

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNITY MEDICAL DIETETICS

Turn your passion for health and wellness into a career in nutrition with Viterbo's **fully online** Master of Science in Community Medical Dietetics.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Viterbo University's Master of Science in Community Medical Dietetics is an ACEND-accredited, fully online program with three tracks to support diverse career goals.

The Direct Entry to RDN track is designed for individuals with a bachelor's degree in another field who want to become registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs). Students develop foundational nutrition knowledge and clinical skills while completing advanced dietetics coursework and supervised clinical experiences.

This accelerated, full-time, 63-credit-hour program includes 1,120 hours of clinical experiences that can be completed at a distance. The curriculum emphasizes critical thinking, scientific writing, evidence-based practice, and leadership, culminating in a research project, defense, and presentation.

Program Highlights

Fully Online Format: Complete coursework online with clinical experiences that can be completed at a distance.

Direct Entry to RDN Pathway: Designed for career changers with a bachelor's degree in another discipline.

Advanced Clinical Experience: Gain practical experience through 1,120 hours of clinical experiences.

Research and Leadership Focus: Develop critical thinking, scientific writing, and evidence-based practice skills.

COMMON CAREER PATHS

- Clinical Dietitian
- Community Nutritionist
- Medical Nutrition Therapist
- Public Health Nutritionist
- Outpatient Dietitian
- Nutrition Program Coordinator
- Food and Nutrition Services Manager
- Wellness and Health Promotion Specialist

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VITERBO UNIVERSITY

Program Structure

The direct entry to the RDN path of the master's degree is an accelerated 63 credit hour program. Students complete the degree in a cohort model taking classes in a lock-step fashion over six semesters. The curriculum incorporates foundational dietetics coursework (24 credits); advanced nutrition core that includes clinical work and research (27 credits); and an additional 12 credits of elective emphasis classwork.

Note: This two-year accelerated plan is for example purposes only. Students should refer to the catalog in effect upon their entry to Viterbo for details on specific requirements.

Sample Schedule for MS in Community Medical Dietetics – Direct Entry Initial RDN Path

	SUMMER	FALL	SPRING
YEAR 1	Semester One (9 cr.)	Semester Two (12 cr.)	Semester Three (12 cr.)
	NUTR 500 – Foundations in Dietetic Practice (3 cr.)	NUTR 570 – Developmental Nutrition*** (3 cr.)	NUTR 566 – Health Assessment*** (3 cr.)
	NUT 530 – Evidence Analysis and System Reviews Evidence Analysis Project (3 cr.)	NUTR 571 – Medical Nutrition Therapy*** (3 cr.)	NUTR 572 – Nutrition and Health Promotion*** (3 cr.)
	NUTR 552 – Foodservice Management*** (3 cr.)	NUTR 541 – Advanced Human Nutrition*** (3 cr.)	NUTR 578 –Medical Nutrition Therapy I *** (3 cr.)
		OPTIONS – Select 12 hours of electives	NUTR 568 – Health Assessment I (3 cr.)
		NUTR 545 – Advanced Nutrition Counseling* (3 cr.)	
YEAR 2	Semester Four (9 cr.)	Semester Five (8 cr.)	Semester Six (13 cr.)
	OPTIONS – Select 12 hours of electives	NUTR 670 – Community Capstone (5 cr.)	NUTR 671 – MNT Capstone (5 cr.)
	NUTR 520 – Systems Approach to Obesity* (3 cr.)	NUTR 640 – Research Project (3 cr.)	NUTR 681 – Foodservice Supervised Practice (2 cr.)
	NUTR 560 – Advanced Sports Nutrition* (3 cr.)		NUTR 641 – Research I (3 cr.)
	NUTR 540 – Nutrition, Disease, and the Inflammatory State* (3 cr.)		NUTR 601 – Macronutrients (3 cr.)**
TOTAL MSCMD INITIAL PRACTICE RDN – 63 CREDITS			

*Denotes an elective – you must select 12 hours (four electives) **Select either 600 or 601 ***Courses eligible for waiver/transfer if taken within seven years

Program Cost

This program is eligible for federal financial aid. Graduate students may elect to borrow federal student loans to assist in paying for the program. A minimum of three credits must be completed each semester to receive financial aid. Students wishing to explore financial aid are encouraged to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA code 003911) and Viterbo University's Additional Information form. For questions regarding financial aid, call 608-796-3900.

Apply for Admission

The direct entry path of the Community Medical Dietetics program offers one start annually in May (summer semester). The program requires a solid foundation of science coursework as part of the enrollment process. Pre-enrollment coursework must be completed prior to enrollment with a grade of C or better. Courses required include: Anatomy and Physiology I and II, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Organic Chemistry, and Microbiology. For a full list of the application requirements and other important details on applying visit **viterbo.edu/gradadmissions.**

Application review begins in mid-fall each year.