



**Master of Science  
Human Nutrition, Dietetics Concentration  
(MSD)  
Graduate Handbook  
*Policies and Procedures***

**2018-2019**

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[ASU Nutrition Program Homepage](#)

[MS in Nutrition Dietetics at ASU](#)

[ASU Graduate Education Homepage](#)

[ASU Graduate Education On-Line Catalog](#)

[ASU Graduate Admissions On-Line Application](#)

[ASU Graduate College Policies and Procedures](#)

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The faculty in the College of Health Solutions at Arizona State University (ASU) offer a Master of Science degree in Human Nutrition with a concentration in Dietetics (MSD).

The MSD is based on the scientific foundations of nutrition and prepares students to have strong communication skills, computer literacy, interpretive expertise, and problem-solving skills. Because this non-thesis master's program is offered only to experienced, registered dietitians (RD), particular emphasis is placed on advancing students' skills sets in the practice of dietetics. Along the way, graduate students will develop competencies in research methods and advanced-practice knowledge in their chosen area of study. The skills and knowledge acquired during the course of training should enable each student to develop professional competencies that can be applied to significant problems and issues within the field of dietetics.

This handbook supplements the guidelines of Graduate Education at ASU. Graduate students should be familiar with and observe all requirements and procedures. These materials are available [on-line](#).

Objectives of the MSD will be highly individualized depending on each student's goals and interests but might include:

- Demonstrate entry-level competence in research design, statistical methods and ethical conduct in research studies.
- Integrate knowledge of macronutrient and micronutrient metabolism into the development of recommendation for populations and individuals in health and disease.
- Design and evaluate nutrition interventions utilizing knowledge and skills in nutrition assessment and chronic disease prevention and treatment.
- Evaluate current U.S. and global nutrition programs and interventions and develop an understanding of program development.
- Augment student-specific practitioner skill sets to promote individual career goals.

## II. MS HUMAN NUTRITION DIETETICS CONCENTRATION

### A. Prerequisites for Graduate Study in Human Nutrition Dietetics Concentration

- BS/BA degree
- Current RD credential
- One year of work experience in dietetics as a Registered Dietitian

### B. Coursework Requirements

Required Courses:		Credit Hours
NTR 500	Topic: Research Nutrition 1	3
NTR 502	Statistics in Research	3
NTR 501	Research Methods/Nutrition II	3
NTR 593	Applied Project: Part 1	3
NTR 593	Applied Project: Part 2	3
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>NOTE: You may select 15 credit hours of Electives listed below</b>		
<b>Nutrition Electives: Topics and availability vary by semester</b>		
NTR 503	Behavior Change	3
NTR 529	Pediatric Nutrition	3
NTR 532	Pathophysiology	3
NTR 533	Ethics/Policy American Diet	3
NTR 535	Nutrigenomics	3
NTR 537	Topic: Advanced Nutrition Support	3
NTR 537	Topic: Diet and Cancer	3
NTR 551	Geriatric Nutrition	3
NTR 553	Nutrition and CVD	3
NTR 557	Nutrition Epidemiology	3
NTR 598	Topic: Clinical Nutrition Management	3
NTR 598	Topic: Historical Dev of Human Nutrition	3
NTR 555	Advanced Sports Nutrition	3
NTR 598	Topic: Nutrition Therapy for Eating Disorders & Addictions	3
NTR 598	Topic: Statistics in Research	3
NTR 598	Topic: Nutrition and Eating Disorders	3
NTR 598	Topic: Nutrition Edu/Program Planning	3
NTR 598	Topic: Nutrition Focused Physical Assessment	3
NTR 598	Topic: Grant Writing	3
OBS 501	Obesity Prevention	3
Add'l NTR Courses	Please check <a href="#">ASU Course Search</a> for other NTR course offerings.	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>30 Credits</b>

\*The number for this course is subject to change

## C. Admission Procedures for MS in Human Nutrition (Dietetics) Program

### Admission to Graduate Study

Applicants to the MSD program must send some application materials to ASU Graduate Admissions and other application materials directly to the Nutrition Program Graduate Committee.

Because passing the RD exam and gaining work experience in the field of dietetics are required for successful admission to the MSD program, the Nutrition Program Graduate Committee does not require applicants to take or submit scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). In lieu of GRE scores, a telephone interview may be conducted.

At a minimum, applicants to the MSD program are expected to meet GPA requirements as established by ASU Graduate Education.

### Nutrition Program Requirements

In addition to the online application submitted to Graduate Education, applicants to the MSD program must include the following supplemental information:

- Three letters of recommendation, including at least one from an employer or work supervisor.
- A résumé that summarizes the applicant's academic, volunteer and employment experiences.
- A one- to two-page, typed, double-spaced, personal statement addressing the following: significant professional responsibilities you have held; your professional goals and reasons for desiring to enroll in this program; strengths that will help you succeed in this program and in reaching your professional goals; and your personal interests in research, including, if applicable, studies involving the practice of dietetics.

Please submit proof of Registered Dietitian status by accessing the Commission on Dietetic Registration's [web site](#) using the Online Credential Verification Search. Complete the verification search, print the certificate, and upload the certificate to your application.

Applicants may also participate in a telephone interview with members of the Nutrition Program Graduate Committee.

### Processing of Applications

Please see the [ASU Online](#) website for current deadlines for ASU Online students.

Credentials submitted by applicants to the MS in Human Nutrition, Dietetics Concentration are evaluated by ASU Graduate Admissions and the Nutrition Program Graduate Committee. To ensure consideration for admission, all application materials should be received by the priority deadline of **April 15** for fall admission, **October 15** for

spring admission, and **February 15** for summer admission. After these priority deadlines pass, a rolling admission will apply. If deadline dates fall on a weekend, then the deadline will be the first business day (typically Monday) after that date. Based upon the recommendation of the Graduate Committee, applicants will be recommended for admission to ASU Graduate Admissions by the Director of the Nutrition Program. Notification of admission to the graduate program is usually given within two weeks of the application review.

### **Admission and Denial Criteria**

No single criterion will serve as a basis for admission or denial to the MSD program. Criteria for admission include:

1. Evidence of outstanding scholarship from previous academic record.
2. Favorable letters of recommendation commenting on the applicant's academic and professional qualifications for graduate study.
3. Professional goals compatible with the MSD course offerings.
4. Scholarly interest compatible with one or more of the faculty who are active in this degree program.

The decision of the committee will be one of the following:

- 1. Regular admission** - Granted when the applicant's file is complete; the applicant meets criteria of adequate academic preparation, satisfactory and competitive undergraduate grade point average, favorable letters of recommendation, etc.; and, when enrollment limits have not been met.
- 2. Provisional admission** – Granted when the applicant's previous GPA is < 3.0. The student will be expected to maintain a 3.0 or greater during their first year of study in order to remain in the program.
- 2. Denied admission** - When the applicant does not meet the necessary criteria for admission; the applicant does not rank sufficiently high to be selected for the available slots; it is deemed that departmental program fails to match the applicant's needs, goals, and interests; or no suitable faculty advisor is available.

## **D. Applied Project**

### **General Procedures**

In addition to planning a program of course work, graduate students also must complete an Applied Project. The Applied Project consists of original work on a specific research or practice problem. The problem is decided upon by the student in consultation with their Applied Project Mentor. Students will select a topic and begin work on it during NTR 593 "Applied Project, Part 1" with the guidance of their Applied Project Mentor and the NTR 593 Instructor. Students will complete the Applied Project near the end of their graduate program, during NTR 593 "Applied Project, Part 2."

### **Selection of Applied Project Mentor**

Students should begin the process of selecting an Applied Project Mentor during the first

semester of their graduate program. The Applied Project Mentor is established at the initiative of the student, in consultation with the faculty member, and is approved by the Program Director. See Appendix A.

## **E. MS in Human Nutrition, Dietetics Concentration Plan of Study**

### **Approval of Plan of Study**

The MSD Plan of Study (iPOS) should be thoughtfully and carefully planned with their mentor so that it meets the goals and objectives of the program and the student. Each student selects courses after consultation with their advisor. The Plan of Study should be completed and approved by the mentor and the Program Director no later than the time the student has enrolled in 15 credit hours. A Plan of Study must have exactly 30 credit hours, no more and no less. Acceptance of the proposed Plan of Study must be verified by the Program Director. After approval at the program level, the Plan of Study is submitted to ASU Graduate Education for final approval.

**NOTE: all new Plans of Study have to be submitted online using the Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS) form available through each student's [My ASU](#) account.**

### **Changes in Plan of Study**

Necessary changes can be initiated and petitioned by the student. The changes must be pre-approved by the Nutrition Program Director, and ASU Graduate Education.

### **Performance Reviews**

Master's students are required to maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA in graduate school. If the cumulative GPA falls below 3.0, the student will receive a deficiency notice from the Graduate Committee and be required to raise the cumulative GPA to 3.0 the following semester. If the student fails to raise the cumulative GPA to 3.0 within the allotted time, the student may be dropped from the program. Students completing work for a course in which they received a grade of "I" must maintain [continuous enrollment](#). **Graduate students have one year to complete work for an incomplete grade**; if the work is not completed and the grade changed within one year, the "I" grade becomes permanent. Additional information regarding incomplete grades can be found [here](#). In addition, a student cannot accumulate more than two incompletes at any given time while completing the graduate program of study.

All graduate students admitted to the MSD program are subject to the general standards of academic good standing of ASU. However, academic standards do not necessarily guarantee that a student will graduate from the program. Because students obtaining a Master's degree from the Nutrition Program are often placed in positions dealing with the public, they must also demonstrate the requisite qualifications for successful professional performance, including interpersonal skills, basic communication skills, appropriate professional conduct, and satisfactory performance in field experiences. Graduate students who demonstrate behaviors or characteristics that make it questionable that they can succeed professionally will be reviewed by the Nutrition Program Graduate Committee. The committee's review may result in a decision to disqualify the student or

to specify conditions under which continued enrollment is permitted (e.g., probation). Students who wish to appeal the decision of the Nutrition Program Graduate Committee may do so in writing to the Dean of ASU Graduate Education. Any exceptions to these policies and procedures must be approved by the Nutrition Program Graduate Committee.

### **III. FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

#### **A. University Financial Aid**

Information regarding [financial assistance](#) opportunities is available through Graduate Education



## IV. TIMELINES

### A. Calendar for Applying to Nutrition Graduate Program

ACTION	WHEN
1. Review <a href="#">admission materials</a> from <b>ASU Graduate Admissions</b> and the <b>Nutrition Program</b>	As early as possible.
2. Have college transcripts, showing an undergraduate degree was awarded, sent to <b>ASU Graduate Admissions</b> .	Sufficiently ahead of time so official results are received by priority deadlines of April 15, October 15, or February 15.
3. Complete <a href="#">application for admission</a> to <b>ASU Graduate Admissions</b> , online at	Received by <b>ASU Graduate Admissions</b> by April 15, October 15, or February 15 for priority consideration.
4. Request three (3) letters of recommendation to be submitted online as part of your online application to <b>ASU Graduate Admissions</b> .	Received by <b>ASU Graduate Admissions</b> by April 15, October 15, or February 15 for priority consideration.
5. A résumé or curriculum vita – included as part of your online application to <b>ASU Graduate Admissions</b> .	Received by <b>ASU Graduate Admissions</b> by April 15, October 15, or February 15 for priority consideration.
6. A personal statement – included as part of your online application to <b>ASU Graduate Admissions</b> .	Received by <b>ASU Graduate Admissions</b> by April 15, October 15, or February 15 for priority consideration.
7. Your RD registration certificate (accessed at the Commission on Dietetic Registration's <a href="#">website</a> using the Online Credential Verification Search) – sent to the <b>Nutrition Program</b>	Mail to: Amanda Kling, Graduate Nutrition Program, College of Health Solutions, 500 N. 3 <sup>rd</sup> St., Phoenix, AZ 85004.
<b>Notifications of Acceptance</b>	
1. Notification of acceptance from ASU Graduate Admissions and the Nutrition Program.	Within two weeks of file review

## B. Timeline for the MS Human Nutrition Dietetics Concentration (MSD)

ACTION	WHEN
1. Contact Program Director and seek advice for course selections.	As soon as possible
2. Meet with Program Director and faculty to select Applied Project Mentor	While enrolled in NTR 500
3. Begin Applied Project before or during NTR 593 "Applied Project, Part 1"	At least two semesters prior to planned graduation date
4. Finish Applied Project before or during NTR 593 "Applied Project, Part 2"	Last semester
5. Apply for graduation.	During last semester of graduate program

<sup>1</sup> Coursework and Applied Project must be completed within six [6] years of enrollment in the first course listed on the Plan of Study.

<sup>2</sup> Faculty in the Department of Nutrition are typically on an academic-year contract, meaning they are on salary only from the beginning of the fall semester through the end of the spring semester. Some faculty may receive summer funding through research grants or for teaching summer session courses. **Proposal meetings, Results meetings, and Applied Project defenses should not be scheduled during the summer unless there is confirmation of the availability of all committee members well in advance of the scheduled date.**

## APPENDIX A

### Interests of NTR MS Applied Project Nutrition Faculty

**Christina Barth, MS, RD (Christina.Barth@asu.edu)** -- Eating disorders, sports nutrition, weight management, child nutrition, women's health, yoga therapy, integrative healthcare

**Michael Collins, DC, BS (Michael.Collins.4@asu.edu)** -- Sports performance/human performance

**Kathleen Dixon, MEd, RD (Kathleen.Dixon@asu.edu)** -- Food service management, pediatric dietetics, nutrition counseling

**Shauna Grant, MS, RD (Shauna.Grant@asu.edu)** – Nutrition support, clinical nutrition, counseling and education, metabolic effects of sedentary lifestyles

**Karen Gregory-Mercado, PhD, MPH, MCHES, CWWPM (Karen.Gregory-Mercado@asu.edu)** – Health education and promotion, worksite wellness, health and wellness coaching.

**Traci Grgich, MS, RD, SNS, CP-F (Traci.Grgich@asu.edu)** -- Food service management, food safety, child nutrition/school lunch programs, pediatric nutrition, and pediatric diabetes management.

**Teresa Hart, PhD (Teresa.Abraham@asu.edu)** – Physical activity, sedentary behavior, and health

**Melinda Johnson, MS, RD (Melinda.Duff@asu.edu)** -- Nutrition and Media, Nutrition Communications, breastfeeding/lactation, prenatal nutrition, child nutrition, family feeding dynamics

**Jessica Lehmann, MS RDN (Jessica.Lehmann@asu.edu)** – Nutrition communications, healthy cuisine, child nutrition

**Christy Lespron, PhD, RD (Christy.Lespron@asu.edu)** – Functional foods for managing chronic disease, macro/micronutrient metabolism, obesity/diabetes, nutrition education/counseling

**Simin Levinson, MS, RD (Simin.Levinson@asu.edu)** -- Sports nutrition, foodservice management, weight management, nutrition in wellness

**Sandra Mayol-Kreiser, PhD, RD (Sandra.Mayol-Kreiser@asu.edu)** -- Clinical nutrition, nutrition support, and nutrition through the lifecycle

**Mary McMullen, MS, RD (Mary.McMullen@asu.edu)** – Prenatal, infant, child nutrition and breastfeeding/lactation (WIC), medical nutrition therapy, renal nutrition, restrictive eating

**Michelle Miller, MS, RD (Michelle.J.Miller@asu.edu)** -- Medical nutrition therapy, community nutrition and education programs, nutrition counseling, breastfeeding/lactation

**Lisa Morse, MS, RD, CNSC (Lisa.M.Morse@asu.edu)** -- Nutrition Support, Burns, Trauma, Clinical Nutrition (all topics)

**Julia Pearl, MS (Julia.Pearl@asu.edu)** – General aspects of healthcare delivery- the triple aim, fitness, physical activity, weight training, yoga, stress management, holistic health, wellness coaching/consulting, group fitness teaching/instruction to all levels and ages ranging from 5-85 years old, marketing of fitness programming in various environments such as commercial gyms/country clubs/spas/corporate wellness, independent studio ownership, speaking and presentation skills to various audiences

**Lauren Savaglio, MS, EMT (Lauren.Savaglio@asu.edu)** -- Public health, environmental health, preventable health in vulnerable populations, bioethics, veterans' health, nutritional outcomes of children with HIV-positive mothers, neuropathy and HIV infection.

**Christina Scribner, MS, RD, CSSD, CEDRD (Christina.Scribner@asu.edu)** – Nutrition therapy for weight related concerns and eating disorders; nutrition and substance abuse, female athlete triad, low energy availability among athletes, nutrition for athletic performance, pediatric and adolescent nutrition, and nutrition for general wellness

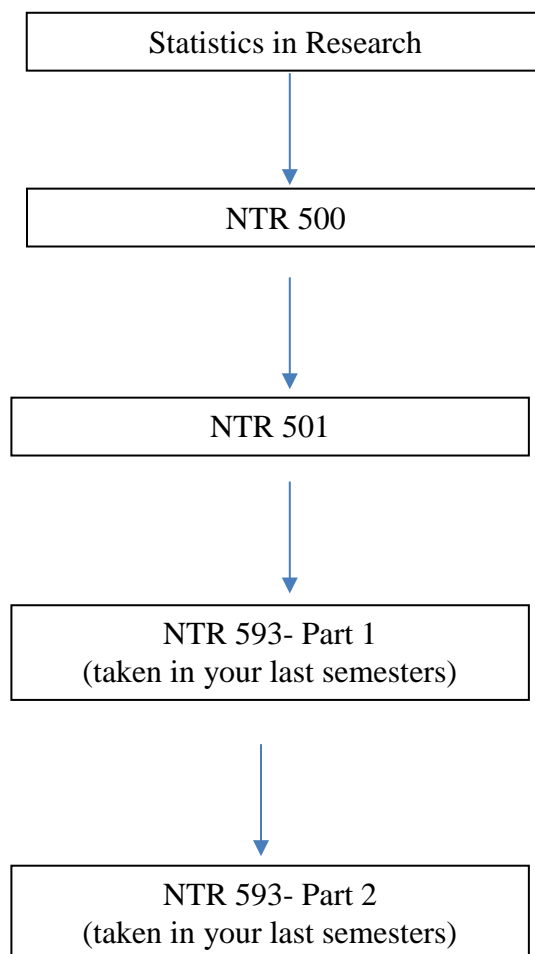
**Christina Shepard, MS, RDN (Tina.Shepard@asu.edu)** -- Nutrition education of the public and the health practitioner; nutrition and dietetic career education; weight control and childhood obesity issues

Note: Other research faculty in the Nutrition Program may also serve as Applied Project mentors or Committee members: Meg Bruening, PhD, MPH, RD; Carol Johnston, PhD, RD; Eric Hekler, PhD; Punam Ohri-Vachaspati, PhD, RD; Karen Sweazea, PhD; Natasha Tasevska, MD, PhD; Sonia Vega Lopez, PhD; Christopher Wharton, PhD; and Corrie Whisner, PhD.

Non-tenure-track faculty can also serve on thesis committees.

## APPENDIX B

### Course Sequence for Required Courses



\*Note: 15 credit hours of elective courses are required to graduate. Please consult with the faculty director for proper sequencing of courses.