

The Department of Nutrition and Food Studies prepares students to address public health issues involving nutrition and food access. Located 15 miles from the nation's capital, the nutrition and food studies program at Mason is the only one of its kind in northern Virginia. Our students learn how to combine the science of nutrition with the culture of food to impact society and influence behavior changes that can improve public health and people's access to quality food sources.

Graduate Degrees

The Department of Nutrition and Food Studies offers a Master of Science in Nutrition, Graduate Certificate in Food Security, and a Graduate Certificate in Nutrition.

MS in Nutrition

The MS in Nutrition program combines nutrition sciences with an understanding of food, food systems, foodways, and the culinary arts to prepare our students to tackle the most pressing nutrition issues and emphasizes a skill set tailored to expanding nutrition-related needs. Students learn to assess, evaluate, and intervene in the most current and relevant nutrition issues. Our graduates are prepared to work for agencies, businesses, and organizations that seek to improve nutrition at the local, national, and global level.

Graduate Certificate in Food Security

This graduate certificate 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.

Graduate Certificate in Nutrition

This graduate certificate 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 visit the Graduate Admissions Website at <https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/how-apply/graduate>. For program details, visit CHHS Admissions at <http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate/index.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>

Gainful Employment Statement

For information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who complete the program, and other important information, please visit our website at http://irr.gmu.edu/gedt/Nutrition_CERG/Gedt.html.

Contact Information

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The above information is based on the 2016–2017 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.