



UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL
ARKANSAS™



University of Central Arkansas – Morrison MSDI Program

A combined master's degree and dietetic internship is now offered jointly with The University of Central Arkansas (UCA) and Morrison Healthcare Dietetic Internship. Students in this program are simultaneously enrolled in and complete all the requirements for a clinically focused dietetic internship with Morrison Healthcare while pursuing their M.S. in Nutrition 100% online through UCA. Students who successfully complete the internship and the graduate program will be awarded the verification statement from MHC for the student to be eligible to sit for the Examination of Registered Dietitians (RD).

Format of the UCA M.S. in Nutrition

All courses are fully online and asynchronous. Students will complete a total of 36 hours of graduate coursework in a variety of advanced nutrition topics. Students can start the MS in Nutrition online in either the Summer, Fall, or Spring terms. The UCA M.S. in Nutrition (36-credit hour non-thesis option) requires 9 hours of Core Courses (Trends in Nutrition, Evidence-Based Research, and Statistical Methods), and 27 hours of Selected Courses in Nutrition.

Students who start in the Summer term can start with 3-4 online courses (9-12 credit hours) with UCA in Summer 1. In Fall 1, students can take 2-3 online courses (6-9 credit hours) and begin their internship rotations with Morrison Healthcare. Year 2 continues with 2-3 online courses (6-9 credit hours) and the completion of rotations in Spring 2. Students who started in the Summer term complete UCA's MS program with 3-4 online courses (9-12 credit hours) in Summer 2.

In August (Year 2), students graduate from UCA with an MS in Nutrition and receive the verification statement. Internship rotations are arranged through Morrison Healthcare and are available across the United States.

UCA Admissions Requirements

- No GRE requirement.
- Minimum 2.70 cumulative GPA, or at least 3.00 in the last 60 hours. If applicable, minimum 3.00 on any prior graduate coursework.
- Completion of an undergraduate DPD program or certain science and nutrition prerequisite courses.
- Application deadlines:
 - Spring Start: November 15
 - Summer Start: April 15
 - Fall Start: July 15
- Apply to the UCA M.S. In Nutrition: <https://uca.edu/graduateschool/applying-to-graduate-school/>

Sample Program Schedule

(The UCA M.S. in Nutrition accepts graduate applications for Spring, Summer, and Fall program starts)

UCA Semester	Summer 1 (June-early Aug)	Fall 1 (mid Aug-early Dec)	Spring 1 (Jan.-early May)	Summer 2 (June-early Aug)
UCA Credit Hours:	9-12 hrs.	6-9 hrs.	6-9 hrs.	9-12 hrs.
UCA MS in Nutrition Courses (36-credit hr. non-thesis option)	Pick 9-12 hours from the following Selected Courses: • NUTR 5321: Nutritional Services Administration (10-week course) • NUTR 5375: Nutrition in Exercise and Sports (5-week course) • FACS 6300: Current Issues in FCS (5-week course) • NUTR 6345: Pediatric Nutrition (5-week course; odd years) • NUTR 6346: Global Nutrition (5-week course; odd years) • FACS 6310: Advanced Resource Management (5-week course; odd years) • NUTR 6347: Nutrition Public Policy (5-week course; even years) • NUTR 5340: Geriatric Nutrition (5-week course; even years) • FACS 5310: Program Development (5-week course; even years)	Required Core Courses: • FACS 6335: Evidence-Based Research (Core Course) • NUTR 6308: Trends in Nutrition (Core Course) Pick from the following Selected Courses: • NUTR 5324: Nutrition Assessment • NUTR 5375: Nutrition in Exercise and Sports	Required Core Course: • FACS 6350: Statistical Methods (Core Course) Pick from the following Selected Courses: • NUTR 6313: Diet Therapy • NUTR 6330 Metabolic Nutrition • NUTR 6314 Business & Entrepreneurship in the Nutrition Profession • NUTR 6335 Nutrition Counseling	Pick 9-12 hours from the following Selected Courses: • NUTR 5321: Nutritional Services Administration (10-week course) • NUTR 5375: Nutrition in Exercise and Sports (5-week course) • FACS 6300: Current Issues in FCS (5-week course) • NUTR 6345: Pediatric Nutrition (5-week course; odd years) • NUTR 6346: Global Nutrition (5-week course; odd years) • FACS 6310: Advanced Resource Management (5-week course; odd years) • NUTR 6347: Nutrition Public Policy (5-week course; even years) • NUTR 5340: Geriatric Nutrition (5-week course; even years) • FACS 5310: Program Development (5-week course; even years) • Graduate from UCA with the MS in Nutrition
MHC Internship		Start MHC Internship (4 days a week) while continuing with the degree	Continue from MHC Internship (4 days a week)	MHC-UCA students will receive their verification statement upon completion of their MS degree

UCA Application Process: Step by Step

- Create an [online account](#) using a personal email address you will have access to for at least 6 months. You will receive a PIN by email to complete setup. *(Current UCA students: this account is separate from your MyUCA account.)*
- Select the [Graduate School](#) application option.
- Complete and submit the application.
- Pay the **\$45 non-refundable** application fee.
- *After* paying, upload all required documents on the applicant status page.
- Send official transcripts to the UCA Graduate School

- **UCA tuition:** UCA has a flat-rate tuition for fully online graduate programs, bringing UCA's tuition to \$398/credit hour*36 hours= \$14,328 (this amount includes any college and course fees). There is a \$40 graduation fee at the end of the program.
- **Morrison Healthcare Dietetic Internship tuition:** Deposit to hold spot: \$2500, paid on acceptance into the MSFCS program; remainder tuition fee of \$8000, paid prior to rotations beginning in second fall.

Contact Information

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