

# **PHFE WIC Dietetic Internship and Masters Program Review**



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Deputy Director Nutrition Services and Projects

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# Requirements



## Master's

- More details next slide

## Verification Statement

- Undergraduate/DPD (Didactic Program in Dietetics) Verification Statement; you would have provided this upon being hired to work as a Degreed Nutritionist

## Employment at WIC

- Working at WIC at least 9 months from when the internship begins (since March)



## Master's

- Need to have a master's OR
- Currently in a master's program OR
- Have started your master's by January 2026

### WHY?

- Master's needs to be completed to issue a verification statement to be eligible to take the exam.
- Expectation that master's is completed before internship ends or no more than 6 months after the internship ends.

Everyone's education path is different depending on the number of classes your master's requires, online or in-person, cost, and personal/life situations. There are always special cases, situations, and scenarios. Everyone's journey is different. For this reason we recommend meeting with/discussing your master's & internship plans with the dietetic internship director - Beth Cordova: [bethc@phfewic.org](mailto:bethc@phfewic.org)

## No DPD Verification Statement?



- A few of you are DNs that do not have a DPD verification statement. You were hired with a Bachelor's or Master's in Nutrition and Dietetics but were not enrolled in an ACEND-accredited program.
- We went through your transcripts to make sure you met the State requirements to qualify for and work as a WIC DN.
- If you want to be an RDN you will be required to obtain/earn a DPD verification statement. This can be done while completing your master's and taking the classes you need to qualify for a DPD verification statement OR some schools offer DPD VS pathway.
  - **CSULA** Completing a post-baccalaureate program to receive a DPD VS. This program is offered at CSULA. For more information on the requirements, contact Carrie Adase, DCN, RDN, the post-bacc coordinator @ CSULA, [cadase2@calstatela.edu](mailto:cadase2@calstatela.edu)
  - **Lamar University** offers a pathway (info on master's option slide)

# Cal Poly Pomona

## Online Master of Science in Dietetics (offered through College of Professional and Global Education)



- **Fully online**
- **Asynchronous program**
- **30 unit**
- **\$825 per unit/~\$25,000**

### For more information

<https://www.cpp.edu/cpge/degree-programs/dietetics/index.shtml#diet-ms>

**Rachel S. Flores, MS, RD**  
**Department of Nutrition and Food Science**

**869-3861**

[cpp.edu](http://cpp.edu)

Term of Application	Application Deadline	Supporting Document Deadline
Fall 2025	July 1, 2025	August 1, 2025

# Master's options:

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



Applied Nutrition: Nutrition & Wellness

Professional Science Master's

**Credits Required: 30**

**Cost Per Credit: \$650.00**



Arizona State University

**ASU Online**



Graduate

**Medical Nutrition (MS)**

📅 Next start date: **08/21/2025**

- ✓ Total classes: 10
- ✓ Weeks per class: 7.5
- ✓ Total credit hours: 30

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

**UA Online**



Online

**Human Nutrition**

Master of Science

**Online**

Program Format

**30**

Credit Hours

**\$480**

Tuition Per Hour

# Master's options:



**Professional Studies,  
Leadership in Nutrition  
Concentration, M.P.S.**

► Available: Online

Degree	M.P.S., Leadership in Nutrition
Credits	30
Can I get credit for dietetic internship or prior work experiences?	Yes. Up to 6 credits at no cost. Portfolio required.



**Master of Science in Nutrition with a  
Specialization in Sport Nutrition**

**Master of Science in Nutrition with a  
Specialization in Applied Nutrition**

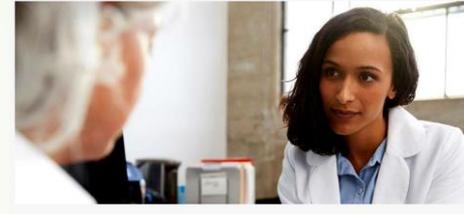
Total Tuition	<b>\$10,802*</b>	Now enrolling:	Apply Date	<b>7/31/25</b>
Duration	<b>As few as 12 months</b>	Class Starts	<b>8/21/25</b>	
Credit Hours	<b>30</b>			

**Didactic Program in Dietetics Graduate Certificate  
Online**

Total Tuition	<b>\$7,560*</b>	Duration	<b>As few as 12 months</b>	Now enrolling:	Apply Date	<b>7/31/25</b>
Per Credit Hour	<b>\$360</b>	Credit Hours	<b>21</b>	Class Starts	<b>8/21/25</b>	



**Clinical Nutrition, MS**



Fall Deadline	July 15*
Spring Deadline	November 1*
Summer Deadline	March 1*

Minimum Credit Requirement      30 credits

# More Online Nutrition Program Resources



American Society for Nutrition  
*Excellence in Nutrition Research and Practice*



Best Online Master's in Nutrition Programs of 2025

# FAQs

## **What if my master's program starts in Fall 2025, am I eligible to apply?**

Yes, you need to have started at least 1 class before Jan 2026. Meet with Beth to discuss your situation more thoroughly

- ▶ My master's program doesn't start until January 2026, am I eligible to apply?

You should begin your program this Summer or Fall, however, it depends on how many classes your program is, how flexible are they with how many classes you can take at a time. Meet with Beth to discuss this more.

- ▶ How does it work if I am not done with my master's when the internship is over?
- ▶ You typically have about 6 more months to complete your classes.

# FAQs

## **Am I able to take a break from my master's program while in the internship?**

That depends on your program's policies. Some schools require you to be enrolled in a certain amount of classes each term while others may not. This is something to look into while researching master's programs.

- ▶ Am I able to take a break from the internship and just focus on my master's?

Our internship program requires you to work at least 20 hours per week (2 days & Saturday) to maintain your benefits. There are typically 2-3 internship days and 2-3 work days per week. This is why an asynchronous, online master's program is recommended. Every intern's situation is different and that is why the internship director needs to know your situation.

- ▶ Is there any financial aid or education reimbursement at PHFE WIC?

- ▶ PHFE WIC does not offer any type of financial aid since we are not affiliated with a college or university. PHFE WIC does not offer education reimbursement.

# Funding your Master's

Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

## Is financial aid available?

- Yes it is still an option to receive student loans, grants, etc.

<https://studentaid.gov>

- Check with your school for any university grants & scholarships

## Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

### What about public student loan forgiveness?

- **PSLF has not been eliminated**, but the halt of IDR applications prevents some borrowers with student loans from progressing toward forgiveness.
- **PHFE WIC is an eligible PSLF employer**
- **SAVE borrowers** are particularly affected since their payments are paused, which means they are not making qualifying PSLF payments.
- **Existing PSLF participants** already enrolled in a non-SAVE IDR plan can continue toward forgiveness.
- **The situation remains fluid**, and some IDR plans (such as IBR) may be restored soon enabling new PSLF enrollment.

PSLF is still available for those who qualify and have outstanding student loans. However, the inability to enroll in an IDR plan, due to the Education Department's guidance, has made it temporarily inaccessible to many borrowers not already in qualifying repayment plans.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/shaharziv/2025/03/04/did-education-department-block-pslf-by-suspending-student-loan-forgiveness/>

# Scholarships



**California WIC Association Nutrition Corps Scholarship (CNC)**



**Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) Foundation, Scholarships**



**California Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (CAND) Foundation, Scholarships**



**PHFE WIC Scholarship: Dietetic Intern, college student; 2x/year**

**fastweb**

**Scholarship search database; [National Scholarship Directory \(search to](#)**

**Your College/  
University**

**Student loans, grants, scholarships from your school**