Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition

What Is a Registered Dietitian?

Registered Dietitians (RDs) help individuals make informed nutritional choices to promote overall health and manage medical conditions. As an RD, you'll have the opportunity to work with a diverse clientele of all ages, including those with medical conditions, eating disorders, feeding difficulties, and weight-related concerns.

Registered Dietitians assess patients' nutritional needs, develop individualized care plans, and provide education on healthy eating and lifestyle choices. They work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, outpatient clinics, rehabilitation centers, long-term care facilities, and private practice. This versatile and rewarding field offers competitive compensation, flexibility, and the opportunity to make a meaningful, lasting impact on individuals' quality of life.

Who Is This Program For?

This program is designed for students who have completed a bachelor's degree and wish to earn a Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition through a blend of live online coursework, hands-on workshops, and supervised practice.

Important Dates

- **Registration Deadline:** January 4, 2027
- **Bachelor's degree and prerequisite completion date:** June 1, 2027
- **Classes Start:** September 2027

Program Details

- **College:** Rutgers University
- **Degree Credits:** 41 credits
- **Program Format:** Live online classes, in-person and virtual workshops, and fieldwork
- **Program Length:** 16 Months (4 semesters)
- **Estimated Tuition & Fees: $46,500** ($42,000 for NJ residents)*
  **TTI Premium membership required. Tuition and fees are accurate as at time of writing and are subject to change. Book fees are not included.*

Supervised Practice:

During the Spring, Summer, and Fall II semesters,1,000 internship hours are required within the state of NJ. Students will complete 32 hours of fieldwork per week. Rutgers will be placing the students at their established affiliations in NJ.

Supervised practice is broken into three courses:

- Supervised Practice I (8 weeks) During Spring Semester (Mar-May)
  - Hospital Settings
  - 4 weeks food service management
  - 4 weeks medicine/surgery

- Supervised Practice II (10 weeks) During Summer Semester (June-August)
    - Ambulatory Care Settings
    - Locations vary (examples include Diabetes Centers, Oncology Centers, Dialysis Centers, Long Term Care facilities, Sports Nutrition, Eating Disorders, Pediatrics, Weight Management, Cardiac Rehabs, WIC, Department of Health, etc...)
- Supervised Practice III (11 weeks) During Second Fall Semester (Sep-November)
    - Hospital Settings
    - 5 weeks higher acuity medicine/surgery
    - 3 weeks critical care/nutrition support
    - 3 weeks culminating staff relief

Licensure & Certification

Once students have earned their M.S. in Clinical Nutrition and completed all fieldwork requirements, they will be eligible to take the national certification exam administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). Upon passing the exam, graduates will be credentialed as Registered Dietitians (RD/RDN).

After becoming an RD, graduates may choose to pursue board certification in specialized areas such as digestive health, oncology nutrition, pediatric critical care nutrition, renal nutrition, sports dietetics, and more.

Career Outlook

Nutrition is a versatile and growing healthcare profession. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for registered dieticians and nutritionists is **projected to grow 6%** from 2024 to 2034 - an above-average demand.

Salaries vary based on experience and location. As of 2024, the median annual salary for Registered Dieticians in the U.S. was **$73,850** ($35.50/hour). In the tri-state area, salaries are higher than the national average, with the median annual salary reaching **$80,510 in New York** and **$82,330 in New Jersey**.

Partial Course Listing

- NUTR5360: Nutrition Assessment & Physical Exam
- NUTR5361: Clinical Nutrition & Medical Nutrition Therapy I
- NUTR5463: Clinical Nutrition & Medical Nutrition Therapy II
- NUTR5312: Ethical, Culturally Sensitive Interviewing & Counseling
- NUTR5513: Global & Public Health Nutrition
- NUTR5562: Clinical and Practice-Based Research Methods
- NUTR6314: Ethics, Professionalism & Leadership in Clinical Nutrition

Rutgers Admissions Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited university + 9 prerequisite courses
- Minimum grade of B in all prerequisite courses
- Two reference letters
- Resume
- Personal statement
  An essay explaining why you are interested in this program and your long and short-term career goals (up to 750 words).
- Zoom interview with two Rutgers faculty members
- Volunteer/leadership experience is recommended

Prerequisite Course Listing

Exams cannot be used to fill these requirements.

- Anatomy and Physiology
- General Chemistry
- Introduction to Nutrition
- Experimental Foods
- Microbiology
- Organic Chemistry
- Biochemistry
- Food Service Management
- Human Nutrition and Metabolism

How to Get Started

- **Apply Online:**
  https://testingandtraining.com/applications/nutrition/
  A **$100 non-refundable fee** is due with the application.