

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES (SHS) SIMMONS COLLEGE

Thank you for your interest in the nutrition programs in the School of Health Sciences (SHS) at Simmons College, a graduate school offering a M.S. degree and various certificates for qualified individuals who hold a bachelor's or master's degree. If you are a high school student, or a current undergraduate student wishing to transfer to the undergraduate program in nutrition, please visit the Simmons College undergraduate nutrition program site www.simmons.edu/academics/undergraduate/nutrition/index.html or if you wish to pursue a second bachelor's degree in nutrition, www.simmons.edu/dix. You may also contact the Office of Undergraduate Admission at 617-521-2051.

After carefully reading this summary, if you still have questions about **graduate** nutrition programs, contact the SHS Office of Admission at 617-521-2650 (Monday to Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. east coast time, except designated College holidays. Note: from May-August, the office is open on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) You may also contact us via email at shs@simmons.edu.

Nutrition as a Career

To learn more about the nutrition profession, visit the web site of the American Dietetic Association (ADA) www.eatright.org to determine which career path is for you. Whether you already have an educational and experiential background in nutrition and want to pursue advanced study or you wish to change your educational and career focus, SHS offers various full and part-time nutrition program options.

<http://www.simmons.edu/shs/academics/nutrition/degrees/index.shtml>

Graduate Nutrition Education

In your investigation of graduate nutrition education, you will notice that different programs/institutions focus on various aspects or types of nutrition (for example, geriatrics, international), expect different prerequisites (science, math, nutrition courses), offer different academic credentials (certificates or degrees) and provide curriculums of different lengths (usually two years of full-time study) and requirements to earn a master's degree (thesis or research project). The one you select will depend upon your career goals and the amount of time you are willing to devote to completing the appropriate coursework. Decide if you wish to work with specific groups of people, in certain settings (schools, sports or community centers, hospitals) or in the public or corporate domains (writing for nutrition journals, establishing wellness programs for corporate employees) and this will also help you to determine which program is right for you.

Graduate Programs in the School of Health Sciences at Simmons

SHS offers a M.S. in Nutrition and Health Promotion which can be completed in two academic semesters and a summer session, providing you have **completed** all the prerequisites <http://www.simmons.edu/shs/academics/nutrition/prereqs.shtml> at the time of application. You must determine in advance if courses completed elsewhere or courses you plan to take will fulfill our prerequisites: course content and the department in which the course was taught are key factors.

If you have questions about such courses, please send a course syllabus, not description to the Office of Admission (fax: 617-521-3137). Please allow 10-15 business days for review and evaluation.

The GRE (Graduate Record Exam) is also required for application to the M.S. program

This M.S. option is best for individuals who already have a bachelor's degree in nutrition or another discipline but who have also completed all the prerequisites. The curriculum <http://www.simmons.edu/shs/academics/nutrition/degrees/msn.shtml> focuses on community nutrition and requires a research project of publishable quality. See some recent research topics <http://www.simmons.edu/shs/about/news/nutrition/index.shtml>

Becoming a Registered Dietitian (R.D.)

If you wish to become a Registered Dietitian (R.D.), the pathway for this option is very specific and is determined by the ADA. Individuals need to hold a bachelor's or master's degree, complete certain didactic courses, <http://www.simmons.edu/academics/undergraduate/nutrition/programs/dietetics.html> apply for, be selected for and complete a dietetic internship, which is a supervised practical experience then, take the national exam to become a R.D. The Dietetic Internship Program (DIP) is a separate program/process. Obtaining the R.D. demonstrates that the person has achieved a solid foundation in academics and experience.

You may complete the required didactic courses (20 courses) by either applying to pursue a first or second bachelor's degree via the Office of Undergraduate Admission as indicated above, or by applying to the DPD certificate program offered in our graduate school. This certificate program includes the completion of undergraduate courses. The length of time to complete this certificate is different for each person and depends upon the number of courses which meet our requirements that may have been successfully completed previously in the ten years prior to the application deadline. Such courses must have been completed at a regionally accredited U.S. college or university or a post-secondary institution abroad which is recognized by the Ministry of Education in the home country. The courses in the DPD program are undergraduate but the certificate is offered by SHS and is a graduate credential and thus tuition charges are based on graduate rates. See more details about the DPD Certificate

<http://www.simmons.edu/shs/academics/nutrition/degrees/dpd.shtml>

You could apply to Certificate in the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) alone or in combination with the M.S.

If you choose to apply to the M.S. and DPD simultaneously, then the prerequisites are not required before admission. The program will be longer to complete than for the M.S. alone. The GRE is still required for this combination option but is not required to apply only to the DPD program.

Dietetic Internship (DI)

Not all institutions are authorized to offer and verify a student's completion of the required didactic courses. Simmons College is authorized to do so and a nutrition faculty member will complete the required verification statement which you need to submit with the ADA application for the dietetic internship matching process. Colleges, universities and hospitals are examples of sites where dietetic internships are offered; each site is limited to the number of student interns it accepts. While some internships may be paid, many require students to pay tuition.

Simmons College is an internship site; accepts NINE students per year (three are distance slots: see the web site for specific details).

http://www.simmons.edu/shs/academics/nutrition/degrees/dietetic_distance.shtml

Simmons charges tuition for this 12 credit program. Our internship is very unique as it focuses on community nutrition and students obtain experience in several different settings.

<http://www.simmons.edu/shs/academics/nutrition/degrees/dietetic.shtml>

Other Graduate Nutrition Programs in SHS

Another program option which SHS offers is the Certificate in Sports Nutrition (CSN) which provides individuals with the foundation needed to take American College of Sports Medicine Personal Trainer exam. The prerequisites for this program include a bachelor's degree and one full year of anatomy and physiology with a lab and one half year of introductory nutrition. All courses are offered online. The GRE is not required to apply to this program.

So, as you can see, you may apply to various program combinations based on your educational background and career goals: M.S. in Nutrition in Health Promotion, the Certificate in the DPD, the Certificate in Sports Nutrition and the Dietetic Internship- individually or various combinations of these options. Whenever the M.S. is one option, the GRE is required for admission.

International Students

Students requiring an F-1 visa to study in the U.S. must be enrolled full-time (at least 9 credit hours per semester). The CSN program is part-time and U.S. immigration policy only allows foreign students to take one online course per semester. Thus, this option is not open to students needing a student visa.

Admission and Financial Aid

General information about the SHS admission process can be found at

<http://www.simmons.edu/shs/admission/application/index.shtml>

If you wish to complete any of the prerequisite courses for any of the nutrition graduate options, you can obtain information about undergraduate course options via the Office of Undergraduate Admission <http://www.simmons.edu/admission/nondegree/> or 617-521-2051.

Merit funds offered by SHS include scholarships (for the M.S. program) and graduate assistantships based on half-time enrollment (6 credit hours per semester). All students are automatically considered for such awards at the time of application; there is no separate application for these competitive funds. Unfortunately, due to limited funding, continuing students are not eligible for such funds.

<http://www.simmons.edu/shs/admission/finaid/scholarships.shtml>

Students may additionally apply for financial aid via the Office of Student Financial Services. Such aid consists of low interest student loans and application directly and separately to that office is required. The amount of scholarships and assistantship will **not cover the entire cost** of education and thus obtaining student loans should be considered.

<http://www.simmons.edu/shs/admission/finaid/financialaid.shtml>

Tuition and Fees

Tuition changes each year and is determined/announced in the spring, effective for the next fall semester. Current charges can be found here

<http://www.simmons.edu/shs/admission/finaid/index.shtml>

Information Sessions

SHS offers several campus Information Sessions throughout the year. You may register online or by contacting this office (617-521-2650) to attend one of these events. Please know that these events are **not** drop-in sessions, rather, an organized program offering scheduled presentations about SHS, application and financial aid followed by individual sessions on each SHS program. The program will begin at the designated time indicated on the web site. All persons attending an Information Session will receive an application fee waiver, except for the Advanced Standing DPT Bridge and DNP applications.

<http://www.simmons.edu/shs/admission/events/index.shtml>