



MAKING YOU A GRADUATE-LEVEL PRACTITIONER

DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION AND FOOD SYSTEMS

The Nutrition and Food Systems Master of Science in Dietetics Practice is designed to enable students enrolled in a dietetic internship to complete half of the degree concurrently with supervised practice. The remainder of the degree requirements can be completed fully online, requiring no visits to campus.

Why Southern Miss?

- ▶ Completion of the graduate degree and the dietetic internship are planned to be completed in a two-year time frame.
- ▶ Strong foundation knowledge prior to entering the dietetic internship allows students to function at a higher level once entering supervised practice sites.
- ▶ Innovative curriculum aligns program coursework with internship requirements—we work with the internship director to align activities and assignments.
- ▶ Coordinated supervised practice and graduate coursework are designed to develop greater critical thinking and decision-making skills in the workplace.
- ▶ Cutting-edge online teaching strategies allow students to have greater interaction with program faculty and classmates.
- ▶ Graduate coursework compliments all facets of nutrition and dietetics practice, including clinical, management and community, increasing preparation for entry-level positions.
- ▶ Focus on upcoming areas of dietetics practice includes improved communication, leadership, counseling and global health.
- ▶ Strong integration of research into practice allows students to utilize supervised practice projects to transition into the degree capstone research project.

Highlights

- ▶ Acceptance into the program occurs after computer match to the dietetic internship.
- ▶ Out-of-state tuition rates are waived for students enrolled in fully online programs.

- ▶ Availability of federal financial aid for those students who qualify, includes cost of tuition, living expenses, travel and personal requirements related to the program (usm.edu/financial-aid).
- ▶ Fast-tracked application process—once accepted into the internship, acceptance into the graduate program can take as little as one week (usm.edu/graduate-school/apply-graduate-school).
- ▶ There is no need for additional letters of recommendation to the Graduate School (DICAS letters accepted).
- ▶ Students interact and learn from interns all over the country.

Online Learning and Distance Education

Whether you're a traditional college student or an experienced professional seeking a master's degree, Online at Southern Miss offers a convenient, flexible learning platform that allows you to earn the degree you want. Our faculty members strive to design high-quality programs and courses that will equip you with the skills you need to be successful in the workplace.

Fully Online Master of Science in Nutrition and Food Systems with an Emphasis in *Dietetics Practice* designed specifically to be integrated into a dietetic internship

“Learning to balance my master’s degree coursework with my dietetic internship really helped me prepare for working full-time while still finishing my degree. I was able to learn how to balance my work life and social life while still maintaining my schoolwork. It also helped me obtain my current position, as my employer knows the amount of work, dedication, organization, problem-solving and time management that goes into getting a graduate degree.”

Patti Francis (Dietetic Intern Graduate '17; MS Program Graduate '18)



- ▶ In the past five years, **92%** of the students who wanted the master’s degree **completed program requirements within two years** of starting the internship, while the remaining 8% completed program requirements in an additional two years.
- ▶ In the past five years, graduate students in the dietetics practice emphasis had **two manuscripts and 23 abstracts published in peer-reviewed journals**, with a corresponding 22 presentations of research findings at national-level nutrition and dietetics annual meetings.
- ▶ The online education program at USM has been recognized as the best among Mississippi colleges and universities (top 11 nationally) in a 2016-17 ranking by AffordableCollegesOnline.org. Of the nine Mississippi schools that offer online courses and programs, **Southern Miss ranked No. 1** based upon factors such as academic quality, student services and graduate success.
- ▶ The University of Southern Mississippi is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award degrees at the baccalaureate, master’s, specialist’s and doctoral levels.

What do I need to be admitted into graduate school?

Within one week of matching to your dietetic internship...

- ▶ Complete the application (usm.edu/graduate-school/apply-graduate-school)
 - ◆ GRE scores sent to The University of Southern Mississippi
 - ◆ Dietetics Practice emphasis
 - ◆ Summer admission term
 - ◆ Application fee
 - ◆ Unofficial transcripts from all colleges/universities attended
 - ◆ Letters of recommendation will be obtained through your DICAS application.

Examples of Coursework

- ▶ NFS 630 - Food Systems Management
- ▶ NFS 640 - Advanced Medical Nutrition Therapy
- ▶ NFS 662 - Community Health and Nutrition
- ▶ NFS 692 - Special Problems in Nutrition (non-thesis research requirement)
- ▶ NFS 703 - Research Techniques for Nutrition and Food Systems
- ▶ NFS 713 - Nutrition Education: Theory, Research and Practice
- ▶ NFS 774 - Management of Nutritional Services: A Behavioral Approach
- ▶ NFS 780 - Advanced Practice in Nutrition and Food Systems
- ▶ NFS 810 - Food and Nutrition Public Policy



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Elaine Fontenot Molaison, PhD, RD
Department Chair and Graduate
Program Director
Elaine.Molaison@usm.edu
601.266.5377 (v) | 601.266.6343 (f)

Roxanne Kingston, MS, RD, LD
Dietetics Practice Program Coordinator
and Instructor
Roxanne.Kingston@usm.edu
601.266.5871 (v) | 601.266.6343 (f)

The University of Southern Mississippi
118 College Drive #5172
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
usm.edu/nutrition