

Program Description
M.S. in Nutrition and Health Science and Supervised Practice Experience
(Coordinated Program) at Pepperdine University.

The Coordinated Program at Pepperdine is designed to provide both a Master’s of Science in Nutrition and Health Science, alongside a supervised practice experience to educate and prepare our students to be highly competent and culturally sensitive dietetic professionals in compliance with external accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics education (ACEND), of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND). The curriculum is designed to meet the student learning outcomes and competencies for entry-level Registered Dietitians. The learning environment is structured to promote an appreciation for life-long learning, purposeful self-reflection, effective problem solving, and teamwork. Students will have supervised practice field experiences to help prepare them for professional careers as Registered Dietitians in wellness, health, nursing, medicine, therapeutic nutrition, nutrition counseling, foodservice management and leadership. The program includes 1,048 hours of supervised practice in rotation sites within a 60-mile radius of Malibu, California (we are not a distance program).

Coursework: Academic coursework to obtain the MS degree in Nutrition and Health Science requires successful completion of the 33 units with a grade of B- or higher, in addition to successful completion of the capstone research project. The coursework is completed during the May summer sessions, Fall and Spring sessions.

Program completion: When both the academic requirements and supervised practice hours are complete, a Verification Statement and Master’s degree is awarded allowing eligibility to sit for the registration examination for Registered Dietitians.

Admission Requirements

A bachelor’s degree from an institutionally accredited college or university, with an overall and major GPA of 3.00 is required.

Applicants must: 1) be currently enrolled in the Pepperdine BS in Nutritional Science degree OR 2) currently completing, or have completed, a Bachelor’s degree program from an institutionally accredited college or university and met the pre-requisite course requirements as listed on the application. (see application information on homepage).

CP candidates should meet the minimum application standards of Pepperdine University.

*Please note – the program is currently unable to admit students with an F-1 visa. We are in the process of obtaining certification, please check with the director on the status.

Mission of the Program

The mission of the MS in Nutrition and Health Science and Supervised Practice Experience (Coordinated Program) at Pepperdine University is to provide a strong academic and professional experience to educate and prepare our students to be highly competent and culturally sensitive dietetic professionals. The curriculum is designed to meet the student learning outcomes and competencies for entry-level Registered Dietitians. The learning environment is structured to promote an appreciation for life-long learning, purposeful self-reflection, effective problem solving, and teamwork.

The Christian mission of Pepperdine serves as a foundation to our approach of serving others through the field of Dietetics, a helping profession, devoted to the health and well-being of our bodies which are described in I Corinthians 6:19 as temples of the Holy Spirit. In this program we seek to integrate our faith with our practice by utilizing talents God has given each of us (Romans 12:6). Through a purposeful selection of the rotations needed to complete the supervised practice hours, students will be provided with learning environments within our community where they can develop their God-given talents as they serve others and exert a positive influence in our community.

James 2:14 asks, “What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds?” In fulfilling Pepperdine’s mission, our program will strive to instill a passion for a life of service and leadership. Both within the hours spent in the classroom and the hours spent in supervised practice, strengthening the students’ passion for service and leadership will be at the forefront. Whether a student is caring for a person battling diabetes, teaching other students the importance of serving on a clinical team, or engaging in some other activity, service and leadership are a priority of our program.

In that God has made each of us individually, we seek to promote an environment that respects the diversity of humanity. Empathy and compassion are at the center of healthcare, and we hope to encourage and enhance these characteristics in our students. As future professionals in the field of nutrition, while promoting healthful living, our students will be exposed to diverse populations and experiences to build this respect for others.

In both the supervised practice experience and the academic hours within the classroom, our aim is to nourish each student by developing his or her intellect and strengthening his or her character and faith.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and Outcomes Measures

Goal #1 – Program graduates will secure employment as an entry-level registered dietitian nutritionist in various employment positions.

1.1 Option A: Internal applicants- program completion objective: “At least 80% of students complete program requirements within 15 months (150% of planned program length)”.

Option B. External applicants-program completion objective: “At least 80% of students complete program requirements within 19.5 months (150% of planned program length)”.

(RE 2.1.c.1.a)

1.2 Of graduates who seek employment, at least 80% percent are employed in nutrition and dietetics or related fields within 12 months of graduation. (RE 2.1.c.1.b)

1.3 At least 90% percent of program graduates take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within 12 months of program completion. (RE 2.1.c.1.c.1)

1.4 The program’s one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%. (RE 2.1.c.1.c.2)

1.5 Within 1 year of program completion, employer satisfaction ratings should be at least 90% for “just as good”, “better” or “best” as related to preparation and level of nutrition knowledge at entry-level practice. (RE 2.1.c.1.d)

Goal #2 – Program graduates will adhere to the professional code of ethics, integrate evidence-based research in practice, exhibit leadership qualities and be committed to community service and leadership.

2.1 At least 80% of graduates will state a participation in one or community projects of service.

2.2 At least 80% of graduates will state an involvement in a dietetics-related project as a leader.

Upon request, outcome data measuring achievement of program objectives are available to students, prospective students, and the public.

Requirements for the Supervised Practice Experience (SPE) rotations:

Supervised Practice Rotation Hours – Total 1048

The CP is comprised of the following hours in each rotation discipline:

Clinical – 512 hours total

Clinical Hours Acute – 384 hours (10 weeks plus 2 weeks staff relief)

Clinical Renal – 64 hours (2 weeks)

Clinical Hours Outpatient – 64 hours (2 weeks)

Foodservice Management- 192 hours total

Foodservice Patient Meals/Retail – 192 hours (6 weeks) OR

Foodservice School Nutrition – 192 hours (6 weeks)

Community Nutrition– 248 hours total

Community WIC – 128 (4 weeks)

Public health/Headstart/Foodbank – 60 (2 weeks)

Senior Nutrition – 60 hours (2 weeks)

Self-Select/Specialty Concentration– 96 hours

Clinical/Nutrition Therapy Rotation – 12 weeks and 384 hours

Students will spend 12 weeks in an acute care hospital to complete MNT 1 and 2, gaining experience in the areas of cardiology, diabetes care, oncology, pediatrics, geriatrics, renal and dialysis care, maternal nutrition, obesity management, and tube and parenteral feedings. The final 2 weeks of the 12 are spent as staff relief. Students will provide nutrition screenings, assessment of patients, and nutrition education.

Clinical Staff Relief Experience – 2 weeks and 64 hours (included in total clinical hour)

The student will spend 2 weeks serving as the staff Dietitian in a selected facility.

Clinical Outpatient– 2 weeks and 64 hours

Students will spend 2 weeks in an outpatient setting such as dialysis, private practice, and bariatrics to practice providing counseling and education to various populations.

Outpatient Education- 2 weeks and 64 hours

Students will complete 64 hours providing education in an outpatient community, private practice or clinical setting.

Community Rotation – 8 weeks and 248 hours

Community nutrition will involve spending 8 weeks at various facilities to gain patient education experience in community/public health nutrition. Some examples of these areas include: Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Special Supplemental Nutrition Program, Head Start, Project Angel Food, University athletic and sports nutrition departments, outpatient clinics in diabetes, wellness centers, senior nutrition programs, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, and University health centers.

Food Service/Management – 8 weeks and 192 hours

Students will spend 8 weeks in food service management to gain experience in the areas of menu planning, food preparation and production, food purchasing and management systems. The facilities chosen for this area may be university food services, hospital food services, and school food service.

Self-Select Rotation – 3 weeks and 96 hours

This rotation allows the student to choose an area of their interest to complete 96 hours. Some specialized areas include: sports nutrition, renal, pediatric nutrition, private practice, eating disorders, research and education. Facility must be approved prior to participation.

TOTAL hours: 1048

Additional hours: One week of orientation is completed prior to beginning the rotations.

Cost of the Program

Tuition: The 2025-26 tuition is \$2335 per unit. Students pay a tuition amount based upon the units they are enrolled in each semester/session.

There are scholarship/stipend opportunities for admitted students and can be applied for on the application.

This cost includes the following:

Personalized lab coat and name bag - \$60

Background Check - \$50

RD Exam Review materials - \$385

Estimated additional expenses and costs for the student (all fees are approximate and may vary):

- Housing Costs - It is the responsibility of the student to secure housing prior to starting the program. The expense of housing is the responsibility of the student. It is recommended that interns find housing within a one-hour commute of campus as sites will be within 60 miles of campus.
- Transportation and parking – On campus parking is free as are most of the parking facilities at sites.
- Auto insurance must be carried during the supervised practice and a car is required to complete the supervised hours (variable)
- Medical insurance (variable) Insurance is available through the University for an additional fee
- Professional liability insurance (\$35) 2 million per incident/5 million per year
- Housing and living costs -variable
- Books and supplies (\$300-400)
- California Food Handlers Card (\$10)
- AND student membership (\$50)
- Health physical and immunizations (variable)
- Drug/alcohol screening (required as part of clinical rotation) (\$50)
- Miscellaneous personal needs (variable)

Rotation Schedule and Calendar

Students will complete approximately 24-32 hours of supervised practice at their rotation sites Tuesday-Friday. They will attend the graduate courses with other students at the Malibu campus on Mondays and Tuesdays.

There are four weeks of vacation, three at Christmas/Winter break and one in the Spring. Observed holidays are as follows:

1. Labor Day
2. Thanksgiving week
3. Christmas Day
4. New Year's Day
5. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
6. Memorial Day

For the complete Pepperdine Seaver College calendar, click on the following link:

<http://seaver.pepperdine.edu/academics/calendar>

Application to the program

Please see the link on the homepage with the application instructions.

Contact Information

For more information about the M.S. in Nutrition and Health Science and Supervised Practice Experience (Coordinated Program) at Pepperdine University, please contact the program director:

Dr. Sunnie DeLano, DPHE, M.S., RDN at sunnie.delano@pepperdine.edu.

The material and information included in these documents is provided to prospective students for general informational purposes only. Pepperdine University reserves the right to revise the schedule and expenses, as it deems necessary.