Thank you for your interest in the Master of Science in Dietetics program at Mount Mary University. Please read the following information carefully. If you have any questions, please contact Megan Baumler, Ph.D., Dietetics Program Director, at (414) 443-3659 or a Graduate Admission Counselor at (414) 256-1252.

Why get a Master of Science in Dietetics at Mount Mary University?

A master’s degree in dietetics allows for a competitive edge for jobs, promotions and pay increases. Mount Mary University is one of the few programs in the country that offers a Master of Science in Dietetics. The program offers an opportunity for dietetic practitioners to dramatically enhance your practice and deepen your knowledge in nutrition and dietetics, with high quality education. The program is convenient because the courses are in the evenings and on the weekend, with some online and hybrid courses. The program director and department faculty will work closely with you to make sure your needs are met and that you achieve your potential.

How long does it take to get the Master of Science in Dietetics?

The length of time it takes to complete the program depends on the number of credits you take each semester. It is possible to finish in two to three years. Students who are part-time take an average of four and a half years to finish their degree. Graduate credits are valid for seven years.

How many credits are required for the degree?

A minimum of 33 credits is required to complete the program. This requirement was reduced in 2012 from 36 credits. If you enter the program as a dietetic intern, a minimum of 37 credits is required.

Who is eligible for the program?

Registered dietitians or students who are RD-eligible are eligible to apply to the Master of Science in Dietetics graduate program.

What are the components of the program?

There are three components of the Master of Science in Dietetics. Component I consists of a 3-credit course on health care. Component II consists of a minimum of 8 credits in nutritional science and 9 or more credits from a chosen emphasis or electives. Component III is a series of two courses on research, followed by the completion of a project or a thesis.

Do I have to do a thesis?

You have the option of completing a thesis, but are not required to do so. You can choose either a thesis or a project for your applied research experience. For a thesis, you must complete 4 credits of applied research. For a project, you must complete 2 credits of applied research. A thesis is strongly recommended for students who are interested in research or who plan to pursue a doctoral degree. The difference between the two options is that a thesis must be original research, while a project does not have to be original research. In both cases, you must complete a paper on your applied research.

Do I have to do an emphasis?

You can choose an emphasis but are not required to do so. Mount Mary’s graduate program offers emphases in counseling; nutrition and fitness; management; and professional writing. If you choose an emphasis, you must complete 9 credits of
courses approved for that emphasis. If you do not choose an emphasis, you will take electives instead.

**Are scholarships, graduate assistantships or financial aid available to students?**

There are a small number of graduate assistantships available. This arrangement involves conducting work for the department in exchange for a credit that is paid for by the University. Mount Mary also encourages you to apply for scholarships available through the Wisconsin Dietetic Association and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, as well as other organizations. You are encouraged to inquire about tuition reimbursement from your employer. Financial aid is available to students who are taking at least 3 credits. You can contact the [Financial Aid Office](#) for more information.

**What support does Mount Mary University offer to graduate students?**

Mount Mary University has a wealth of [resources to support students](#), including a childcare center, library, academic resource center, student counseling services, information technology assistance and spiritual guidance.

**Can I transfer credits in from another program?**

Yes. A maximum of 11 credits (30% of total program credits) may be transferred from other regionally accredited institutions with the approval of the program director. All transfer credits must be at a grade B or better, and must be documented with official transcripts. The seven-year time limit applies to these credits.

**What is the average class size, and who are the instructors?**

Class sizes vary from six to 25 students, with an average size of 10-15. The small class size allows for personalized, meaningful interaction with classmates and instructors. The instructors who teach the graduate dietetics courses are full- and part-time faculty in the department, as well as adjunct instructors from the community who have expertise on the course topics.