



**WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION**

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY 
FIND YOUR ELEMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The mission of the Department of Nutrition in the College of Health Sciences at West Chester University is to shape tomorrow's nutrition and dietetics professionals and leaders through quality, relevant, and innovative teaching, service, and scholarship.

WHY STUDY NUTRITION?

Do you like to help and interact with people? Would you enjoy learning about the intersection of diet, wellness, health, and nutrition? Would you enjoy helping individuals achieve healthy lifestyle goals? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, then a career in nutrition might be for you.

WHY CHOOSE A NUTRITION DEGREE FROM WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY?

- We have been providing a quality, accredited undergraduate dietetics program since 1997, and have prepared thousands of students to become nutrition and dietetics professionals.
- Our faculty members conduct **specialized research**, are respected in their fields of expertise at both state and national levels and share their expertise with our nutrition students.
- Our faculty utilize a variety of **inclusive teaching practices**, methods, and strategies in all courses, including problem-based learning, experiential learning, case studies, service-learning, laboratories, interprofessional education, simulation, and immersive learning.
- Our students **enjoy opportunities** for faculty-student research, networking opportunities with individuals both inside and outside of the university, membership and leadership opportunities in a variety of nutrition clubs on campus and professional dietetics organizations, and access to a state-of-the-art food laboratory, and a simulation laboratory with the most up-to-date equipment.
- Our dietetics program offers an **accelerated BS to MSCN program** and an **accelerated BS to MSCN-DI program**. These programs are a real cost-saving and time-saving benefit for qualified students!
- Our dietetics students are eligible for **WCU internal early admission** to our WCU Dietetic Internship.
- Our faculty members pride themselves on providing empathy, warmth and care to **guide our nutrition students to success!**



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NUTRITION

The Bachelor of Science in Nutrition degree from West Chester University offers students flexibility in career paths within the field of nutrition.

DIDACTIC PROGRAM IN DIETETICS (DPD)

The DPD is the undergraduate dietetics major program of study at West Chester University. The DPD is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). Upon successful completion of both the DPD and University requirements for the dietetics major, graduates will earn a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and a Verification Statement (VS). Students who complete the DPD thereby meet the didactic requirements of ACEND and are eligible to sit for the registration exam to become a dietetic technician (NDTR). After students complete a Master's degree and an ACEND-accredited Supervised Practice Program (i.e. dietetic internship), they are eligible to sit for the registration exam to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN).



The dietetics curriculum integrates the principles derived from several disciplines, including but not limited to nutrition, chemistry, biology, biochemistry, physiology, nutrient metabolism, food science, foodservice management, medical nutrition therapy, and the behavioral and social sciences. This integration of knowledge educates students to optimize human health through dietetics. The curriculum is developed to be sequential so that students move from basic knowledge to applied knowledge and skills.

A career in dietetics includes the practice of medical nutrition therapy, community nutrition, or foodservice management. Areas of employment in dietetics include hospitals, clinics, healthcare facilities, sports nutrition, corporate wellness programs, child nutrition programs, food and nutrition-related businesses and industries, public health departments, research institutions, hospitality venues, government institutions, private practice, and academic settings, to name a few. Most students who complete the DPD proceed to gain acceptance into a Supervised Practice Program (i.e. dietetic internship) on the path towards becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). Students who complete the DPD have also gone on to pursue physician assistant programs, medical school, and accelerated nursing programs.

GRADUATE DEGREE – MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNITY NUTRITION (MSCN)

The MS in Community Nutrition is a research-focused program for those seeking an advanced degree in community nutrition. The MSCN promotes nutritional health and disease prevention in communities with an emphasis on vulnerable populations. The curriculum (33 credits) is offered in an online format and includes courses representing nutrition science, applied nutrition, and research techniques. The program culminates with a capstone paper.

ACCELERATED BS TO MSCN PROGRAM

Students who complete a minimum of 72 credit hours and maintain a GPA of 3.2 or higher are invited to apply to the program. The program allows accepted students to take up to four graduate courses during their final year in the DPD program. These courses satisfy four undergraduate electives in addition to counting as four graduate courses. As a money-saving benefit, these credits are priced at the undergraduate cost per credit.

ACCELERATED BS TO MSCN-DI PROGRAM

DPD students who complete a minimum of 72 credit hours and maintain a GPA of 3.5 or higher are invited to apply to the program. The program allows accepted students to take up to four graduate courses during their final year in the DPD program. These courses satisfy four undergraduate electives in addition to counting as four graduate courses. As a money-saving benefit, these credits are priced at the undergraduate cost per credit. Additionally, the program allows accepted students to complete the remainder of their graduate coursework plus their dietetic internship rotations and coursework in year 5, after completing years 1-4 in the undergraduate program and using their 4 electives in their final year to take the 4 established graduate courses.

DIETETIC INTERNSHIP

The Department of Nutrition in the College of Health Sciences of West Chester University offers one full-time, distance Dietetic Internship (DI) program with two tracks: 1) MSCN DI Track and 2) Post-Masters DI Certificate

Interns complete over 1000 hours of supervised practice divided into four rotations: Community Nutrition, Food Systems Management, Clinical I, and Clinical II. Upon successful completion of the DI program, students are eligible to take the National Registration Examination for Dietitians.

