

NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES

Degree Requirements

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

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

The program can be completed on a full-time basis in 24 months or students may elect to complete the program on a part-time basis. Requirements for the completion of the Master of Professional Studies in Nutritional Sciences degree include 30 credits at the 500 and 800 level, with a minimum of 6 credits of 500-level course work:

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
NUTR 805	Advanced Nutrient Metabolism	3
NUTR 540	Research Methods	3
NUTR 801	Leadership in the Nutrition Profession	3
NUTR 810	Nutritional Assessment and Diagnosis	3
NUTR 820	Advanced Clinical Nutrition	3
NUTR 830	Advanced Nutrition and Health Program Planning	3
NUTR 840	Advanced Nutrition Counseling	3
NUTR 850	Leadership Concepts and Application for the Nutrition Professional	3
STAT 500 or STAT 800	Applied Statistics Applied Research Methods	3
Culminating Experience		
NUTR 860	Capstone Project in Nutritional Sciences	3
Total Credits		30

All students must enroll in NUTR 860 and successfully complete the Capstone Project in order to earn the M.P.S. degree. Depending on the nature of the proposed Capstone Project, the program will approve between 2 and 5 credits of NUTR 860 to count towards the degree requirements for a total of 30 credits (minimum). Elective credits may be chosen from a list of approved electives maintained by the program office.

Experiential Track of the M.P.S. Program

Upon completion of the Experiential Learning track of the M.P.S. degree program, students will receive a Verification Statement which qualifies them to take the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist credentialing examination.

In addition to the 30 credits, as described above for the M.P.S. degree, students accepted into the Experiential Track of the M.P.S. Program will be required to take the following additional courses:

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
NUTR 800	Food Systems and Organization Management	3
NUTR 895A	Internship-Clinical	2
NUTR 895B	Internship-Food Systems and Organization Management	2

NUTR 895C	Internship-Community	2
Total Credits		9

The total number of credits required for completion of the Experiential Track of the M.P.S. Program is 39 credits (minimum).

Master of Science (M.S.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

The graduate program in Nutritional Sciences offers the M.S. degree with an emphasis in basic nutritional sciences, applied human nutrition, or nutrition in public health. The M.S. degree requires a minimum of 30 credits of course work at the 400, 500, 600, or 800 level, including at least 12 credits in 500-level courses and 6 credits in thesis research (NUTR 600 or NUTR 610).

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
NUTR 501	Regulation of Nutrient Metabolism I	4
NUTR 502	Regulation of Nutrient Metabolism II	3
NUTR 520	Readings in Nutrition (taken twice at 1 credit each)	2
NUTR 551	Seminar in Nutrition	1
4 additional credits at the 500 level		4
Supporting Courses		
3 credits in statistics		3
3 credits in writing/communication		3
Electives		
Elective credits chosen in consultation with adviser and/or M.S. committee		4
Culminating Experience		
NUTR 600 or NUTR 610	Thesis Research Thesis Research Off Campus	6
Total Credits		30

Students must write and defend a master's thesis accepted by the advisers and committee members, the head of the graduate program, and the Fox Graduate School, and the student must pass a thesis defense.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
NUTR 501	Regulation of Nutrient Metabolism I	4
NUTR 502	Regulation of Nutrient Metabolism II	3
NUTR 503	Nutritional Epidemiology	3
NUTR 504	Behavioral Nutrition	3
NUTR 520	Readings in Nutrition (taken twice at 1 credit each)	2
NUTR 551	Seminar in Nutrition (taken twice at 1 credit each)	2
Electives		

12 elective credits chosen in consultation with advisers and/or Ph.D. 12
committee

Total Credits **29**

Students must also attend a biweekly colloquium seminar for their entire time in the program. All doctoral students must serve as a teaching assistant for two semesters.

Students must pass a qualifying examination designed to assess the student's potential and academic preparation for doctoral study. Qualifying examinations must be scheduled in compliance with Graduate Council policy (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/gcac-604-qualifying-examination-research-doctorate/>). For students with a master's degree, the qualifying examination must be scheduled prior to earning 24 graduate credits or prior to completing 3 semesters following admission to the graduate program, whichever comes first. The qualifying examination is administered and evaluated by the Graduate Qualifying Examination Committee. After completion of the qualifying examination, each student will form a Ph.D. committee comprised of Graduate Faculty internal and external to the Graduate Program in Nutritional Sciences, in accordance with Graduate Council requirements (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/phd-dissertation-committee-formation/>). Students must pass a comprehensive examination, the specific format and content of which is determined in consultation with the Ph.D. committee. After which they must write and present a dissertation proposal which needs to be approved by their Ph.D. committee. The writing of a satisfactory dissertation accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the graduate program PIC, and the Fox Graduate School along with passing of the final oral examination (the defense) in Nutritional Sciences, is required.

English Competence

Written and oral English competency will be determined by the qualifying examination committee and remediation assigned, if necessary. Competence must be formally attested by the program before the doctoral student's comprehensive examination is scheduled.