The Department of Nutritional Sciences (NSCI) offers graduate study leading to a Graduate Certificate in Dietetics, Master of Science degree in Nutritional Sciences and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Nutritional Sciences. Graduate study in NSCI emphasizes the conduct and application of research to the field of human nutrition. Graduate students work with an advisor and advisory committee to develop flexible, yet rigorous programs of study and research that meet the degree requirements and each student’s professional goals within an area of specialization in the field.

The Plan of Study (POS) includes 18 credit hours, including the dietetic internship practicum courses. The practicum courses fulfill the supervised practice requirements of ACEND.

An online Master of Science degree in Nutritional Sciences with an option in Dietetics is also offered to Registered Dietitians (RD), individuals who are RD eligible, or have completed a Didactic Program in Dietetics. OSU offers this degree program as a member of the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (Great Plains IDEA) which provides the opportunity for eligible individuals to study with faculty from eight universities in the Alliance via Internet-based courses. The MS in Dietetics requires completion of 36 credit hours, including nine core credits, six OSU Nutritional Sciences Core credits, 18 elective credits and NSCI 5843 Non-thesis Graduate Capstone. A faculty advisor and the graduate committee from the Nutritional Sciences department must approve a student’s program of study. More detailed information can be found at: gpidea.okstate.edu (http://gpidea.okstate.edu).

The Doctor of Philosophy Degree

The PhD degree is awarded in Nutritional Sciences. Two programs are available: a 60-hour program for MS graduates and an 80-hour program for BS graduates. The focus of the program is to prepare individuals for careers in a variety of areas including higher education, industry, healthcare and governmental programs. Admission to the program is competitive and applicants are expected to provide evidence of exceptional academic ability and preparation, a statement of goals and letters of recommendation. Grade-point average in previous undergraduate, professional school and graduate coursework are considered in the evaluation of the applicant. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are optional. If a thesis was not required as a component of the applicant’s MS program, the student’s advisory committee reserves the right to determine if a thesis or thesis-equivalent project must be completed.

Students accepted into the 60-hour credit hour PhD option must have completed 30 hours of graduate coursework in nutrition or an area of specialization such as biochemistry, biology, dietetics, public health, exercise science, food science, hospitality/restaurant management, or other major field related to the desired area of study. A master’s degree is highly preferred but not required. If a thesis was not completed as a part of the graduate coursework, the student’s advisory committee reserves the right to determine if a thesis or thesis-equivalent project must be completed. Students with a degree or graduate coursework in a subject area other than nutrition may be considered for provisional admission with courses completed in the first year of admission to assure a basic nutrition foundation and earning a 3.0 or higher GPA. The graduate faculty committee will determine which courses must be completed within the first year of admission; the courses will be indicated in the applicant’s admission letter.

Students accepted into the 80-hour credit hour PhD option must hold a Bachelor of Science (BS) in nutrition or an area of specialization such as biochemistry, biology, dietetics, public health, exercise science, food science, hospitality/restaurant management, or other major field related to the desired area of study. Students with a degree in a subject area other than nutrition may be considered for provisional admission with completion of courses in the first year of admission to assure a basic nutrition foundation and the student earns a 3.0 or higher GPA. The graduate faculty committee will determine which courses must be completed within the first year of admission and will be indicated in the applicant’s admission letter.
The PhD program includes a strong emphasis on research in areas ranging from basic molecular and cellular sciences to clinical and community applications. Students also gain experience in resource generation, knowledge sharing and community engagement. Each program of study is designed by the student under direction of his/her faculty advisor and advisory committee to develop the student’s competence in an area of specialization and research methodologies. Doctoral training includes 15-30 hours of dissertation research, a qualifying examination covering core nutrition knowledge, a comprehensive examination focused on the area of specialization and participation in research throughout the program.

More detailed information on graduate study in the Department of Nutritional Sciences can be obtained by writing the graduate coordinator, or accessing the website at Department of Nutritional Sciences, Graduate Programs (https://education.okstate.edu/departments-programs/nutritional-sciences/graduate.html).