

MS/PhD in Nutritional Sciences & MS in Personalized Nutrition FAQ

Program-Related:

What kind of graduate degree programs does the Department of Nutritional Sciences offer?

- The Department of Nutritional Sciences offers both a Master of Science and a Doctor of Philosophy in Nutritional Sciences, as well as a Master of Science in Personalized Nutrition. University of Connecticut undergraduates can also pursue a fast track pathway (4 + 1 program) that allows them to earn both a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science in Nutritional Sciences degree in 5 years. Students in the MS and PhD in Nutritional Sciences elect to emphasize one of four areas in human nutrition: Molecular Nutrition, Metabolism, Community/Public Health Nutrition, and Food Science/Nanotechnology. Each emphasis area is interdisciplinary in approach and is supported by a broad range of local, national, and international collaborations. In addition to coursework and graduate exams, the MS in Nutritional Sciences program usually requires a thesis and the Ph.D. program requires a dissertation. The MS in Personalized Nutrition is fully online and does not require a thesis. This specialized MS in Personalized Nutrition uniquely combines courses in nutrigenomics, clinical nutrition, and nutritional biochemistry to provide a foundation of knowledge and skills for Personalized Nutrition professionals.

Are there any online resources that provide details of the NUSC graduate degree programs?

- Yes, we have put together a comprehensive graduate student handbook, which outlines the Nutritional Sciences graduate degree requirements:
http://nusc.uconn.edu/doc/graduate-handbookAndForms_10_3452802990.pdf

Do the different Nutritional Sciences degree concentration areas have the same degree requirements?

- We have certain core requirements that all graduate students must fulfill, including required coursework. However, these do not fulfill the total credit requirements for the degrees, leaving room for more courses which fit the nutrition emphasis of each student. More information can be found here: http://nusc.uconn.edu/doc/graduate-handbookAndForms_10_3452802990.pdf

Do you offer an online graduate degree program?

- Yes, the MS in Personalized Nutrition is a fully online option starting Fall 2021. It consists of 10 graduate-level NUSC courses (30 credits total).

What are the prerequisites for your NUSC graduate programs?

- *MS/PhD in Nutritional Sciences*: Recommended Course Preparation: College-level nutrition, biochemistry, and human physiology. If a student is admitted without taking one of these recommended courses, they would take the course the first semester they are in our grad program before taking the more advanced graduate courses. Thus, it is

recommended that you take these kinds of courses prior to applying for our graduate program to maximize the likelihood of acceptance.

- *MS in Personalized Nutrition*: Requirement: College-level biochemistry or equivalent. Recommended Course Preparation: College-level physiology and nutrition

How long is the time to degree for each graduate degree?

- The time to degree will vary depending on the pace that coursework is completed, research focus, lab or faculty advisor, previous background of student, and progress of the student in the program. For MS in Nutritional Sciences track, the time to degree is usually 2 years, but can be between 1-3 years depending on prior coursework and research thesis progress. For PhD in Nutritional Sciences track, the time to degree is usually between 3-6 years, depending on prior coursework and doctoral dissertation progress. For the MS in Personalized Nutrition, the time to degree is 2 years when following our online course sequence, but students may choose to complete this program over more than 2 years.

Tuition/Fees and Graduate Student Support-Related:

What are the tuition and fees for this program?

Information on graduate tuition & fees for the UConn Graduate School can be found here: <https://bursar.uconn.edu/graduate-students-3/>. The tuition fees are a fixed amount per semester, but tuition depends on the # of credits taken.

The MS in Personalized Nutrition Program is fee-based. A 3-credit course costs ~\$3,000.

Are Graduate Fellowships or Graduate Assistantships available to financially support students?

- There are graduate assistantships available for students accepted into MS or PhD in Nutritional Sciences program. We offer research assistantships (RA) and teaching assistantships (TA). However, these are competitive and are distributed at the discretion of the faculty advisor when accepting students into their lab. The RA and TA may be given at a 50%-100% coverage, which means they provide a stipend and it also waives tuition (although student fees are not waived). More information can be found here: <https://grad.uconn.edu/assistantships/> and here: <https://ovpr.uconn.edu/services/sps/proposals/proposal-preparation/general-cost-principles/budgeting-costing-guide/salaries/>. It is best practice for prospective students to reach out to individual faculty and inquire about funding availability prior to applying to the program.
- If you are interested in applying for the UConn Graduate School Fellowships, you should select the fellowship that you would like to be considered for in the SLATE application system (<https://grad.uconn.edu/financing/fellowships/internal-awards/>).

Application-Related:

I have submitted an application via the UConn Graduate School. What additional application materials are required for the NUSC graduate program?

- We require GRE scores, 3 letters of recommendation, official transcripts, TOEFL (where required), and a personal statement for the application.
- GRE scores are not required for the MS in Personalized Nutrition program and 4+1 BS/MS program.

What is the required score for the GRE?

- There is no minimum GRE score required to apply. However, the score is a crucial criterion for the admission decision.

Due to the pandemic, I'm having trouble getting access to take the GRE. Is there a way for me to get the GRE requirement waived?

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our NUSC graduate committee has recently decided to waive GRE requirements for applications submitted this academic year (for spring/fall 2021 admission).

Are there guidelines for the personal statement?

- The personal statement should describe your interest in pursuing the graduate degree in Nutritional Sciences, and in particular, your reason for applying to the NUSC graduate program at UConn (e.g., state your research interests and which specific faculty you are interested in working with). Usually a statement that is 2-3 pages will suffice.

Is there a GPA requirement?

- Not for the in-person graduate program, however, we do consider GPA and academic program rigor during our evaluation. Additionally, the UConn Graduate School requires a min. 3.0 GPA to hold a graduate assistantship. In contrast to the in-person graduate program, we do require a 3.0 GPA for the MS in Personalized Nutrition online graduate program.

When are the application deadlines?

- Students may be admitted in both fall and spring semesters. Application deadlines are February 15th and October 1st, for fall and spring semesters, respectively.

When are official transcripts required?

- When you apply to our program, you may upload unofficial transcripts. The UConn Graduate School will not request official transcripts until after applicants are accepted at the program-level. They then will audit the admission and require official transcripts as part of that process.

I would like to know if my undergraduate degree from an international institution meets the requirements of a Bachelor's degree at UConn. How do I find this out?

- Please contact the UConn Graduate School. Special requirements of the UConn Graduate School that may apply to international students are found under “Education Requirements” on this webpage: <https://grad.uconn.edu/admissions/requirements/>