

A Guide for Students Without a Bachelor's Degree in Nutrition: Graduate Programs in Nutrition and Dietetics



First Steps:

1. **Research Program Requirements:** Visit each university's website for detailed admission criteria and prerequisite coursework. View if the graduate program is ACCEND accredited: Eatright program directory, or go to bit.ly/4n3E8lB
2. **Contact Admissions:** Reach out to graduate program advisors for guidance on eligibility and application processes.
3. **Plan Prerequisite Coursework:** Schedule a counseling appointment to meet with a Mt. SAC Counselor for guidance on courses that may meet the missing prerequisites. The graduate program must provide the courses. For instructions on how to schedule a counseling appointment: bit.ly/3VEVucJ
4. **Prepare Application Materials:** Gather transcripts, letters of recommendation, and personal statements as required.

Southern California University Options

1. **California State University, Long Beach (CSULB)** bit.ly/4ngRmLZ
 - **Program:** Master's Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics
 - **Overview:** Designed for students seeking entry into the field without a prior degree in nutrition. The program includes didactic coursework and supervised experiential learning to meet eligibility for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) exam.
 - **Location:** Long Beach, CA
2. **Loma Linda University** bit.ly/4n04Kny
 - **Program:** Master's Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics
 - **Overview:** Offers a coordinated program for career changers, integrating graduate coursework with supervised practice hours required for RDN eligibility.
 - **Location:** Loma Linda, CA
3. **University of Southern California (USC)** bit.ly/465J6bC
 - **Program:** Master of Science in Nutrition, Healthspan, and Longevity
 - **Overview:** Online Coordinated Program (CP) that integrates the master's degree with 1,000 hours of supervised practice. ACEND-accredited and prepares graduates for the RDN exam.
 - **Format:** Online

Important Disclosure

The information provided in this guide is for educational purposes only. It is intended to navigate graduate degree options for students who do not have a bachelor's degree in Nutrition & Dietetics. This guide is not an endorsement or official review of any program, nor does it guarantee that the courses or steps listed will meet all requirements for RD eligibility. Always review official information on the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) website at www.acend.org

Out-of-State & Online Options

Harding University www.harding.edu/

- **Program:** Master of Science in Applied Dietetics Practice
- **Overview:** 1,106 hours of supervised experiential learning. Open to career changers who have completed the required undergraduate science courses.
- **Format:** Online

University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)

uab.edu/shp/nutrition/education/masters

- **Program:** Master of Science in Nutrition Sciences
- **Overview:** A practicum that can be completed anywhere in the U.S. Prerequisite science courses are required.
- **Format:** Online

Eastern Michigan University (EMU) bit.ly/4gs2IKA

- **Program:** Master of Science in Dietetics
- **Overview:** Students arrange their own remote supervised practice experiences in their local area. Prerequisites required.
- **Format:** Online