

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY 
FIND **YOUR** ELEMENT



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

The Department of Nutrition
The Sciences and Engineering Center & The Commons, Room 260
155 University Avenue, West Chester, PA 19383

610-436-2125 • wcupa.edu/healthsciences/nutritionanddietetics



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 by offering two concentrations: Didactic Program in Dietetics and Lifestyle Nutrition.

All Bachelor of Science in Nutrition students take four core science and nine nutrition courses. 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). 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). 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).

Students in this concentration take nine additional nutrition courses and have 12 credits of electives.

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.

Students who complete the DPD have also gone on to pursue physician assistant programs, medical school, and accelerated nursing programs.



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.

Students in this concentration take four additional nutrition courses, two exercise science course, two business & marketing courses and have 18 credits of electives.

Students who complete the Lifestyle Nutrition 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 heath program coordinator in settings such as: fitness/wellness industry, private practice, health care, government agencies, public relations, and community health organizations.

Students who complete the Lifestyle Nutrition concentration have also gone on to pursue accelerated nursing programs, exercise science programs, and integrative medicine programs.



NUTRITION MINOR

The 18-credit minor is designed to impart fundamental nutrition knowledge and an interdisciplinary understanding of the relationship among nutrition, health, physical fitness, and well-being.

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.