ACCELERATED MASTERS (4+1) PROGRAM IN NUTRITION
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. How do I apply – is the Accelerated MS a separate application?
   As a junior, students must formally apply and submit an application to the Graduate School. All usual application
   materials (GPA, transcripts, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, personal statement, etc.) are required for
   submission. There is no separate option in Spire for the 4+1 so apply to the M.S. Nutrition program and specify
   in your personal statement that you are applying to the 4+1 Accelerated Masters program. The Graduate
   Admissions Committee in Nutrition will review all applications.

   More information about the graduate application process may be found at:
   http://www.umass.edu/sphhs/nutrition/graduate-programs/graduate-admissions

2. What are the minimum requirements to apply?
   - Completion of the following undergraduate courses:
     - NUTR 230
     - NUTR 391C/NUTR 372 (or concurrent with application)
     - KIN 270
     - KIN 272
     - BIO 151
     - CHEM 111
     - CHEM 112
     - CHEM 261 or 250

   Note: All other undergraduate requirements, including BIOCHEM 420, NUTR 352, and NUTR 430, must be
   completed before starting the MS program.

   - Completion of formal graduate application (including GRE scores).

ADMISSIONS

3. What GPA will be needed?
   Average cumulative GPA in the most recent cohort of students accepted into our MS program was > 3.5.
   Although this is not a specific requirement, the higher your GPA, the better your chances are for acceptance into
   this program.

4. How heavily will the GRE matter when it comes to considering candidates?
   As with any graduate application, GRE scores will be among the pieces of information that the Graduate
   Committee will take into consideration when reviewing the applicants (along with GPA, personal statement, and
   letters of recommendation).

5. What GRE scores are needed?
   The university requires a minimum general GRE score of 450 (new scaling system: 150 Verbal and 141
   Quantitative). However, our department generally expects ≥ 500 (new scaling system: 153 Verbal and 144
   Quantitative).

6. Is a subject-specific GRE required?
   No, the general GRE is sufficient.

7. Can the GRE requirement be waived?
All applicants are required to take the GRE. A waiver is considered only for those individuals who hold an MD, JD or a doctoral degree in another field.

8. **Does it matter what track I’m on as an undergraduate?**
   
   No. Students on any track may apply to the 4+1 program.

9. **Will it be a very competitive program to get into?**
   
   We anticipate this will be a highly competitive program.

### TIMING

10. **What is the recommended timeline for applications?**

    - February of Junior year – apply to the 4+1 program
    - Fall of Junior year (or earlier) – take the GRE exam
    - February of 5th year – apply to dietetic internships (if applicable)
    - {Specific date varies} – apply to medical school or other related programs (if applicable)

11. **Could this program be an option for those who are graduating in 2017?**

    During this first year, the Graduate Admissions Committee will review exceptions to the usual timeline on a case-by-cases basis. Part of the decision will depend on where you are with your classes and when you take the GRE exam.

12. **Can I apply to the 4+1 program my junior year, defer for a year to go abroad, then start the program when I return?**

    No. The program is designed for students to apply in their junior year and complete their fifth year immediately after their senior year, so that the five years are consecutive.

13. **If I want to go abroad for a semester in my junior year, can I still apply for the 4+1 program?**

    Yes, but it would have to be well planned ahead of time with your advisor to ensure the GRE exam has been taken and all admissions criteria were met.

14. **If I’m on the dietetics track, do I apply for internships during the 5th year?**

    Yes. See Recommended Timeline.

### GENERAL QUESTIONS

15. **What are the benefits of this type of program?**

    If you’re interested in becoming a Registered Dietitian (RD), the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics will be requiring that all RDs have a Master’s degree by 2024.

    This is an ideal program for those who want to get a Master’s degree in one year, as compared to the usual two year program. This is possible, in part, because no original research or written thesis is required.

    This type of program provides a productive “gap” year for students applying to medical school.

16. **What’s better – this accelerated 4+1 program of the combined MS/DI program?**

    The answer really depends on what your interests are. Combined MS/DI programs tend to be more clinical or topic focused (such as sports nutrition); 4+1 programs may be more broadly focused and less expensive.

17. **Under what circumstances might this program not be recommended, as compared to a traditional two-year Master’s program?**
If you’re planning to pursue a doctoral degree, this program may not be your best choice because it does not require a thesis (a requirement of some doctoral programs).

18. If I’m able to, can I start taking graduate level classes before the fifth year?
   Yes, if you’re able to fit them in and have enough undergraduate credits to graduate (120), then taking graduate courses in your senior year is encouraged.

19. What is the cost of the program?
   Regular graduate fees and tuition costs would apply for the fifth year of the program.

   For information about financial aid, please see:
   http://www.umass.edu/umfa/sites/default/files/Forms/GUIDETOUNDERSTANDINGFINANCIALAID_17.pdf

20. How is this program associated with the Dietetic Internship (DI) at UMass or the combined MS/DI program?
   No, the 4+1 program is not associated with either of these two other program offerings.

For additional FAQ regarding the Graduate Program in Nutrition, please see:
http://www.umass.edu/sphhs/nutrition/graduate-programs/faq