Overview
As the only accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) in Washington, D.C., the University of District of Columbia (UDC) program offers a curriculum rich in nutrition, science and experiential opportunities at federal and local agencies throughout the nation’s capital. The DPD program is part of UDC’s College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES). We are committed to educating the next generation of nutrition professionals to promote health, combat nutrition-related disease, and reduce health disparities among urban and underserved populations. UDC offers both a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition and Dietetics and a Master of Science in Nutrition with an emphasis in community nutrition.
Programs

The Bachelor of Science Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics educates dietitians and nutritionists to become skilled experts in nutrition, food service, and dietetics to promote health and manage disease in multiple settings for diverse audiences throughout the city. The baccalaureate degree in Nutrition and Dietetics fulfills the requirement of the Didactic Program in Dietetics and is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). Graduates have experience educating community members, studying food systems through urban food hubs, counseling patients of all ages to promote health and treat diseases. This degree develops student competencies that are expected of graduates who seek dietetic internships, masters programs, or entry-level dietetics jobs.

The Master of Science Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics educates students to address the health and nutritional needs of urban and ethnically diverse populations. Graduates will become leaders in implementing innovative and culturally competent community education programs and perform cutting edge research in nutrition to improve public health and reduce health disparities.

Learning Objectives

- Demonstrate effective critical thinking skills necessary for supervised evidence-based practice, for leadership development and for entry into a dietetic internship program.

- Demonstrate critical and analytical skills needed to address nutrition issues and health disparities in minorities and underserved populations.

Curriculum

The Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition and Dietetics is built upon strong science and liberal arts components, which encourage critical and creative thinking and expression. The organization of courses emphasizes study in chemistry, biology, nutrition, food science and technology, medical nutrition therapy, community nutrition, nutrition education, management, and other interdisciplinary courses. The student desiring to enter the program should have a strong background in the physical and biological sciences given that scientific disciplines are emphasized.

The Master of Science Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics is a two-year program that includes advanced coursework in nutrition and experiential learning culminating in a major research project or thesis during the last semester. Applicants who possess a Bachelor of Science degree in nutrition from an accredited institution and who meet the requirements of admission may start the program in the fall or spring semester. Applicants who do not possess a Bachelor Science degree in nutrition will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis; additional prerequisite coursework may be needed to meet admission requirements.

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