

The DPD Handbook for the dietetics program at FSU Graduate School

For the complete handbook, please go to http://www.chs.fsu.edu/nfes_undergrad_ds

Graduate School

In 2009 approximately 50% of RDs held graduate degrees (46% MS, 4% PhD) *JADA, January 2010*). When trying to decide on graduate school, take into account your future career goals. Upper level management positions may be easier to attain with a graduate degree, and positions in academia or research require a graduate degree.

The following are general guidelines. Every graduate program is unique and different.

What type of programs can I apply to?

You can apply to any program for which you have met the pre-requisites. Every program has a different set of pre-requisites. Check websites and research potential programs to find each program's prerequisites. If you select a graduate program in nutrition, you probably have met all of the pre-requisite course work. However, if you choose a graduate program outside of nutrition, you may need to complete pre-requisite coursework. It is beneficial to do this before you graduate with your BS.

All graduate programs have different titles; there are no standard names for nutrition programs. In general, you have probably completed the pre-requisites for programs with nutrition or dietetics in the title. You will also have met the pre-requisites for graduate programs that offer a dietetic internship.

Most MS programs are approximately two years long. PhD programs can take several years depending on the program and your area of research.

Graduate School/Internship

Some graduate programs have an internship which is open to students completing an MS in nutrition. In this case (as is the case at FSU), students apply to the graduate program and internship. If they are accepted to the graduate program, their name is put into the pool of internship applicants. Applicants still go through D&D digital matching and rank the internship. It is possible for a student to be accepted into a graduate program but not the internship. If this is the case, then re-apply the second year.

Some internships provide graduate school credit. These internships are usually affiliated with a university, but you are not a degree seeking student. The graduate credit earned is through internship hours. For example, you enroll in graduate course XYZ123 for 9 credit hours in the

fall and 9 in the spring. This course is your internship experience, instead of meeting in a classroom, you get field-based learning. You will have some credit hours, but no degree.

Application Process

Be sure you have met the minimum requirements for each program

1. Pre-requisite course work (they will not list out course numbers, but course titles and credit hours. For example, if they ask for 6-8 hours of general chemistry, they are looking for CHM1045 and CHM1046 because CHM1032 and lab only provides 4 credit hours)
2. GPA
3. GRE score

Keep in mind that you are not measured against the minimum requirements per se, but you are competing against the other applicants

Completing an internship after grad school

If you are considering programs that do not offer an internship or you are not selected for the internship; the application process is the same. Keep your DPD verification statements as you will have to include an original in each application.

To learn more about the graduate programs offered in Nutrition, Food and Exercise Sciences here at FSU, go to: <http://www.chs.fsu.edu/nfes>