Master of Science Great Plains IDEA program

The Great Plains IDEA (https://www.gpidea.org/program/dietetics) (Interactive Distance Education Alliance) is a consortium of eight universities that provides an online 36-credit hour master's degree in dietetics and nutrition. Admission is limited to credentialed registered dietitians or registry-eligible individuals having met all requirements of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for registration. Students enroll for all courses through his or her “home” institution, but the actual courses are delivered online from any of the participating universities and their respective faculty members.

Great Plains IDEA Consortium Members

- University of Kansas Medical Center
- Kansas State University
- Colorado State University
- Iowa State University
- North Dakota State University
- Oklahoma State University
- South Dakota State University
- University of Nebraska- Lincoln

The program is administered by the KU Department of Dietetics and Nutrition (http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/dietetics-and-nutrition/online-masters-program.html) for students selecting the KU Medical Center as his or her “home” institution. Completion of degree requirements depends upon several factors including the semester start date, the specific courses offered each semester, and the student's desired course load each semester. Many students in this program are working professionals with job and family responsibilities, and this program allows the flexibility to take the number of courses that work in the student’s schedule.

Taking one to two courses a semester (including summers) should allow students to complete the program in approximately two to four years. More courses may be taken each semester provided they are available. To see the current schedule of course offerings, visit the Great Plains IDEA (https://www.gpidea.org/program/dietetics) website and select the course matrix and course information links.

For questions about this program, please contact Kendra Spaeth by email at dietetics@kumc.edu.
Tel: 913-588-5355 (711 TTY)

Students selecting KU Medical Center as the “home” institution apply directly to the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition for admission. These students will receive the master's degree from KU upon completion of the degree requirements. The application process for the program is online only. Detailed instructions on how to apply are posted on the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition (http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/dietetics-and-nutrition/online-masters-program/how-to-apply.html) website. Application deadlines are March 15 for fall semester and October 15 for spring semester.

Admission requirements:

- A bachelor’s degree from a didactic program in dietetics (DPD) (http://www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/content.aspx?id=6442485422) or coordinated program in dietetics (http://www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/content.aspx?id=6442485421) accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics is required and must be documented by submission of official transcript indicating the degree has been conferred before entering the program. Please note: the University of Kansas does not offer an accredited DPD program that meets this requirement.

Official transcripts for all courses taken from all institutions attended are also required.

- Applicants must possess a cumulative grade-point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in his or her bachelor's degree program.
- Applicants who are not native speakers of English, whether domestic or international, must demonstrate they meet the minimum English proficiency requirement.
- Applicants must be credentialed as a registered dietitian by the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and submit a copy of current CDR registration card as documentation. Without an RD credential, students must be registration-eligible, having completed both an accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics and an accredited dietetic internship or a Coordinated Program in Dietetics (which encompasses both the academic degree and the supervised practice).

The Great Plains IDEA program acknowledges reciprocity as outlined by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. (http://www.eatrightpro.org/resources/about-us/what-is-an-rdn-and-dtr/what-is-a-registered-dietitian-nutritionist) Reciprocity is defined as individuals having completed the education and credentialing requirements in one country may be eligible for another country's credentialing examination if the two countries have entered into an agreement to allow this process. The Commission on Dietetics Registration (https://www.cdrnet.org/registrations/reciprocity-requirements) currently has registration eligibility reciprocity agreements with the following foreign dietetic associations and regulatory boards:

- Canada - Dietitians of Canada
- Netherlands - Dutch Association of Dietitians and Ministry of Welfare, Public Health and Culture
- Philippines - Philippine Professional Regulation Commission
- Ireland - Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute
- Applicants must provide a resume or curriculum vitae that includes prior employment and participation in professional and/or voluntary organizations (e.g., hospital, alumni or nonprofit.)
- A statement of career goals will be required in the online application and alternatively may be included in the resume.
- Three references are required. A reference should be from a faculty member, advisor, employer or other person familiar with the applicant’s work and character. The recommendations may not be obtained from family members, friends, etc.
- The Joint Commission requires all incoming students to obtain a background check (http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/background-checks-and-drug-screening-for-students.html). This one-time fee must be paid directly to the company performing the background investigation. For more
Applicants will be assessed based on these requirements. Students not meeting the above requirements may be eligible for provisional admission. After an applicant has been admitted, a program may defer an applicant’s admission for one year after which time the applicant must submit a new application.

Admission requirements are subject to change. In most cases, use the catalog of the year student entered the program. Other years’ catalogs».

The Great Plains IDEA (Interactive Distance Education Alliance) Master of Science in Dietetics and Nutrition consists of 36 credit hours. Students selecting KU Medical Center as their “home” institution will receive their degree from this institution if all degree requirements listed below are successfully completed. Students enroll for all courses through their home institution and the courses are listed as KU courses, but the actual course content is delivered online from any of the participating universities and their respective faculty members.

**Degree requirements:**

**Core Courses (15)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DIET 801</td>
<td>Current Issues or Trends</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIET 833</td>
<td>Principles of Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIET 834</td>
<td>Methods of Research in Nutrition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIET 885</td>
<td>Advanced Human Nutrition: Macronutrients</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or DIET 886</td>
<td>Advanced Nutrition: Micronutrients</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIET 896</td>
<td>Micronutrients in Human Nutrition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research courses (3)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DIET 854</td>
<td>Non-Thesis Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or DIET 899</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Elective courses (18)**

See list of elective course options below. 18

**Total Hours** 36

- Degree requirements are normally completed within 2-4 years of admission to the program although a maximum of 7 years is allowed.
- Completion of a minimum of 36 credit hours.
- Cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of at least a 3.0 for all KU graduate coursework.
- Enrollment in a minimum of one credit hour the semester the student will graduate.
- Successful completion of the following courses:

  - The Great Plains IDEA (Interactive Distance Education Alliance) Master of Science in Dietetics and Nutrition consists of 36 credit hours. Students selecting KU Medical Center as their “home” institution will receive their degree from this institution if all degree requirements listed below are successfully completed. Students enroll for all courses through their home institution and the courses are listed as KU courses, but the actual course content is delivered online from any of the participating universities and their respective faculty members.

- For the non-thesis option:
  - Successful completion of a general examination (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies/kumc/#programstext) the semester the student will graduate. The general exam is an oral exam administered by three faculty members that covers the competencies students are expected to gain through the M.S. degree program.
  - Completion of DIET 854 Non-Thesis Research occurs the semester the student successfully defends the project. Students submit a written proposal and conduct an oral presentation of the proposal. If satisfactory, students then prepare a final written report and conduct an oral presentation (defense) of the report which is followed by questions from the research committee. The project is generally completed in 1 to 3 semesters and may include one or more of the following:
    - written intensive review of the literature on a given topic, based on “Evidence-Based Analysis” procedures of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics;
    - participation with a faculty member in the development of a research proposal or grant;
    - participation with a faculty member in conducting a pilot project;
    - participation with a faculty member in the design, implementation, or evaluation of a program in a specialized area of dietetics practice; and/or
    - collection and/or analysis of data in conjunction with a faculty member engaged in research.

- For the thesis option:
  - Successful completion of a general examination (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies/kumc/#programstext) the semester the student will graduate. The general exam is an oral exam administered by three faculty members that covers the competencies students are expected to gain through the M.S. degree program.
  - Successful completion of a thesis defense (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies/kumc/#programstext) and of DIET 899 Thesis. The defense occurs during the semester the student will defend the thesis and graduate. Thesis research is usually conducted over 3 semesters and involves all aspects of research including preparing a proposal, collection and analysis of data, and a thesis. The thesis is presented in written form and orally in a presentation to the thesis committee followed by questions (or defense) and an oral examination before the thesis committee. The thesis defense must be completed in person.
  - Successful thesis submission and publication (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies/kumc/#programstext) (according to Office of Graduate Studies policy).

- Choose from the following elective course options (minimum 18 credit hours required).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DIET 802</td>
<td>Foods Writing for Professionals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIET 805</td>
<td>Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Typical Plan of Study**

**Non-thesis option (minimum 36 credit hours)**

### Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DIET 833 (core course)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>DIET 834 (core course)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 1 Total Hours:</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
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</table>

### Year 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DIET 886 (core course)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>DIET 896 (core course)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>DIET 895 (research course non-thesis option)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 2 Total Hours:</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Year 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DIET 899 (research course thesis option)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>DIET 801 (core course)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 3 Total Hours:</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours: 36**

Reasonable accommodation will be considered and may be made to qualified students who disclose a disability, so long as such

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Degree requirements and course descriptions are subject to change. Any courses taken as an equivalent must be approved by the Graduate Director and the Office of Graduate Studies. In most cases, use the catalog of the year student entered the program. Other years’ catalogs.«
accommodation does not significantly alter the essential requirements of the curriculum and the training program, or significantly affect the safety of patient care. Students who disclose that they have a disability are considered for the program if they are otherwise qualified. Qualified students with a disability who wish to request accommodations should provide appropriate documentation of disability and submit a request for accommodation to:

The Office for Academic Accommodations

Cyn Ukoko, Senior Coordinator of Academic Accommodations

913-945-7035 or 711 TTY

cukoko@kumc.edu

1006 Dykes Library

The Department of Dietetics & Nutrition and the University of Kansas Medical Center have a commitment to nondiscrimination, access and reasonable accommodation of students with disabilities. Therefore, all students admitted to the MS Degree in Dietetics & Nutrition must be able to meet the following requirements and expectations with or without an accommodation. The MS degree prepares students to practice dietetics and nutrition and to interpret and participate in research in nutrition within academic and healthcare organizations. Graduates need knowledge and skills to function in diverse practice and research settings. All students who are admitted into the MS degree program in Dietetics & Nutrition are able to do the following:

**Observe:** Students must be able to observe lectures, demonstrations, research, and practice situations in the practice and research of health sciences.

**Communicate:** Students must have the ability to use multiple communication techniques (oral, written, nonverbal, group process information technology, and esthetic endeavors) that enable them to communicate with clients, teachers, health providers, and faculty. Students must be able to report to members of the team, express accurate information to clients, and teach, explain, direct and counsel people.

**Psychomotor:** Students must have sufficient motor capacities and motilities to execute various tasks and physical maneuvers such as: collecting specimens and perform basic tests and physical assessments on individuals, e.g., finger sticks for blood glucose testing, using glucometers, skin fold thickness, blood pressure, and placing feeding tubes; working in institutional and food demonstration kitchens to prepare foods and direct employees involved in food services; and conducting patient visits individually and with health care team members to provide nutrition care. **Graduate students who are not involved with clinical experiences are expected to demonstrate during their research assistantship sufficient motor capabilities and motilities to execute various tasks similar to those in the clinical rotations.**

**Intellectual and Cognitive Abilities:** Students must be able to measure, calculate reason, analyze, synthesize, integrate, and remember to apply information. Creative problem solving and clinical reasoning requires all of these intellectual abilities.

**Professional and Social Attributes:** Students must exercise good judgment and promptly complete all responsibilities required of the program. They must develop mature, sensitive, and effective professional relationships with others. They must able to tolerate taxing workloads and function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and function in the face of uncertainties and ambiguities. Concern for others, interpersonal competence, and motivation are requisites for the program.