

Dietetics Administration, MDA

Department: Nutrition, Dietetics, and Food Sciences Department

College: College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

Overview

About This Degree

The master of dietetics administration degree is a professional degree with online coursework designed to provide registered dietitians with in-depth training in management and leadership in food and nutrition program administration. The skills emphasized in the MDA program enhance management career options for graduates in clinical, community, foodservice, and entrepreneurial practice. Nationwide, there is a great need for professionally educated managers and leaders at local, district, state, and federal levels in food and nutrition programs, including school, university, hospital food services, public health/community programs, and clinical practice. This program provides skills in leadership, problem solving, financial management, human resource management, entrepreneurship, and more.

Career Options

Graduates with an MDA can work in the following areas:

- Managers in foodservice operations at hospitals and nursing homes
- Clinical nutritionists
- Public health programs
- Private practice dietitians
- Private clinics
- Diabetes clinics
- Weight-loss management for various organizations

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

To be admitted to the program, applicants must have completed one of the following options:

- Students must have completed the USU Dietetic Internship within the past five years and passed the Registered Dietician exam.
- Students who did not complete the USU Dietetic Internship must be a registered dietitian with at least two years work experience.

Application Requirements:

- Complete the [online application](#)
- Pay the \$55 application fee
- Score at or above the 40th percentile on the GRE
- Have a 3.0 or higher GPA on your last 60 semester or 90 quarter credits
- Provide transcripts of all college/university credits
- Provide three contacts for letters of recommendation

International students have [additional admissions requirements](#).

Admissions Deadlines

The department has the following deadline:

- Fall semester - March 30th

Master's Degree Plan Options

Students can receive the MDA by pursuing the following option:

- The **Plan B** option requires the production of a paper or creative work of art and is expected to reflect equivalent scholarship standards as a thesis.

Financial Assistance

Scholarships are available through the College of Agriculture.

A variety of additional funding opportunities are available, including [fellowships](#), [scholarships](#), and [travel support](#).

Program Requirements

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Master of Dietetics Administration**.

Student who completed the USU Dietetics Internship before beginning the MDA are able to complete their coursework entirely online. Students who are admitted under the second option, without the internship but with two years of experience as a registered dietitian, must complete some coursework on campus, and then the remainder of courses can be completed online.

All students are required to come to the Logan campus twice while completing their degree; once for an orientation before coursework begins in the fall, and once to defend their project.

Contact

Advisor(s)

Martha Archuleta

Professor, Associate Dean for USU RCDE Wasatch Front region

Office: 2500 S. State St., Suite 500, Salt Lake City

Phone: (385) 646-5576

Email: martha.archuleta@usu.edu

Tara Johnson

Assistant to the Department Head

Office: NFS 213

Phone: (435) 797-2102

Email: tara.johnson@usu.edu

Faculty

Janet Anderson, MS, Utah State University

Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture, Clinical Professor

Area: Dietetics

Office: AGSC 225 D

Phone: (435) 797-2104

Email: janet.anderson@usu.edu

Jeffery Broadbent, PhD, Utah State University

Associate Vice President for Research, Professor

Area: Food science, microbial genetics

Office: NFS 314 A

Phone: (435) 797-2113

Email: jeff.broadbent@usu.edu

Charles Carpenter, PhD, University of Wisconsin
Department Head, Professor
Area: Muscle biochemistry and physiology, meat processing
Office: NFS 213
Phone: (435) 797-2103
Email: chuck.carpenter@usu.edu

Daren Cornforth, PhD, Michigan State University
Professor
Area: Food science, meat and muscle chemistry
Office: NFS 329
Phone: (435) 797-2114
Email: daren.cornforth@usu.edu

Conly Hansen, PhD, Ohio State University
Professor
Area: Food science, food engineering
Office: NFS 242 A
Phone: (435) 797-2188
Email: conly.hansen@usu.edu

Korry Hintze, PhD, North Dakota University
Assistant Professor
Area: Cellular and molecular biology
Office: NFS 304
Phone: (435) 797-2124
Email: korry.hintze@usu.edu

Heidi LeBlanc, MS, Utah State University
Extension Associate Professor
Area: Food stamp program
Office: NFS 207
Phone: (435) 797-3923
Email: heidi.leblanc@usu.edu

Michael Lefevre, PhD, University of California – Davis
Professor
Area: Nutrition
Office: BTEC 313
Phone: (435) 797-3821
Email: michael.lefevre@usu.edu

Silvana Martini, PhD, University of Plate, Buenos Aires
Associate Professor
Area: Food science, sensory
Office: NFS 327
Phone: (435) 797-8136
Email: silvana.martini@usu.edu

Donald McMahon, PhD, Utah State University
Professor
Area: Food science, dairy chemistry, technology
Office: NFS 248 B
Phone: (435) 797-3644
Email: donald.mcmahon@usu.edu

Ronald Munger, PhD, University of Washington
Professor
Area: Nutrition, epidemiology, and public health
Office: NFS 311
Phone: (435) 797-2122
Email: ron.munger@usu.edu

Ilka Nemere, PhD, University of California – Los Angeles
Professor
Area: Nutrition, molecular nutrition
Office: NFS 303
Phone: (435) 797-3286
Email: ilka.nemere@usu.edu

Brian Nummer, PhD, Clemson University
Associate Professor
Area: Food safety, preservation, and storage
Office: NFS 321
Phone: (435) 797-2116
Email: brian.nummer@usu.edu

Paula Scott, MS, Utah State University
Extension Associate Professor
Area: Expanded Food Nutrition Education Program
Office: USU Salt Lake Education Center
Phone: (801) 451-3405
Email: paula.scott@usu.edu

Janette Smith, MS, Brigham Young University
Clinical Assistant Professor
Area: Dietetics
Office: NFS 221
Phone: (435) 797-2135
Email: janette.smith@usu.edu

Tamara Steinitz, MS, Utah State University
Clinical Associate Professor
Area: Dietetics
Office: NFS 312
Phone: (435) 797-3467
Email: tamara.vitale@usu.edu

Marie Walsh, PhD, North Carolina State University
Associate Professor
Area: Food science
Office: NFS 318
Phone: (435) 797-2177
Email: marie.walsh@usu.edu

Robert Ward, PhD, University of California – Davis
Associate Professor
Area: Food science, bioactive materials
Office: NFS 322
Phone: (435) 797-2153
Email: robert.ward@usu.edu

Heidi Wengreen, PhD, Utah State University

Associate Professor

Area: Nutrition, epidemiology, dietetics

Office: NFS 307

Phone: (435) 797-1806

Email: heidi.wengreen@usu.edu

Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

American Dietetic Association: The American Dietetic Association is the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. ADA is committed to improving the nation's health and advancing the profession of dietetics through research, education, and advocacy.

Labs, Centers, Research

Center for Advanced Nutrition: The CAN provides a multi-disciplinary venue for the discussion, discovery, and dissemination of information about the biological, physiological, and psychological mechanisms of proper nutrition. The scope of discovery is broad and falls into four distinct but overlapping focus areas: bioactive foods, nutrition and the brain, ingestive behavior, and personalized nutrition.

Center for Human Nutrition Studies: The "Center for Human Nutrition Studies" at Utah State University provides the organizational structure and logistic support for research scientists with interests in conducting clinical studies with an emphasis on nutrition. The Center, with a core staff consisting of experienced clinical researchers, community interventionist, research dietitian, clinic coordinator, laboratory research associate and support staff, coupled with an outstanding clinical facility and research kitchen, is designed to serve as a resource to Utah State University researchers in efforts to secure extramural research funding and industry contracts and partnerships. The Center also provides opportunities to both undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to gain experience in the design and conduct of human nutrition clinical studies. The Center is managed by the USTAR Applied Nutrition Research Team in conjunction with the Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Science and under the administrative oversight of the College of Agriculture.