



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION AND FOOD SCIENCE

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Non-thesis - NFSC Combined BS/MS in Dietetics Program

All applicants for the entry-level registered Dietitian/Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RD/RDN) exam must have completed a minimum of a master's degree, and the required hours of supervised practice for RDN eligibility (1).

To facilitate our full-time students to meet the master's degree requirements, the Department of Nutrition and Food Science (NFSC) offers a non-thesis combined BS/MS track in Dietetics (NUTR). Thus, talented students complete the BS/MS degree in 5 years.

The enrolled students take 9 graduate credits at senior level, which counts toward both degrees, and the remaining 21 credits are completed in their 5th year. Students applying for the program should familiarize themselves with the MS degree (2) course (3) and faculty (4) listing found in the NFSC graduate Catalog.

Students who want to enroll in the Combined BS/MS in Dietetics must receive advanced approval from the NFSC Department and the Graduate School. The eligibility, application process, and timeline are explained below.

Eligibility

Students who meet the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- Registered as Dietetics Program Major
- Be in at least Spring of their junior year or senior standing
- Have at least a 3.0 cum GPA and a GPA of 3.0 or higher in all the Dietetics courses.

Application Timeline

The application process will occur in two phases:

1. **Phase one:** students must apply first to the NFSC department in order to indicate their interest in the program and for approval to begin taking graduate classes.
2. **Phase two:** students must apply directly to the UMD Graduate School for formal admission into the program. The deadlines and required documents are listed below.

Department level

- **Spring of Junior Year** - Eligible students for Fall start are those who completed or are currently enrolled in BCHM462, BSCI450, NFSC470, and BMGT364N
- The early deadline is April 15th, and applications will still be accepted and reviewed until June 1st (final deadline).
- **Fall of Senior Year** - Eligible students for the Spring start are those with a senior standing enrolled in NFSC440, NFSC350, NFSC455, or have completed the courses.
- early action deadline will be October 15th, and applications will be accepted and reviewed until November 1st (final deadline).

Department-level Application requirements

Students must complete and submit the **NFSC Department Combined BS/MS Program in Dietetics form** (5) to indicate their interest in applying for the program, according to the timeline above. The application must contain the following items:

- Transcripts
- Combined BS/MS form (available here: **Combined BS/MS degree form** (6))
- Essay (500 words) why you are interested in the program and how this relates to your career goals
- Two recommendation letters (from the DPD or non-DPD faculty)

Eligible students from the undergraduate program who apply to the B.S/M.S. degree will have their application fee waived. Students will be required to maintain an overall GPA above 3.0 to remain in the program.

UMD Graduate school-level

- Fall senior year – you will submit a graduate application by **December 15th** for admission to the UMD Graduate School using the **standard online application** (7). (To login use your UMD Directory ID. Under "Level of Study" select "Combined Bachelor's-Master's").

If you are interested in learning more information about the combined BS/MS in Dietetics at the University of Maryland, please contact Dr. Udahogora Margaret directly, and plan to attend Virtual Information Sessions.

REFERENCES

1. Commission on Dietetic Registration: RD Examination – Eligibility Requirements <https://www.cdrnet.org/RDNeteligibility>
2. NFSC MS degree <https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/nutrition-food-science-nfsc/nutrition-food-science-ms/>
3. NFSC Courses <https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/nfsc/>
4. NFSC Faculty <https://nfsc.umd.edu/people/faculty/>
5. NFSC Combined BS/MS Program in Dietetics form https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6T-gCUT92JlPaJz3lUEYlHjXnN_mv1Etb2JzpAs_ysnTiw/viewform
6. Combined Bachelor's/Master's degree form <https://gradschool.umd.edu/sites/default/files/2023-08/UMD%20Combined%20Bachelor%27s-Master%27s%20form%20July2023.pdf>
7. Graduate School Application Portal <https://terpengage.umd.edu/community/CustomLoginPage>