

Master of Science in Dietetics and Nutrition

Registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs) are trained dietetics and nutrition professionals who have met the strict educational and experiential standards set forth by the Commission on Dietetic Registration and the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. RDNs work in a wide variety of settings, including health care, business and industry, community/public health, education, research, government agencies and private practice. In order to be successful in their field, RDNs need a strong science foundation including courses in food and nutrition sciences, biochemistry, physiology, microbiology, anatomy, chemistry, foodservice systems, business, medical nutrition therapy, behavioral social sciences and communication.

The mission of the Master of Science (MS) in Dietetics and Nutrition is to guide the future of dietetics and nutrition in Alaska through the preparation of competent entry-level registered dietitian nutritionists.

Unique experiences are provided as the program places an emphasis on preparing advanced generalist RDNs for the cultural diversities and practice environments in Alaska.

The Dietetics and Nutrition (DN) didactic courses are delivered primarily online to facilitate access to the Master of Science (MS) in Dietetics and Nutrition statewide. Rotation sites for the supervised experiential learning (practicum) courses are located throughout the state of Alaska, and may include Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kodiak, Kenai, Soldotna, Sitka, Juneau, Bethel, Palmer, Wasilla, Kotzebue, Nome and Utqiagvik. Most rotation sites are located in health care settings.

Expenses beyond tuition generally include, but are not limited to, travel and housing for supervised experiential learning (practicum) rotations, activity fees, lab fees, student organization membership, immunizations, fingerprinting and criminal background checks, cost of ServSafe certification and food/supplies for some DN courses.

Two tracks are offered in the MS in Dietetics and Nutrition:

1. **Pre-RDN track:** This track is for students who have already earned a minimum of a bachelor's degree and a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) verification statement (or the required prerequisite coursework) from a program accredited by ACEND and are seeking to complete the coursework and supervised experiential learning requirements (1000 hour of practicum work) for entry-level practice as a RDN, integrated in one program. Graduates of the Pre-RDN track are eligible to sit for the Commission on Dietetic Registration national registration examination.
2. **Current RDN track:** This track is for students who are already credentialed as a RDN through the Commission on Dietetic Registration and are seeking additional study in dietetics and nutrition.

Licensure and/or Certification

Please go to UAA's Authorization by State (<https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/office-of-academic-affairs/>

provost_office/uaa-state-authorization/authorization.cshhtml/) website for information about licensure or certification in a state other than Alaska.

Admission Requirements

- Complete the Admission Requirements for Graduate Degrees (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/academicpoliciesprocesses/admissions/graduate/>).
- Submit the following admission requirements for both tracks of the MS in Dietetics and Nutrition (see the DN program website for the requirements for each admission requirement):
 - DPD verification statement or submission of official transcripts documenting completion of all prerequisite courses
 - Personal statement
 - Current resume or CV
 - Two letters of recommendation
 - A video interview
 - Application to UAA graduate school
 - International students seeking admission to UAA must provide proof of English proficiency.
- For the Current RDN track only, complete the following admission requirements:
 - Copy of current RD/RDN credential from the Commission on Dietetic Registration.
- Upon successful admission to the Pre-RDN track, prior to starting the program, documentation of the pre-matriculation requirements is required. See the DN program website for the current list of pre-matriculation requirements. Pre-matriculation requirements include, but are not limited to:
 - Necessary professional and health insurance coverage required to work in hospitals and health care facilities,
 - All necessary security background checks to meet state and federal requirements,
 - All necessary immunizations required to work in hospitals and other health care facilities.

The MS in Dietetics and Nutrition admissions process is competitive. See the Dietetics and Nutrition Program website (<https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-health/departments/school-of-allied-health/academics/dietetics-nutrition/index.cshhtml/>) for information on the application submission process and program advising information.

Graduation Requirements

- Complete the General University Requirements for Graduate Degrees (<https://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/degreerequirements/>).
- Complete all required academic coursework specified on the graduate studies plan with a minimum grade of B or P.
- Complete the program requirements below with a minimum grade of B or P:

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
DN A615	Public Health Nutrition	3
DN A630	Applied Research in Nutrition and Dietetics	3
DN A641	Advanced Medical Nutrition Therapy - Ambulatory	3
DN A642	Advanced Medical Nutrition Therapy - Acute	3
DN A650	The Business of Dietetics	3
DN A675	Advanced Nutrient Metabolism	3
DN A698	Dietetics & Nutrition Graduate Project	6
or DN A699	Dietetics & Nutrition Graduate Thesis	
NSG A633	Statistics for Advanced Practice	3
Total		27

Complete one of the following tracks:

Pre-RDN Track

Code	Title	Credits
DN A601	Professional Practice in Dietetics and Nutrition	2
DN A695G	Supervised Experiential Learning - Management	2
DN A695H	Supervised Experiential Learning - Public Health	2
DN A695I	Supervised Experiential Learning - Specialty	1
DN A695J	Supervised Experiential Learning - Medical Nutrition Therapy - Ambulatory	2
DN A695K	Supervised Experiential Learning - Medical Nutrition Therapy - Acute I	2
DN A695L	Supervised Experiential Learning - Medical Nutrition Therapy - Acute II	1
Total		12

A minimum of 39 credits is required for the Pre-RDN track.

Up to 9 semester credits from a graduate program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics may be transferred to UAA and counted toward degree completion.

Current RDN Track

Code	Title	Credits
	Elective coursework ¹	3
Total		3

¹ The only credits from the UAA Dietetic Internship Graduate Certificate that may be applied as elective coursework are DN A692A (no longer active) and DN A692B, as long as the courses were completed no more than seven (7) years prior to MS program completion.

A minimum of 30 credits is required for the Current RDN Track.

Upon completion of MS Dietetics and Nutrition the graduate will be able to:

1. Apply foundational sciences to food and nutrition knowledge to meet the needs of individuals, groups and organizations.
2. Apply and integrate client/patient-centered principles and competent nutrition and dietetics practice to ensure positive outcomes.
3. Apply food systems principles and management skills to ensure safe and efficient delivery of food and water.
4. Apply community and population nutrition health theories when providing support to community or population nutrition programs.
5. Demonstrate leadership, business and management principles to guide practice and achieve operational goals.
6. Integrate evidence-informed practice, research principles, and critical thinking into practice.
7. Demonstrate professional behaviors and effective communication in all nutrition and dietetics interactions.