University of Illinois

Division of NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES

A CAMPUS-WIDE INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE PROGRAM

Training tomorrow’s leaders in Nutritional Sciences
Imagine yourself in the Division of Nutritional Sciences

The Division of Nutritional Sciences (DNS) at the University of Illinois trains tomorrow’s leaders in nutritional sciences by integrating interdisciplinary graduate education with key research. But you don’t have to take our word for it: Our track record is reflected in our consistent ranking as a top nutrition program in the United States.

As a DNS graduate student, you will have access to exceptional research opportunities that span the spectrum of nutritional sciences—from work at the level of the genome and proteome to clinical and population-based studies. Our graduates enter the workforce equipped to address complex problems using both traditional and novel biological and sociological approaches.

Our faculty, with wide-ranging expertise at both conceptual and technical levels, are active in well-funded clinical, physiological, cellular, and molecular research as well as research in community nutrition and nutrition education.

The multidisciplinary nature of our program provides students with a firm foundation in integrative biology and a focus on nutrient regulation.

DNS, administered by the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES), draws strength and diversity from faculty on two campuses in 18 departments that are part of eight different University of Illinois colleges.

Our degree programs are designed to permit flexibility and let you pursue individualized coursework and professional training. You design your own unique program of study, based on educational interests, career objectives, and recommendations of your academic advisor and graduate committee. We offer MS, PhD, MD/PhD, and PhD/MPH degrees, alone or in combination with the AND-accredited Graduate Dietetic Internship program, leading to the registration in dietetics (R.D.). The MD/PhD combination is available to qualified applicants through the Medical Scholars Program in the College of Medicine.

Apply today: nutrsci.illinois.edu/future_students/how_to_apply

“My coursework and research experience as a DNS graduate student prepared me for an exciting career, bringing the results of nutrition research conducted throughout the world to the scientific community.”

—Kathryn K. Harden, Ph.D. 1986, associate editor, Journal of Nutrition
Experience outstanding financial support

More than 95 percent of DNS graduate students receive funding for their graduate programs. Students are commonly supported by at least one of the sources described below. Tuition is waived for students who receive qualifying scholarships, fellowships, and assistantships.

Fellowships and Scholarships

As a DNS student, you have access to a multitude of fellowship and scholarship opportunities.

- **Kraft Human Nutrition Fellowships**
  Through a $1-million endowment from Kraft Foods, we have established the Kraft Foods Human Nutrition Fellowship Program, part of our ongoing effort to train students from many ethnicities and lifestyles. Diversity among our graduate community ensures more voices in shaping transformative knowledge and creative expression. These fellowships are reserved for underrepresented minority applicants who are U.S. citizens.

- **Jonathan Baldwin Turner Fellowships**
  Each year many merit-based Jonathan Baldwin Turner Fellowships are awarded through the College of ACES. M.S. fellowships are awarded for two years and Ph.D. fellowships for three years.

- **University Fellowships**
  Many students receive fellowships and scholarships from the University of Illinois, the U of I Graduate College, and the College of ACES.

- **National Fellowships**
  DNS students successfully compete for prestigious national fellowships from professional scientific societies, including the American Society for Nutrition, the American Society of Animal Science, and the Society of Toxicology, and from funding agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Training Grants

Predoctoral fellowships are available to qualified students through national training grants provided to DNS.

DNS has a long history of USDA and NIH training grant opportunities that are available to qualified students. Our previous USDA training grants have addressed macronutrient metabolism, soy and human health and obesity prevention. Our most recent NIH training grant focused on inflammation and nutritional dysfunction.

Research and Teaching Assistantships

Research assistantships are made available through grants held by DNS faculty. These funds are typically tied to a student’s research project, though some students assist with work that is not a direct component of their dissertation research. We also strongly encourage DNS students to gain teaching experience during their graduate career, and many teaching assistantships are available through our participating departments.
Access state-of-the-art facilities

Few U.S. universities provide the quality of facilities offered by the University of Illinois for training students in nutritional sciences research. Let us introduce you to a few.

Biotechnology Center
The Biotechnology Center, which administers several research units, provides key infrastructure support—sponsoring symposia and workshops, publishing a newsletter and submitting research proposals, and providing job placement for graduate students in the biological and biomedical sciences.

W.M. Keck Center for Comparative and Functional Genomics
In 5,000 square feet of contiguous space, the Keck Center houses units in three areas of research: high-throughput DNA sequencing and genotyping, bioinformatics, and functional genomics.

The Institute for Genomic Biology
IGB (pictured above) advances life science research and stimulates bio-economic development in the state of Illinois in three broad areas: systems biology, cellular and metabolic engineering, and genome technology. The institute’s research focuses on applying genomic biology to solve problems in agriculture, medicine, and the environment. The core facilities housed at IGB provide biological microscopy and image analysis tools and expertise.

Mass Spectrometry Core Facility
The biological mass spectrometry core facility contains four instruments that cover most analytical needs for isotopic kinetic research.

Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology
The Beckman Institute (pictured right) coordinates research on information processing and organization, including an Imaging Technologies Group providing a full range of visualization services, from image/data acquisition to production of video, slide, transparency, and journal presentations.

National Center for Supercomputing Applications
NCSA, one of the five original NSF Supercomputer Centers, is at the forefront of supercomputing technology. NCSA is internationally renowned for innovative applications in high-performance computing, visualization, and desktop software.
Invest in your future

DNS champions your professional growth in multiple ways:

Unique learning experiences

- **Grant writing**
  DNS believes that writing successful grants is a skill vital for all graduates. Our capstone course, NUTR 550, walks students through the entire process of preparing and submitting a grant. Working with DNS faculty who are highly successful grant writers, students create their own NIH grant proposal. They also learn to constructively evaluate and review others’ grants along with responsible conduct of research and scientific ethics.

- **Certificate in Business Administration**
  Through the generous support of Abbott, DNS provides scholarships for students to complete a Certificate in Business Administration in the U of I College of Business.

Professional development

- **Nutrition Symposium**
  DNS students plan and organize the annual Nutrition Symposium. In addition to featuring a keynote speaker addressing a current nutrition-related topic, the symposium provides students an opportunity to present their research prior to national meetings and compete for cash prizes in poster and oral presentations.

- **Regulatory Affairs Summit**
  In 2011, with support from Kraft Foods and the North American branch of the International Life Sciences Institute, DNS launched its inaugural Regulatory Affairs Summit. This exciting event is held in Washington, D.C., for students interested in learning more about food and nutrition policy creation, regulatory affairs, and career opportunities in government and industry.

Recognition for excelling

- **Margin of Excellence Research and Travel Grants**
  The Margin of Excellence program provides travel and research seed grant funds on a competitive basis. By subsidizing travel to important conferences and scientific meetings, Margin of Excellence funds allow students to present research findings and to network with graduate student colleagues and leading researchers from other institutions.

- **Endowed Student Excellence and Student Travel Awards**
  Each year two DNS students are chosen to receive unrestricted cash awards for excellence. Additional awards are granted to support travel to domestic or international scientific conferences.
Explore our research

Animal Nutrition
We focus on improving the growth, development, and well-being of production and companion animals and on reducing the environmental impact of animal production systems.

Biochemical and Molecular Nutrition
We are investigating the metabolic fate of nutrients and how nutrients act as regulators of organs, tissues, and cellular functions—areas now referred to as proteomics and metabolomics.

Community Nutrition, Nutrition Education, and Consumer Acceptance
We apply behavior theories to the development of nutrition education curriculum, with the aim of improving human health and well-being.

“Although students and professors in DNS are involved in divergent areas of research, there is a unifying sense of community and motivation to excel.”
— Suzanne Pelletier, M.S. 2002
Dietary Bioactive Components
We are at the forefront of identifying food components that have health benefits and of determining the cellular, biochemical, and molecular mechanisms underlying these effects.

“...The years I spent at the University of Illinois formed the basis of my scientific foundation. The mentoring and academic rigor provided in DNS have allowed me to become a successful and contributing scientist.”
—Shelley (Brown) McGuire, M.S. 1988, associate professor of nutrition, Washington State University

Food Safety and Toxicology
We work to ensure that the food you eat is both nutritious and safe by studying microbial and chemical food safety, bioactive components in food, toxicology and biological systems, dietary supplements, and more.

Human and Clinical Nutrition
We study the treatment and prevention of acute illnesses and chronic degenerative diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular conditions, using both animal models of human disease and human subjects in our research.

Nutritional Neuroscience
We focus on nutritional means to promote and protect brain health, from prenatal and postnatal nutrition to enhance brain and cognitive development to nutrition-based approaches to delay cognitive aging.
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Contact us today!
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- Outstanding fellowship opportunities
- Top national ranking
- Excellent job placement
- Interdisciplinary research themes, from biology to sociology