Master of Clinical Nutrition, MCN

The Master of Clinical Nutrition program inspires and educates students to be leaders in clinical nutrition through innovative and interprofessional graduate education as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN).

The program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND).

Programs designed to lead to professional licensure are subject to federal regulations regarding informational disclosures. Please see Professional Licensure Disclosures by Program for further information.

Requirements

The graduate Master of Clinical Nutrition (MCN) requires 36 s.h. of credit. Students must maintain a cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.50 in major coursework. The degree requires no thesis.

The MCN is a 20-month program of study. After successful completion of the program, students earn the degree and receive a verification statement that provides eligibility to take the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) entry-level registration examination for dietitians.

The Master of Clinical Nutrition requires the following work.

First Year, Fall

Course #	Title	Hours
DIET:9101	Advanced Medical Nutrition Therapy I	3
DIET:9102	Advanced Medical Nutrition Therapy II	3
DIET:9200	Nutrition Assessment	3

First Year, Spring

Course #	Title	Hours
EPID:6330	Global Nutrition Policy	2
EPID:6350	Nutritional Epidemiology	2
EPID:6360	Nutrition Intervention in Clinical Trials Research	2
EPID:6370	Nutrition Intervention in Research Lab	3
HHP:6310	Advanced Sport and Exercise Nutrition	3

First Year, Summer

Course #	Title	Hours
DIET:9300	Critical Care and Nutrition Support	3

Second Year, Fall

Course #	Title	Hours
DIET:9501	Supervised Experiential Learning I	3
DIET:9600	Management in Foods and Nutrition	3

Second Year, Spring

Course #	Title	Hours
DIET:9400	Pediatric Nutrition	3
DIET:9502	Supervised Experiential Learning II	3

Supervised Experiential Learning

All supervised experiential learning occurs on campus at University of Iowa Health Care, with the exception of community nutrition which occurs in the greater Iowa City community. The rotation schedule is developed according to the following guidelines.

- Clinical dietetics (disordered eating, oncology, cardiology, critical care, pediatrics, and outpatient counseling): 21 weeks.
- Food service management (clinical management, food service, production, business and finance, patient services, and event planning): 8 weeks.
- Community nutrition: 5 weeks.

Admission

Applicants to the MCN program must either have completed a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) or meet the following course requirements:

- have a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution in the United States;
- have a minimum cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale;
- have health care or food service work experience in the field;
- submit three recommendation letters (one from a collegiate academic reference, one from a health care or food service experience supervisor, and one from anyone in an academic or work setting);
- submit curriculum vitae or resume
- submit personal statement (1,000 words or fewer) outlining motivation for entering the dietetics profession, relevant experiences that have contributed to professional preparation, short-term and long-term career goals, and an assessment of personal strengths and areas for growth
- meet education requirements (see the following section, "Education Requirements").

Applicants whose first language is not English must submit official test scores to verify English proficiency. They can do this by submitting official test scores for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). In order to review an application, official TOEFL scores must be received from the Educational Testing Service. Only the IBT (internet-based test) is accepted. A minimum total score of 93 and a speaking score of 26 are necessary for entry into the program.

Education Requirements

Biological Sciences Coursework

- At least one semester of biology (animal or human) or general zoology.
- An animal, exercise, or human physiology course.
- An animal or human anatomy course.
- At least two additional courses in advanced biology or advanced physiology. Examples of courses include cell biology, genetics, immunology, microbiology, molecular

biology, pharmacology, embryology, endocrinology, histology, or neuroscience.

Chemical Sciences Coursework

- At least one semester of inorganic chemistry.
- At least one semester of organic chemistry.
- An introductory or general biochemistry course.

Statistical Sciences Coursework

- A general statistics or biostatistics course.

Professional Coursework

- At least one nutrition course such as introductory nutrition, lifespan nutrition, advanced nutrition, or medical nutrition therapy.

Recency of Education Requirements

Additional courses in dietetics or a related area are required to update a degree that was completed five or more years prior to the current application deadline. The number of required credits is outlined as follows.

- 5–10 years (3 s.h. of medical nutrition therapy or clinical nutrition).
- 10 or more years (3 s.h. of medical nutrition therapy, 3 s.h. of physiology, 3 s.h. of biochemistry).

Application Process

Application should be made through the Master of Clinical Nutrition program. All materials for the application, including three recommendations and college transcripts, must be received by February 1.

If required, official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores should be sent to the University of Iowa using institution code 6681.

The University of Iowa online application for admission requires a nonrefundable application fee of $60 for U.S. applicants and $100 for international applicants.

Career Development

The Master of Clinical Nutrition program prepares students to be competent as a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN).

According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook released by the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, the employment of registered dietitians and nutritionists is projected to grow 6% from 2024 to 2034, faster than the average for all occupations.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.