



## Nutrition or Dietetics Program Student Handbook

June 2024

The Master of Science degree in nutrition or dietetics is a 32-credit hour program to prepare Registered Dietitians and nutrition professionals to practice dietetics at an advanced level and/or to pursue doctoral study. The online program is tailored for dietetics professionals who seek to enhance their knowledge in a specific area of dietetics practice or retool for new career opportunities in dietetics practice.

**Students may build a program of study that fits their needs and interests.** Some options include human nutrition, nutrient metabolism, biostatistics, health promotion/disease prevention, foodservice systems management, food science, lifespan nutrition, wellness, entrepreneurship, nutrition education, nutritional assessment, and food safety.

Course descriptions, a course planner, and contacts for participating universities can be found on the dietetics webpage: <https://www.idea.edu/program/dietetics>

The following IDEA institutions participate in the Nutrition or Dietetics program. Degree titles vary by institution.

Partner University	Degree Title
<a href="#">University of Kansas Medical Center</a>	Master of Science in Dietetics and Nutrition
<a href="#">University of Nebraska-Lincoln</a>	Master of Science in Nutrition and Health Sciences
<a href="#">North Dakota State University</a>	Master of Science in Dietetics
<a href="#">Oklahoma State University</a>	Master of Science in Nutritional Sciences, Dietetics
*Colorado State University	Master of Science in Dietetics
*Iowa State University	Master of Family and Consumer Sciences in Dietetics
*Kansas State University	Master of Science in Dietetics
*South Dakota State University	Master of Science in Dietetics

*\*Colorado State University, Iowa State University, Kansas State University, and South Dakota State University are no longer accepting new students into their program.*

### Admissions Requirements

To be admitted to this program, you must meet the following requirements:

- Fulfill (or meet) the entrance requirements for a master’s program at your home university. Typically, this requires a minimum 3.0 undergraduate grade point average, or 3.0 on the last 60 hours of coursework in the undergraduate degree.
- The GRE or GMAT is **not** required by any participating universities.
- Option B only: Have the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) credential (or be eligible to sit for the RDN exam).



## Graduation Requirements

All students are required to complete 32 credit hours including:

- Three core courses (8 credits). [Visit the course planner](#) to see a list of all courses and when they are offered.
- Elective courses (21-24 credits) as determined by your supervisory committee.
- Thesis, comprehensive paper, or project (3-6 credit hours).

University	Requirements for Culminating Experience
University of Kansas Medical Center	Non-thesis or thesis option with an oral defense
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Two additional courses & a final oral exam
North Dakota State University	Non-thesis comprehensive paper/project with oral defense
Oklahoma State University	Two courses: Environmental Scanning & Analysis (NSCI 5963) and Non-Thesis Graduate Capstone (NSCI 5843)
Colorado State University	Comprehensive paper/project with an oral defense
Iowa State University	Creative component with a final oral exam based on the creative component.
Kansas State University	Non-thesis comprehensive paper with an oral defense or thesis with an oral defense
South Dakota State	Thesis or a comprehensive research paper/project with an oral defense

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to\*:

1. Use critical thinking skills to address important issues in the dietetics profession.
2. Write clearly and effectively for a variety of audiences.
3. Report positive impact of the masters in dietetics program on their lives including job performance.

\*Institutions may require additional outcomes.



## Who to Contact for Help

### Academic Advisor

Your academic advisor is the faculty member/staff person assigned to assist you in your academic decisions. Your academic advisor is assigned by your home university.

You should consult your academic advisor for assistance with the following:

- Course planning and selection (including elective approval)
- Transfer credit questions
- Plan your internship/practicum work (if applicable)
- Help with research interests

### Campus Coordinator

Campus coordinators are available to help students navigate their home institution. Campus coordinators are also available at every institution to help with questions regarding courses taken from other teaching institutions. Coordinators serve as a first point of reference for general questions and the following information:

- Enrollment processes (contact your academic adviser for course selection)
- General policy information at your home institution
- General IDEA information and policies
- Assistance with the Learning Management System
- General questions

A list of campus coordinators can be found on the [Dietetics webpage](#) in the “University Contacts” section.

