



**Master's Degree  
Coordinated Program  
in Dietetics  
Information Packet  
2025-2026**

## Why UIC?

- The University of Illinois Chicago is rated one the **nation's top best value universities** according to the Wall Street Journal.
- We are also one of the nation's **most diverse public research universities**.
- As a federally designated Minority-Serving Institution, UIC welcomes students, staff and faculty from a variety of racial, ethnic, and class backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations and abilities to cultivate a diverse learning community.
- We have been ranked **No. 8 for Social Mobility** by *U.S. News & World Report*
- We have received the "**SEAL OF EXCELENCIA**," a national certification that recognizes colleges and universities for their "unwavering commitment to intentionally serve Latino students, while serving all."
- UIC is a **6x recipient of the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award**, for an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.
- UIC is also Rated Illinois' **best college and university for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students**.

## What is a registered dietitian?

A registered dietitian is a food and nutrition expert who has met the minimum academic and professional requirements to qualify for the credential "RDN," as determined by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND). In addition to RDN credentialing, many states have regulatory laws for dietitians and nutrition practitioners, meaning they require individuals to be licensed by the state in order to practice nutrition in their state. State requirements are frequently met through the same education and training required to become an RDN.

- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment of dietitians and nutritionists is projected to grow 11 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations. The role of food in preventing and treating diseases, such as diabetes, is now well known. More dietitians and nutritionists will be needed to provide care for patients with various medical conditions and to advise people who want to improve their overall health."  
*Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Dietitians and Nutritionists, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dietitians-and-nutritionists.htm> (visited April 22, 2020).*
- Dietitian and Nutritionist were rated #24 in U.S. News and World Report Best Health Care Jobs and #88 in the 100 Best Jobs Rankings for 2020.  
<https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/dietitian-and-nutritionist>
- In their 2019 ranking CareerCast.com analyzed over 200 careers. Dietitians were ranked #50 with a very good work environment, very low stress, and good projected job growth.  
<https://www.careercast.com/jobs-rated/2019-jobs-rated-report?page=2>
- A report on [www.medpagetoday.com](http://www.medpagetoday.com) indicated:  
*The largest creation in healthcare jobs will be in the category of "professional and technical*

*workers," which includes doctors, registered nurses, licensed practical and technical vocational nurses, and allied healthcare professionals, such as dietitians. That category included 6.5 million workers in 2010 and is expected to grow 26% by 2020, to account for more than 8 million workers.*

Walker, Emily P. "Boom in Health Jobs Expected Over Next Decade." MedPageToday. 23 June 2012. Web. 11 July 2012.

- In 2015, the millennial advocacy group Young Invincibles listed dietitians in the top 25 "Best Jobs for Millennials."

This is an exciting time for the field of nutrition and dietetics. There is and will continue to be an increased demand for our expertise and services. On graduate surveys between 2012-2017, >80% of both our CP and NS graduates reported finding employment in the dietetics field within the first year after completing their internships. Additionally, RDs will have the opportunity to make a significant impact in the health of our nation. Our graduates have taken jobs in some unique areas of dietetics, including public relations firms, at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the food industry, the USDA, as well as starting their own consulting practices.

### **What are the educational requirements to become a registered dietitian?**

Registered dietitians must meet the following criteria to earn the RD credential:

1. Complete a bachelor's degree and receive a verification statement from an ACEND-accredited program ([Didactic Program in Dietetics](#), [Coordinated Program](#), [Future Graduate Program](#), [Foreign or International Dietitian Education Program](#)) Note, effective January 1, 2024, a graduate degree is required to be eligible to take the Commission on Dietetic Registration. ([Dietetic registration exam](#).)
2. Complete an ACEND-accredited supervised practice [dietetic internship program](#) or [Individual Supervised Practice Pathway](#) is an option. Supervised practice/experiential learning is combined with the [Coordinated Program](#), [Future Graduate Program](#), and [International Dietitian Education Program](#).
3. Pass the Commission on Dietetic Registration's dietetic [registration exam](#).
4. Gain [licensure](#) in your state of practice, if applicable.
5. Maintain [continuing education](#).

**More info on becoming a dietitian can be found on the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics website at:** <https://www.eatrightpro.org/about-us/become-an-rdn-or-dtr/high-school-students/5-steps-to-become-a-registered-dietitian-nutritionist>

### **What programs are available in the Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition at UIC to become a Registered Dietitian?**

There are two different routes available at UIC that enable a student to start on the path to becoming a registered dietitian.

*\*\*Please note that our programs are designed for students who have not previously completed a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). \*\**

1. Nutrition Science Program with DPD coursework (BS in Nutrition)
2. Master's Coordinated Program (MSCP) (MS in Nutrition with Supervised Practice) \*see page 5 for more information on the MSCP

***Nutrition Science Program with DPD coursework  
Bachelor of Science in Nutrition***

The Nutrition Science (NS) program is intended for students who would like to pursue a career in the field of dietetics. It is also ideal for those who plan on pursuing an advanced degree in nutritional sciences or a professional degree in medicine, dentistry, public health, or other health related field. Many professional programs, such as medical school and Physician Assistant programs are extremely competitive. Candidates with a health-related undergraduate degree will be more well-rounded and interesting to advisors than their general-education prepared competition for these sought-after spots.

The NS program is an ACEND accredited DPD (Didactic Program in Dietetics). If a Nutrition Science (DPD) student would like to pursue dietetics (become an RD), she/he/they have two options.

- Apply for a competitive ACEND accredited dietetic internship (<http://www.eatright.org/students/education/di.aspx>) during his/her/their final semester in the program. The student would begin the internship after successful completion of the UIC DPD.
- Beginning in January 2022, graduates of the Nutrition Science/DPD program will be able to apply for a spot in our Accelerated Master's Degree Coordinated Program. This is a 12 to 15-month program that includes a graduate degree in Nutrition and the required supervised practice/dietetic internship.

After finishing the dietetic internship or MSCP, the student will be eligible to sit for the registration examination for dietitians (<http://www.cdrnet.org/program-director/registration-handbook-information>).

**If you believe that this program is more appropriate for you, please contact Kirsten Straughan at [kstraul@uic.edu](mailto:kstraul@uic.edu) for more information.**

### ***Master's Coordinated Program in Dietetics - MSCP***

The Master's Coordinated Program in Dietetics combines additional graduate-level coursework in nutrition with the didactic curriculum, which is mostly at the undergraduate level, as well as a minimum of 1144 supervised practice hours that enable graduates to sit for the Registration Examination for Dietitians.

This program is ***ideal for career changers*** or those who have a ***degree in an unrelated field*** but would like to become a registered dietitian. The prerequisites will prepare you for the program. Even if your degree is in a completely unrelated area, as long as you have the prerequisites, you are eligible to apply to the MSCP.

#### **Prerequisites**

Prerequisites for the Coordinated Program (MSCP) are listed below.

Students DO need to have the prerequisites finished prior to starting the Coordinated Program. Courses must be equivalent (*determined by program directors or using Transferology: <https://www.transferology.com/state/il?all>*) to those offered by the University of Illinois at Chicago and may be completed at any accredited college or university with a grade of "C" or better.

<b><i>Prerequisite courses for Coordinated Program</i></b>		
<b>Course</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>No. Credits**</b>
English comp I	Introductory course in literature and/or writing.	3
English comp II	Secondary course in literature and/or writing.	3
Speech	Oral communication/public speaking course	3
General Biology*	One general biology course with lab (cell biology focus)	5 with lab
Anatomy and Physiology I*	One course with lab	5 with lab
Anatomy and Physiology II*	One course with lab	5 with lab
General Chemistry I*	One course with lab	5 with lab
Organic Chemistry*	One course (no lab required) <i>We do not accept Survey of Organic and Biochemistry.</i>	4
Biochemistry*	One course <i>We do not accept Survey of Organic and Biochemistry.</i>	3
Foods	One course with lab	3 with lab
Nutrition	One introductory course	3
Mathematics	One course in college algebra or higher <i>We do not accept Statistics</i>	4
Psychology	One course in introductory psychology	3
Sociology	One course in introduction to sociology	3

\*Courses with an asterisk next to them must be taken within five years of starting the program.

At least 4 of the 6 science prerequisites must be complete at the time of application.

**\*\***These are the number of credits for the equivalent course offered at UIC. If the course provided at your institution is within one credit hour, it will be acceptable.

*Note: Pre-requisites are subject to change from time to time. It is up to the candidate to ensure he/she/they have completed the most recent requirements.*

### **COVID-19 Considerations**

The nutrition programs at UIC understand the hardships that the COVID-19 situation is placing on students. Please refer to the statements below, which apply to new (fall 2025/2026) and prospective MSCP students, and current and prospective nutrition science program students.

Online courses and labs will be accepted for prerequisites. Please contact Shayna Oshita for any questions or concerns regarding the program requirements.

Students that have been accepted into the MSCP for Fall 2025 and those applying to the MSCP for Fall 2026 will need to maintain a grade for the prerequisite courses per the policy of requiring a C or higher for prerequisite classes and B average for any pending prerequisites that are completed after acceptance to the program.

We will accept online biochemistry courses, as in class biochemistry can be difficult to find. The following are acceptable courses:

#### **Illinois Institute of Technology**

Course: Biology 401

**IIT Course Schedule**

#### **Oregon State University**

Course: BB 350

**OSU Course Schedule**

#### **University of Minnesota**

Course: BIOC 3021

**UM Course Schedule**

#### **University of New England**

Course: Medical Biochemistry

**UNE Course Schedule**

#### **Iowa State University**

Course: BBMB 404 Biochemistry I

**ISU Course Schedule**



**We recognize that Foods courses are also difficult to find. Many of our prospective students take this course at UIC (HN 110). The following are also acceptable courses:**

**Harper College**

Course: [FMS 109](#)

**Joliet Junior College**

Course: [CA 112](#)

**Moraine Valley Community College**

Course: [RTM 102](#)

**College of Lake County**

Course: [HCM 111](#)

**Roosevelt University**

Course: [HOSM230](#)

**Triton College**

Course: [HIA150](#)

**University of WI – Milwaukee**

Course: [NUTR 110](#)

**College of Dupage**

Course: [CULIN 1101](#)

Students should use the Transferology guide to help choose prerequisite courses at other institutions: <https://www.transferology.com/>

If you have already attempted using Transferology, yet you still have questions concerning prerequisite courses, please contact the Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition –Shayna Oshita at [soshit2@uic.edu](mailto:soshit2@uic.edu) or Tina Lam at [tlam19@uic.edu](mailto:tlam19@uic.edu) to have your transcripts evaluated. The email should include the Transferology report and any relevant course descriptions and/or syllabi to determine whether a course will fulfill the prerequisite requirement. Additionally, based on the high level of interest in our programs, we request that prospective students attend one of our informational sessions to demonstrate their level of interest prior to meeting individually with a program director. These information sessions have also been moved to an online format. Please check our website for the schedule. <https://ahs.uic.edu/kinesiology-nutrition/events>

**For International Students:**

- If you would like your transcripts to be reviewed PRIOR TO APPLICATION to determine remaining prerequisites, you must have your transcripts translated to English and/or evaluated by an independent foreign agency. Please note that this is an additional cost to the mandatory international evaluation fee in the standard application process.

- If you believe your prerequisites have been fulfilled and you do not want them reviewed by our program prior to application, they DO NOT need to be evaluated by an independent foreign transcript evaluation service. They will be evaluated by the UIC admissions office. This service is part of the mandatory international evaluation fee in the standard application process.

<https://admissions.uic.edu/undergraduate/requirements-deadlines/international-requirements>  
<https://admissions.uic.edu/graduate-professional/requirements-deadlines/international-requirements>

*\*\*Please note that while we as a department will evaluate your transcripts for courses that we believe you have fulfilled, you will not have final approval from the Office of Admissions and Records on courses that will transfer to UIC until you have formally applied to the University.\*\**

### **Where can I take my prerequisites and will my prerequisites transfer?**

You may complete your prerequisites at any accredited institution. That said, we want to make it clear that our programs are competitive. We understand that financial considerations are always a factor. When comparing two applicants, given all else is equal, if one student took all prerequisites at a city or community college, while another took courses at a four year institution, then the student who took the courses at the four year institution will have an advantage in *this* regard. However, we have had many students take prerequisites at community/city colleges and gain admission into our programs. We consider *all* aspects of the application, including grades, writing skills, recommendation letters, experience or exposure to the field, volunteer work, etc.

If you would like to take your prerequisite courses at UIC, we recommend that undergraduate students apply to the Nutrition Science program. Students who already have an undergraduate degree can apply as a non-degree seeking nutrition graduate student.

Advisors for the Nutrition Science and graduate non-degree seeking nutrition program will counsel you on completion of prerequisite courses and will share opportunities to become involved in the nutrition programs.

### **How to apply to the non-degree seeking graduate nutrition program to complete your prerequisite courses**

(If you already have a Bachelor's Degree)

Please visit the Office of Admissions: <https://admissions.uic.edu/graduate-professional/requirements-deadlines/non-degree-study>

- There is a \$70 non-refundable application fee for non-degree seeking graduate applicants.
  - Please note that you do not have to enter and submit all application information, or upload all materials, at one sitting. You can return to the system as many times as you need to. You can also return to the system checklist as often as you like to see what materials have been successfully uploaded, and subsequently verified as received by the department.
  - Once you finalize and submit your application and the application fee, the system will



send you further instructions (typically on the next business day) on using the application checklist to upload additional documents.

*\*\*Please note that completing your prerequisite course requirements at UIC does not guarantee admission into the Coordinated Program or the Nutrition Science (DPD) Program.\*\**

**What if my undergraduate degree was in a completely unrelated area?**

Many of our applicants have degrees in an area unrelated to nutrition. This is not a concern and, in many cases, may actually benefit you as a career changer. We recommend that all individuals with an undergraduate degree apply to the Master's Coordinated Program (as opposed to the Nutrition Science Program). We have made the prerequisite courses rigorous enough to prepare you for the program at the master's level.

**Do you allow exemptions from any courses in your program?**

Upon admission to the program, you will be offered the opportunity to apply for exemption from the *Science of Food and Nutrition through the Lifecycle* courses if you have successfully completed these courses at another institution. You must demonstrate that the course you completed was equivalent to the course we offer by submitting a syllabus and proof of the grade you earned. We will determine if you will be awarded credit for the course. We do not offer exemptions from any other courses in our program.

**CLEP Examinations:**

Graduate students **only** can use the CLEP test to fulfill the following prerequisite courses and must meet the minimum scores: sociology (56), psychology (59) and college algebra (63).

Please note that CLEP exams will fulfill prerequisite requirements but will not count towards graduation credit. CLEP exam results should be sent to the program director.

**Must I complete all my prerequisite courses by the time I apply?**

Students applying to the Coordinated Program, must have their prerequisite courses completed before the first day of classes in late August, rather than prior to admission to the program. However, we *require* students to have completed at least **four of the six science** courses (Biology, General Chemistry I, Organic Chemistry, Biochemistry, Anatomy and Physiology I and II) prior to applying. Qualified students will receive a conditional offer of acceptance during the spring admissions cycle, as long as they can offer a feasible schedule for completion of their prerequisite course work. Students accepted into the Coordinated Program must maintain a B average of any pending prerequisites after application.

Admitted students who fail to complete all prerequisites will NOT be allowed to start the program. We cannot allow you to complete any prerequisite courses once you have begun the program. The schedule does not allow for it. Additionally, the material in the prerequisite courses is foundational to perform well in the core nutrition classes you will be taking in your first semester at UIC. If it is not feasible for you to complete all prerequisites by the end of August, then you should wait and apply during the next admissions cycle.

## **APPLYING TO UIC'S COORDINATED PROGRAM IN DIETETICS**

### **What is your application deadline?**

The application deadline is **January 15<sup>th</sup>** of each year, and the program starts in late August, consistent with the beginning of UIC's fall semester.

### **How many students apply to the program? How many are admitted?**

**Coordinated Program:** We typically receive around 60 applications and accept up to 36 students per year.

### **How does the department decide who will be admitted to the program?**

The department carefully evaluates each applicant using a point system. For the Coordinated Program, grade point averages for science courses, prerequisite courses, as well as overall GPA are all considered. Additionally, recommendation letters and ratings on written interview questions and the personal statement, are considered. The top applicants will be invited to an interview with the program directors.

### **What is the profile of a typical successful applicant?**

We have a unique applicant pool each year, so it is difficult to generalize. However, all students must have a grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale to be considered for admission.

Average GPAs of last admissions cycle:

MSCP: 3.34 (Prerequisite) and 3.26 (Science)

- Keep in mind that GPA is not the only criteria used to evaluate applicants. Therefore, all students that meet our minimum requirements are encouraged to apply. *An understanding of the role of the dietetic professional and their role in the health care system, community and beyond, combined with volunteer experience in the field of dietetics and great communication skills can improve your chances of acceptance.*
- Due to the competitive nature of our programs, we cannot accept every student who applies. We encourage students to apply to other accredited nutrition programs to provide a back-up option in case we are unable to extend an offer of acceptance at UIC.

### **General Information for University Application--Graduate Program (MSCP)**

- Please visit the UIC Office of Admissions website: <http://admissions.uic.edu/graduate-professional/apply> and select the appropriate option (Domestic Degree Seeking, International Degree Seeking or Non-Degree) to start the application process.
- If this is your first application to UIC, click "First time user account creation" and follow the instructions.
- Once you finalize and submit your application and the application fee, the system will send

you further instructions (typically on the next business day) on using the application checklist to upload materials and enter information to generate requests to your recommenders for letters.

- Please note that you do not have to enter and submit all application information, or upload all materials, at one sitting. You can return to the system as many times as you need to. You can also return to the system checklist as often as you like to see what materials have been successfully uploaded, and subsequently verified as received by the department.

### **Required Supplemental Application Materials**

#### ***Master's Coordinated Program (MSCP):***

See: <http://ahs.uic.edu/kinesiology-nutrition/admissions-and-programs/ms-in-nutrition/applying/> (uploaded on the online application) are required:

1. **Prerequisite Form\***
  2. **Written Interview Questions\***
  3. **2 recommendation letters** (one academic, one professional)
  4. **Personal statement** (1-2 pages summarizing background and explaining objectives for graduate study)
  5. **Unofficial transcripts** (official transcripts will be requested if you are admitted)
  6. If an applicant's native language is not English, scores for the TOEFL, IELTS, or Pearson PTE Academic test are required. For submission instructions and conditions under which this requirement can be waived, visit <http://grad.uic.edu/international-admission>
  7. The top applicants for the Coordinated Program will be invited for an admissions interview
- \*Available for download from our website*

#### **MS Admission Requirements:**

- Conferred Bachelor's degree
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (*note that the average overall GPA of admitted students is around 3.5*)
- Foreign Applicants: See this link for minimum English Proficiency Requirements: <https://admissions.uic.edu/graduate-professional/requirements-deadlines/international-requirements>

## Program of Study—MSCP

### **Example MSCP Schedule:**

\*Please note this is only an example. Most courses are in-person but many of the 500-level course electives are online and in the evening to accommodate supervised practice. Your advisor will work with you to design a schedule that will ensure you complete all of the required courses.

<b>Master's Coordinated Program (MSCP)</b>		
<b>FIRST YEAR</b> <u>Fall semester:</u> HN 100 First Year Nutrition Seminar (2cr) HN 302 Nutritional Assessment (3cr) HN 308 Nutrition Science I (3cr) HN 318 Genetic, Molecular, and Cellular Mechanisms of Chronic Disease (3cr) <i>HN 440 The Research Process (3cr)</i> <i>HN 407 Writing Process in Nutrition (2cr)</i>  <b><i>Semester credits: 16</i></b>	<b>SECOND YEAR</b> <u>Fall Semester:</u> HN 300 Science of Foods (3cr) HN 311 Nutrition During the Life Cycle (3cr) HN 320 Clinical Nutrition I (3cr) HN 332 Food Service Management (2cr) <i>HN 405 Food as Medicine I (2cr)</i> <i>HN 510 Nutrition Physiological Aspects (3cr)</i>  <b><i>Semester credits: 16</i></b>	<b>THIRD YEAR</b> <u>Fall Semester:</u> <i>HN 455 Supervised Practice (9cr)</i> <i>HN 560 Public Health Nutrition (3cr)</i>  <b><i>Semester credits: 12</i></b>
<u>Spring semester:</u> HN 202 Culture and Food (2cr) HN 306 Nutrition Education (3cr) HN 309 Nutrition Science (3cr) HN 330 Quantity Food Production (3cr) HN 313 Introduction to Community Nutrition (3cr) <b><i>Semester credits: 14</i></b>	<u>Spring Semester:</u> <i>HN 455 Supervised Practice (1cr)</i> <i>HN 405 Food as Medicine I (2cr)</i> <i>HN 420 Clinical Nutrition II (3cr)</i> <i>HN 423 Nutrition Counseling (3cr)</i> <i>HN 503 Advanced Pathophysiology (3cr)</i>  <b><i>Semester credits: 12</i></b>	
	<u>Summer Semester:</u> <i>HN 455 Supervised Practice (5cr)</i>  <b><i>Semester credits: 5</i></b>	

**\*\*This option is ONLY available to UIC Bachelor's Nutrition Science DPD students\*\***

<b>Accelerated Master's Coordinated Program (MSCP)</b>		
<u>Summer semester:</u> <i>HN 505 Advanced Topics in Diabetes (3cr)</i> <i>HN 506 Advanced Topics in Pediatrics (1cr)</i> <i>HN 455 Supervised Practice (5cr)</i>  <b>Semester credits: 9</b>	<u>Fall Semester:</u> <i>HN 455 Supervised Practice (7cr)</i> <i>HN 510 Nutrition Physiological Aspects (3cr)</i> <i>HN 560 Advanced Public Health Nutrition (3cr)</i>  <b>Semester credits: 13</b>	<u>Spring Semester:</u> <i>HN 455 Supervised Practice (3cr)</i> <i>HN 555 Obesity(3cr)</i> <i>HN 503 Advanced Pathophysiology (3cr)</i> <i>HN 425 Sports Nutrition (3cr)</i> <i>HN 406 Food as Medicine II (2cr)</i>  <b>Semester credits: 14</b>

#### **Guide:**

- Courses that are *in italics* are courses that count towards your MS degree in Nutrition at UIC. You must complete 36 hours at the 400 or 500 level. There are additional elective 500 level courses not listed on this example.
- The courses in plain font are the required in DPD coursework for the program directors to certify you to sit for the RD exam at the completion of the program.
- Students in the Accelerated MSCP program will have completed the DPD courses in the Nutrition Science program at UIC.

#### **Course Work Only Option**

*It is assumed that all MSCP students will choose to do the **course work only** option for the MS portion of the program.* If you are considering doing a project or thesis, then you should approach a faculty member (see the website for their bios) to see if they are willing/able to act as your advisor for a project or thesis. Faculty members are not required to take on additional MS students. It is up to their discretion. Otherwise, you will be assigned an advisor. This advisor will help you ensure that you are fulfilling all the requirements for the Master's program.

#### **More on the MSCP**

- The program must be completed on a full-time basis through the first six semesters.
- The majority of 500 level courses are offered in the evening.
- The MS requires a minimum of 36 credits taken at the 400 and 500 levels.
- At least 9 hours must be at the 500 level, excluding project (597), thesis (598), and independent study courses (if you choose the project or thesis route).
- While you will be able to meet all your MS credits for graduation, some of these nutrition courses do have limited capacity. Therefore, you are not guaranteed a spot in the MS nutrition courses of your choice and may need to be flexible in order to fulfill the requirements.
- Students *may* be able to complete the program in approximately two and a half years. However, we do NOT guarantee that you can finish in two and a half or three years. If a student chooses a project route or does not progress in coursework and/or supervised practice as planned, it will take longer to complete the program.
- Some students may want to consider going into the third spring semester to complete additional

400 and 500 level courses in order to eliminate the pressure of heavy course loads in other semesters. Note that if you elect to continue into your 3<sup>rd</sup> year, you will not be eligible to sit for the RD exam until your coursework is completed.

- This program is an ACEND accredited masters coordinated program.
- The Graduate College has set a maximum of 5 years for completion of the Master of Science degree.

### **Supervised Practice**

The first three semesters of the **Coordinated Program** involve full-time coursework. Most courses are offered during **regular working hours (8am-5pm)**. The majority of the 500-level master's classes are online and in the evening (5-8pm). The supervised practice experience begins during the fourth semester (spring) and continues through the fifth and sixth semesters (summer and fall). The program is responsible for creating the schedule for supervised practice. The students ARE NOT responsible for finding their own sites. The majority of our sites are in-person placements, but we do have some remote/virtual sites. We work with over 100 organizations in the Greater Chicagoland area and some sites that are in other states across the country. Students are responsible for their transportation to their sites. Sites that are outside the Greater Chicagoland area are either remote/virtual or assigned by student request. There are 6 different site rotations: Food Service, Community, Inpatient Clinical, Outpatient Clinical, Elective, and Professional.

During the fourth semester, students are out at sites two days a week and in class the other three days. During the fifth and sixth semesters, students are out at sites 40 hours a week (five days a week full time). The supervised practice rotations are spent with registered dietitians and other food and nutrition professionals who act as preceptors at a variety of practice site, including hospitals, clinics, research facilities, community sites, and businesses in the greater Chicagoland area. The hours are typically 8am-5pm, although individual preceptors may have different working hours, and students will be expected to adhere to their preceptor's preferred hours for each rotation.



## OTHER COMMON GENERAL QUESTIONS:

### Can I be a part-time student if I am accepted into the program?

All Coordinated Program students *must* complete the program in a *lock-step* process on a *full-time* basis. The program of study is pre-planned and highly structured. Each semester's course work builds upon that of the previous semester, and all courses must be completed in the order in which they are listed in the example above. This enables each student to reach the supervised practice portion at the planned time. Because the Coordinated Program is a full-time commitment, students are discouraged from holding outside employment while they are in the program.

**Nutrition Science Program:** The Nutrition Science program *can* be completed on a *part-time* basis. Students who decide to attend part-time must be sure to stay in touch with their advisor in order to ensure that all required classes are completed. Also, be advised that going part time will likely extend the total amount of time it will take to complete the program.

### How much will it cost for me to attend the nutrition programs at UIC?

The estimated cost of attendance for graduate programs can be found on the UIC website: <https://financialaid.uic.edu/cost/cost-attendance-coa/>. Below are additional expenses students can expect as part of the program.

## FIRST YEAR

### CURRICULUM RELATED MANDATORY ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

Health Insurance.....\$95-\$1140 (*Healthcare marketplace vs. Campus Care x 2 semesters*)  
Transportation.....\$270-2000 (*CTA vs. driving + paid parking x 9 mos*)

**Total Mandatory Expenses First Year: \$365.00+**

### OPTIONAL STUDENT PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION EXPENSES

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Student Membership .....\$58.00  
SNA Membership..... \$10.00

**Total Optional Expenses First Year: \$150.00**

**TOTAL ADDITIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE FIRST YEAR = \$135.00+**

## SECOND YEAR

### CURRICULUM RELATED MANDATORY ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

Lab Coat (Supervised Practice).....\$30.00  
Required Seminar Meetings.....\$150.00  
Health Insurance.....\$325-1517  
(*Healthcare marketplace 2<sup>nd</sup> year vs. Campus Care x 3 semesters*)  
Transportation .....\$360-3000 (*CTA vs. driving + paid parking x 12 mos*) ..  
Fee for Certified Background (Includes background check, drug testing, immunization tracking)....\$117.00

**Total Mandatory Expenses: \$1072.00+**

**OPTIONAL STUDENT PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION EXPENSES**

Academy Student Membership.....\$58.00

SNA Membership.....\$10.00

RD Exam Review Course.....\$200.00

IDA Spring Assembly.....\$90.00

**Total Optional Expenses: \$325.00+**

**TOTAL ADDITIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE SECOND YEAR= \$1388.00+**

***THIRD YEAR (1/2 Year)***

**CURRICULUM RELATED MANDATORY ADDITIONAL EXPENSES**

Health Insurance.....\$325-570 (*1 semester*)

Renewal fee for Certified Background.....\$20

Transportation Expenses and Parking during Supervised Practice . . . .*\$120-1500 (CTA vs. driving x 4 mos)*

**Total Mandatory Expenses First Year: \$50.00+**

**OPTIONAL STUDENT PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION EXPENSES**

Academy Student Membership.....\$50.00

SNA Membership..... \$10.00

**Total Optional Expenses Third Year: \$60.00**

**TOTAL ADDITIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE Third YEAR = \$110.00+**

### **Can I get financial assistance to help me pay for the cost of the program?**

- Phyllis Bowen Scholarship – Annual, \$1000 award based on financial need. Provided to nutrition student entering their last year in the nutrition programs.
- Savitri Kamath Scholarship – monetary award annually provided to one graduating undergraduate, MS and PhD student from the nutrition programs. Deadline in spring of graduation year.
- Van Doren Scholarship. For more info see:  
<http://www.ahs.uic.edu/kn/currentstudents/financialaid/scholarshipsandawards/>
- Various scholarship and loan programs are available to help qualified students meet their financial obligations. Please see the Office of Financial Aid website at:  
<http://www.uic.edu/depts/financialaid/>
- Additionally, more scholarship resources can be found at the following websites:  
[http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch\\_ss/welcome.jsp](http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp) <http://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships> <http://www.collegescholarships.org/>  
<http://www.collegescholarships.com/>
- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Scholarships:  
<http://www.eatrightpro.org/resources/membership/student-member-center/scholarships-and-financial-aid>
- Local Dietetic Associations:
  - <http://www.eatrightillinois.org/index.php/districts-home>
  - <https://eatrightchicago.org/>

There are very limited opportunities for assistantships for MSCP students. These opportunities are rarely available for first year students. They are typically reserved for second and third year students. You may apply for an assistantship at this link:

[http://www.ahs.uic.edu/media/uicedu/ahs/documents/kn/KN\\_ta\\_app.pdf](http://www.ahs.uic.edu/media/uicedu/ahs/documents/kn/KN_ta_app.pdf)

### **Why should I choose UIC over other programs?**

We have over 50 years of excellence in Nutrition at UIC. We are a small, competitive program with an average class size of 60 students.

With the Coordinated Program, classroom learning is combined with the supervised practice experience; therefore, graduates are eligible to take the registration examination after graduating from the program. This seamless program has proven to be an ideal option for many students. Clinical courses are taught by a world-renowned faculty, as well as clinicians with years of experience in the field.

A strong science foundation and exposure to cutting-edge clinical applications make our graduates poised to gain challenging entry-level positions in an array of dietetics settings. 98% of our graduates have passed the national registration examination for dietitians compared to the national average of 90%.

*Program data regarding goals & objectives of our programs and RD exam pass results are available upon request from the Program Director.*

**Can my courses be taken online?** Our program is in-person for the majority of our requirements; however, most of our HN 500-level courses are online.

**\*\*The curriculum and policies of these programs are subject to change. It is the responsibility of the student to stay abreast of any changes.\*\***

**PROGRAM CONTACTS:**

**Nutrition Science Program:** Kirsten Straughan at [kstrau1@uic.edu](mailto:kstrau1@uic.edu)

**Coordinated Program:** Shayna Oshita at [soshit2@uic.edu](mailto:soshit2@uic.edu) and Tina Lam at [tlam19@uic.edu](mailto:tlam19@uic.edu)