

DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION

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.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NUTRITION

The Bachelor of Science in Nutrition degree from West Chester University offers students the most flexibility in career paths within the field of nutrition by offering three concentrations: Didactic Program in Dietetics, Lifestyle Nutrition, and Sustainable Food Systems Management.

All Bachelor of Science in Nutrition students take the following core science and nutrition courses:

BIO 100	Basic Biological Sciences
CHE/CRL 107	General Chemistry for the Allied Health Sciences with Laboratory
BIO 259-269	Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II
NTD 200	Nutrition and Culture
NTD 203	Introduction to the Dietetic Profession
NTD 205	Principles of Food Selection and Preparation
NTD 303	Introductory Principles of Human Nutrition
NTD 309	Nutrition Through the Lifecycle
NTD 310	Nutrition Research
NTD 410	Quantity Food Production

Students choose one of the following concentrations within the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition degree:

Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)

The DPD concentration is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) so that students who complete the program are eligible to obtain a Dietetic Internship or similar supervised practice experience to pursue the Registered Dietitian-Nutritionist credential (RD/RDN). A career in Dietetics includes the practice of medical nutrition therapy, community nutrition, or foodservice management.

Additional Courses:

Advanced Human Nutrition
Community Nutrition
Dietetics Education Strategies
Medical Nutrition Therapy
Food Science
Foodservice and Nutrition Systems Management
15 credits - electives

Lifestyle Nutrition

The Lifestyle Nutrition concentration combines nutrition with business, management, and exercise science. Students learn best practices for promoting healthy lifestyles to diverse individuals and groups for positions in non-profit organizations, fitness centers, government health agencies, and health-related businesses. Some students may pursue certification as a health coach or personal trainer with outside agencies

Additional Courses:

Nutrition, Disease, and Health Promotion
Entrepreneurship
Nutrition for Health, Fitness & Sports
Perspectives on Obesity
Lifestyle Practicum
2 Exercise Science courses
4 Business & Marketing Courses
18 credits - electives

Sustainable Food Systems Management

The Sustainable Food Systems Management concentration emphasizes ecological approaches and systems-based thinking for students to develop understanding of local, regional, and international food systems. Students are prepared for positions in food management and sustainability, and careers focused on sustainable food systems in businesses, healthcare, and community-based organizations.

Additional Courses:

Nutrition, Disease, and Health Promotion
Entrepreneurship
Sustainable Food Systems
The Food Chain
Geography Agriculture/
Sustainability
Local Product Development
Food-to-Fork Practicum
4 Business & Marketing Courses
21 credits - electives

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Department of Nutrition

855 S. New St, room 222

West Chester, PA 19383

Jana Davis, secretary

jdavis@wcupa.edu

610-436-2125

Website:

www.wcupa.edu/healthsciences/nutritionanddietetics/

Undergraduate Catalog: nextcatalog.wcupa.edu/undergraduate/health-sciences/nutrition/nutrition-bs/index.html

Graduate Catalog: wcupa.edu/programs/grad/communityNutrition/

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

All three concentrations can lead to related nutrition and health careers.

Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)

The DPD concentration is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). Students who complete this concentration meet the didactic requirements of ACEND and are eligible to sit for the registration exam to become a dietetic technician (NDTR). Students can also apply for an ACEND-accredited supervised practice experience (dietetic internship) that occurs after graduation. After successfully completing this internship, they are eligible to sit for the registration exam to become a registered dietitian-nutritionist (RDN).

Note: As of 2024, a Master's degree will be required to become a RDN.

Lifestyle Nutrition

Students who complete this concentration will be trained as leaders and advocates for organizations that promote health and wellness in: institutional settings, small businesses and the community. Graduates will be skilled to work as a nutrition educator, nutrition/wellness coach, weight loss counselor, and a health program coordinator in settings such as: fitness/wellness industry, private practice, health care, government agencies, public relations, and community health organizations.

Sustainable Food Systems Management

Jobs in food systems management increasingly include sustainability. The Green Restaurant Association offers certification in sustainability in food businesses, the UN Global Compact promotes measurable goals in food systems sustainability, and the US government continues to promote "green" jobs to protect our environment. Graduates might find jobs in school or corporate foodservice administration, events coordination, public health nutrition education, marketing and health promotion or product development. They may also go on for graduate degrees in nutrition, food science, sustainable food systems, or public or business administration.

NUTRITION MINOR

The Nutrition Minor is designed to impart fundamental nutrition knowledge and an interdisciplinary understanding of the relationship among nutrition, health, physical fitness, and well-being. This 18-credit minor includes two required foundational courses (NTD303 Introductory Principles of Human Nutrition and NTD309 Nutrition Throughout the Lifecycle) as well as four nutrition elective courses that cover a broad range of topics.

ADVANCED DEGREE – MASTER'S IN SCIENCE 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.

DIETETIC INTERNSHIP

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

This is a full-time distance program that requires the interns to find and secure their own preceptors/sites. Interns complete over 1200 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.