



FOOD SCIENCE AND HUMAN NUTRITION COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Coordinated Master's Program in Dietetics

Future Requirements

*Effective January 1, 2024, the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) will require a minimum of a master's degree to be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN). In order to be approved for registration examination eligibility with a bachelor's degree, an individual must meet all eligibility requirements and be submitted into CDR's Registration Eligibility Processing System (REPS) before **12:00 midnight Central Time, December 31, 2023**. For more information about this requirement visit CDR's website: <https://www.cdrnet.org/graduatedegree>. In addition, CDR requires that individuals complete coursework and supervised practice in program(s) accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). Graduates who successfully complete the ACEND-accredited [program type] program at [Institution name] are eligible to [apply to an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program/apply to take the CDR credentialing exam to become an RDN].*

In most states, graduates also must obtain licensure or certification to practice. For more information about state licensure requirements [click here](#). Currently, Colorado does NOT require licensure or certification.

For more information about educational pathways to become a RDN [click here](#).

Program Description

The Coordinated Master's Program in Dietetics (CMPD) is a Plan B Master's program with an academic emphasis in Community Nutrition. This program provides coursework and supervised practice rotations in Community Nutrition, Clinical Nutrition and Food Service Management to prepare students to take the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) credentialing examination for registered dietitian nutritionists.

Only current CSU FSHN graduate students are eligible to apply to the CMPD. Students must first be accepted into our department's graduate program and then submit an application for the CMPD during their first or second year of graduate school. In most cases, students will not have completed sufficient coursework to apply until their second year.

35 graduate level credits are required for the MS degree and an additional 15 credits are required for the CMPD supervised practice (internship). Until June 2022, the minimum hours required for supervised practice have been reduced from 1260 to 1000. (Pending decisions by our accreditation body, the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), the number of hours may return to 1260.) Students will complete the required 15 credits (1000 supervised practice hours) in these rotations: 400 hours Clinical Nutrition, 300 hours Food Service Management, and 300 hours Community Nutrition.

This full-time accredited program will require up to 2 and 3/4 years to complete. Depending on prior coursework, some students will need to complete both the basic prerequisites for entry into our MS program and Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) required coursework for the CMPD program. See the CMPD [Course Completion Requirements](#) for further information.

[Click here for the CSU Academic Calendar](#)

Program Mission and Vision

The CMPD program mission is to prepare entry-level registered dietitian nutritionists for careers to improve the health of individuals and communities through optimal nutrition practices. The vision of the program is that all graduates will possess critical thinking skills to provide evidence-based nutrition care and education to individuals and groups.

Program Goals and Objectives

Goal 1. The program will prepare graduates to provide evidence-based nutrition services to individuals and groups.

Objective 1. Over a 3-year period, 100% of program graduates will have completed a nutrition-related research project.

Outcome Measure: Program Director will confirm completion of research project through review of departmental graduation records.

Objective 2. Of graduates who seek employment, 80% are employed in nutrition and dietetics or related fields within 12 months of graduation.

Outcome Measure: Program Director will confirm graduate place of employment through graduate survey and LinkedIn profiles.

Objective 3. Over a 3-year period, at least 80% of CMPD graduates will be considered well prepared” by their employer for entry-level practice and provide evidence-based care and/or education in nutrition and dietetics or related fields.

Outcome Measure: Program Director will assess employer opinions of graduate preparation for entry-level practice via employer survey.

Goal 2. The program will prepare graduates for successful completion of the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists.

Objective 1. At least 80% of program students complete program/degree requirements within 4 years (150% of the program length).

Outcome Measure: Program Director will monitor students' progress twice yearly through review of departmental graduate records.

Objective 2. 80% of program graduates take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within 12 months of program completion.

Outcome Measure: On a semi-annual basis, Program Director will compare Registration Examination for Dietitians reports from Pearson VUE to cohorts of recent program graduates.

Objective 3. The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%.

Outcome Measure: On a semi-annual basis, Program Director will compare Registration Examination for Dietitians reports from Pearson VUE to cohorts of recent program graduates.

Objective 4. Upon completion of the Coordinated Master's Program in Dietetics, at least 80% of graduates will "agree" or "strongly agree" that the program was effective in preparing them for the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists.

Outcome Measure: Program director will assess graduates' opinions of exam preparation via graduate survey.

Program outcomes data is available upon request.

CMPD Application Procedures

The Coordinated Master's Program in Dietetics is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190 Chicago, IL 60606 (312-899-5400). Further information is available at Eatrightpro.org/ACEND.

Only current FSHN graduate students are eligible to apply to the CMPD. Exact dates will be announced to all FSHN graduate students by email each fall semester. The application will include a statement of professional goals and objectives, the completed Dietetic Internship Program Application (available from the department), two letters of recommendation (one from a professor who is also the advisor and one from a work supervisor) and a plan for completion of all CMPD course requirements. Notification of acceptance is made by late January with students beginning the CMPD the following fall semester.

Required Coursework Before and During the CMPD

All students must satisfy the requirements for the MS program, CMPD required coursework, and ACEND required courses. Most courses will satisfy requirements for all 3 of these programs. Additionally, students must hold a current ServSafe® Food Protection Manager Certification throughout their supervised practice rotations.

Prerequisite Coursework for the MS Degree:

- 1 semester General Chemistry with lab
- 1 semester Organic Chemistry with lab
- 1 semester Biochemistry
- 1 semester Biology with lab
- 1 semester Physiology with lab or 2 semesters of Anatomy and Physiology
- 1 semester Human Nutrition (FSHN 350, online FSHN 530) – *Recommended for nutrition students without a background in nutrition or biochemistry.* This course MUST be taken prior to starting the first semester of the graduate (e.g. MS) program.

CMPD Course Completion Requirements

These courses must be completed if enrolled in the CMPD:

- FSHN 500: Food Systems, Nutrition and Food Security
 - FSHN 520/521: Advanced Medical Nutrition Therapy and lab
 - FSHN 525: Nutrition Education Theory and Practice
 - FSHN 550: Advanced Nutritional Science I
 - FSHN 551: Advanced Nutritional Science II
 - FSHN 620: Community Nutrition Planning and Evaluation
 - FSHN 628: Advanced Nutrition Counseling Techniques
 - FSHN 640: Selected Topics in Nutritional Epidemiology
 - FSHN 650A: Recent Developments in Human Nutrition: Proteins, Vitamins and Minerals or
 - FSHN 650B: Recent Developments in Human Nutrition: Carbohydrates, Lipids and Energy or
 - FSHN 650C: Recent Developments in Human Nutrition: Genomic, Proteomics, and Metabolomics
 - FSHN 660: Women's Issues in Lifecycle Nutrition
 - FSHN 686A: Practicum: Counseling
 - FSHN 692: Seminar
 - FSHN 698B: Research: Nutrition
 - FSHN 587A: Internship: Clinical Dietetics
 - FSHN 587B: Internship: Community Dietetics
 - FSHN 587C: Internship: Food Service Management
 - Statistics course approved by graduate advisor
- *For descriptions of the above courses, refer to the [FSHN MS Courses](#)

ACEND Course Completion Requirements for the CMPD

The courses listed below are required by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) and the CMPD. These courses cannot, however, be counted toward a graduate program of study. There are regular and challenge course options for many of these required courses.

- FSHN 300: Food Principles and Applications – can be challenged
Spring and Fall but recommended to take course; must
be completed concurrently or before FSHN 301
- FSHN 301: Food Principles and Applications Laboratory – no
challenge option
- FSHN 386A: Practicum: Food Service Management – no
challenge option
- RRM 310: Food Service Systems: Operations – can be
challenged
- RRM 311: Food Service Systems: Production and Purchasing –
can be challenged
- MGT 305: Fundamentals of Management – can be challenged
- 1 semester General Psychology
- 1 semester Microbiology with lab
- 1 semester Sociology or other behavioral science

**For description of the above courses, refer to the [general course catalog](#). Contact the CMPD director for descriptions of the challenge versions for these courses.

ServSafe® Food Protection Manager Certification

Students must hold a current ServSafe® Food Protection Manager Certification throughout their entire supervised practice rotations. There are course (FSHN 496E/FSHN 696A) and non-course options to acquire the ServSafe® Food Protection Manager Certification, however, none of them can count towards the 35 required credits for a graduate program of study. Contact the CMPD Program Director or Internship and Practicum Coordinator for details.

CMPD Recommended Program of Study

Year 1

Fall	Spring	Summer
FSHN 500 (2 cr)	FSHN 550 (3 cr)	FSHN 698B (2 cr)
FSHN 525 (2 cr)	FSHN 620 (3 cr)	
FSHN 551 (3 cr)	Statistics (3-4 cr)	
FSHN 628 (2 cr)		
FSHN 686A (1 cr; can be taken in the spring)		
Any Additional ACEND-Required Courses		
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***Additional ACEND required courses: FSHN 300^a, FSHN 301, RRM 310^a, RRM 311^a or other needed (e.g. microbiology and lab, psychology, management, ServSafe® Food Protection Manager Certification^b)

Year 2

Fall	Spring	Summer
FSHN 640 (2 cr)	FSHN 650C ^c (if A or B not taken; 2 cr)	FSHN 698B (2 cr)
FSHN 650A or B ^c (2 cr)	FSHN 660 (2 cr)	

FSHN 698B (2 cr; can be divided into 1 cr. for fall and spring semester)	FSHN 692 (1 cr)	
	FSHN 520/521 (4 cr.)	
Any Additional ACEND-Required Courses		
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***Additional ACEND required courses: FSHN 300^a, FSHN 301, RRM 310^a, RRM 311^a or other needed (e.g. microbiology and lab, psychology, management, ServSafe® Food Protection Manager Certification^b)

Year 3

Fall	Spring
FSHN 587A, B or C (variable credits) ^d	FSHN 587A, B or C (variable credits) ^d

^aChallenge exam/project; cannot be counted toward a graduate program of study; can take the actual undergraduate course if prefer.

^bCan be taken for 1 credit (FSHN 696A: Group Study: Food Safety) or study on own and arrange for exam through the department; cannot be counted toward a graduate program of study.

^cFSHN 650A is offered in Fall of odd years, FSHN 650B is offered Fall of even years, FSHN 650C is offered Spring of even years.

^dTotal of 15 credits for fall and spring semesters

Supervised Practice Rotations

- FSHN 587A: Internship - Clinical Dietetics**
 400 hours of medical nutrition therapy including nutrition support in critical care, trauma, digestive tract disorders, diabetes, renal, oncology, and cardiac nutrition. Placement at progressive hospitals and regional medical centers.
- FSHN 587B: Internship - Community Dietetics**
 300 hours of community nutrition including placement in WIC, state health department, Extension, EFNEP, food bank and/or senior nutrition programs. Involvement in community health needs assessment, program planning, delivery and evaluation.
- FSHN 587C: Internship - Food Service Management**
 300 hours of practice in hospital food service, university residence hall dining, or K-12 school food service. Involvement in personnel management, purchasing, inventory control, menu planning and evaluation and staff development/in-service education.

Approximate Graduate Tuition and Program Costs

Graduate tuition and fees are approximate and subject to change without notice. Exact costs are dependent upon the number of credits taken and each student's unique circumstance. The scenario below assumes 35 credits for the MS degree plus 18 credits for CMPD supervised practice. Based on 2018-2019 costs.

Approximate Graduate Tuition and Fees for 2.75 years

Tuition and Fees	Colorado Resident:	Non-Resident:
Tuition	\$29,794	\$73,052
General fees	\$4,889	\$4,889
Technology fees	\$176	\$176
University fees	\$1,829	\$1,826
Transportation fee	\$185	\$185
TOTAL	\$36,873	\$80,131

Additional CMPD estimated expenses may include, but are not limited to:

Expenses	Estimated Cost
Health Insurance	\$1,477/semester
Textbooks/supplies	\$570/semester
Housing and meals	\$4,536/semester
Background checks	\$75
Drug screening	\$50
Transportation/Insurance.	\$337/semester
Immunizations	\$100
Lab coat, calculator	\$50

Stipend and Financial Aid

The University has a Financial Aid office to assist students with financial aid (loans and scholarships) <https://financialaid.colostate.edu/scholarships/> Students in the CMPD are eligible for loans from the Guaranteed Student Loan Program. Students are also eligible to apply for College of Health and Human Sciences scholarships that are awarded on a competitive basis.

Insurance Requirements

Students are required to purchase health insurance (or provide evidence of existing coverage). The University will cover professional liability insurance. Students may be covered by Worker's Compensation as authorized volunteers of the University while at assigned off-campus sites, but not while traveling to and from assigned sites. It is suggested that students purchase comprehensive automobile insurance coverage since Workman's Compensation does not cover the student for accidents that occur during the commute to and from the supervised practice site.

Credit for Prior Learning

Credit for prior learning (didactic only) will be given to students who have completed an accredited DP program. This credit will be limited to topics in Food Principles and Application, Food Service Management, Food Service Systems and Purchasing. Contact the CMPD Program Director for confirmation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are the pathways for becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist?

A. There are several paths to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). Information about these pathways is available at [Eat Right Pro - 5 Steps to Become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist](#). More information is available at www.cdrnet.org

Q. What is the process for becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist through the CMPD?

A. The Coordinated Master's Program in Dietetics at Colorado State University provides students the opportunity to obtain master's degree combined with supervised practice to become an RDN. Graduates of the CMPD will have successfully completed:

- ACEND accredited didactic program requirements,
- all MS degree requirements and,
- 1000 hours of supervised professional practice (dietetic internship).

Upon graduation from the CMPD, students must then pass the Commission on Dietetic Registration national examination for registered dietitian nutritionists. Students will then have earned a MS degree and the RDN credential. The state of Colorado does not have licensure for dietitians/nutritionists. Information regarding state licensure in other states is available at [CDR State Licensure](#)

Beginning January 1, 2024, a minimum of a master's degree and a completed dietetic internship will be required in order to sit for the Commission on Dietetic Registration national examination for registered dietitian nutritionists.

Q. How do I apply to the Coordinated Master's Program in Dietetics (CMPD)?

A. Only current FSHN graduate students are eligible to apply for this internal program. CMPD applications are accepted in December after students' have completed at least one semester in our MS program. Most successful applicants apply in their second year, after they have completed much of their coursework and have gained additional nutrition experiences. Selection is competitive and we typically receive about 11 - 13 applications for up to 7 available positions. The application deadline is early December with the specific date announced by early November. Electronic application materials are made available to all graduate students in the department.

Q. What are the prerequisite courses for the MS program?

A. To be eligible for admission to the CMPD, students must first meet prerequisites for admission into the MS program in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition. See [Prerequisite](#) Coursework for the MS Degree section on this website.

Q. What additional courses must be completed to satisfy CMPD course completion requirements?

A. Courses that satisfy CMPD requirements are listed in the CMPD Course Completion Requirements section of this website. All students must satisfy the requirements for basic prerequisite courses for the MS program, CMPD required courses and ACEND required courses for the CMPD.

Q. What courses must be completed to satisfy ACEND requirements for the CMPD?

A. In addition to the requirements for the MS program, ACEND requires students take the following courses in our CMPD program:

- Psychology
- Microbiology with lab
- MGT 305: Fundamentals of Management
- FSHN 300: Food Principles and Applications
- FSHN 301 Food Principles and Applications Laboratory
- FSHN 310: Food Service Systems: Operations
- FSHN 311: Food Service Systems: Production and Purchasing
- FSHN 386A: Practicum: Food Service Management

Several of these courses are offered as challenge courses and are further described in the ACEND Course Completion Requirements for the CMPD section of this website.

Q. What will strengthen my application for the CMPD?

A. The successful candidate will have:

- experience in a variety of areas related to dietetic practice: clinical, community nutrition and food service management;
- evidence of leadership, self-reliance, initiative, strong oral and written communication skills, and academic excellence
- teaching experience, second language or multi-cultural experiences

Q. If I am not accepted into the CMPD program can I still become a registered dietitian nutritionist?

A. Students who are interested in becoming a registered dietitian nutritionist and who are not accepted into our CMPD program or choose to apply to other dietetic internships can use master's level coursework supplemented with coursework and equivalents from the undergraduate program to meet the didactic program (DP) requirements. This will make them eligible during their final semester to apply for many dietetic internships.

Q. How long does it take to complete the CMPD program?

A. The CMPD is a Plan B Master's program with a specialization in Community Nutrition. It usually takes 2 3/4 years to complete for those without a prior degree in dietetics. Refer to the [CMPD Recommended Program of Study](#) section on this website.

Q. Is it possible to combine the CMPD with a MS in Nutritional Sciences?

A. The CMPD is designed to coordinate with the specialization in Community Nutrition. However, it is possible to combine the CMPD with other specializations. Additional coursework and, possibly, a Plan A thesis may be required so that the combined program may take additional time to complete.

Q. Who do I contact with specific questions about the CMPD?

A. First, examine all the information available on the [Coordinated Master's Program in Dietetics website](#). For specific questions not covered on the website, contact the program director: Brittney Sly, PhD, MPH, RDN brittney.sly@colostate.edu

Q. What is the first year pass rate on the RDN examination of graduates from your program?

A. The first year pass rate for the CMPD is excellent (greater than 90%). Specific information is available upon request.