Master of Dietetics Studies

The Master of Dietetics Studies is an advanced professional degree which together with the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics is known as the Coordinated Program in Dietetics (CPD). Students who successfully complete the dual degree within the CPD receive a verification statement that certifies their eligibility to take the Commission on Dietetics Registration national examination to become a Registered Dietitian (RD). The graduate level coursework and advanced practicum are designed to meet knowledge and competencies to practice as an entry-level practitioner in nutrition and dietetics.

Students in the Master of Dietetics Studies (MDS) will be enrolled in a non-thesis option with an emphasis in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and Treatment.

Program Admission Requirements. Admission to the program is based on the following criteria:

1. Students who have been admitted into the UTSA Coordinated Program in Dietetics as undergraduate students are guaranteed acceptance into the Master of Dietetics Studies program if they have maintained a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in their coursework.

2. Students from other institutions will be considered for the Master of Dietetics Studies if openings are available in the Coordinated Program in Dietetics. The number of students in the program is determined by the number approved through the accreditation process and the number of placement available for the advanced practicum. These applicants must meet all the requirements described below:
   a. Applicants must have a verification statement from an accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) or an equivalent baccalaureate degree in nutrition and dietetics from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States or have proof of equivalent training at a foreign institution.
   b. Applicants whose undergraduate major is not in nutrition and dietetics must have taken all pre-requisite courses described under the Nutrition and Dietetics Program in the undergraduate catalog. In addition, applicants must have completed all or equivalent undergraduate courses in dietetics and nutrition to meet core knowledge and competencies mandated by the accreditation. All coursework must have been passed with a grade of C or better.
   c. Acceptance to the MDS program is contingent on having a GPA of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in all the undergraduate coursework, as well as in any graduate-level courses previously taken.
   d. Foreign educated students must submit official transcripts as well as a course-by-course evaluation by an approved credentialing organization.
   e. Test Applicants whose native language is not English must have a score of at least 500 on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or 61 on the Internet-based TOEFL.
   f. Applicants are required to submit a program application along with statement of interest and two faculty references (use standard program form) to the Admission Committee.
   g. Personal interview.
Degree Requirements:

Non-thesis option: Minimum of 30 semester credit hours including 28 hours of the core courses, and 2-3 hours of free elective.

A. Core Courses

- NDT 5313  Public Health Nutrition and Policy
- NDT 5323  Nutrition Pathophysiology
- NDT 5333  Nutritional Supplements and Functional Foods
- NDT 5343  Integration of Metabolism
- NDT 5947  Advanced Dietetics Practicum I
- NDT 5957  Advanced Dietetics Practicum II
- NDT 5901  Seminar in Dietetics
- NDT 5911  Research Seminar

Students must successfully pass a comprehensive examination under the capstone course NDT 5911 Seminar in Dietetics

B. Graduate Free Electives* (2-3 semester credit hours):

- NDT  5911  Independent Study
- KAH  5063  Health Behaviors
- KAH  5073  Essential Concepts in Health Promotion
- KHA  6063  Obesity and Health
- KHA  6223  Exercise Nutrition

*Other courses under KHA with the approval of a graduate advisor.
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
NUTRITION AND DIETETICS (NDT)

NDT 5313 Public Health Nutrition and Policy
(3-0) 3 hours credit.
Concepts in nutritional epidemiology and public policy; and community-based interventions, resources, and research.

NDT 5323 Nutrition Pathophysiology
(3-0) 3 hours credit.
Concepts related to nutrigenomics, immunology, pharmacology, fluid and electrolyte balance, acid-based balance, response to injury, complex diseases, and metabolic aberrations.
Prerequisites: Human physiology and advanced nutrition.

NDT 5333 Nutritional Supplements and Functional Foods
(3-0) 3 hours credit.
Fundamentals of complementary and alternative medicines, nutritional supplement, ergogenics, herbs, and functional foods; and issues related to their use in health and physical performance.

NDT 5343 Integration of Metabolism
(3-0) 3 hours credit.
An in-depth study of the metabolism of nutrients, energy utilization at the cellular level, and role of coenzymes and cofactors.
Prerequisites: NDT 3414 or equivalent course

NDT-5941-7 Advanced Dietetics Practicum I
1-7 hours credit.
Supervised practice in dietetics in different settings including acute and long term care facilities, rehabilitation and outpatient clinics, community programs, and foodservice operations; includes weekly seminar.
Prerequisites: must have successfully completed all dietetics knowledge core requirements and be in good academic standing.

NDT 5951-7 Advanced Dietetics Practicum II
1-7 hours credit.
Advanced supervised practice in dietetics with culminating experiences leading to entry-level competency; includes weekly seminar.
Prerequisites: NDT 5947; must be in good academic standing.

NDT 5851-3 Independent Study
1-3 hours credit.
Independent reading, research, discussion, project, and/or writing under the guidance of a faculty member. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 semester credit hours, regardless of discipline, will apply to a master’s degree.

NDT 5901 Seminar in Dietetics
(1-0) 1 hour credit.
An in-depth analysis of mastery of knowledge and skills required for entry-level practice. Successful completion includes standardized testing and approval of a professional portfolio by program faculty.
Prerequisites: Capstone course. Must be in good academic standing and enrolled in NDT 5957. To be taken during the last semester of the Coordinated Program.

NDT 5911 Research Seminar
(1-0) 1 hour credit.
Discussion of current research topics, use of databases, and evaluation of research articles.