

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences

Bachelor of Science in Nutrition

2026 – 2027

Note: All curriculum revisions will be updated immediately on the website <http://publichealth.gwu.edu>.

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Program Mission Statement

The mission of the BS in Nutrition program is to provide undergraduates with an in-depth understanding of food and nutrition. The program provides student with a comprehensive foundation in nutrition and lays the groundwork for integrating nutrition across disciplines. The program consists of a common set of core nutrition courses, while also providing students with opportunity to tailor their coursework towards pursuing future schooling and careers in dietetics, medicine and the health sciences, public health nutrition, and nutrition policy.

Goals of the BS Program in Nutrition at GW

The goals of this BS program in Nutrition are to ensure that graduates are able to:

1. Integrate knowledge of multiple physiologic responses to foods and nutrients at the molecular, cellular, and systemic levels.
2. Develop a foundation in the field of public health.
3. Apply nutrition to human health, function, and disease prevention using a public health framework.
4. Develop critical thinking skills in using and evaluating nutrition science research.
5. Utilize effective oral and written communication skills, ethical and complex decision-making abilities.
6. Integrate psychologic, anthropologic, and contextual factors that may influence diet and food choice in promoting healthy nutrition among individuals and populations.

Careers

The BS in Nutrition prepares students for professional careers in the field and for entrance into professional graduate programs:

- Medicine (Physician Assistant, Nursing, Physician)
- Pharmacy
- Dietetics
- Public Health
- Federal agencies
- Worksite wellness and health promotion
- Management of nutrition interventions and research studies
- Food and nutraceutical industry positions
- Trade associations related to food and nutrition
- Non-profit organizations
- Nutrition advocacy groups
- International organizations

Graduation Requirements

All students accepted to this major must follow the policies outlined in the [GW Bulletin](#) and the [GWSPH Student Handbook](#). This includes, but is not limited to:

- Minimum Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Minimum Course Grades
- Approved Guided Electives
- Maximum Credit Allowances
- University General Education
- Double Majors and Double Degrees
- Double Counting
- Continuous Enrollment
- Maximum Time to Degree
- Required Minimum Degree Credits
- Transfer Credit Policy
- Field Experience, Undergraduate Research, Independent Study, and Study Abroad
- CITI Training
- Integrity Quiz and Plagiarism
- Professional Enhancement (PE) Hours

There are four levels of requirements for this BS degree: University general education requirements, major core requirements, guided electives, and general electives. University general education requirements are taken by all University undergraduate students and form the liberal arts education component of the BS degree. Students with a declared concentration must meet the requirements for the concentration in addition to the four levels of requirements listed above.

Students should review the [GW Bulletin](#) to ascertain the prerequisite courses for the major core courses. Notes on policies related to specific courses will be documented in footnotes, but only on the first instance the course appears in this program guide.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE 2026-2027 DEPARTMENT OF EXERCISE and NUTRITION SCIENCES BACHELOR OF SCIENCE in NUTRITION

University General Education Requirements (GenEd) Courses (See University Bulletin for General Education Requirements)		
University Writing	UW 1020 UNIVERSITY WRITING	4
WID	TWO WID COURSES; These may also be counted in another category	6
Humanities	ONE COURSE IN HUMANITIES http://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/	3
Mathematics or Statistics*	ONE COURSE IN EITHER MATH OR STATISTICS <i>Can be satisfied with STAT 1051 or STAT 1053 or STAT 1127</i>	3
Science*	ONE NATURAL OR PHYSICAL SCIENCE COURSE WITH LABORATORY EXPERIENCE	4
Social Science*	TWO COURSES IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES <i>Can be satisfied with ANTH and COMM</i> http://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/	6
TOTAL GenEd		26

*Specific course selection may count for both Gen Ed and Nutrition Core.

Nutrition Core

BS in Nutrition Core Courses (34 credits, same for all concentrations)		
Course Number	Course title	Credits
CHEM 1110 ¹	Fundamentals of Chemistry	2
EXNS 1109 ²	Professional Foundations in Nutrition	1
EXNS 2119	Introduction to Nutrition Science	3
EXNS 2120	Assessment of Nutritional Status	3
EXNS 2123	Nutrition and Chronic Disease	3
EXNS 2124	Nutrition throughout the Lifecycle	3
EXNS 2210	Applied Anatomy & Physiology I & Lab	4
EXNS 2211	Applied Anatomy & Physiology II & Lab	4
EXNS 3111W	Exercise and Nutrition Science Research Methods	3
EXNS 3110, EXNS 3120, EXNS 3995, or CCAS 2154 ³	Field Experience – Exercise and Nutrition Science, Experiences in Community Nutrition, Undergraduate Research, or Elective Internship	1
PUBH 1010	First Year Experience Course	1
PUBH 1101	Introduction to Public Health	3
PSYC 1001	General Psychology	3
ANTH ⁴	1002 or 1003 or 1004 (satisfies Social Science & Global/Cross Cultural Perspective requirement)	(G)
BISC 1111 ⁴	Intro Biology: Cells & Molecules	(G)
COMM ⁴	1040 or 1041 (satisfies Social Science & Oral Communication requirement)	(G)
STAT ⁴	STAT 1051 or STAT 1053 or STAT 1127	(G)
Total Nutrition Core		34
<p>¹ For Nutrition Science and Pre-Medical Professional concentration students: Students may waive CHEM 1110 if they have earned a score of 95 or greater on the ALEKS examination AND take CHEM 1111 and CHEM 1112 (required courses for these concentrations). If CHEM 1110 is waived, it must be replaced with two additional credits of guided electives. Should students with no concentration or the Applied Nutrition concentration who choose to waive CHEM 1110 as they wish to take CHEM 1111 and CHEM 1112 (not required courses for these concentrations), the same rule applies.</p> <p>² Students who have taken EXNS 1103 Professional Foundations in Exercise Science should not take EXNS 1109 Professional Foundations in Nutrition Science. EXNS 1103 will count towards EXNS 1109.</p> <p>³ Students can select between listed courses. Credit hours may be beyond 1 credit if the student elects EXNS 3120 (2 credits), or to enroll in EXNS 3110, 3995 or CCAS 2154 beyond 1 credit. If this is the case, additional credit hours will be applied to general elective credit requirements.</p> <p>⁴ Listed courses fulfill a General Education requirement (G).</p>		

Students have the option to pursue the following four curriculums within the BS in Nutrition program:

- BS in Nutrition, no concentration
- BS in Nutrition, Nutrition Science concentration
- BS in Nutrition, Pre-Medical Professional concentration
- BS in Nutrition, Applied Nutrition concentration

No Concentration

Students majoring in nutrition and who do not declare a concentration must fulfill the following graduation requirements.

BS in Nutrition – No Concentration Must Fulfill the Following Degree Requirements	
General Education Requirements	26 credits
BS in Nutrition Core Curriculum	34 credits
Nutrition Guided Electives	18 credits
General Electives	42 credits
Total Number of Credits	120 credits

Nutrition Science Concentration

Students majoring in nutrition who declare the Nutrition Science concentration must fulfill the following graduation requirements. The Nutrition Science concentration is recommended for students wishing to pursue an advanced degree in dietetics and become a registered dietitian. Please note that as of 2024, it is required that students have a Master's degree to become a Registered Dietitian.

Nutrition Science Concentration Requirements		
Course Number	Course Title	Credits
BISC 1112	Intro Biology: Biology of Organisms	4
BISC 2336	Introduction to Microbiology	3
BISC 2337	Introduction to Microbiology Lab	1
BISC 3165 or CHEM 3165	Biochemistry	3
CHEM 1111	General Chemistry I	4
CHEM 1112	General Chemistry II	4
CHEM 2151	Organic Chemistry I	3
CHEM 2153	Organic Chemistry I Lab	1
CHEM 2152	Organic Chemistry II	3
CHEM 2154	Organic Chemistry II Lab	1
EXNS 3810	Human Metabolism	3
Total Nutrition Science Concentration Requirements		30

BS in Nutrition – Nutrition Science Concentration Must Fulfill the Following Degree Requirements	
General Education Requirements	26 credits
BS in Nutrition Core Curriculum	34 credits
Nutrition Science Concentration Courses	30 credits
Nutrition Guided Electives	12 credits
General Electives	18 credits
Total Number of Credits	120 credits

Pre-Medical Professional (PMP) Concentration

Students majoring in nutrition who declare the Pre-medical Professional concentration must fulfill the following graduation requirements. The Pre-medical Professional concentration is recommended for students wishing to apply to medical school or who plan to pursue other medical professions following completion of their undergraduate studies.

Pre-Medical Professional (PMP) Concentration Requirements		
Course Number	Course Title	Credits
BISC 1112	Intro Biology: Biology of Organisms	4
BISC 3165 or CHEM 3165	Biochemistry	3
CHEM 1111	General Chemistry I	4
CHEM 1112	General Chemistry II	4
CHEM 2151	Organic Chemistry I	3
CHEM 2153	Organic Chemistry I Lab	1
CHEM 2152	Organic Chemistry II	3
CHEM 2154	Organic Chemistry II Lab	1
MATH \geq 1220	Calculus with Precalculus (or higher-level MATH)	3
EXNS 1113	Medical Terminology	3
PHYS 1011	General Physics 1	4
PHYS 1012	General Physics 2	4
Total Pre-Medical Professional Concentration Requirements		37

Advising Notes for Pre-Medical Professional (PMP) Concentration students

1. Students who receive AP credit for BISC 1111/BISC 1112 do not need to repeat these courses at GW. However, medical schools will expect that you have a minimum of 8 credit hours of upper level BISC coursework with lab components.
2. Consult your Milken Institute School of Public Health Undergraduate Program Advisor prior to the first term's course registration and in future terms as needed. Students are expected to consult a program advisor in all matters affecting the program of studies, such as changes, substitutions, or withdrawals.
3. Students following the PMP concentration must consult with the University Pre-Health advising team (<https://prehealth.gwu.edu/>) regarding pre-health expectations and procedures.
4. Students are responsible to ensure their curricular choices ultimately fulfill all requirements of any specific medical professional graduate program to which they desire to apply. Often specific schools and/or programs have specific requirements that must be met.

BS in Nutrition – Pre-Medical Professional Concentration Must Fulfill the Following Degree Requirements	
General Education Requirements	26 credits
BS in Nutrition Core Curriculum	34 credits
Pre-medical Professional Concentration Courses	37 credits
Nutrition Guided Electives	5 credits
General Electives	18 credits
Total Number of Credits	120 credits

Applied Nutrition Concentration

Students majoring in nutrition who declare the Applied Nutrition concentration must fulfill the following graduation requirements. The Applied Nutrition concentration is recommended for students interested in the application of nutrition to public health and is well-suited to students with interests in nutrition policy, health promotion, nutritional epidemiology and the role of the food system in influencing dietary and health outcomes.

Applied Nutrition Concentration Requirements		
Course Number	Course Title	Credits
EXNS 1114	Community Nutrition	3
EXNS 2122	Food Systems in Public Health	3
EXNS 2126W	International Nutrition	3
EXNS 2127	Introduction to Food Policy	3
PUBH 2112	Principles of Health Education/Promotion	3
PUBH 3131	Epidemiology	3
Total Applied Nutrition Concentration Requirements		18

BS in Nutrition – Applied Nutrition Concentration Must Fulfill the Following Degree Requirements	
General Education Requirements	26 credits
BS in Nutrition Core Curriculum	34 credits
Applied Nutrition Concentration Courses	18 credits
Nutrition Guided Electives	18 credits
General Electives	24 credits
Total Number of Credits	120 credits

Note for all concentrations: No more than 3 credits of Lifestyle, Sport, and Physical Activity (LSPA) courses may count toward the 120 credits required for the bachelor's degree.

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

BS in NUTRITION GUIDED ELECTIVES, 2026-2027

The courses listed below have been identified as highly relevant to the BS in Nutrition curriculum.

Guided elective credits are required to be selected from this list.

General electives can also be selected from this list, or any other undergraduate course at the University.

NOTE: Courses offered online may only be taken in the summer term.

ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH 1005	Biological Bases of Human Behavior	4
ANTH 3413	Evolution of the Human Brain	3
ANTH 3504	Illness, Healing, and Culture	3

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

BISC 2202	Cell Biology	3
BISC 2207	Genetics	3
BISC 2213	Biology of Cancer	3
BISC 2214	Developmental Biology	3
BISC 2220	Developmental Neurobiology	3
BISC 2320	Neural Circuits & Behavior	3
BISC 2322	Human Physiology	3
BISC 2336 ¹	Introduction to Microbiology	3
BISC 2337 ¹	Introduction to Microbiology Lab	1
BISC 2581	Human Gross Anatomy	3
BISC 2583	Biology of Proteins	3
BISC 3165 ^{1,2}	Introductory Biochemistry	3
BISC 3209	Molecular Biology	3
BISC 3212	Immunology	3
BISC 3262	Biochemistry Lab	2
BISC 3263	Special Topics in Biochemistry	2
BISC 3320	Human Neurobiology	2

¹ Required course for Nutrition Science concentration

² Required course for Pre-medical Professional concentration

CHEMISTRY

CHEM 3166 or CHEM 3166W	Biochemistry II	3
CHEM 3262	Biochemistry Lab	2
CHEM 3263W	Special Topics in Biochemistry	2
CHEM 3564	Lipid Biotechnology	0-2
CHEM 4122	Instrumental Analytical Chemistry	3

CULINARY MEDICINE

CULI 1810	Fundamentals of Culinary Medicine	3
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EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES

EHS 1002	CPR & First Aid	1
EHS 1040	EMT Basic	3
EHS 1041	EMT Basic Lab	1
EHS 1058	EMT Instructor Development	2
EHS 2108	Emergency Medical Clinical Scribe	3
EHS 2110	Emergency Department Critical Care Assessment and Procedures	4

EXERCISE & NUTRITION SCIENCES

EXNS 1113 ¹	Medical Terminology	3
EXNS 1114 ²	Community Nutrition	3
EXNS 2116	Exercise and Health Psychology	3
EXNS 2118	Sport and Nutrition	3
EXNS 2122 ²	Food Systems in Public Health	3
EXNS 2126W ²	International Nutrition	3
EXNS 2127 ²	Introduction to Food Policy	3
EXNS 3101 ³	Independent Study	3
EXNS 3110 ³	Field Experience	2
EXNS 3114W	Cultivating Food Justice in Urban Food Systems	3
EXNS 3120	Experiences in Community Nutrition	1
EXNS 3311	Exercise Physiology I and Lab	4
EXNS 3312	Exercise Physiology II and Lab	4
EXNS 3810 ⁴	Human Metabolism	3
EXNS 3995 ³	Undergraduate Research Course	1-6

¹ Required course for Pre-medical Professional concentration

² Required course for Applied Nutrition concentration

³ Up to 3 credits of EXNS 3101, EXNS 3110, or EXNS 3995 count toward guided electives.

⁴ Required course for Nutrition Science concentration

HEALTH & WELLNESS

HLWL 1102	Stress Management	3
HLWL 1106	Drug Awareness	3
HLWL 1108	Weight & Society	3
HLWL 1114	Personal Health & Wellness	3
HLWL 1117	Lifetime Fitness	3

HEALTH SCIENCES

HSCI 2101	Psychological Aspects of Health and Illness (Residential and Online)	3
HSCI 2102	Pathophysiology (ONLINE ONLY)	3
HSCI 2110	Disease Prevention/Health Promotion (ONLINE ONLY)	3
HSCI 2112W	Writing in the Health Sciences (ONLINE ONLY)	3
HSCI 3113	Health Policy and the Healthcare System (ONLINE ONLY)	3

PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 2011 OR 2011W	Abnormal Psychology	3
PSYC 2013	Developmental Psychology	3
PSYC 2014	Cognitive Psychology	3
PSYC 2015	Biological Psychology	3
PSYC 2570	Peer Education	3
PSYC 3128	Health Psychology	3

PUBLIC HEALTH

PUBH 1102	History of Public Health	3
PUBH 2110	Public Health Biology	3
PUBH 2112 ¹	Principles of Health Education and Health Promotion	3
PUBH 2113	Impact of Culture Upon Health	3
PUBH 2117	Service Learning in Public Health	3
PUBH 2142	Introduction to Biostatistics for Public Health	3
PUBH 3130	Health Services Management and Economics	3
PUBH 3131 ¹	Epidemiology: Measuring Health and Disease	3
PUBH 3135W	Health Policy	3
PUBH 3151W	Current Issues in Bioethics	3

¹Required course for Applied Nutrition concentration