The Master of Science (M.S.) degree program at Northern Illinois University provides advanced studies in nutrition and dietetics. Core courses focus on both prevention and treatment of nutrition-related diseases. Some of the courses that students may select from include: Macronutrients, Micronutrients, Intensive Metabolic Nutrition Support, Maternal and Infant Nutrition, Nutrition & Physical Activity, Geriatric Nutrition, Obesity and Eating Disorders, Counseling Skills & Strategies, Strategies for Modifying Behavior Change, and Seminar on Outcome Studies and Public Policy.

In addition to these courses in nutrition and dietetics, students select other courses related to behavior change and the health care system offered by other disciplines. Some of these “elective” courses include: Health Care Delivery in the U.S., Health Economics for Health Services Managers, Behavioral & Social Aspects of Public Health, Principles of Behavior Modification, Health Organizations and Delivery of Services.

Course descriptions for all of these courses are available in the Graduate Catalog, which is available on-line at http://www.niu.edu/grad.

**Prerequisites.** Prerequisites to the program include a bachelor’s degree and completion of a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD).

Students whose baccalaureate degree did not include a DPD are required to complete the requirements of the Didactic Program in Dietetics for admission to the M.S. program or, for admission to the combined M.S.-DI program.

**Structuring the program.** When you are admitted to the graduate program, you will be assigned to a graduate faculty person who will serve as your academic advisor. Students work with their advisor to individualize the M.S. program and make course selections among requirement options to reflect the student's personal and professional goals. Transfer credits of up to 15 hours toward the M.S. is permitted, but the acceptance of specific course work is subject to the advisor's assessment of the contribution to the total graduate program. The combined M.S. degree and Dietetic Internship program courses are sequenced for simultaneous completion of both programs. Five semesters of coursework are required to complete both the M.S. degree program and Dietetic Internship. The time required to complete the M.S. degree program without the dietetic internship is variable, but generally a full-time student without deficiencies can complete the M.S. degree program in four semesters (not including summers).

**Thesis or Non-Thesis Option:** The M.S. degree program allows students to choose between a thesis or non-thesis option. A thesis is an original research project that each
student completes under the supervision of a faculty member in the department. The thesis topic is determined by the interests of the student, the adviser, the resources required, and knowledge needs of the profession. The research interests of the faculty members are described on their respective web pages. Thesis requires six credits.

Students who select the non-thesis option will be required to take an additional six semester hours of nutrition coursework. This will include a community-based research project participation.

**Program costs.** For up-to-date tuition costs and fees, visit the university website at [http://www.niu.edu/bursar/studinf/graduate.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/bursar/studinf/graduate.shtml).

**Financial Assistance - Graduate Assistantships**
All applicants may apply for a graduate assistantship. Graduate assistantships require that a student work for a faculty person for 10 to 20 hours per week assisting with teaching and/or research. Each semester, a limited number of graduate assistantships are available.

**Application and Admission.** Admission to the M.S. program and the Dietetic Internship are separate, but related processes. Not all students admitted to the M.S. program are interested in or are eligible for the internship. Criteria for admission to both the internship and graduate degree programs are similar including (but not limited to) grade point average (with special emphasis on the DPD courses), Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores, and letters of recommendation. The internship also requires work experience, an interview, and computer matching through D & D Digital Systems. Application forms for the M.S.

**Priority** application deadline to the M.S. degree in nutrition and dietetics is January 15 [www.niu.edu/grad/academics/masters/nutrition-dietetics.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/grad/academics/masters/nutrition-dietetics.shtml)

The program offers a certificate of graduate study in eating disorders and obesity (EDOC) [www.chhs.niu.edu/health-studies/programs/nutrition/certificate/index.shtml](http://www.chhs.niu.edu/health-studies/programs/nutrition/certificate/index.shtml)