Master of Professional Studies in Nutritional Sciences
“Our online Master of Professional Studies in Nutritional Sciences program provides you with the opportunity to advance your knowledge and skills in evidence-based practice and develop leadership skills that can be immediately used in the workplace. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, job growth for dietitians and nutritionists is projected to outpace the average growth for all occupations in the next several years. Employers will be looking for candidates who stand apart from their peers.

“This is not your ordinary master’s degree in nutrition. You will build upon your experiences and develop leadership and critical thinking skills. Our unique program focuses on specific job skills in the field of nutrition and dietetics that can help you advance in your current position, obtain a new job, or change career paths. All of our courses are thoughtfully developed by a team of expert faculty and instructional designers who use innovative teaching techniques to educate tomorrow’s nutrition and dietetics professionals. We use problem-based learning, simulations, and student-centered activities that will translate research into practice.

“We are committed to the high standards and quality of a Penn State education and are proud to be affiliated with Penn State World Campus, which is consistently ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top providers of online education. I am very excited about all our program has to offer, and invite you to learn more about our online MPS program.”

—Gina Pazzaglia, Ph.D., RDN
Director, Online Master of Professional Studies in Nutritional Sciences
Penn State’s Master of Professional Studies (MPS) in Nutritional Sciences is a 30-credit online program that offers a strong foundation in nutrition knowledge, leadership skills, and evidence-based practice in the profession of nutrition and dietetics.

This online professional master’s degree is designed for registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs) who are interested in enhancing their careers and advancing their skills, or for those who hold an undergraduate degree in a nutrition-related field.

The program highlights the advanced professional practice of nutrition and dietetics. Assignments throughout the courses are directly applicable to real-life work experiences, and you will be taught by faculty from Penn State’s Department of Nutritional Sciences in the College of Health and Human Development, known globally for their leading-edge food and nutrition research and practice. As you progress through the curriculum, you will enhance your critical thinking and problem-solving skills that you can apply immediately to your current work environment.

With our online learning format, you can study whenever and wherever it suits you, giving you the flexibility to continue working at your current job while you earn a high-quality Penn State degree. And you will have access to members of our student support services who are vested in your success—just as they are for our students on campus.
Nutritional Sciences Curriculum

Through the use of innovative and engaging teaching strategies, the curriculum in Penn State’s online MPS in Nutritional Sciences is designed to position you for career success and leadership in today’s health and wellness sector.

Your course work will cover topics such as:

- Advanced Clinical Nutrition
- Advanced Community Nutrition and Education
- Advanced Nutrient Metabolism
- Advanced Nutrition Counseling
- Applied Statistics
- Leadership Concepts and Application for the Nutrition Profession
- Leadership in the Nutrition Profession
- Nutritional Assessment and Diagnosis
- Research Methods

In addition, you’ll have the opportunity to learn valuable communication and organizational skills necessary for working with individual clients and the community, as well as leading other professionals on cross-functional health care teams.

During the program, you will also complete a capstone project in which you can gain applicable experience in identifying evidence-based solutions to improve nutrition practice. This interactive experience will be tailored to your unique experiences and professional goals to address a real-life workplace problem or issue.

To view the full course list, visit: worldcampus.psu.edu/nutrition-courses
Career Opportunities for Graduates

Due to an increased understanding about how nutrition and diet play an integral role in human health, the demand will continue to grow for professionals with the skill set needed to enact positive, healthy-living changes at both the individual and community levels. Greater access to health care, an aging population, and a focus on preventive medicine have also helped increase the job opportunities in the nutrition field.

This Nutritional Sciences Master’s Degree program will help you acquire knowledge, gain leadership skills, evaluate scientific evidence–based research, and translate these findings in different professional settings, including:

- hospitals
- clinics and outpatient care centers
- medical group practices
- federal, state, and public health agencies
- the food industry
- nutritional consultation services

And as a Penn State student, you will create connections with a dynamic network of other students, faculty, and alumni that can open the door to positions and employers you might have never considered.
Why is Penn State the best choice for me?

**Collaboration:**
Penn State has many years of experience providing global access to a real university education, so you can be assured that the course content provides far more than a textbook on a screen. The online Nutritional Sciences program is a collaboration between Penn State World Campus and Penn State’s Department of Nutritional Sciences in the College of Health and Human Development. The partnership connects you with world-renowned faculty who can help you integrate cutting-edge food and nutrition research into your own practice skills.

**Flexibility and convenience:**
Penn State knows that adults need flexible and convenient learning options in order to continue meeting their professional and personal commitments. You can take courses when and where you please, earning your degree at your own pace.

**Reputation:**
Penn State is universally regarded as one of the finest educational institutions in the United States. Its undergraduate nutrition program meets the accreditation standards set by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics, and its graduate program ranks in the very top tier compared to peer institutions. Putting a Penn State Nutritional Sciences Master’s Degree on your résumé is a great way to prove to current and potential employers that you have a degree from a top-tier graduate nutrition program.

What is a master of professional studies degree?

A master of professional studies degree is an industry-oriented master’s degree that emphasizes practical skills geared toward current and aspiring professionals. You can learn how to apply your knowledge as a professional practitioner to the field of nutrition by focusing on real-life work experiences during your course work.

Can I obtain financial aid to pay for my courses?

Penn State realizes that one of the greatest challenges of postbaccalaureate degree education is the cost. That’s why our student support teams have been trained to help you make the most of the financial aid options and opportunities available to you. Visit worldcampus.psu.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid for additional details.

Is this online program the real Penn State?

Yes. The Penn State World Campus was launched in 1998 as Penn State’s virtual campus administered online. It has since grown into one of the most highly regarded online campuses—extending Penn State’s reach across the world. No distinction will be made on your official Penn State diploma that your courses were completed at a distance.
Admissions decisions for the MPS in Nutritional Sciences are based on the quality of your credentials after a thorough review of your completed application portfolio.

**Your application portfolio must include:**

- complete online application form and fee
- transcripts from each postsecondary institution attended
- GRE scores (may be waived for applicants who have five or more years of professional work experience or have earned a graduate degree)
- TOEFL or IELTS scores, if applicable
- references
- personal statement
- résumé

To apply or for more information about these application materials, please visit: worldcampus.psu.edu/nutrition-apply

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**Did You Know?**

- Penn State World Campus has developed a nationally recognized support system for students who are geographically removed from campus to help you through your entire educational journey.
- Our online courses involve frequent interactions between students and with instructors.
- Industry standards are moving to require a master’s degree for entry-level practitioners in the profession of nutrition and dietetics.
- Most students will graduate from the program in two years, but you are able to complete the courses at your own pace.
Contact Us
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worldcampus.psu.edu
800-252-3592 (toll free within the United States)
814-865-5403 (local and international)
814-865-3290 Fax

Student Services Hours
(inquiries and registration)
8:00 a.m.–9:30 p.m. ET  Monday–Thursday
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET  Friday
Closed  Saturday and Sunday

Admissions Counseling Hours
8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. ET  Monday–Thursday
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET  Friday
Closed  Saturday and Sunday

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