

Nutritional Science, MS

ECHNUTMS

Are you interested in the intersection of food, biology, chemistry, sociology and more? Take your education to the cutting edge of nutritional science, and expand your knowledge and skill base with rigorous internships and research.

Program description

Degree awarded: MS Nutritional Science

The MS in nutritional science prepares students to translate nutritional science into practical use for human health and wellness. Partnered with accomplished faculty, students immerse themselves in the latest nutrition topics and research as they develop practical understanding through internship experiences and their own guided research.

Building on the scientific foundations of human nutrition, students learn strong writing and problem-solving skills, grow their computer literacy and increase their interpretive expertise.

The sports nutrition track allows students to specialize in exercise science and the nutritional needs of athletes. Students in this track complete classes focusing on exercise physiology, hydration, electrolyte regulation, evaluation of sports supplements and more.

The maternal-child health track allows students to complete classes that focus on promoting the health and well-being of women and children, including policy and advocacy, leadership development, medical nutrition therapy, communication and ethics. Competitive funding may be available through the TRANSCEND program for students in the maternal-child health track (<https://transcendprogram.weebly.com>).

Students who have completed an accredited didactic program in dietetics may also elect to apply to the [ASU dietetic internship program](#) in order to meet the requirements to become a [registered dietitian nutritionist](#).

At a glance

- **College/School:** [College of Health Solutions](#)
- **Location:** [Downtown Phoenix](#)

Accelerated program options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an **accelerated bachelor's plus master's degree** with:

Dietetics, BS

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. Students typically receive approval to pursue the accelerated master's during the junior year of their bachelor's degree program. Interested students can learn about eligibility requirements and [how to apply](#).

Degree requirements

30 credit hours and a thesis, or
 30 credit hours and a thesis - Maternal Child Health Track, or
 30 credit hours and a thesis - Sports Nutrition Track, or
 30 credit hours including the required applied project course (NTR 593)

Required Core (3 credit hours)

EXW 501 Research Statistics (3) or
 NTR 502 Statistics in Research (3)

Restricted Electives (9 or 12 credit hours)

Open Electives or Required Track Courses (6 or 9 credit hours)

Research (3 credit hours)

NTR 500 Research Methods (3)

Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)

NTR 593 Applied Project (6) or
 NTR 599 Thesis (6)

Additional Curriculum Information

Tracks in sports nutrition and maternal-child health are available. Students should contact the academic unit for more information on track requirements and a list of approved elective courses.

This degree program may be pursued concurrently with the [Arizona State University Dietetic Internship](#) (MS-DI or MS-VA). Students must apply and be accepted to both the MS degree and the internship program. Students who pursue the Veterans Affairs (MS-VA) Dietetic Internship are not eligible to pursue a track within the degree, but they may work with program faculty to tailor electives to their interests and career goals.

Admission requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Health Solutions.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree (nutrition or science is recommended) from a regionally accredited institution. Students who are pursuing the Master of Science in nutritional science need to complete the following prerequisites: anatomy and physiology, biochemistry, general chemistry with lab, general nutrition for majors, organic chemistry with lab, and statistics.

These courses are part of the ASU didactic program in dietetics, which is required for ASU's BS degree in dietetics and for eligibility to apply for admission to an accredited dietetic internship to become a registered dietitian. If an applicant has completed a didactic program in dietetics from another university, these prerequisites are considered complete. Prerequisite courses can be in progress when the student submits the application; however, if the student is accepted to the Master of Science degree program, all prerequisites must be completed before the program begins in the fall semester.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A" in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. resume or curriculum vitae
4. personal statement
5. three references (academic or professional)
6. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of their current residency.

The personal statement should include the following:

1. a description of the applicant's significant professional responsibilities
2. the applicant's professional goals and the reasons they wish to enroll in ASU's program
3. the applicant's strengths that will enable their success in the program and in reaching their professional goals

4. the applicant's personal research interests, described as specifically as possible and including any previous research experience, along with indication of any interest in being considered for the optional track in sports nutrition or maternal-child health

Contact information of three references is required. References will be contacted via email to submit a letter of recommendation. At least one reference must be from an instructor at the applicant's undergraduate institution.

An interview is required. Finalists are invited by the program to an interview.

Tuition information

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

Application deadlines

Fall

[expand](#)

Program learning outcomes

Program learning outcomes identify what a student will learn or be able to do upon completion of their program. This program has the following program outcomes:

- Integrate knowledge of research design that incorporates ethical conduct in nutrition research studies.
- Apply statistical methodology in nutrition research.
- Interpret an emerging issue as it relates to advanced practice nutrition science.

Career opportunities

Nutritional science applies the principles of food and nutrition to health. It is a vital, growing profession with many career possibilities. In this field, graduates share their knowledge of food and nutrition to help people make healthful food choices.

Graduates have gone on to:

- apply to medical and professional school to become medical doctors, physician assistants, pharmacists, dentists and other medical professions
- become registered dietitian nutritionists
- pursue academic doctorates

Industries that graduates can work in include:

- community and public health organizations

- corporations
- food manufacturing industries
- government agencies
- hospitals and other medical facilities
- long-term care facilities
- nonprofit organizations
- schools

Professional licensure

ASU programs that may lead to professional licensure or certification are intended to prepare students for potential licensure or certification in Arizona. Completion of an ASU program may not meet educational requirements for licensure or certification in another state. For more information, students should visit the [ASU professional licensure](#) webpage.

Contact information

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