Behavioral Health and Nutrition

PhD in Nutrition Science

The Nutrition Science PhD at the University of Delaware provides the highest degree for nutrition science professionals, preparing graduates for research careers in academia, non- governmental organizations (business and non-profit), allied health fields, and public service at all levels of national government. Nutrition Science focuses on the physiological and biological aspects of foods and nutrients and their absorption, assimilation, biosynthesis, catabolism and excretion; and seeks to identify effective strategies to improve the dietary intake among individuals and groups to prevent and treat disease, improving health and promoting successful aging. The Nutrition Science PhD curriculum provides students with the graduate-level training required to become effective scientific practitioners with the capacity to conduct independent research in nutrition and health- related outcomes.

Requirements
Admission decisions are made by the Nutrition Graduate Programs Committee. Students are admitted based on enrollment availability, the availability of faculty mentorship, and the ability of the student to meet the following minimum entrance requirements:

- A Master's degree in a related field from an accredited college or university with a GPA > 3.3 or a Bachelor's degree in a related field from an accredited college or university with an undergraduate GPA >3.3 for the MS to PhD bypass option.
- Verbal GRE (≥50th percentile) within past 5 years.
- Quantitative GRE (≥50th percentile) within past 5 years.
- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score of at least 600 (paper based) or a TOEFL IBT ≥ 100.
- Completion of both an advanced (≥600 level or graduate level equivalent) macronutrient metabolism course and an advanced (≥600 level or graduate level equivalent) micronutrient metabolism course, each with a grade of A- or higher, is required; a transcript from an accredited university must be provided.

Program Applications
Applications for Fall admission to the Nutrition Science PhD Program are reviewed on a rolling basis between January 15 and March 15.

- Materials required for application include:
  - Application form
  - Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts
  - Official GRE scores
  - A minimum of three letters of recommendation (it is recommended that at least two be from academic references)
  - Curriculum vitae or resume
  - Graduate application essay

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Applicants are strongly recommended to speak with program faculty with whom they share research interests and who could serve as their PhD advisor, prior to submitting their application. Applicants should identify two program faculty members that they would like to work with during their doctoral training in their graduate application essay. Admission to the program is limited, and not all qualified applicants will be admitted.

Graduate Assistantships

The Department of Behavioral Health and Nutrition has several full (full tuition and stipend) and partial (full tuition) graduate assistantships that may be offered to competitive full-time students on a year-to-year basis. Students on full graduate assistantships are provided with experiences that can only be gained by performing assignments or research activities with a faculty mentor; these activities are compensated based on the University's guidelines of 20 hours per week. The primary assignment of the assistantship over the course of the academic year will consist of supporting an assigned faculty member with their research and/or teaching. There may be additional opportunities for doctoral students to have funded research time in the summer session.

MS to PhD Bypass

Students enrolled in the MS in Human Nutrition (within the Department of Behavioral Health and Nutrition at the University of Delaware), who have completed advanced macronutrient metabolism, advanced micronutrient metabolism, a graduate level study design course, and a graduate level statistics course, each with a grade of A- or better) may apply to the NS PhD Program after completion of their first year of study with agreement in writing from their MS advisor. Students applying to the MS to PhD bypass option must: (1) have exceptional performance during the first year of the Master's program, (2) have the approval of the NS Graduate Programs Committee and their advisor, and (3) have completed a bachelor's degree in nutrition, dietetics, or a science/health related field from an accredited university.

Program of Study

The Nutrition Science PhD is a 48-credit program designed to be completed in four years.

- 33 credits of course work
  - 15 credits nutrition courses
  - 15 credits research design/methodology, statistics, data analysis courses
  - 3 credits elective course
- 6 credits independent research
- 9 credits dissertation research
- Preliminary examination
- Dissertation proposal defense
- Dissertation defense

For more information, please contact **Jillian Trabulsi**, PhD RD (trabulsi@udel.edu), Director, Nutrition Science PhD program.

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