



Master of Professional Studies in Nutritional Sciences



PennState
World Campus

A world of possibilities.
Online.

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“Penn State’s online Master of Professional Studies in Nutritional Sciences program can help you stand apart from your peers by providing you the opportunity to advance your knowledge and skills in evidence-based practice while developing leadership skills. This unique program offers options to complete the master’s

degree on its own or with an Experiential Track that is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) to lead to the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) credential.

We’re committed to the quality of a Penn State education and proud to be affiliated with Penn State World Campus, which has been consistently ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top providers of online education. I’m very excited about everything that this MPS program has to offer, and I invite you to learn more about it.”

—Gina Pazzaglia, Ph.D., RDN
Director, Online Master of Professional Studies in Nutritional Sciences

Master of Professional Studies in Nutritional Sciences

Penn State's Master of Professional Studies (MPS) in Nutritional Sciences is a 30-credit program, offered online through Penn State World Campus, that offers a strong foundation in nutrition knowledge, leadership skills, and evidence-based practice in the profession of nutrition and dietetics.

This online master's program is designed for:

- › Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) who are interested in enhancing their careers by advancing their skills
- › professionals who hold undergraduate degrees in nutrition or health-related fields who want to become RDNs
- › professionals seeking cross-training and advanced knowledge in nutrition to complement current practice
- › professionals seeking a career change to the field of nutrition

The program highlights the advanced professional practice of nutrition and

dietetics. Your course assignments will be directly applicable to real-life work experiences, and you will be taught by faculty from Penn State's Department of Nutritional Sciences in the College of Health and Human Development, known globally for leading-edge food and nutrition research and practice. As you progress through the curriculum, you can enhance your critical thinking and problem-solving skills and apply them immediately to your current work environment.

Thanks to our convenient online learning format, you can study whenever and wherever it suits you, which gives you the flexibility to continue working at your current job while you earn a high-quality Penn State degree. And you will have access to members of our student support teams—dedicated professionals who are just as vested in your success as they are in the success of our resident students.

worldcampus.psu.edu/nutrition



Nutritional Sciences Curriculum

Through innovative and engaging teaching strategies, the curriculum in Penn State's online MPS in Nutritional Sciences program is designed to position you for career success in the health and wellness sector.

Your course work will cover topics such as:

- › Advanced Clinical Nutrition
- › Advanced Community Nutrition and Education
- › Advanced Nutrient Metabolism
- › Advanced Nutrition Counseling
- › Applied Statistics
- › Leadership Concepts and Application for the Nutrition Profession
- › Leadership in the Nutrition Profession
- › Nutritional Assessment and Diagnosis
- › Research Methods

Additionally, you'll have the opportunity to learn the communication and organizational skills you'll need to work with individual clients and the community as well as lead other professionals on cross-functional health care teams.

You will also complete a capstone project through which you can gain experience in identifying evidence-based solutions to improve nutrition practice. Your project will address a real-life workplace issue and will be tailored to your unique experiences, professional goals, and personal interests.

To view the full course list, visit:

worldcampus.psu.edu/nutrition-courses

“The Nutritional Assessment and Diagnosis class combined the most current science with a solid foundation of practical and realistic skills, delving into content that is useful now and will be for years to come.”

—Marissa W., Student, MPS in Nutritional Sciences



Experiential Track (Pathway to RDN Credential)

The Master of Professional Studies (MPS) in Nutritional Sciences program offers an optional Experiential Track that is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) as a Future Education Model Graduate Program that can lead to RDN credential eligibility.

The Experiential Track of the MPS in Nutritional Sciences is a competency-based, full-time, 24-month program that integrates the online MPS in Nutritional Sciences graduate course work with in-residence, supervised experiential learning in one of two Pennsylvania locations: Penn State University Park or Hershey.

You must earn a minimum of 39 credits to complete the Experiential Track. This includes 30 credits from the MPS in Nutritional Sciences plus a minimum of 9 additional credits focusing on food systems and organization management and specialty areas of supervised experiential learning. Upon graduation, you will receive a Verification Statement and will be eligible to sit for the RDN exam.

For more information, please visit: worldcampus.psu.edu/nutrition-experiential-track

“I am grateful for the instruction in this program. My professor was able to challenge, teach, and support me as I developed my research skills. In addition, she helped me develop my communication and writing skills, two areas I’ve been focusing on throughout my graduate school experience.”

—Paige V., Student, MPS in Nutritional Sciences



Career Opportunities for Graduates

Due to an increased understanding of how nutrition and diet play an integral role in human health, continued growth is expected in the demand for professionals with the skill set needed to enact positive, healthy-living changes at both the individual and community levels. Greater access to health care, an aging population, and a focus on preventive medicine have also helped increase the job opportunities in the nutrition field.

This program will help you acquire knowledge, gain leadership skills, learn to evaluate scientific evidence-based research, and translate these findings in different professional settings, including:

- › hospitals
- › clinics and outpatient care centers
- › schools
- › medical group practices
- › federal, state, and public health agencies
- › corporate wellness
- › the food industry
- › business and technology
- › education and research
- › nutritional consultation services

As a Penn State student and graduate, you will create connections with a dynamic network of other students, faculty, and alumni that can open the door to positions and employers you may never have considered.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the online learning environment like?

Collaboration

Penn State has many years of experience providing global access to a real university education, so you can be assured that the course content provides far more than a textbook on a screen. The online nutritional sciences program is a collaboration between Penn State World Campus and Penn State's Department of Nutritional Sciences in the College of Health and Human Development. The partnership connects you with world-renowned faculty who can help you integrate cutting-edge food and nutrition research into your own practice skills.

Flexibility and convenience

Penn State knows that adults need flexible and convenient learning options in order to continue meeting their professional and personal commitments. You can take courses when and where you please, earning your degree at your own pace.

Reputation

Penn State is universally regarded as one of the finest educational institutions in the United States. Our undergraduate nutrition program meets the accreditation standards set by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics, and our graduate program ranks among the best in the nation. Putting a Penn State nutritional sciences master's degree on your résumé is a great way to prove to current and potential employers that you are a well-educated professional.



What is a master of professional studies degree?

A master of professional studies degree is an industry-oriented master's degree that emphasizes practical skills geared toward current and aspiring professionals. You can learn how to apply your knowledge as a professional practitioner to the field of nutrition by focusing on real-life work experiences during your course work.

Can I obtain financial aid to pay for my courses?

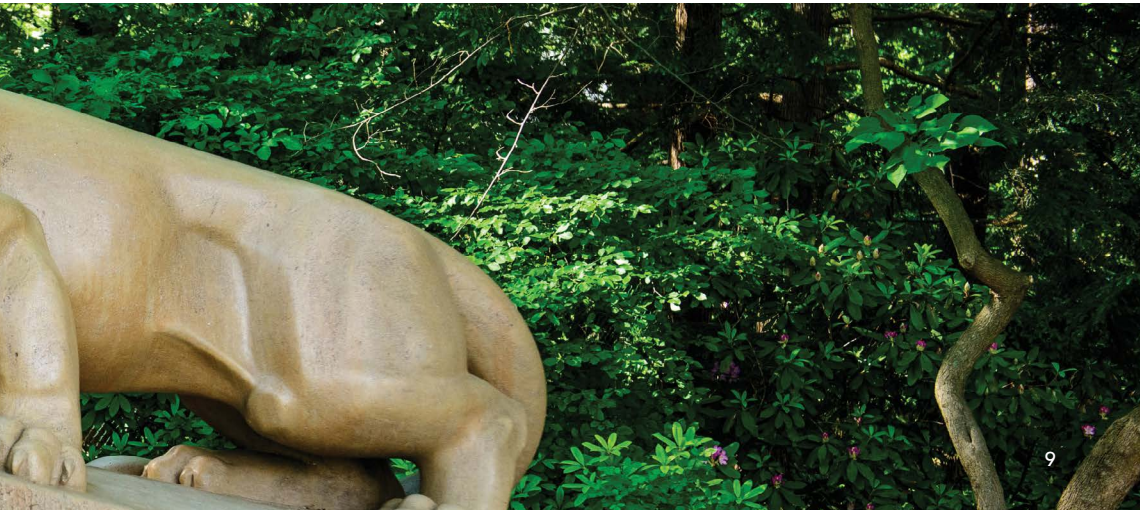
Penn State realizes that one of the greatest challenges of pursuing your education is the cost. That's why our student support teams have

been trained to help you make the most of the financial aid options and opportunities available to you. For more information, please visit:

[worldcampus.psu.edu/
tuition-and-financial-aid](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid)

Is this online program the real Penn State?

Yes. Penn State World Campus was launched in 1998 as Penn State's online campus. It has since grown into one of the most highly regarded online campuses—extending Penn State's reach across the world. No distinction will be made on your official Penn State diploma that your courses were completed at a distance.





“All of the professors are easily accessible and truly care about my learning. If I am struggling with a topic, they are willing to take the time to discuss it with me either via email or a video call to make sure I fully understand it.”

—Lindsay H., Student, MPS in Nutritional Sciences

Begin Your Application Today

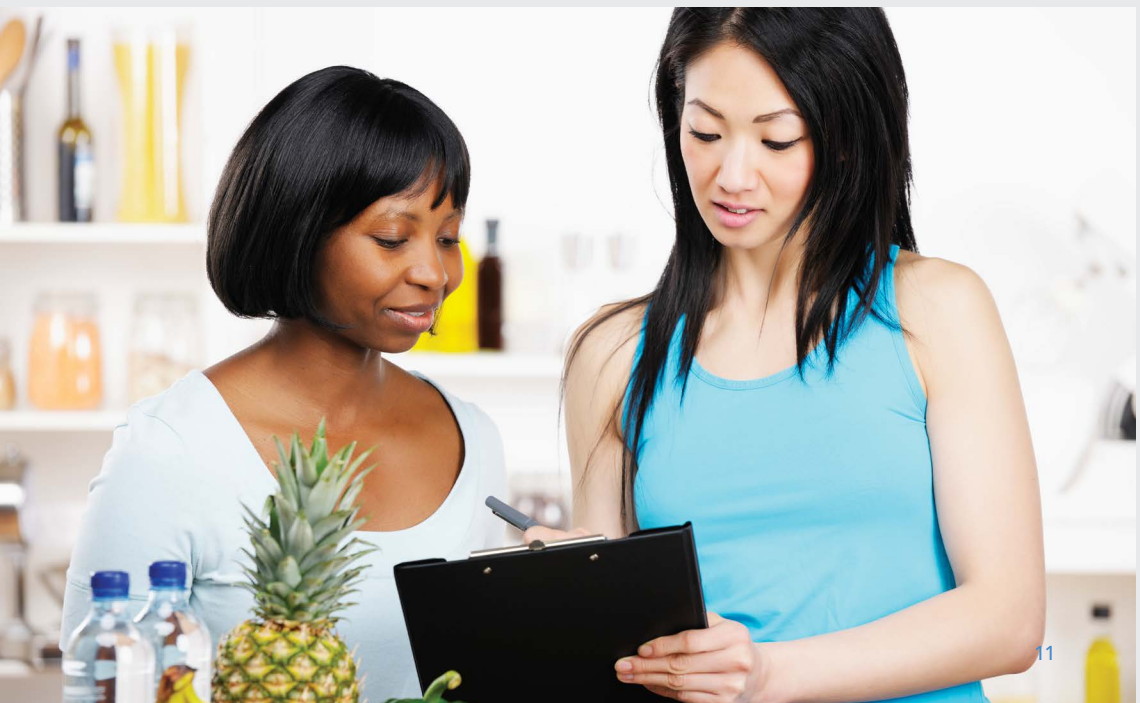
Your admission into the MPS in Nutritional Sciences program will be determined by the quality of your credentials after a thorough review of your completed application portfolio.

Your application portfolio must include:

- › complete online application form and fee
- › transcripts from each postsecondary institution attended
- › GRE scores (may be waived for applicants who have five or more years of professional work experience or who have earned a graduate degree)
- › TOEFL or IELTS scores, if applicable
- › references
- › personal statement
- › résumé

Additional requirements and prerequisites for the MPS in Nutritional Sciences and Experiential Track can be found on the program website. To view this additional information or to get started on your application, please visit:

worldcampus.psu.edu/nutrition-apply



Contact Us

Admissions Questions

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