Nutritional Science, MS

ECHNUTMS

Be at the leading edge of nutritional science. Expand your knowledge and skill base with rigorous internships and research. Study a variety of nutrition disciplines including sports nutrition and maternal child health. Opportunities for practical application can give you the tools to be at the forefront of modern health.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Nutritional Science

Nutritional science marks the intersection of food, biology, chemistry, microbiology, sociology and more, centered on topics and challenges that affect everyday health and well-being.

The MS program in nutritional science prepares students to translate nutritional science into practical use for human health and wellness. Students immerse themselves in the latest nutrition topics and research partnered with accomplished faculty, developing 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 computer literacy, and increase interpretive expertise. Students are afforded nutrition research experiences grounded in the latest science that can match their own interests and goals.

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.

A sports nutrition track provides an option for students to select specialized courses in sports nutrition and exercise science and obtain hands-on training and research with sports dietitians and nutrition faculty who are experts in the field. Students in this track complete the same core nutrition graduate courses but take track-specific classes and electives that focus on sports nutrition, hydration, exercise physiology and other vital parts of the discipline. The culminating experience research is under the guidance of sports nutrition professors in the College of Health Solutions.

The maternal-child health track provides an option for students to select specialized courses in maternal-child health and obtain hands-on training with the nutrition and other faculty who work on nutrition-related health behaviors and outcomes across campus. Students in this track will complete the
same core nutrition graduate courses but will take track courses and electives that focus on maternal-child health competencies, including policy and advocacy, leadership development, communication and ethics. They will complete their required research under the guidance of one of several faculty conducting nutrition-related maternal and child health research. Competitive funding may be available through the TRANSCEND program for students in the maternal-child health track:

https://transcendprogram.weebly.com/

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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 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, microbiology, organic chemistry with lab, and statistics.

These courses are part of the ASU didactic program in dietetics required for ASU’s BS degree in dietetics and to be eligible to apply for admission into 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 into 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
4. personal statement
5. three letters of recommendation
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 resume should summarize the academic, research, volunteer and employment experiences of the applicant.

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 for their desire to enroll in ASU’s program
3. the applicant's strengths that will allow the applicant success in the program and in reaching 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

Three letters of recommendation are required, including at least one from an instructor at the applicant's undergraduate school.

An interview is required. Finalists will be invited to interview by the program.

**Tuition Information**
When it comes to paying for college, 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**

**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's 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 become registered dietitian nutritionists, to pursue doctorates, or to apply to medical and professional school to become medical doctors, physician assistants, pharmacists and dentists, as well as others in the medical professions.

Settings in which food and nutrition careers can be found 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**

[College of Health Solutions](#) | HLTN 401AA
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