The Department of Nutrition and Food Studies (NUTR) is a department within the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS). The overarching mission of Nutrition and Food Studies is to inform students and the public about the role of food and nutrition in improving health and well-being among local and global populations through the integration of education, research and outreach. The educational mission is to provide undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates in food and nutrition-related studies. The research mission is to promote, develop and support research programs that help define and address food and nutritional issues. The outreach mission is to increase the awareness of food and nutrition-related issues among local and global communities, support local and global food and nutrition initiatives, and enhance collaboration among individuals and organizations to improve nutrition and health-related outcomes.

**Graduate Degrees**

The Department of Nutrition and Food Studies offers a Master of Science in Nutrition, Graduate Certificate in Food Security and Safety, and a Graduate Certificate in Nutrition. In addition to the graduate programs, the department also offers an undergraduate certificate and minor in nutrition.

The **MS in Nutrition** emphasizes a skill-set tailored to expanding nutrition-related needs. Through course work, students learn to assess, evaluate, and intervene in the most current and relevant nutrition issues. The curriculum prepares graduates to work for agencies, businesses, and organizations that seek to improve nutrition at the local, national, and global level. This program also prepares students to engage in further study for research careers in nutrition.

The **Graduate Certificate in Food Security** provides knowledge and tools in the areas of nutrition, food studies, and geography to prepare students for careers in food security and safety. The program is a joint certificate between the Department of Nutrition and Food Studies and the Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science.

The Food Security certificate program includes courses in nutrition, food security, food safety and GIS and remote sensing and it will give students insight into:

- The determinants of food security in developing and industrialized countries;
- Governmental and non-governmental programs involved in food security research and interventions worldwide, including the United States;
- Tools for assessing food security at the household, community, and global level;
- An understanding of the critical role nutrition science plays in food security programs.

The **Graduate Certificate in Nutrition** prepares students to apply nutrition principles and the latest scientific evidence and methods of nutrition to health practice and research among different populations. The program emphasizes understanding the role of nutrition in population health and well-being and the development of skills required in the practice,
analysis, and interpretation of nutrition-related information and data among individuals and populations. Students will learn nutrition principles, how to assess nutritional status of individuals, communities, and populations; and how to develop and evaluate nutrition interventions at the individual, community, and population level.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution and have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA to be considered. Admission to each program is competitive, and a variety of criteria are evaluated in the admissions process, including the strength of the undergraduate record and any post-baccalaureate coursework, the GRE/GMAT (if required), career goals, letters of recommendation, professional and/or volunteer experience, evidence of the ability to write and conduct research at the graduate level and any additional evidence of potential success in the program. Some background in statistics, biology, and the social sciences is preferred but not required. For application deadlines and detailed application requirements, please refer to the CHHS Graduate Admissions Website at: http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate/deadlines.cfm.

Meeting the minimum application criteria does not guarantee admission. Late applications will be considered on a space-available basis. The application for graduate study is available at http://admissions.gmu.edu/grad.

Non-Degree Study

Students interested in enrolling in graduate-level courses prior to applying to their program of interest may have the option to do so through non-degree study. Please note that non-degree enrollment requires a formal application to the university, and no more than nine credits of non-degree coursework may be applied to a degree. For more information, please visit the CHHS Non-Degree website at: http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/non-degree.cfm

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The above information is based on the 2013–2014 University Catalog and is subject to change without notice or obligation. It is not to be regarded as a contract. Please refer to the catalog for full course descriptions, department information, and university policy governing graduate degree programs at catalog.gmu.edu.