

DUAL-DEGREE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NUTRITION SCIENCE – DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

Through an interdisciplinary approach, the dual-degree between the Doctor of Medicine (MD) and the Master of Science in Nutrition Science (MSNS) will increase the students' knowledge in nutrition science to inform evidence-based strategies to promote health and treat nutrition-associated conditions. Graduates with the combined MD-MSNS training will be well-positioned for the care of patients with complex nutritional problems, for design of nutritional approaches to prevent cardiometabolic disease and for leadership of clinical research and medical programs with significant nutrition content. This advanced degree will position students competitively for research and practice in their medical field that has nutritional underpinnings. In addition, graduates will demonstrate competencies in reading and synthesizing the published nutrition science literature, nutrition counseling, cultural competency, scholarly presentations, cultural competency, data analysis, and professional publications.

Target Audience:

- ☐ PSOM Doctor of Medicine (MD) Students

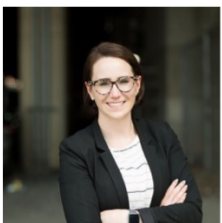
Format:

- ☐ 10 asynchronous online courses
- ☐ **Two** of these courses from the MD program can count towards one required and one elective course for the MSNS: **Core 1 Biochemistry (required)** or **Community Nutrition and Culinary Medicine (elective)**
- ☐ Synchronous office hours will be offered for mentoring and faculty-student engagement
- ☐ Each student will be assigned a faculty advisor
- ☐ The program will culminate with a faculty-mentored capstone project with a topic that will tailored to students' interests

The course requirements can be found in the following page. For further information please go to our program website (<https://www.nursing.upenn.edu/nutrition/ms-in-nutrition-science/>) or contact the Program Directors:



Tanja Kral, PhD
Professor of Nutrition Science
Director of Nutrition Programs at Penn Nursing
Email: tkral@nursing.upenn.edu



Colleen Tewksbury, PhD, MPH, RD, CSOWM, LDN
Assistant Professor of Nutrition Science
Associate Director of Nutrition Programs at Penn Nursing
Email: ctweks@upenn.edu

Course Requirements:

Required Courses (8 courses)

NUTR 6010 Nutritional Epidemiology (Fall)
NUTR 6020 Advanced Micronutrient Metabolism (Spring)
NUTR 6040 Advanced Macronutrient Metabolism (Fall); <i>replaced by Core 1 Biochemistry course</i>
NUTR 6030 Medical Nutrition Therapy I (Fall)
NUTR 6050 Medical Nutrition Therapy II (Spring)
NUTR 6060 Effective Nutrition Counseling and Health Education Skills (Summer)
NUTR 6070 Capstone Project Planning (Fall and Spring)
NUTR 6080 Capstone Project Completion (Spring and Summer)

Elective Courses (*choose one elective course if PSOM 'Community Nutrition and Culinary Medicine' course taken, otherwise choose two elective courses*)

NUTR 6760 Obesity and Health (Spring)
NUTR 6090 Nutrition Equity (Summer)
NUTR 6100 Omics in Nutrition Science (Fall)
NUTR 6130 Precision Nutrition (Spring)
NUTR 6120 Culinary Nutrition (Summer)

Prerequisites and Application Process:

- ☐ Prerequisites for admission to the program include completion of:
 - Introductory nutrition course
 - Undergraduate-level biology and/or chemistry course
- ☐ Application materials:
 - Completed online application (including \$50 non-refundable application fee)
 - All transcripts from accredited bachelor's and graduate degrees required
 - Essay, two letters of recommendation, resume
- ☐ Applicants may be invited for virtual interview
- ☐ Application Deadlines:

Program (full-time (FT) or part-time (PT) enrollment)	Application Deadlines	Program Start Date
MSNS (PT only)	10/15/2025	Spring 2026
MSNS (FT or PT)	11/3/2025 (Priority)	Summer or Fall 2026
MSNS (FT or PT)	3/16/2026	Summer 2026
MSNS (FT or PT)	5/1/2026	Fall 2026

- ☐ To apply, visit <https://apply.nursing.upenn.edu/apply/>