1. **Where do I send my application for admission?**

You may apply online through the School of Health Professions (SHP) Office of Enrollment Services at: [http://shp.rutgers.edu/admissions/online_app.htm](http://shp.rutgers.edu/admissions/online_app.htm)

Supplemental application materials such as official transcripts must be sent to the following address:

Office of Enrollment Services  
65 Bergen Street, Room 149  
Newark, NJ 07101-1709

Phone number - 973-972-5454  
Fax number - 973-972-7463  
shrpadm@rutgers.edu

2. **What are the admission requirements for the Doctorate of Clinical Nutrition (DCN) and Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition (MSCN) programs?**

For more information on admission requirements please refer to our web site: [http://shp.rutgers.edu/nutr/index.html](http://shp.rutgers.edu/nutr/index.html)

**Admission Requirements for the MSCN Program:**

- Prospective students must be **Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs).**
- International applicants must hold an equivalent credential that meets US standards by the Commission on Dietetic Registration ([www.cdrnet.org](http://www.cdrnet.org)).
- A minimum GPA of 3.2 is required for admission. Applicants with a lower GPA may be considered on an individual basis.
- At least six months of clinical experience as an RDN.
- Application materials include:
  - SHP application available at [http://shp.rutgers.edu/prospective_students/admissions/online_app.html](http://shp.rutgers.edu/prospective_students/admissions/online_app.html)
  - An official copy of the transcript for highest nutrition degree earned and certificate of completion / transcript from dietetic internship
  - Copy of RDN card
  - Resume or CV
  - A letter of intent describing short and long term goals for completing the MSCN program
  - One letter of recommendation from an individual with a graduate degree who is familiar with your professional work
Applicants that meet the admission criteria will be scheduled for an interview with select faculty in the Rutgers-SHP Graduate Programs in Clinical Nutrition (GPCN).

Admission Requirements for the DCN Program:

- Prospective students must be **Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs)**. International applicants must hold an equivalent credential that meets US standards by the Commission on Dietetic Registration ([www.cdrnet.org](http://www.cdrnet.org)).
- A master's degree, preferably in nutrition or a health related field (with a minimum GPA of 3.4).
- Must have at least three years of professional experience as a clinical RDN.
- Application materials include:
  - SHP application available at [http://shp.rutgers.edu/prospective_students/admissions/online_app.html](http://shp.rutgers.edu/prospective_students/admissions/online_app.html)
  - An official copy of the transcripts from the highest degree earned
    - If the highest degree is not in nutrition, the transcripts from the nutrition degree must be included
  - Copy of RDN card
  - Resume or CV
  - A letter of intent describing reasons for pursuing the DCN program, research interests and short and long term goals for completing the DCN program
  - One letter of recommendation from an individual with a doctoral degree who is familiar with your professional work
- Applicants that meet the admission criteria will be scheduled for an interview with select faculty from the Rutgers-SHP GPCN.

3. **Can I apply to any of the GPCN programs if I am not a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist?**

The MSCN, DCN and PhD in Health Sciences-Nutrition Track programs all require applicants to have their RDN credential to be considered for admission. International applicants must hold an equivalent credential that meets US standards by the Commission on Dietetic Registration ([www.cdrnet.org](http://www.cdrnet.org)). Please note that the PhD in Health Sciences – Nutrition Track is currently not accepting any new students.

4. **How can I get more information on how to become a registered dietitian nutritionist?**

To obtain information on how to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, view the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics website at: [http://www.eatright.org/Healthprofessionals/content.aspx?id=6857](http://www.eatright.org/Healthprofessionals/content.aspx?id=6857)

5. **Is a master’s degree a requirement for the DCN program?**

Yes. A master’s degree, preferably in nutrition or in a health-related field is an admission requirement for the DCN program. Each applicant is evaluated individually based on their breadth and depth of experience, letter of recommendation, educational background, prior academic degrees, and letter of intent.
6. **Is there a minimum GPA requirement for the MSCN or DCN programs?**

   The GPA is one part of the application criteria. The MSCN requires a minimum GPA of 3.2 from the highest degree achieved at the time of application. The DCN requires a minimum GPA of 3.4 from a Master’s degree.

7. **Do you require GREs for admission to your programs?**

   The GREs are only required for the PhD in Health Sciences -Nutrition Track and must be taken within 5 years of the date of the application. **Please note that the PhD in Health Sciences – Nutrition Track is currently not accepting any new students.**

8. **If I am a graduate of the Rutgers SHP Dietetic Internship Program or Coordinated Program in Dietetics am I automatically enrolled into the MSCN program?**

   Graduates of the Rutgers - SHP Dietetic Internship who maintained a 3.2 GPA in the internship are accepted into the program if they complete all application procedures. Six elective credits from their graduate internship course work may be transferred when they matriculate into the MSCN within 5 years of graduation from the Dietetic Internship. Graduates of the Rutgers-SHP Coordinated Program who maintained a 3.2 GPA in the nutrition didactic and rotation courses of the Coordinated Program are accepted if they complete all application procedures. Graduates from both programs must submit all application materials except undergraduate transcripts.

9. **Are interviews required for admission to the GPCN degree programs?**

   Yes, interviews are required. They may be conducted virtually.

10. **Can I take a course as a non-matriculated student before deciding to apply to the program?**

    Yes. Most elective courses are available for non-matriculated students. A list of elective courses can be found at: [http://shp.rutgers.edu/dept/nutr/programs/ElectiveCourses.htm](http://shp.rutgers.edu/dept/nutr/programs/ElectiveCourses.htm)

    To apply as a non-matriculated student please refer to: [http://shp.rutgers.edu/admissions/admissions9_non_matric.html](http://shp.rutgers.edu/admissions/admissions9_non_matric.html)

11. **When are your application deadlines?**

    Admission is offered once per year for the DCN program. The application deadline is April 1st for the following fall admission.

    Admission is offered twice per year for the MSCN program. The application deadline is April 1st for the following fall admission and October 1st for the following spring admission.

12. **Does the Department of Nutritional Sciences offer any scholarships or financial aid?**

    The Graduate Programs in Clinical Nutrition offers a Nutritional Sciences Scholarship annually to a part-time student through the SHP scholarship committee. There are also additional general scholarships available from SHP. Scholarship information and application materials are available at:
http://shp.rutgers.edu/prospective_students/admissions/admissions10_scholarships.html. We also encourage students to apply to scholarships offered by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (http://www.eatright.org/foundation/). To review the SHP’s financial aid information please refer to the following link: https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/. Rutgers Scholarship applications can be found at: http://shp.rutgers.edu/admissions/admissions10_scholarships.html

13. Does Rutgers-SHP offer student health insurance?

SHP offers students health insurance at the beginning of each semester. Visit SHP’s Insurance Information web page for details regarding student insurance: http://shp.rutgers.edu/prospective_students/admissions/admissions4_insurance_requ.html

14. How can I find out if graduate courses that I previously completed at a different university can be transferred to your program?

You must first apply to the program. If you are admitted, you will be assigned an academic advisor with whom you can review the requirements and course materials of the courses completed. These will be compared to the GPCN program course requirements and syllabi.

15. How many credits must be taken per semester to be considered a full-time student?

A student who takes nine graduate credits per semester is considered full-time.

16. How many credits per semester do part-time students typically take?

Part-time students typically take 3-6 credits per semester. Most courses are 3 credits.

17. What is the cost per credit including student fees?

The current tuition and student fees can be found at: http://www.studentabc.rutgers.edu/billing-and-collections-rutgers-biomedical-and-health-sciences-rbhs/

18. Can you explain the difference between the PhD and DCN programs?

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Health Sciences Program –Nutrition Track has a research emphasis while the Doctorate of Clinical Nutrition (DCN) program is an advanced clinical practice doctorate program with emphasis on advanced clinical nutrition practice and practice based research. The DCN is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence through a clinically focused dietetics practice doctorate program. It prepares graduates with expert-level knowledge and skills, critical thinking proficiency, and aptitude in advanced clinical practice and scientific inquiry to foster the development of innovative, autonomous advanced dietetics practitioners. The program emphasizes interprofessional collaboration through coursework and a student focused advanced clinical nutrition practice residency. The curriculum integrates evidence-based practice in nutrition and dietetics which provides the foundation for graduates to complete a practice based research project.
The PhD –Nutrition Track program prepares practicing health care professionals to assume leadership roles in research, academic, and/or clinical settings. The program emphasizes the application of research and scholarship to identify and address the needs of our complex healthcare delivery and education systems.

19. How long does it typically take to finish the MSCN/DCN programs?

This will vary depending on the number of credits taken each semester. It takes usually 3-4 years to complete the 31 credit MSCN program on a part-time basis. The 50 credit DCN program typically takes 4-5 years to complete on a part-time basis.

20. Can you describe your program’s areas of research?

Each faculty member has their own specialized areas of research and scholarship. Please see the faculty locator link: http://profiles.rbhs.rutgers.edu/shp/index.cfm to review faculty biographical sketches, contact information, publications, honors, awards, research interests, and research grants. To locate faculty members in the GPCN programs, select Nutritional Sciences under department when connected to the faculty locator link.

21. What are some outcomes of the programs and career options after graduating from the MSCN/DCN degrees?

Graduates of both the MSCN and the DCN have more career options and opportunities available after completing the programs. They are also better prepared to assume leadership roles and receive recognition for their excellence in clinical practice or leadership. Alumni publish in peer reviewed journals, write grants, conduct research and hold leadership positions in professional organizations and occupation related committees.

The MSCN prepares students to be advanced-level RDNs in practice. Alumni have obtained positions in clinical management, academia, industry, dietetic internships and specialty practice.

- 48% of alumni are involved in research activities
- 41% of alumni have published a manuscript in a peer-reviewed journal or newsletter, authored a book, book chapter or other professional publication
- 55% of alumni have presented an oral or poster presentation
- 19% of alumni hold leadership positions in professional organizations

The DCN prepares graduates for expert-level RDN positions in clinical practice and research. Past graduates have become tenure track faculty members, advanced clinical practitioners, research dietitians, and senior management industry professionals.

- 19% of alumni are in tenure-track faculty positions
- 42% of alumni have published a manuscript in a peer reviewed journal or newsletter
- 73% of alumni have authored a non-peer reviewed publication
- 72% of alumni have presented at a national or international conference
- 84% of alumni are involved in research activities
- 44% of alumni have held leadership positions in professional organizations
22. Do the GPCN program faculties typically require textbooks for online courses?

Each course faculty decides whether textbooks are a useful resource for the specific course. Many courses utilize a combination of references such as research articles, online texts through the Rutgers Library, web sites and other assigned readings.

23. Can students maintain a full-time job while enrolled as a student?

Many students balance their work and personal life while completing their course work. You will have the opportunity to discuss course enrollment with your academic advisor prior to registration in each semester. This is a good time to speak about work and family commitments and decide which courses best fit with your schedule.

24. What is unique about the GPCN Programs?

- The programs utilize a web-based platform to educate a diverse group of RDN professionals to service the state, nation and communities abroad.
- Graduates are prepared with critical thinking and scientific skills needed for advanced-level clinical practice, management, research, and leadership roles to respond to the challenges of the 21st century.
- The programs instill an appreciation for interprofessional collaboration and education; provide opportunities to achieve expanded roles in health promotion, disease prevention, and intervention for a multi-cultural society.

MSCN Program

- MSCN students complete a research thesis.

DCN Program

- The DCN program is the first Advanced Practice Clinical Doctorate Program in the US and globally exclusively for RDNs.
- DCN students complete a pilot research project and a practice based research study.
- The DCN includes a 350-hour Advanced Clinical Nutrition Practice Residency designed individually based on the student’s interests, goals and geographic resources. The residency includes advanced dietetics practice experiences to prepare students with expert-level competency in nutrition assessment, diagnosis, intervention, and evaluation. It is supplemented with web-based seminars and discussion topics. The Advanced Clinical Nutrition Practice Residency is an approved advanced practice residency by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

25. How many times are students required to come to campus for classes?
MSCN students are required to travel to the Newark, New Jersey campus approximately twice during the program. The first in-person requirement includes completion of a core course, Nutrition Focused Physical Examination, which has a two day in person component on the Newark campus. The second in-person requirement is for the two day research workshop that is part of the required course NUTR 6482 Applied Clinical Nutrition Research, located on the Newark campus.

DCN students are required to travel to the Newark campus approximately three times during the program. The first in-person requirement includes completion of a core course, Nutrition Focused Physical Examination, which has a two day in person component on the Newark campus. During the first phase of the research coursework, DCN students are required to attend a two day in-person research workshop that is part of the required course NUTR 6482 Applied Clinical Nutrition Research, located on the Newark campus. The third visit is to defend the final practice based research in-person on the Newark campus.

26. **How much time can I expect to spend per week for each class?**

   Classes may vary in the time required to dedicate each week to successfully pass the course. Generally each 3 credit course takes between 15-20 hours of work weekly including completing assignments, participating in discussions, and readings.

27. **Where can I find a list of student research projects?**

   Our abstract database includes all of our student abstracts from their research projects and can be found at: [http://apps.shp.rutgers.edu/projects/nutr_mscn/nutr/mscn/mscn_alumni_thesis.cfm](http://apps.shp.rutgers.edu/projects/nutr_mscn/nutr/mscn/mscn_alumni_thesis.cfm)

28. **What technology is required for online courses?**

   All online classes utilize the Moodle course management system. Students will be provided access once the student is enrolled as a matriculated or non-matriculated student.

   Adobe Connect is a web conferencing program used in most courses. The application provides students and faculty with the capability to speak to each other via the Internet in real-time. Some faculty may use Adobe Connect to enhance the learning experience in their courses. Use of Adobe Connect requires the purchase of a headset with microphone and a webcam.

29. **Is it possible to meet with a GPCN faculty member to discuss the programs?**

   Yes, the faculty would be happy to meet with you to discuss your specific questions. Please email us at ms-cn@shp.rutgers.edu for the MSCN program, dcn@shp.rutgers.edu for the DCN program.