

DOCTORAL PROGRAM

The Ph.D. is a research degree program designed to prepare students for teaching and research positions in the academic, government, and private sectors. The specific objectives of the program are to provide students with (1) expertise in the fundamental principles of modern nutrition science, (2) detailed conceptual and technical skills in the identified area of specialized research interest, (3) strong written and oral communication skills, and (4) the opportunity to conduct dissertation research that will contribute to the body of knowledge in nutrition. The faculty recognizes that the career goal of each student must be given maximum consideration in the design of individual programs of study. Thus, there is a limited core curriculum taken by all students prior to specialization.

Department faculty have a wide range of research interests related to nutrition and health and use of diverse methodological approaches. These interests include the metabolism, function and requirements of specific nutrients throughout the life cycle, nutrients and phytochemicals in health and disease, nutritional assessment and intervention, maternal and infant nutrition, nutrition education, nutrition and aging, nutrition and physical performance, interaction of nutrients on genes and regulation of the growth and development of bone and adipose tissue. Faculty and students work with small laboratory animals, cultures of animal and human cells, and/or human subjects to achieve research objectives.

All students entering the doctoral degree program must have background-supporting courses in general and organic chemistry, general biology, biochemistry, and human physiology. At UNCG these course numbers are: CHE 103, CHE 104, CHE 110L, CHE 205, CHE 206, CHE 405 (or NTR 531), BIO 111, BIO 277. (See: <http://www.uncg.edu/reg/TransferCredits/CommCollege/ccindex.html>)

ADMISSION:

Applicants should submit a completed Graduate School application, official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate courses, GRE scores, three reference letters, and application fee to the Graduate School by March 1 for Fall, and by October 1 for Spring. A letter stating professional goals, research interests, and potential faculty research mentors must also be submitted. International students are required to submit TOEFL scores. Requests for application materials should be requested from:

Graduate School
241 Mossman
UNCG
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170

A letter stating professional goals and research interests must be submitted to the Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Nutrition, P.O. Box 26170, Greensboro, NC 27402-6170.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

Many full-time graduate students are supported by research assistantships. The standard stipends for the 9-month academic year are approximately \$16,150 for 1st year doctoral students. These assistantships require 20 hours of service per week. Also, some assistant-ships are available during the summer. Merit-based and minority-presence fellowships and scholarships are available during the academic year. Many out-of-state students may receive either a waiver of the out-of-state portion of the tuition, or additional support to compensate for a portion of these costs. All graduate students must pay in-state tuition per semester for full-time enrollment (9 or more credit hours) unless awarded an in-state tuition waiver.

Requests for additional information about program requirements, assistantship opportunities, and faculty interest areas can be obtained by contacting 336-334-5313, visiting our website at <http://www.uncg.edu/nutrition>, or writing to:

Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Nutrition
P.O. Box 26170
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170

Applicants are encouraged to visit the department for a discussion of their career objectives and graduate education.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE:

The Department of Nutrition offers a graduate program of study leading to a minimum **63** hour Doctor of Philosophy degree. At least 75% of all course work, exclusive of dissertation hours, must be at the 600 or 700 level. Students entering the Ph.D. program with a Master of Science degree may be granted a waiver for some requirements if they have successfully completed equivalent course work. This decision will be made after evaluation by the student's major advisor and the Doctoral Advisory/Dissertation Committee.

A. Required Core Courses (16 hours)

- NTR 609 – Seminar in Nutrition (8)
- NTR 625 – Gene Expression and Protein Metabolism (2)
- NTR 626 – Energy, Carbohydrate, Lipid Metabolism (2)
- NTR 627 – Antioxidants and Bioactive Food Components (2)
- NTR 628 – Vitamins and Minerals (2)

B. Research Techniques (21 hours minimum)

With approval of the Advisory/Dissertation Committee, a student will select a minimum of one statistics course (3 hours, i.e. STA 661), NTR 673 (Nutrition Research Methodology – 3 hours), and two or three additional courses for developing technical competency to enhance research skills and competitiveness (8 hours minimum, i.e. BIO 594). Students will also take at least 6 hours in one or more of the following research courses:

- NTR 601 – Directed Individual Study in Nutrition (1-6)
- NTR 623 – Current Trends in Nutrition (3-12)
- NTR 653 – Problems in Food and Nutrition (2-4)
- NTR 670 – Minor Research (2-6)

C. Electives (8 hours minimum)

With approval of the Advisory/Dissertation Committee, a student will select **6** hours from other NTR courses at the 500-700 level and an additional **2** hours minimum in NTR or a supporting program at the 500-700 level.

D. Comprehensive Examination

The student will consult with his/her Advisory/Dissertation Committee about the specific format of the written and oral sections of this examination.

E. Research and Dissertation (18 hours minimum)

- NTR 790 – Doctoral Research (6)
- NTR 799 – Dissertation Problem (12-24)