



## University of Arizona & Morrison Healthcare Dietetic Internship Program Partnership

The partnership between the [Morrison Healthcare Dietetic Internship program \(MHCDI\)](#) and the University of Arizona online 30-unit [Professional Science Masters in Nutrition and Wellness \(PSMNW\) program](#) offers individuals accepted into the MHCDI and PSMNW the opportunity to complete their internship and master's degree at the same time. Students who successfully complete the MHCDI and the PSMNW graduate programs are awarded the verification statement from MHCDI and are eligible to sit for the registration examination for dietitians (RDN credential).

**Webinar Recording:** Master's Program Overview. This short recording features a program overview from our MSDI partner, including admission highlights, curriculum format, and key program details. Watch here: <https://youtu.be/60I1nWkTEmc> Refer to webinar slides [here](#).

### Application Requirements for Prospective MHCDI and PSMNW Applicants

- MHCDI: Complete the DICAS application and other procedures for Fall MHCDI placement ([follow MHCDI application guidelines](#))
- PSMNW: Prior to the start of the MHCDI, apply to and be admitted to the PSMNW graduate program, and complete at least 9 units of PSMNW coursework with a minimum 3.0 GPA:  
[PSMNW application requirements](#)
  - Application deadlines (3 admission cycles/year):
    - Summer admission: March 31—MHCDI Fall interns usually apply to PSMNW summer admission to complete 9 units before their internship begins
    - Fall admission: June 15
    - Spring admission: October 15
  - Applicants apply online through the University's [GradApp portal](#)
  - Materials to be uploaded with application:
    - Statement of purpose
    - Transcripts
    - Résumé
    - Names and contact information for at least 2 references (references will upload their letters)

### Prerequisites

- Bachelor's degree in nutrition or similar field from an accredited institution
- Prerequisite coursework (typically obtained through bachelor's degree—[refer to the program website](#))
- Minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA required for admission
- Application, required documents, and application fee submitted through the [UArizona application portal](#) by/before the posted deadline (March 31 for June/Summer start, June 15 for August/Fall start, October 15 for January/Spring start)

### Required Coursework (see course descriptions next page)

The PSMNW requires 30-units (minimum) of course work:

- Core courses: 12 units (4 specified courses)
  - NSC 509 Advanced Nutrition and Metabolism (3 units), summer 5 week 1
  - NSC 519 Advanced Applied Nutritional Sciences (3 units), summer 5 week 2
  - NSC 562 Professional Ethics, Best Practices in Nutrition Educ. & Counseling (3 units), summer 10 week
  - NSC 535 Advanced Clinical Nutrition (3 units), fall, spring
- Capstone courses: 7 units (3 specified courses)
  - NSC 597 Capstone Prep Workshop (1 unit), fall & spring 7 week 1
  - NSC 698A Capstone I (3 units), fall, spring, summer 7 week 1
  - NSC 698B Capstone II (3 units), fall, spring, summer 7 week 2

- Elective courses: 11 units (courses vary)
  - Students may select electives from a variety of approved graduate-level courses.

\*NSC 698A & NSC 698B: Students work with a partnering organization to complete approximately 270 hours (45 hours per unit) of hands-on experience that serves as their graduate capstone project.

## Program Cost

PSMNW tuition is \$650 per unit, plus fees ([refer to the tuition estimator tool](#)). Note: To qualify financial aid for this degree, students must be enrolled for at least 5 units per term/semester.

## Orientation

All newly admitted PSMNW students must attend the PSMNW orientation before their first term commences. Dates/details are shared with new students soon after they have accepted their admissions offer from the UArizona Graduate College.

## PSMNW Requirements

The following are course descriptions for the required CORE (12 units) and CAPSTONE (7 units) courses. Students must also complete 11 units of elective courses (details below).

### Course Descriptions—[See Sample Course Schedules on pages 4-5 of this document](#)

#### CORE Courses (12 units, 4 specified courses)

##### **NSC 509 Advanced Nutrition Metabolism and Disease (3 units)**

*Offered: Summer only, 5 weeks-1 (June-July)*

This class will review the multi-facets of macronutrient metabolism and application to the prevention and development of common chronic diseases. The clinical applications of nutrient deficiencies and toxicities will also be reviewed.

Metabolic alterations associated with obesity, metabolic syndrome, and other diseases will be discussed. The application of evidence-based guidelines and research for nutritional interventions will be discussed through weekly readings and assignments.

##### **NSC 519 Advanced Applied Nutritional Sciences (3 units)**

*Offered: Summer only, 5-week-2 (July-August)*

This course will advance understanding of research design, methods, and research findings, and advances in nutritional science research for selected chronic diseases. Prerequisite: NSC 509

##### **NSC 562 Professional Ethics and Best Practices in Nutrition Education and Counseling (3 units)**

*Offered: Summer only, 10 weeks (June-August)*

Students will learn and implement inclusive best practices in nutrition education and counseling to serve diverse audiences in preparation for supervised experiential learning in food, nutrition, and healthcare settings. This course will touch on various theories and best practices in culturally responsive education, counseling, leadership, and communication to help students demonstrate the professional competency required for dietetics professionals by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). Students will complete the course with a deeper understanding of the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Nutrition and Dietetics and practice applications that align with the core values of customer focus, integrity, innovation, social responsibility, and diversity, including the influence of personal identities and biases on practitioner interactions. Students will complete written and oral deliverables, including self-assessments, reflections, case studies, and targeted education materials. Students will also begin the process of developing their professional digital portfolios. Course Prerequisites: Students must be enrolled in the PSMNW program.

##### **NSC 535 Advanced Clinical Nutrition (3 units)**

*Offered: Fall, Spring (August-December or January-May)*

This course will review the nutrition care process and the application of nutrition science principles in the selection of the appropriate medical nutrition therapies related to gastrointestinal disorders, cancer, diabetes mellitus, neurological impairment, renal disease, wound healing, and critical illness. The role that integrative medicine may play will also be reviewed. A case-based approach will be used to foster analytical and critical thinking skills related to designing nutrition prescriptions and interventions and redesigning nutrition care plans related to monitoring and evaluation. This course will cover disease prevention and management utilizing lifestyle and nutrition therapies including oral diet and nutrition support. Recommended Course Prerequisites: NSC 509, NSC 519.

#### Capstone Courses (7 units, 3 specified courses)

##### **NSC 597 Capstone Prep Workshop (1 unit)**

*Offered: Fall, Spring, 7-week-1 (August-October or January-March)*

The Capstone Workshop course is designed to help students: identify potential sites for their capstone courses, develop talking points when discussing the capstone with potential sites, obtain the required affiliation requirements with their site, build knowledge of research requirements through completion of CITI training and further develop presentation and writing skills.

**NSC 698A: Capstone/Final Project I (3 units)**

*Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer, 7-week-1 (August-October, January-March, May-June)* Capstone/Final Project I consist of 135 hours of practical professional training with a sponsoring agency/facility. Students will conduct a needs assessment and propose a topic for the final project to be completed in NSC 698B. Students will write a progress report which will be presented to the class. Alternative grades S/P/F. Course Prerequisite: NSC 597

**NSC 698B: Capstone/Final Project II (3 units)**

*Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer, 7-week-2 (October-December, March-May, July-August)* Capstone/Final Project II consists of 135 hours of practical professional training with a sponsoring agency/facility that culminates the Professional Science master's program and produces a final project. Students will develop a final report on the project objectives, methods, and outcomes. The project will be presented to the class in presentation form, and a poster will also be produced.

Alternative grades S/P/F. Course Prerequisite: NSC 698A

**Electives (11 units)**

Students complete a minimum of 11 elective units. Following is an abbreviated list of possible nutrition-related elective courses. However, students may enroll in program-approved, online non-nutrition elective courses that align with their professional goals. The program provides enrolled students with a comprehensive list of possibilities.

- NSC 512 The Body Positive Concept & You (3 units)
- NSC 522 Weight Inclusive Approach to Counseling (3 units)
- NSC 532 Exploring Eating Disorders & Body Image (3 units)
- NSC 540 Nutrition Interventions (3 units)
- NSC 545 Assessment and Regulation of Human Body Composition (3 units)
- NSC 558 Advanced Foodservice Management (3 units)
- NSC 570 Agriculture and Food Literacy for Nutrition and Health Professionals (3 units)
- NSC 575 Nutrigenomics for the Study of Disease Prevention and Intervention (3 units)
- Other Arizona Online courses can be used for elective courses with the program director's approval.

## **Questions?**

**For information about the Morrison Healthcare Dietetic Internship**

Sunitha Zechariah, PhD, RDN, LD, CNSC, FAND

Dietetic Internship Program Director

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**For information about the University of Arizona PSMNW Program, contact:**

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Graduate Program Coordinator

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## Sample Schedules for PSMNW Program

Following are 2 sample schedules, which can vary depending on course availability and the student's timeline/circumstances.

### Sample 1: Summer/June start: Minimum duration = 15 months. PSMNW application deadline: March 31

Semester or Term	Summer 1 (Jun-Aug)	Fall 1 (Aug-Dec)	Spring 1 (Jan-May)	Summer 2 (Jun-Aug)	Fall 2 (Aug-Dec)
Units	9 units	7-10 units	Option 1: Elective units Option 2: Capstone units	Option 1: Capstone (6 units) Option 2: Electives if available or no coursework	Option 2 only
PSMNW Courses	Core course: NSC 509 (3 units), Jun-Jul  Core course: NSC 519 (3 units), Jul-Aug  Core course: NSC 562 (3 units), Jun-Aug  Note: These 3 core courses offered summer session only	Core course: NSC 535 (3 units)  Capstone course: NSC 597 (1 unit, 7w1)  Elective courses 3-6 units (6 units recommended)  Note: Students meet with PSMNW graduate coordinator during Summer 1 and Fall 1 to discuss electives. Students are advised to enroll in 6 elective units if their schedules permit	Elective courses (remaining units to fulfill minimum 11 elective units requirement)  Note: Students meet with PSMNW graduate coordinator during Summer 1 and Fall 1 to discuss electives. Students are advised to enroll in 6 elective units if their schedules permit	Capstone course: NSC 698A (3 units), May-Jul  Capstone course: NSC 698B (3 units), Jul-Aug  Graduate: August  Note: Students may need to be complete their capstone project at a non-MHCDI facility.	<i>See next row</i>
PSMNW Courses	Same as above	Same as above	Capstone course: NSC 698A (3 units), May-Jul  Capstone course: NSC 698B (3 units), Jul-Aug  Electives, if schedule permits  Note: Students may be able to complete their capstone project during their MHCDI experience.	Electives, if available  Note: Students who choose to complete their capstone project during spring 1 instead of summer 2, and who do not have the required 11 elective units completed by summer 2, may need to graduate in fall 2 due to limited availability of elective courses during summer session.	Elective courses  Graduate: December
MHC DI		Begin MHCDI: September	Complete MHCDI: May	Receive MHCDI verification statement in August or December (dependent upon PSM degree completion)	
<b>Notes:</b> Elective-course options are many and varied; most elective courses are 3 units, but units may range from 1 to 4. Summer typically offers fewer elective options than fall and spring semesters. Capstone project: Students who intend to complete their capstone project at one of their MHCDI facilities must arrange their plan well in advance with the MHCDI team.					

Sample 2: Spring/January start: Minimum duration = 17 months.

PSMNW application deadline: October 15

Semester or Term	Spring 1 (Jan-May)	Summer 1 (June-Aug)	Fall 1 (Aug-Dec)	Spring 2 (Jan-May)
Units	9 units	9 units	6 units	6 units
PSMNW Courses	<b>Core course: NSC 535</b> (3 units)  <b>Elective courses (6 units)</b> (6 units recommended)	<b>Core course: NSC 509</b> (3 units), Jun-Jul  <b>Core course: NSC 519</b> (3 units), Jul-Aug  <b>Core course: NSC 562</b> (3 units), Jun-Aug	<b>Capstone course: NSC 597</b> (1 unit, 7w1)  <b>Elective courses (5 units)</b> (remaining units to fulfill minimum 11 elective units requirement)	<b>Capstone course: NSC 698A</b> (3 units), 7 week 1 (Jan-Mar)  <b>Capstone course: NSC 698B</b> (3 units), 7 week 2 (Mar-May)  <b>Graduate: May</b>
OPTION 1	Note: Students meet with PSMNW graduate coordinator during Spring 1 and Summer 1 to discuss electives.	Note: These 3 core courses offered summer session only		
MHC DI			Begin MHC DI: September	Receive MHC DI verification statement in May (dependent upon PSM degree completion)
<p><b>Notes:</b> Elective-course options are many and varied; most elective courses are 3 units, but units may range from 1 to 4. Summer typically offers fewer elective options than fall and spring semesters. Capstone project: Students who intend to complete their capstone project at one of their MHC DI facilities must arrange their plan well in advance with the MHC DI team.</p>				

## Contact Information

### For information about the MHC DI, contact:

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### For information about the PSMNW program, contact:

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