

# NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES

## Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-admissions/how-to-apply/>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

### Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.)

Scores from the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) are not required for admission.

College graduates with an undergraduate degree in nutrition, dietetics, public health or related health sciences will be considered for admission. Applicants should have a minimum grade-point average of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) and three supporting recommendations. Exceptions may be made for students with special backgrounds, abilities, and interests at the discretion of the program. When openings are limited, the best-qualified candidates are given priority.

The basic expectations for admission from undergraduate studies include:

- 3 credits in physiology (or 6 credits in Anatomy & Physiology I and II),
- 3 credits in biochemistry,
- 3 credits in organic chemistry,
- 3 credits in introductory nutrition (equivalent to or more advanced than NUTR 251 at Penn State), and
- 3 credits in advanced nutrition.

If these courses were taken more than 10 years prior to application, they may be accepted at the Programs Director's discretion. Students can be provisionally admitted (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/provisional-admission/>) to the program without these basic expectations, but they must complete all identified deficiencies with a 3.00 grade-point average or above on a 4.0 scale within the first two semesters after acceptance, prior to beginning graduate course work.

### Experiential Track of the M.P.S. Program

College graduates with an undergraduate degree in nutrition, dietetics, public health or related health sciences will be considered for admission. Applicants should have a minimum grade-point average of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) and three supporting recommendations. Exceptions may be made for students with special backgrounds, abilities, and interests at the discretion of the program. Scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) are not required for admission.

The basic expectations for admission to the Experiential Track from undergraduate studies include:

- 3 credits in physiology (or 6 credits in Anatomy & Physiology I and II),
- 3 credits in biochemistry,
- 3 credits in organic chemistry,
- 3 credits in introductory nutrition (equivalent to or more advanced than NUTR 251 at Penn State),
- 3 credits in Lifecycle Nutrition,

- 3 credits in Nutrient Metabolism (macronutrient and micronutrient), and
- 3 credits in Medical Nutrition Therapy.

In addition, students must have a total of 500 hours of appropriately documented work or volunteer experience completed within two years of application. Of the 500 hours, 300 hours must be in a nutrition or dietetics-related field.

If any of these courses were completed more than 10 years prior to application, they may be accepted at the Program Director's discretion. The exception is if Medical Nutrition Therapy was taken more than 5 years prior to application, it may be accepted at Program Director's discretion.

For students with a bachelor's degree from an ACEND accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD), a DPD Verification Statement is required for admission into the Experiential Track of the graduate program.

Students can be provisionally admitted to the Experiential Track of the M.P.S. program without these basic expectations, but they must complete all identified deficiencies with a B grade (3.00 on a 4.0 scale) within the first two semesters after acceptance, prior to taking the following courses: NUTR 800 Food Systems and Organization Management and NUTR 895A, NUTR 895B and NUTR 895C. Students previously matriculated in the M.P.S. program (graduate degree only) must complete an Assessment of Prior Learning form before enrolling in NUTR 895A, NUTR 895B, or NUTR 895C.

### Additional Admission Requirements for Remote Location Students

Students must secure sites and preceptors in the remote location prior to admission to the program. The secured sites and preceptors must have prior approval by the program before official admission is granted. Supervised Experiential Learning (SEL) Plan of Study (POS) form must be submitted with Graduate School application.

### Master of Science (M.S.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Scores from the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE), or from the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), are required for admission. At the discretion of the graduate program, the GRE or other test scores may be waived for an individual on a case-by-case basis.

College graduates with an undergraduate degree in nutrition, animal sciences, food science, dietetics, or a related biological or social science will be considered for admission. Applicants should have a minimum grade-point average of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale), an acceptable score on the GRE (an average quantitative and verbal score above the fiftieth percentile), and three supporting recommendations. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the program for students with special backgrounds, abilities, and interests. When openings are limited, the best-qualified applicants are given priority.

The basic expectations for admission from undergraduate studies include: 6 credits in chemistry (organic and inorganic); 3 credits each in physiology, biochemistry, and nutrition; and physics, calculus, and analytical chemistry for some research areas in nutrition science, and social science for public health and community nutrition. Students with more than 8 credits of deficiency and a superior record may be provisionally admitted (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/provisional-admission/>) to the graduate degree program. The deficiencies identified must be made up with a 3.00 grade-point average or better within the first two semesters.