency in the research methods and content related to their dissertation research. Graduate courses outside of Dietetics & Nutrition may be taken as approved by dissertation committee.

Dissertation: (minimum 24 credits)

DIE 7980	Dissertation	12-24

For additional and updated information about degrees offered, entrance requirements, and services, please visit our website: **http://rscphsw.fiu.edu/students_affairs/index.html**.