NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES, 
PH.D.

Modern nutrition is a multidisciplinary, integrative science, and the Interdepartmental Graduate Program in Nutritional Sciences (IGPNS) has been developed to meet this diversity in approach and objective. It is the program's goal to provide graduate students interested in nutrition with an opportunity to obtain specialized training in a specific research area and also to obtain a general background in the science and practice of nutrition. The program is sufficiently flexible to allow students with a wide variety of undergraduate degrees to meet the background prerequisites. The program draws on the strengths of faculty in a number of the university's colleges and academic departments to enhance the instructional and research experience.

The training objectives of the IGPNS are to provide students with an understanding of basic nutritional principles as they apply to both humans and animals, to provide them with current knowledge in a specific area of emphasis, to make them aware of the integrative and multidisciplinary nature of nutrition research, and to direct them toward a successful career through the thesis and publications.

The graduate faculty have well-developed, competitively funded research programs and have been nationally recognized for their activities. They are active in national and international nutrition activities, and serve on editorial boards, as society officers, and as participants in numerous workshops and on advisory committees. For a complete listing of faculty members, please see the IGPNS Faculty website. (https://nutrisci.wisc.edu/people/faculty-staff/)

ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website. Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).

Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Deadline</td>
<td>January 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Deadline</td>
<td>January 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)</td>
<td>Not required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Proficiency Test</td>
<td>Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements (<a href="https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency">https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letters of Recommendation Required

* Students are only directly admitted to begin in the Spring term if they have a mentor pre-arranged. Contact the program with questions.

Candidates for graduate study in nutritional sciences should have a strong background in mathematics, chemistry, biological sciences, medical sciences or social sciences.

Specific prerequisites for the graduate program include the following:

- 2 semesters of General Chemistry
- 2 semesters of Biological Sciences
- 1 semester of Organic Chemistry
- Biochemistry with an Organic Chemistry prerequisite
- 1 semester of Calculus or Statistics
- 1 semester of Physiology

Students who have not completed all the requirements may be admitted, but deficiencies should be made up during the first year of graduate study.

All applicants must have a minimum grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) as well as three references and a personal statement. Acceptance requires approval by the Department of Nutritional Sciences and the Graduate School.

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

IGPNS students receive a full stipend, as well as tuition remission and comprehensive health insurance. The stipends take the form of traineeship, research assistantships, or fellowships and are guaranteed for all IGPNS Ph.D. candidates in good standing. The application for the IGPNS program is also the application for funding. IGPNS will also assist students in competing for UW and/or national funding awards (e.g. NIH, NSF, etc.)

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.
MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Instruction</th>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mode of Instruction Definitions

**Accelerated:** Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students are able to complete a program with minimal disruptions to careers and other commitments.

**Evening/Weekend:** Courses meet on the UW-Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

**Face-to-Face:** Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

**Hybrid:** These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

**Online:** These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirements Details

- Minimum Credit Requirement: 51 credits
- Minimum Residence Credit Requirement: 32 credits
- Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement: Half of degree coursework (26 credits out of 51 total credits) must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university's Course Guide (http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle (http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle/)
- Overall Graduate GPA Requirement: 3.00 GPA required.
- Other Grade Requirements: The Graduate School requires an average grade of B or better in all coursework (300 or above, not including research credits) taken as a graduate student unless conditions for probationary status require higher grades. Grades of Incomplete are considered to be unsatisfactory if they are not removed during the next enrolled semester.
- Assessments and Examinations: Students must take and pass a preliminary exam and a final defense. Students must take the first exam prior to the end of the fifth semester; summer session does not count as a semester.
- Language Requirements: No language requirements.
- Doctoral Minor/Breadth Requirements: Students are not required to complete a minor, but are heavily encouraged to pursue a minor.

REQUIRED COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUTR SCI/</td>
<td>Advanced Nutrition: Intermediary Metabolism of Macronutrients</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOCHEM 619</td>
<td>Introduction to Nutritional Epidemiology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH 621</td>
<td>Advanced Nutrition: Minerals</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTR SCI 625</td>
<td>Advanced Nutrition: Obesity and Diabetes</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTR SCI/</td>
<td>Experimental Diet Design</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AN SCI 626</td>
<td>Advanced Nutrition: Vitamins</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTR SCI 600</td>
<td>Introductory Seminar in Nutrition</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTR SCI 931</td>
<td>Seminar-Nutrition</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTR SCI 799</td>
<td>Practicum in Nutritional Sciences Teaching</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTR SCI 745</td>
<td>Grant Writing for Nutritional Sciences Research</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research

- NUTR SCI 731 Research in Progress Seminar 1
- NUTR SCI 991 Research Nutrition 1-12

Electives

Students select 6 credits of electives from the following or from other courses in consultation with their advisor:

- STAT/F&W ECOL/HORT 571 Statistical Methods for Bioscience I
- STAT/F&W ECOL/HORT 572 Statistical Methods for Bioscience II
- BMOLCHEM 504 Human Biochemistry Laboratory
- BIOCHEM 601 Protein and Enzyme Structure and Function
- BIOCHEM/GENETICS/MICROBIO 612 Prokaryotic Molecular Biology
- BIOCHEM/GENETICS/MD GENET 620 Eukaryotic Molecular Biology
- BIOCHEM 624 Mechanisms of Enzyme Action
- BIOCHEM 625 Mechanisms of Action of Vitamins and Minerals
- BIOCHEM/PHMCOL-M/ZOOLOGY 630 Cellular Signal Transduction Mechanisms
- BIOCHEM/CHCM 665 Biophysical Chemistry
- BIOCHEM/GENETICS 703 Topics in Eukaryotic Regulation
- BIOCHEM 801 Biochemical Applications of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

Total Credits: 51

1. **Student should enroll each semester, unless there is a course conflict.**
2. **Equivalent experience accepted. Please contact Graduate Program Coordinator.**
After enrolling in other coursework, students enroll in enough credits of NUTR SCI 991 to reach a total of 12 credits per fall and spring semesters.

PO LICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions

With approval of the certification committee, students are allowed to count up to 19 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned ten years or more prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW–Madison Undergraduate

With approval of the certification committee, students are allowed to count up to 7 credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree, numbered 400 and above, toward the Ph.D. degree, provided the course satisfies a requirement within the student's core curriculum or IGPNS emphasis group. Coursework earned ten years or more prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW–Madison University Special

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 15 credits of coursework taken as a UW–Madison Special student, provided the course satisfies a requirement within the student's core curriculum or IGPNS emphasis group. Coursework earned ten years or more prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PROBATION

The IGPNS requires a cumulative 3.0 GPA for all courses taken in the UW Graduate School. Grades in research (NUTR SCI 991 Research Nutrition) are not included in the calculation of the GPA. A student who does not maintain a 3.0 GPA can continue on probationary status for two semesters at the recommendation of the major professor. If, at that time, the student does not achieve a cumulative 3.0 GPA, they will be dropped from the program.

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

Every graduate student is required to have an advisor and a committee. PhD students must have a committee of at least four members. Students have time in their first year of study to build their committees. An advisor is a faculty member from the major department responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies. An advisor generally serves as the thesis advisor. Students can be suspended from the Graduate School if they do not have an advisor. The Director of Graduate Studies will be assigned as a student's advisor for the duration of their laboratory rotations.

To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the Graduate School expects them to meet with their advisor and committee on a regular basis.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

12 credits: fall and spring semesters
2 credits: per eight-week summer session

TIME CONSTRAINTS

Doctoral degree students who have been absent for ten or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

A candidate for a Doctoral degree who fails to take the final oral examination and deposit the dissertation within five years after passing the preliminary examination may be required to take another preliminary examination and to be admitted to candidacy a second time.

A student's program may appeal these time limits through a written request to the Graduate School Office of Academic Services.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

• Bias or Hate Reporting (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/)
• Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure)
• Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/)
  • Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/)
• Dean of Students Office (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
• Employee Assistance (http://www.eao.wisc.edu/) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
• Employee Disability Resource Office (https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
• Graduate School (https://grad.wisc.edu/) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
• Office of Compliance (https://compliance.wisc.edu/) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
• Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/) (for conflicts involving students)
• Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
• Title IX (https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/) (for concerns about discrimination)
**College of Agricultural and Life Sciences: Grievance Policy**

In the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS), any student who feels unfairly treated by a member of the CALS faculty or staff has the right to claim about the treatment and to receive a prompt hearing. Some complaints may arise from misunderstandings or communication breakdowns and be easily resolved; others may require formal action. Complaints may concern any matter of perceived unfairness.

To ensure a prompt and fair hearing of any complaint, and to protect the rights of both the person complaining and the person at whom the complaint is directed, the following procedures are used in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Any student, undergraduate or graduate, may use these procedures, except employees whose complaints are covered under other campus policies.

1. The student should first talk with the person at whom the complaint is directed. Most issues can be settled at this level. Others may be resolved by established departmental procedures.

2. If the student is unsatisfied, and the complaint involves any unit outside CALS, the student should seek the advice of the dean or director of that unit to determine how to proceed.
   a. If the complaint involves an academic department in CALS the student should proceed in accordance with item 3 below.
   b. If the grievance involves a unit in CALS that is not an academic department, the student should proceed in accordance with item 4 below.

3. The student should contact the department’s grievance advisor within 120 calendar days of the alleged unfair treatment. The departmental administrator can provide this person’s name. The grievance advisor will attempt to resolve the problem informally within 10 working days of receiving the complaint, in discussions with the student and the person at whom the complaint is directed.
   a. If informal mediation fails, the student can submit the grievance in writing to the grievance advisor within 10 working days of the date the student is informed of the failure of the mediation attempt by the grievance advisor. The grievance advisor will provide a copy to the person at whom the grievance is directed.
   b. The grievance advisor will refer the complaint to a department committee that will obtain a written response from the person at whom the complaint is directed, providing a copy to the student. Either party may request a hearing before the committee. The grievance advisor will provide both parties a written decision within 20 working days from the date of receipt of the written complaint.
   c. If the grievance involves the department chairperson, the grievance advisor or a member of the grievance committee, these persons may not participate in the review.
   d. If not satisfied with departmental action, either party has 10 working days from the date of notification of the departmental committee action to file a written appeal to the CALS Equity and Diversity Committee. A subcommittee of this committee will make a preliminary judgement as to whether the case merits further investigation and review. If the subcommittee unanimously determines that the case does not merit further investigation and review, its decision is final. If one or more members of the subcommittee determine that the case does merit further investigation and review, the subcommittee will investigate and seek to resolve the dispute through mediation. If this mediation attempt fails, the subcommittee will bring the case to the full committee. The committee may seek additional information from the parties or hold a hearing. The committee will present a written recommendation to the dean who will provide a final decision within 20 working days of receipt of the committee recommendation.

4. If the alleged unfair treatment occurs in a CALS unit that is not an academic department, the student should, within 120 calendar days of the alleged incident, take his/her grievance directly to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. The dean will attempt to resolve the problem informally within 10 working days of receiving the complaint. If this mediation attempt does not succeed the student may file a written complaint with the dean who will refer it to the CALS Equity and Diversity Committee. The committee will seek a written response from the person at whom the complaint is directed, subsequently following other steps delineated in item 3d above.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES**

Take advantage of the Graduate School’s professional development resources ([https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/](https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/)) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Articulates research problems, potentials, and limits with respect to theory, knowledge, and practice in nutritional sciences. Specific knowledge areas of focus include intermediary metabolism, functions and metabolism of vitamins and minerals, nutrition-related diseases such as obesity and diabetes, and fundamental principles of epidemiology and nutrition policy.
2. Formulates ideas, concepts, designs, and/or techniques beyond the current boundaries of knowledge in nutritional sciences.
3. Creates original research and scholarship that makes a substantive contribution to nutritional sciences.
4. Demonstrates breadth of knowledge of nutritional sciences.
5. Advances contributions of the field of nutritional sciences to society.
6. Communicates complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner through both written and oral presentations.
7. Fosters and practices ethical and professional conduct.

**PEOPLE**

See the program website ([https://nutrisci.wisc.edu/people/igpns-faculty/](https://nutrisci.wisc.edu/people/igpns-faculty/)) for a list of faculty trainers.