



Cal Poly Pomona

ONLINE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN DIETETICS

YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT YOUR PATIENTS NEED. GET THE CREDENTIALS TO PROVE IT.

ACEND-accredited. 30 units. 100% online. Built for nutrition professionals and dietetic interns.

\$104K

Average salary for MS Dietetics professionals (ZipRecruiter, August 2025)

ACEND

Accredited curriculum — recognized by licensure boards and employers

30 UNITS

Complete in one year full time, or two years for flexibility

100%

Online. Asynchronous. No live class requirements.

THE RD PATHWAY — WHERE THE MSD FITS

The path to becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist requires a graduate degree (mandatory as of January 1, 2024), a supervised Dietetic Internship, and passing the CDR examination. The MSD fulfills the graduate degree requirement and strengthens your candidacy for competitive internship programs.

Step 1: Your Foundation Bachelor's degree and DPD verification statement from an ACEND-accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics.	Step 2: The MSD at CPP Advanced nutrition science, clinical dietetics, and research methods — fully online and asynchronous. Completed before, during, or after your Dietetic Internship.
Step 3: Dietetic Internship ACEND-accredited supervised practice (1,200 hours). Required to sit for the RD exam. The MSD does not replace this requirement — it makes you a stronger candidate for competitive programs.	Step 4: RD/RDN Credential Pass the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) examination. Graduates of the CPP MSD may apply to the CPP Dietetic Internship the year they graduate to begin supervised practice that fall.

IMPORTANT: The MSD is not an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program. You will still need to complete a Dietetic Internship to sit for the RD exam. The MSD strengthens your clinical knowledge and your internship application — it does not replace the internship requirement. Contact Rachel Flores for a personalized pathway consultation.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The MSD is a 30-unit program designed to be completed in one-year full time or two years with added flexibility. All coursework is delivered online and asynchronously — no scheduled live sessions, no required login times.

#	Course	What It Builds
NTR 5100	Nutrition Research Methods	Build the foundation for evidence-based nutrition practice. Learn how to evaluate research, interpret scientific findings, analyze nutrition studies, and confidently apply evidence to real-world clinical and community nutrition decisions.
NTR 5200	Statistics for Nutrition and Dietetics	Develop the analytical skills needed to turn data into meaningful insights. Explore statistical tools used in nutrition research, public health, and community programs while learning how to evaluate outcomes and support evidence-based recommendations.
NTR 5360	Advanced Life Cycle Nutrition	Gain a deeper understanding of nutritional needs from pregnancy through older adulthood. Examine how growth, development, aging, and chronic disease influence nutrition requirements across every stage of life.
NTR 5430	Advanced Medical Nutrition Therapy	Strengthen your ability to assess, diagnose, and develop nutrition interventions for complex medical conditions. Explore advanced clinical applications of nutrition in both acute and chronic disease management while applying the Nutrition Care Process in real-world scenarios.
NTR 5440	Advanced Medical Nutrition II	Advance your clinical decision-making skills through challenging case studies and evidence-based practice. Explore nutrition strategies for high-risk conditions including cardiovascular disease, renal disease, oncology, critical care, pediatric nutrition, and enteral and parenteral support.
NTR 5446	Advanced Nutrition Education and Counseling	Learn how to inspire meaningful behavior change through effective communication, counseling, and education. Apply proven health behavior theories and motivational strategies to design impactful nutrition interventions for individuals and communities.
NTR 6425	Nutrition and Food Management	Develop the leadership and operational skills required to manage nutrition services and food systems. Explore budgeting, staffing, food safety, menu planning, quality control, and strategic decision-making within healthcare and foodservice environments.
NTR 6446	Community Nutrition	Learn how nutrition professionals create healthier communities. Examine population health, disease prevention, health promotion, and community-based programs while developing strategies to address nutrition challenges across diverse populations.
NTR 6594	Qualitative Research I	Discover how qualitative research uncovers the stories behind health behaviors and nutrition outcomes. Learn interviewing techniques, focus groups, observational methods, and thematic analysis to strengthen assessment, program evaluation, and research efforts.
NTR 6595	Qualitative Research II	Put qualitative research into practice. Conduct interviews, facilitate focus groups, analyze findings, and present results while gaining hands-on experience with research methods used in healthcare, public health, and community nutrition settings.
NTR 6970	Comprehensive Examination	Demonstrate your mastery of graduate-level dietetics knowledge through a culminating assessment that integrates research, clinical reasoning, critical thinking, and professional practice competencies developed throughout the program.

PROGRAM FORMAT AND SCHEDULE

Format 100% online and asynchronous. No scheduled live sessions. No required login times. Study when your schedule allows.	Completion One-year full time (30 units in 2 semesters) or two years with added flexibility. Most students complete while working.
Internship Compatibility Designed to be completed concurrently with or prior to your ACEND-accredited Dietetic Internship.	Admission Annual review for fall admission. Contact Rachel Flores for current application timeline and eligibility guidance.

TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

Cal Poly Pomona is a CSU institution. MSD tuition is significantly below private dietetics graduate programs. The total 30-unit program cost varies by per-unit rate and applicable fees. Current tuition rates are available on the CPP Graduate Admissions website.

Financial aid is available through CPP's Financial Aid office. Employer tuition reimbursement may apply for nutrition professionals working in healthcare systems or organizations with education benefit programs.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

The MSD is designed for registered dietitian nutritionists, dietetic interns, and nutrition professionals who meet ACEND eligibility criteria for graduate dietetics education.

Required for Application

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
- DPD verification statement from an ACEND-accredited program
- Official transcripts from all degree-granting institutions
- Personal statement describing your nutrition career goals and how the MSD fits your pathway
- Professional resume

Eligibility Note

Applicants must meet ACEND eligibility requirements for graduate dietetics programs. If you are uncertain about your eligibility, contact Rachel Flores before submitting your application. A 20-minute conversation resolves most eligibility questions.

CAREER OUTCOMES

MSD graduates advance into roles including Clinical Nutrition Manager, Public Health Nutritionist, Food and Nutrition Program Director, Nutrition Policy and Research Specialist, and Nutrition Faculty at universities and community colleges. Alumni serve across healthcare, education, government, nonprofit, food service, and wellness settings throughout Southern California and beyond.

"I chose the MS in Dietetics at CPP for the constant support and flexibility to balance work, family, and study. The program is preparing me to grow in clinical nutrition and pursue my goal of opening a private practice as an RD." — Angelica J., Clinical Nutrition Professional, MSD Candidate

Questions? Contact the Program Directly.

RACHEL S. FLORES, MS, RD

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Apply online: <https://calstate.edu/apply> | **Program page:** <https://www.cpp.edu/cpge/degree-programs/dietetics/index.shtml>