Nutrition, MS

Banner Code: HH-MS-NUTR

Academic Advising

Website: https://chhs.gmu.edu/students/academic-advising/graduate-advising#nfs

The master’s in nutrition emphasizes a skill-set tailored to expanding nutrition-related needs. Students learn to assess, evaluate, and intervene in the most current and relevant nutrition issues. The curriculum prepares graduates to work for agencies, businesses, and organizations that seek to improve nutrition at the local, national, and global level. This program also prepares students to engage in further study for research careers in nutrition.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Requirements
Applicants must meet the admission standards and application requirements specified in Graduate Admissions (http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/) and must apply using the online Application for Graduate Admission (https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/). For application deadlines and detailed application requirements, refer to the CHHS Admissions website (https://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/standards-requirements-and-deadlines/).

Policies
For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/).

Transfer of Credit
Transfer credit is governed by university transfer of credit policy (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-5) and the university requirements for master’s degrees (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-9), and transfer credit must be approved by the program director and the dean. Students who enroll initially through non-degree studies should seek course advising through the department prior to taking a course and plan to submit their application to the MS in Nutrition program in their first semester of study.

Requirements

Degree Requirements
Total credits: 39

Nutrition Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUTR 651</td>
<td>Nutrition Assessment, Monitoring and Surveillance</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUTR 620</td>
<td>Nutrition Education</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUTR 522</td>
<td>Nutrition Across the Lifespan</td>
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NUTR 515 Fundamentals of Cooking 3
NUTR 642 Macronutrients 3
NUTR 644 Micronutrients 3
NUTR 670 Nutrition Research Methods 3
NUTR 675 Nutrition Program Development, Interventions and Assessments 3
NUTR 626 Food Systems 3
GCH 601 Introduction to Biostatistics or HAP 602 Statistics in Health Services Management
NUTR 583 Food and Culture 1 3

Total Credits 30-33

1 Required only for students who will complete the Practicum Option

Elective
All electives must be approved by advisor.

Select one from the following elective courses in any topic area. 3

Cultural Competency:
NUTR 530 Introduction to Wine and Beer
NUTR 630 Global Nutrition
ANTH 699 Contemporary Issues in Sociocultural Anthropology 1

Nutrition Intervention, Programs, and Policy:
NUTR 566 Nutrition and Weight Management
NUTR 608 Perspectives on Food Security
NUTR 610 Food Safety and Defense
NUTR 611 Food and Nutrition Security Policy

Nutrition Research:
GCH 752 Nutritional Epidemiology
GCH 804 Biostatistics for Public Health I
GCH 805 Biostatistics for Public Health II
HAP 719 Advanced Statistics in Health Services Research I
RHBS 710 Applied Physiology I
RHBS 711 Applied Physiology II

Total Credits 3

1 ANTH 699 may be selected only when topic is focused on food and human evolution.

Capstone Experience
Students must complete either the Practicum or Thesis option.

Practicum Option
The practicum option entails a supervised practical application of previously studied theory through fieldwork. Students will be required to engage for a minimum of 200 contact hours per practicum in a nutrition-related organization under the guidance of a preceptor and a faculty advisor. Students must attend one seminar course, complete a project while working in the agency, and produce a formal report and presentation during the practicum. Students will enroll in the Pre-
Practicum course the semester prior to conducting the practicum. In their final semester, students will enroll in the Nutrition Practicum.

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<tr>
<td>NUTR 788</td>
<td>Pre-Practicum Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUTR 790</td>
<td>Nutrition Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total Credits</td>
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**Thesis Option**
The thesis option is a research project incorporating an original design to test a theory and resulting in a final written thesis. The topic must fall within one of the areas of faculty expertise within the department, including: food science, food studies, global nutrition, public health nutrition, nutrition policy, nutrition assessment, and chronic disease and nutrition. Students may register for the thesis only with approval from their advisor and after they have completed at least 18 credits of the program.

Students in the master’s thesis option are required to work with a committee of three faculty members. It is the responsibility of the student to form a committee at least 9 months before the desired graduation. The thesis director and at least one of the committee members must be members of the Department of Nutrition and Food Studies faculty, but the third member may or may not be from the Department. Students must take two thesis classes (6 credits total) while working on their thesis. Students must develop a proposal and have it approved by their committee and by the appropriate University committees, such as the Human Subjects Review Board, before undertaking the project. The thesis must conform to the format stated within Mason’s University Libraries guidelines.

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<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thesis Research</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total Credits</td>
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### Accelerated Master’s Degree (any)/Nutrition, Accelerated MS

**Overview**
Qualified undergraduates may be admitted to the bachelor’s/accelerated master’s program (BAM) and obtain a bachelor’s degree in any program and an MS in Nutrition in an accelerated timeframe after satisfactory completion of a minimum of 147 credits.

See AP6.7 Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Degrees (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7) for policies related to this program.

Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master’s degree. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP6 Graduate Policies (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/).

**BAM Pathway Admission Requirements**
Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions Policies and Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Degrees policies. For information specific to this accelerated master’s program, see https://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/standards-requirements-and-deadlines# (https://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/standards-requirements-and-deadlines/).

Students will be considered for admission into the BAM Pathway after completion of a minimum of 60 credits, completion of NUTR 295 Introduction to Nutrition (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) or equivalent, completion of BIOL 124 Human Anatomy and Physiology or BIOL 213 Cell Structure and Function (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) or equivalent, and a minimum overall GPA of 3.25.

Students who are accepted into the BAM Pathway will be allowed to register for graduate level courses after successful completion of a minimum of 75 undergraduate credits and course-specific prerequisites.

### Accelerated Master’s Admission Requirements
Students already admitted in the BAM Pathway will be admitted to the MS in Nutrition program, if they have met the following criteria, as verified on the Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Transition form:

- Overall GPA of 3.25
- Successfully completed NUTR 295 Introduction to Nutrition (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) or equivalent.
- Successful completion of BIOL 124/BIOL 124 Human Anatomy and Physiology or BIOL 213 Cell Structure and Function (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) or equivalent.
- Successfully meeting Mason’s requirements for undergraduate degree conferral (graduation) and completing the application for graduation.

### Accelerated Pathway Requirements
To maintain the integrity and quality of both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, undergraduate students interested in taking graduate courses must choose from the following:

**Advanced Standing course:**

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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTR 642</td>
<td>Macronutrients</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP 602</td>
<td>Statistics in Health Services Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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*other courses as approved by department chair.

**Reserve credit courses: (optional)**

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Macronutrients</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTR 670</td>
<td>Nutrition Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
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For more detailed information on coursework and timeline requirements, see AP6.7 Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Degrees (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7) policies.