NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES, BS NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

In this major, students explore nutrition through clinical and management courses and prepare for postgraduate training required to become registered dietitian nutritionists (RDN). With an increased emphasis on the role of food and nutrition in treating and preventing disease, employment of registered dietitians is projected to grow faster than other occupations.

Registered dietitian nutritionists work in a wide variety of settings, including health care, business and industry, community and public health, education, research, government agencies, and private practice. Many organizations, particularly those in medical and health care settings, require RDN credentials.

LEARN THROUGH HANDS-ON, REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCES

Courses expose students to clinical problem-solving, assessing medical record data, evaluating food intake, planning modified diets, and reviewing medical and research literature related to certain diseases or conditions. This training develops critical thinking, teamwork, and communication skills needed by dietetic interns and registered dietitians.

BUILD COMMUNITY AND NETWORKS

The Dietetics and Nutrition Club (https://win.wisc.edu/organization/dnc/) is an academic and professional registered student organization offering a variety of opportunities for members to participate in networking events, volunteer activities, and community outreach opportunities.

CUSTOMIZE A PATH OF STUDY

Students in the program can pursue Honors in Research (https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate/current-students/honors-program/honors-research/) through the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

Many students enhance their major by participating in a certificate program, including Global Health (https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/nutritional-sciences/global-health-certificate/).

MAKE A STRONG START

First-year seminar courses (https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/#requirementstext) help students maximize their education, develop professional skills, and make informed decisions about their classes, internships, and career paths.

GAIN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Several courses emphasize global health and world nutrition, and UW–Madison offers more than a dozen study abroad and exchange programs that include a nutritional science component. Students can explore studying abroad utilizing the Nutrition and Dietetics Major Advising Page. Students work with their advisor and the CALS study abroad office to identify appropriate programs.

HOW TO GET IN

HOW TO GET IN

ADMISSION TO NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES BS NUTRITION AND DIETETICS DEGREE PROGRAM

Students will have Pre-Dietetics classification until admission to the nutrition and dietetics degree program (Dietetics classification) as defined by completion of prerequisite courses with a cumulative GPA of #2.0, as well as, an overall GPA of #2.0. Students must apply for and be admitted to the program no later than the end of the semester in which the student accumulates 86 credits, which is senior standing. Department approval is required for admission. Students who are not admitted to the program by the time they accumulate 86 credits will not be allowed to continue in the Pre-Dietetics classification.

To be admitted to the BS Nutritional Sciences nutrition and dietetics program, the following requirements must be met effective fall 2019:

1. A minimum overall cumulative GPA of #2.0. Cumulative GPA will be based on UW–Madison courses only.
2. Students **must** have completed one semester at UW–Madison before applying.
3. A minimum mean GPA of #2.0 in the following required prerequisite courses:

Code	Title	Credits
Select one of the following:		5-9
CHEM 103 & CHEM 104	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry II	
CHEM 109	Advanced General Chemistry	
Select one of the following:		5
ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY 101 & ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY 102	Animal Biology and Animal Biology Laboratory	
ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY/ BOTANY 151	Introductory Biology	
ANAT&PHY 335	Physiology	5
NUTR SCI 332	Human Nutritional Needs	3
Select one of the following:		3-4
PSYCH 202	Introduction to Psychology	
MICROBIO 101	General Microbiology	
PSYCH 210	Basic Statistics for Psychology	
SOC/ C&E SOC 360	Statistics for Sociologists I	
STAT 301	Introduction to Statistical Methods	
STAT 371	Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences	
GEN BUS 360	Workplace Writing and Communication	

Limited Enrollment

Admission to the DPD program is competitive, as enrollment is limited by accreditation standards; students meeting the minimum criteria are not guaranteed admission.

Policy Applicability

This policy is applicable to undergraduate students entering or transferring into Pre-Dietetics classification fall 2018 and beyond. Students who have already completed a college degree (BS or BA) may choose to pursue the Nutritional Sciences nutrition and dietetics program as either a second degree candidate, or as a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) completer. Because they have already completed a bachelor's degree, second-degree candidates and DPD completers are not required to follow this progression policy. Progression for these students will be closely monitored by the program coordinator.

GPA Calculation

Any transfer course from another university that will be used to meet the above required courses cannot be included in the GPA calculation. If the same course is taken more than once, only the grade from the last time the course was taken will be used in the GPA calculation.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students must complete both the following Core General Education (Core GenEd) and University Degree and Quality of Work requirements. The requirements below apply to students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution is Summer 2026 or later.

Students whose first term at UW-Madison or whose earliest post-high school college attendance at any institution occurred before Summer 2026 should refer to the archived Guide (https://guide.wisc.edu/archive/) for the requirements that apply to them.

CORE GENERAL EDUCATION (CORE GENED) REQUIREMENTS

Civics & Perspectives	3 credits of Civics & Perspectives coursework.
Communicatio & Literacy	6 credits of Communication & Literacy coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement (https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingenglishplacement/)
Humanities & Arts	6 credits of Humanities & Arts coursework.
Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning	6 credits of Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning coursework. This requirement may be partially satisfied by a qualifying placement test score. More information: https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement (https://go.wisc.edu/qualifyingmathplacement/)
Natural Science & Wellness	Complete both: • 6 credits of Natural Science & Wellness or Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework. • one course must be in Natural Science & Wellness + Laboratory coursework.
Social & Behavioral Science	3 credits of Social & Behavioral Science coursework.
Total Credits	30 credits.

For more information see the policy (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1095/).

UNIVERSITY DEGREE AND QUALITY OF WORK REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate degree recipients must complete the following minimum requirements. Requirements for some programs will exceed these requirements; see program requirements for additional information.

Total Degree	120 degree credits.
Residency	Complete 30 credits in residence. A course is considered "in residence" if it is taken when in undergraduate degree-seeking status and: • is offered by UW-Madison and completed on the UW-Madison campus or at an approved off-site location, or • is offered by UW-Madison in an online or distance format, or is completed during participation in a UW-Madison study abroad/study away program.
Quality of Work	Achieve at least the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, and/or academic program.
Math	Demonstrate minimal mathematics competence by: • placing above MATH 96, or, • successfully completing MATH 96, or • successfully completing a more advanced mathematics course such as MATH 112, MATH 113, MATH 114, MATH 141, MATH 211, or MATH 221.
English Language	If required to take the UW-Madison English as a Second Language Assessment Test (MSN-ESLAT), demonstrate minimal English language competence by: • earning credit for ESL 118, or • achieving a qualifying MSN-ESLAT placement test score.
Language	Complete one: • 2 high school units of a single language other than English, or • one course with the second semester Language designation.
Major Declaration	Declare and complete the requirements for at least one major.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES REQUIREMENTS

CALS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Cumulative Credits	• Students must earn 120 degree credits. • Students declared in Biological Systems Engineering BS must earn 125 degree credits.

Quality of Work	Students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.000 to remain in good standing and be eligible for graduation.
Residency	Students must complete 30 degree credits in residence at UW–Madison after earning 86 credits toward their undergraduate degree.

In addition to the university's general requirements, all undergraduate students in CALS must satisfy a set of college and major requirements. Courses may not double count within university requirements, CALS college requirements, or major requirements. A course may count toward university requirements and a college and/or a major requirement; similarly, a course counted toward college requirements may also be used to satisfy a university and/or a major requirement.

CALS COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

CALS First-Year Seminar	1 credit. See the full list of eligible courses below or use this link: https://go.wisc.edu/calsfirstyearseminars (https://go.wisc.edu/calsfirstyearseminars/)
Ethnic Studies	3 credits with the Ethnic Studies designation.
Communication A	Complete either: • 1 course with the Communication A designation, or • satisfaction of Communication A based on UW Placement Test.
Quantitative Reasoning A	Complete either: • 1 course with the Quantitative Reasoning A designation, or • satisfaction of Quantitative Reasoning A based on UW Placement Test.
Introductory Chemistry	Complete one: • CHEM 103 • CHEM 108 • CHEM 109
CALS International Comparisons	3 credits. See the full list of eligible courses below or use this link: https://go.wisc.edu/calsinternationalcomparisons (https://go.wisc.edu/calsinternationalcomparisons/)
Communication B	1 course with the Communication B designation.
Quantitative Reasoning B	1 course with the Quantitative Reasoning B designation.
Biological Science	5 credits with the Biological Science designation.
Additional Science	3 credits with the Biological, Physical, or Natural Science designations.
Science Breadth	3 credits with the Biological, Physical, Natural, or Social Science designations.
Humanities	6 credits with the Humanities or Literature designation.
Social Sciences	3 credits with the Social Sciences designation.
Capstone Learning Experience	Each major articulates the required capstone learning experience.

CALS First-Year Seminars

Code	Title	Credits
AN SCI 135	Grand Challenges and Career Opportunities in Animal and Dairy Sciences	1
BIOCHEM 100	Biochemistry First-Year Seminar	1
COUN PSY 125	The Wisconsin Experience Seminar	1
F&W ECOL 101	Orientation to Wildlife Ecology	1
F&W ECOL 105	Environment, Pollutants, and You	3
GENETICS 155	Freshman Seminar in Genetics	1
INTEGSCI 100	Exploring Biology	2
INTEGSCI 140	Exploring Service in STEM	1
INTER-AG 155	Issues in Agriculture, Environment, and Life Sciences	1
LSC 155	First-Year Seminar in Science Communication	1
MICROBIO 150	Microbiomes and Microbiology - First-Year Seminar	1
PLANTSCI/ AGROECOL 100	First-Year Seminar in Agroecology and Plant Science	1
PL PATH 155	Food Frontlines: Security, Sustainability, and Survival	1
SOIL SCI 155	First-year Seminar in Soil and Environmental Sciences	1
Learning Community/Student Group Courses		
The following learning community/student group courses are approved as CALS First-Year Seminars.		
COUN PSY 117	PEOPLE First Year Seminar	1
INTEGSCI 110	BioHouse Seminar: Biology for the 21st Century	1
INTER-AG 117	GreenHouse Roots Seminar	1
INTER-AG 140	CALS QuickStart: Foundations	1
INTER-AG 175	WISE Seminar	1

CALS International Comparisons

Code	Title	Credits
The 3 credit requirement may be fulfilled as either a stand-alone 3 credit course or as a set of courses as listed below.		
A A E/ENVIR ST 244	The Environment and the Global Economy	4
A A E 319	The International Agricultural Economy	3
A A E/ NUTR SCI 350	World Hunger and Malnutrition	3
A A E 352	Global Health: Economics, Natural Systems, and Policy (approved for enrollments Summer 2021 and later)	4
A A E/INTL ST 373	Globalization, Poverty and Development	3
A A E/INTL ST 374	The Growth and Development of Nations in the Global Economy	3
A A E/ECON 473	Economic Growth and Development in Southeast Asia	3
A A E/ECON 474	Economic Problems of Developing Areas	3

A A E/ECON/ INTL BUS 462	Latin American Economic Development	3
A A E/ECON 477	Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa	3
AGROECOL 377	Global Food Production and Health	3
AN SCI/DY SCI 370	Livestock Production and Health in Agricultural Development	3
ASIAN/HISTORY/ POLI SCI 255	Introduction to East Asian Civilizations (approved for enrollments Summer 2021 and later)	3-4
C&E SOC/SOC 341	Labor in Global Food Systems (approved for enrollments Summer 2020 and later)	3
C&E SOC/ENVIR ST/ SOC 540	Sociology of International Development, Environment, and Sustainability	3
CSCS 500	Global Health and Communities: From Research to Praxis	3
DY SCI 471	Food Production Systems and Sustainability	3
ENTOM/ ENVIR ST 201	Insects and Human Culture-a Survey Course in Entomology	3
ENTOM/ ENVIR ST 205	Our Planet, Our Health (approved for enrollments Fall 2026 and later)	3
ENTOM/ ZOOLOGY 371	Medical Entomology: Biology of Vector and Vector-borne Diseases	3
F&W ECOL/ ENVIR ST 100	Forests of the World (approved for enrollments Summer 2020 and later)	3
F&W ECOL/ ENVIR ST/ ZOOLOGY 360	Extinction of Species	3
LSC 251	Science, Media and Society (approved for enrollments Summer 2020 and later)	3
PL PATH/ BOTANY 123	Plants, Parasites, and People	3
PL PATH 311	Global Food Security	3
PLANTSCI 370	World Vegetable Crops	3
The following study abroad courses fulfill the CALS International Comparisons requirement. Only the specific course numbers and titles listed, including Topics titles (in parentheses), are approved to meet the CALS International Comparisons requirement.		
BIOCHEM 307	Study Abroad: Introduction to Biological Sciences Research in Japan (approved for enrollments Fall 2026 and later)	3
NUTR SCI/INTER-AG 421	Global Health Field Experience (UW Mobile Clinics and Health Care in Uganda)	3
INTER-AG 321 & INTER-AG/ NUTR SCI 421	Study Abroad Pre-Departure Seminar and Global Health Field Experience (UW Global Health Community Health and Asset-Based Community Development in Sri Lanka)	3
INTER-AG 321 & INTER-AG/ NUTR SCI 421	Study Abroad Pre-Departure Seminar and Global Health Field Experience (UW Agriculture, Health and Nutrition in Uganda)	3
INTER-AG/ NUTR SCI 421	Global Health Field Experience (UW Health, Education and Tanzanian Culture)	3

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Credits
Mathematics and Statistics		
Complete one of the following (or may be satisfied by placement exam. Note that placement into MATH 114 does not guarantee that credit has been earned for MATH 112)		3-5
MATH 112	College Algebra	
MATH 114	Precalculus	
Complete one of the following:		3-4
PSYCH 210	Basic Statistics for Psychology	
SOC/ C&E SOC 360	Statistics for Sociologists I	
STAT 301	Introduction to Statistical Methods	
STAT 371	Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences	
Chemistry		
Complete one of the following:		5-9
CHEM 103 & CHEM 104	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry II	
CHEM 109	Advanced General Chemistry	
Complete one of the following:		3
CHEM 341	Elementary Organic Chemistry	
CHEM 343	Organic Chemistry I	
Complete one of the following:		3
BIOCHEM 301	Survey of Biochemistry	
BIOCHEM 501	Introduction to Biochemistry	
Biology		
Complete one of the following:		5
ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY 101 & ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY 102	Animal Biology and Animal Biology Laboratory	
ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY/ BOTANY 151	Introductory Biology	
Complete one of the following:		5
MICROBIO 101 & MICROBIO 102	General Microbiology and General Microbiology Laboratory	
MICROBIO 303 & MICROBIO 304	Biology of Microorganisms and Biology of Microorganisms Laboratory	
Foundation		
ANAT&PHY 335	Physiology	5
PSYCH 202	Introduction to Psychology	3

GEN BUS 310	Fundamentals of Accounting and Finance for Non-Business Majors	3
GEN BUS 360	Workplace Writing and Communication	3
Core		
FOOD SCI 301	Introduction to the Science and Technology of Food	3
FOOD SCI 437	Food Service Operations	4
NUTR SCI 200	Professional Skills in Dietetics	1
NUTR SCI 332	Human Nutritional Needs	3
NUTR SCI 431	Nutrition in the Life Span	3
BIOCHEM/NUTR SCI 510	Nutritional Biochemistry and Metabolism	3
NUTR SCI 540	Community Nutrition and Health Equity	3
NUTR SCI 631	Clinical Nutrition I	3
NUTR SCI 632	Clinical Nutrition II	3
Capstone		
NUTR SCI 500	Undergraduate Capstone Seminar Laboratory	1
NUTR SCI 641	Applications in Clinical Nutrition I	1
NUTR SCI 642	Applications in Clinical Nutrition II	1
Total Credits		**70-77**

LEARNING OUTCOMES

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Obtains and can articulate specialized knowledge in the field of nutritional sciences and dietetics along with an education broad enough to meet the challenges of future careers and opportunities.
2. Obtains and can articulate foundational knowledge in areas relevant to the field of nutrition and dietetics.
3. Communicates complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner through both written and oral presentations.
4. Demonstrates quantitative literacy in math and statistics relevant to nutritional sciences and dietetics.
5. Demonstrates the ability to think critically and creatively, to synthesize, analyze, and integrate ideas for decision making and problem solving.
6. Develops the skills for life-long learning and is capable of locating, interpreting, and critically evaluating professional literature and current research.
7. Develops a global perspective and an appreciation for the interdependencies among individuals and their workplaces, communities, environments, and world; and an understanding of the interrelationships between science and society.
8. Develops a respect for truth, a tolerance for diverse views, and a strong sense of personal and professional ethics.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN—NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES NUTRITION AND DIETETICS DEGREE

Students must complete at least 120 total credits to be eligible for graduation.

First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CHEM 103 or MATH 112	3-4	CHEM 104	5
General Education	3	PSYCH 202	3-4
CALS First Year Seminar	1	BIOLOGY/ ZOOLOGY 101	3
General Education	3-4	BIOLOGY/ ZOOLOGY 102	2
Elective (NUTR SCI 132 recommended)	3	Elective	3
	13-15		**16-17**

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CHEM 341	3	NUTR SCI 332	3
MICROBIO 101 or 303	3	ANAT&PHY 335	5
MICROBIO 102 or 304	2	GEN BUS 360 or 310	3
General Education	3	Statistics Requirement	3-4
Electives	3-4		
	14-15		**14-15**

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
FOOD SCI 301	3	NUTR SCI 431	3
GEN BUS 310 or 360	3	NUTR SCI/ BIOCHEM 510	3
BIOCHEM 501 or 301	3	NUTR SCI 540	3
Electives	6-7	CALS International Comparisons	3
		General Education	3-4
	15-16		**15-16**

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
NUTR SCI 200	1	NUTR SCI 632	3
NUTR SCI 631	3	NUTR SCI 642	1
NUTR SCI 641	1	Electives	11
FOOD SCI 437	4		
NUTR SCI 500	1		
Electives	6		
	16		**15**

Total Credits 118-125

ADVISING AND CAREERS

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ADVISING

Students are assigned a professional advisor who assists them with building their personalized Wisconsin Experience – including a strong curriculum to match student interests – and provides advising on career paths including graduate school or pursuing advanced degrees in the health sciences.

Professors provide mentorship to students in the program through work on faculty-led research, including learning research paper- and grant-writing skills, communicating about scientific concepts, and presenting research results to different audiences.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Alumni of the program are working as Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs), clinical nutritionists, physician assistants, nutrition directors and counselors, and health coaches. RDNs work in hospitals, outpatient clinics, schools, colleges, wellness programs, and nursing homes, as well as in public health agencies, the food industry, and research labs. See the Certification/Licensure tab to learn more about the requirements to become an RDN.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics offers more information on career paths (https://www.eatrightpro.org/about-us/become-an-rdn-or-dtr/high-school-students/exploring-a-career-in-dietetics/) in dietetics.

Students can connect with CALS Career Services (https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate/current-students/career-services/) to explore various career paths and opportunities.

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Dietetics and Nutrition Club (DNC) (https://nutrisci.wisc.edu/undergraduate/dietetics-and-nutrition-club/), open to undergraduate and graduate students, hosts biweekly evening meetings featuring speakers on many topics related to nutrition. The group also assists students in finding volunteer and job opportunities in the field of nutrition.

Students can join the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (http://eatright.org/), the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals, providing public information on advocacy, leadership, career development, dietetics resources, position, and practice papers.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERING

Students in the program volunteer throughout the community on projects related to nutrition and food through student organizations like Slow Food UW (https://win.wisc.edu/organization/slowfood-uw/) or the Campus Food Shed (https://goldman.horticulture.wisc.edu/outreach-and-program-resources/uw-campus-food-shed/). Several students have developed their own community projects to educate people about nutrition and to fight food insecurity.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Faculty and students in the program have many connections with global activities. The UW Mobile Clinic and Health Care in Uganda (https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/program/?programId=532) study abroad program provides students an opportunity to visit Uganda and learn about nutrition and public health. The Village Health Project student organization (http://villagehealthproject.org/) grew out of students traveling to Uganda on UW–Madison programs and supports ongoing public health projects in the region.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate students have the opportunity to participate in independent research in labs to learn research techniques. Students can expand their scientific knowledge outside of the classroom and contribute to ongoing papers, research, and discoveries. These experiences lead some students to pursue graduate studies in research after graduation. Read more about faculty research opportunities (https://nutrisci.wisc.edu/people/faculty-staff/).

CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

REGISTERED DIETITIAN NUTRITIONIST (RDN) CREDENTIAL

A Nutritional Sciences BS in Nutrition and Dietetics fulfills the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) portion of the DPD + Dietetic Internship pathway to become an RDN. Following completion of the Nutritional Sciences BS in Nutrition and Dietetics (DPD), students must complete a supervised practicum (dietetic internship) and a master's degree to be eligible to sit for the national RDN examination.

For more information see: https://www.eatright.org/become-an-rdn (https://www.eatright.org/become-an-rdn/).

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences awards tens of thousands of dollars in scholarship funds (https://nutrisci.wisc.edu/undergraduate/scholarships/) for students each year, and Nutrition and Dietetics students are also eligible for scholarships in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-students/financing-your-education/cals-scholarships/).

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation provides dietetic scholarships to students. Visit eatrightfoundation.secure-platform.com/a (https://eatrightfoundation.secure-platform.com/a/) for more information.

ACCREDITATION

ACCREDITATION

Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/)

Accreditation status: Accredited. Next accreditation review: 2027.