



Dietetics Program Student Handbook

April 2020

The Master of Science degree in dietetics is a 36-credit hour program to prepare Registered Dietitians to practice dietetics at an advanced level and/or to pursue doctoral study. The online program is tailored for dietetics professionals who seek to enhance their knowledge in a specific area of dietetics practice or retool for new career opportunities in dietetics practice.

Students may build a program of study that fits their needs and interest. Some options include human nutrition, nutrient metabolism, biostatistics, health promotion/disease prevention, foodservice systems management, food science, lifespan nutrition, wellness, entrepreneurship, nutrition education, nutritional assessment, and food safety.

Course descriptions, a course planner, and contacts for participating universities can be found on the dietetics webpage: <https://www.gpidea.org/program/dietetics>

Admissions Requirements

To be admitted to this program, you must meet the following requirements:

- Students are expected to be registered dietitians or have completed an accredited dietetic internship to enroll in the program. Some universities are accepting students prior to completing an internship. For these universities, you must have a verification statement from an accredited didactic program in dietetics. See below to learn what each university requires.
- Fulfill (or meet) the entrance requirements for a master's program at your home university. Typically, this requires a minimum 3.0 undergraduate grade point average, or 3.0 on the last 60 hours of coursework in the undergraduate degree.
- The GRE or GMAT may be required for admission. See below to learn what each university requires.

University	Accept non-RD's with verification statement prior to internship completion	Require GRE or GMAT
Colorado State University	Yes	No
Iowa State University	No	No
University of Kansas Medical Center	No	No
Kansas State University	Yes	No
University of Nebraska Lincoln	Yes	GRE
North Dakota State University	Yes	No
Oklahoma State University	Yes	No
South Dakota State University	Yes	GRE



Graduation Requirements

All students are required to complete 36 credit hours including:

- Three core courses (9 credits). The three core courses are offered every fall and spring semester. [Visit the course planner](#) to see a list of all courses and when they are offered.
- Elective courses (21 credits) as determined by your supervisory committee.
- Thesis, comprehensive paper, or project (6 credit hours).

University	Requirements for Culminating Experience
Colorado State University	Comprehensive paper/project with an oral defense
Iowa State University	Creative component with a final oral exam based on the creative component.
University of Kansas Medical Center	Non-thesis or thesis option with an oral defense
Kansas State University	Non-thesis comprehensive paper with an oral defense or thesis with an oral defense
University of Nebraska Lincoln	Two additional courses & a final oral exam
North Dakota State University	Non-thesis comprehensive paper/project with oral defense
Oklahoma State University	Two courses: Environmental Scanning & Analysis (NSCI 5963) and Non-Thesis Graduate Capstone (NSCI 5843)
South Dakota State	Thesis or a comprehensive research paper/project with an oral defense

Degree titles vary by institution:

- Colorado State University – Master of Science in Dietetics
- Iowa State University – Master of Family and Consumer Sciences in Dietetics
- University of Kansas Medical Center -- Master of Science in Dietetics and Nutrition
- Kansas State University – Master of Science in Dietetics
- University of Nebraska Lincoln – Master of Science in Nutrition and Health Sciences
- North Dakota State University – Master of Science in Dietetics
- Oklahoma State University – Master of Science in Nutritional Sciences, Dietetics
- South Dakota State University – Master of Science in Dietetics

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to*:

1. Use critical thinking skills to address important issues in the dietetics profession.
2. Write clearly and effectively for a variety of audiences.
3. Report positive impact of the masters in dietetics program on their lives including job performance.

*Institutions may require additional outcomes.



Who to Contact for Help

Academic Advisor

Your academic advisor is the faculty member/staff person assigned to assist you in your academic decisions. Your academic advisor is assigned by your home university.

You should consult your academic advisor for assistance with the following:

- Course planning and selection (including elective approval)
- Transfer credit questions
- Plan your internship/practicum work (if applicable)
- Help with research interests

Campus Coordinator

Campus coordinators are available to help students navigate their home institution. Campus coordinators are also available at every institution to help with questions regarding courses taken from other teaching institutions. Coordinators serve as a first point of reference for general questions and the following information:

- Enrollment processes (contact your academic adviser for course selection)
- General policy information at your home institution
- General Great Plains IDEA information and policies
- Assistance with the Learning Management System
- General questions

A list of campus coordinators can be found on the [Dietetics webpage](#) in the gray sidebar titled “University Contacts.”

