

THE STUDENT HANDBOOK:

**Guidelines and Policies
For
Graduate Studies
in
Nutrition
at
Texas A&M University**

Revised 2021



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Nutrition

<http://nutrition.tamu.edu>

*Please submit any suggestions or corrections to
Graduate Program Coordinator
138 Cater-Mattil, 2253 TAMU, 979-862-7955*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
<i>WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION</i>	1
<i>PROGRAM OF STUDY</i>	1
<i>DEGREES</i>	2
Doctoral Program	2
Master of Science Program	3
Master of Clinical Nutrition Program	3
Dual Masters (MS/MS) in Kinesiology and Nutrition	4
Dietetic Internship	6
SECTION A – NUTRITION DEPARTMENT RESOURCES	7
Research Facilities	7
Faculty Research Interests	8
Courses	13
Research Symposium	15
UNIVERSITY RESOURCES	16
Admissions	16
Office of Graduate Studies	16
International Student Services	16
Student Loans/Financial Aid	16
Student Health Insurance	17
Housing	17
SECTION B – THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM	19
FIRST YEAR	19
Prerequisites	19
Courses	19
Seminars	19
Scientific Meetings	19
Student Travel Rules	20
BEYOND THE FIRST YEAR	20
Continuing Registration.....	20
Degree Plan	20
99-hour Cap	21
Teaching	21
Candidacy	21
Residence Requirements	22
Dissertation Proposal and Preliminary Examinations	22
PhD Proposal	23
Annual Evaluations	25
Defense of the Dissertation	25
SECTION C – MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE	26
THESIS OPTION	26
MS Thesis Proposal	26
Defense of the Thesis	27

<i>NON-THESIS OPTION</i>	27
SECTION D – UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY POLICIES	28
Petitions	28
Academic Status	28
Tuition	28
Academic Calendar	28
English Language Requirements for International Students	29
Right to Review Records	29
Academic Honesty	29
Ownership of Data	29
Ombuds Officer	30

QUICK REFERENCE

TABLE INCLUSIONS

Core Curriculum Requirements for the Doctoral Degree in Nutrition (Table 1)	2
Core Curriculum Requirements for the Master’s Degree in Nutrition (Table 2)	3
Courses Approved the Meet the Core Curriculum Requirements	13
Members and Their Research Interests (Table 3)	8
Steps to Fulfill the Doctoral Degree Requirements	19
Steps to Fulfill the Master’s Degree Requirements	25

INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION

The graduate program in Nutrition is administered by the Department of Nutrition, and its membership includes faculty from Nutrition, Animal Science, Biochemistry and Biophysics, Health and Kinesiology, Horticultural Sciences, Poultry Science, Sociology, Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, the School of Public Health, and Veterinary Integrative Biosciences. Courses of study lead to the Master of Clinical Nutrition, the Master of Science, and the Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Courses for the degree program are selected from the various departments to serve the needs of the graduate student.

The Masters and Doctoral programs in Nutrition allow emphasis in the broad fields of basic and applied animal and human nutrition. Candidates may perform research in the areas of nutritional biochemistry and molecular biology, animal nutrition, and community or international nutrition. Studies in animal nutrition may be related to animal agriculture or may be fundamental in nature. Human or domestic animal nutrition specialization can be obtained in physiology, immunology, biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, and applied nutrition.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Over thirty faculty members from the departments of Nutrition, Food Science and Technology, Animal Science, Poultry Science, Biochemistry and Biophysics, Health and Kinesiology, Medical Microbiology and Immunology, Human Anatomy & Medical Neurobiology, Social and Behavioral Health, Sociology, Statistics, Plant Physiology, Endocrinology, Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, and Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences in the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Medicine, Science, Veterinary Medicine, and Liberal Arts participate in the interdepartmental graduate program. In addition, existing collaborative ties with the School of Public Health, Texas A&M Health Sciences Center, Baylor College of Medicine, Baylor University Medical Center, Central Texas Veterans Health Care System, Scott and White Memorial Hospital and Clinic, University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Dallas and interaction with the Institute of Biosciences and Technology in Houston serve to link both the clinical and basic science components of the Graduate Nutrition Program.

DEGREES

Doctoral Program

Students are required to complete the core curriculum in Nutrition which includes the following academic areas: Biochemistry, Statistics, Physiology, Nutrition and Seminar. At least 64 semester credit hours are required beyond the MS level or 96 semester credit hours beyond the B.S. level. **(Table 1)** Near or at the end of the didactic portion of the program, students take a preliminary exam intended to assess knowledge and competence in nutrition and related fields. Students passing the preliminary exam are admitted to candidacy for a Ph.D. degree.

TABLE 1 – CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTORAL DEGREE IN NUTRITION

Doctoral students at Texas A&M University majoring in Nutrition must complete the following core curriculum during his or her postgraduate program. All students are expected to be active enrolled participants in the Nutrition Seminar Series each semester they are enrolled.

Subject Requirements: (with B.S.)	Nutrition – 12 Credits, 600 level Biochemistry – 6 Credits, 600 level Physiology – 6 Credits, 600 level Statistics – 6 Credits, 600 level Seminar** – 3 Credits, 600 level Research (NUTR 691) – credits vary <u>Directed Studies (NUTR 685) – credits vary</u> Total: 96 credits
Subject Requirements: (with M.S.)	Nutrition – 6 Credits, 600 level Biochemistry – 3 Credits, 600 level Physiology – 3 Credits, 600 level Statistics – 3 Credits, 600 level Seminar** – 2 Credits, 600 level Research (NUTR 691) – credits vary <u>Directed Studies (NUTR 685) – credits vary</u> Total: 64 credits

***Seminar is required every regular semester. Students must register for either 0 or 1 credit.*

Core requirements may not be met by 691 (Research) or 685 (Directed Studies) credits. A single course may not be used to meet more than one core subject requirement. For example, NUTR 642 (Nutritional Biochemistry) may not be used for both Biochemistry and Nutrition requirements on the same degree plan.

The degree plan of the Ph.D. student is the responsibility of the student and the student's graduate committee. The purpose of the core is only to provide a minimum number of courses in various disciplines to ensure that students receive a foundational education in Nutrition.

Master of Science Program

Students are required to complete a minimum of 32 credit hours (**Table 2**) of graduate lecture, seminar, and research courses, and to complete and defend a thesis. The core lecture courses are in Biochemistry, Physiology, and Statistics.

TABLE 2 – CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE IN NUTRITION

Subject Requirements: Nutrition or course cross-listed with nutrition – 6 credit
 Biochemistry* – 3 credits
 Physiology – 3 credits
 Statistics – 3 credits
 NUTR Seminar** – 1 credit

Notes:

*Biochemistry 411 or equivalent may be used to meet the 3 credit Biochemistry requirement for the M.S. degree.

**Seminar is required every regular semester. Students must register for either 0 or 1 credit.

Master of Clinical Nutrition Program

The Master of Clinical Nutrition (MCN) degree is designed to provide a high-quality education and a variety of supervised practice experiences to prepare students in either the Texas A&M Dietetic Internship Program or Baylor University Medical Center's Dietetic Internship Program to be effective registered dietitian nutritionists. The program integrates knowledge gained in coursework with intensive training in professional settings to help grow the student into a competent professional. The MCN Program meets the accreditation standards of the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) for dietetic internship programs. Qualified candidates must have completed an ACEND-accredited dietetics curriculum that provides foundation knowledge in dietetics. Students are required to complete the core curriculum in nutrition which includes the courses in nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, and statistics at the College Station campus. Additionally, students are required to complete supervised practice and research activities that address ACEND competencies for dietetic internship programs. Supervised practice activities may be completed in the following cities in Texas: Dallas (Baylor DI) or College Station, Temple, Houston, and San Antonio (Texas A&M DI). Upon successful completion of the MCN Program, students are eligible to take the credentialing exam for a registered dietitian nutritionist.

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be accepted into the Master of Clinical Nutrition Program:

- Overall GPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale;

- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) test scores with a recommended minimum of 300 (Verbal and Quantitative combined);
- Original Verification Statement of completion of academic requirements or Declaration of Intent to complete academic requirements by August;
- Bachelor of science degree from the U.S. regionally accredited university or college OR foreign equivalent as verified by a Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) approved nonprofit agency (Approved nonprofit agencies available at ACEND website);
- Acceptance into a dietetic internship program at Texas A&M University or Baylor University Medical Center-Dallas.

Students are required to complete a minimum of 36 credit hours (**Table 3**) of graduate lecture, seminar, directed studies, and clinical internship.

**TABLE 3 – CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE
MASTER OF CLINICAL NUTRITION**

Subject Requirements:	NUTR 642 or equivalent – 3 credits
	NUTR 632 or equivalent – 3 credits
	GENE 603 or equivalent – 3 credits
	STAT 651 or equivalent – 3 credits
	KINE 637 or KINE 638 or equivalent – 3 credits
	NUTR 684 Internship – 4 credits
	NUTR 685 Directed Studies – 5 credits
	Approved Electives – 10 credits
	<u>NUTR 681 Seminar** – 2 credits</u>
	Total: 36 credits

Notes:

**Seminar is required every regular semester. Students must register for either 0 or 1 credit.

A professional paper, which is a scholarly report of a problem-solving nature, will be prepared by each student. The professional paper must be submitted to the student's advisory committee for approval prior to the final examination. The final examination will cover all work taken on the degree plan and at the option of the committee may be written or oral or both. The examination is conducted by the student's advisory committee as finally constituted. A positive vote by all members of the graduate committee with at most one dissension is required to pass a student on his or her exam.

Dual Masters (MS/MS) in Kinesiology and Nutrition

The Dual Masters program in Kinesiology and Nutrition is to provide integrative training for students who intend to become licensed practitioners in Sport or Clinical settings. Pursuing these two degrees simultaneously will provide better integration of material across the two disciplines (Exercise Physiology and Human Nutrition) leading to superior training for future professionals working in sport or clinical settings.

This non-thesis program requires a total of 72 credit hours [36 credits for each non-thesis MS].

TABLE 4 – CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NON-THESIS MASTER’S DEGREE IN NUTRITION

Nutrition Subject Requirements: Nutrition or course cross-listed with nutrition – 6 credits
 Biochemistry* – 3 credits
 Physiology – 3 credits
 Statistics – 3 credits
 Directed Studies (NUTR 685) – credits vary
 Approved Elective Coursework: 10-20 credits
 NUTR Seminar** – 1 credit
Notes:
 *Biochemistry 411 or equivalent may be used to meet the 3 credit Biochemistry requirement for the M.S. degree.
 **Seminar is required every regular semester. Students must register for either 0 or 1 credit.
 Total: 36 credit hours

Kinesiology Subject Requirements: See the Department of Kinesiology for KINE MS requirements.
 Total: 36 credit hours

TABLE 5 - MINIMUM COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR NUTRITION PHD AND MS

Course Requirement	Minimum Number of Required Credits			
	96 hour PhD	64 hour PhD	MS with thesis	Non-thesis MS
Nutrition	12	6	6	6
Biochemistry	6	3	3	3
Physiology	6	3	3	3
Statistics	6	3	3	3
Seminar	3	2	1	1
Research (NUTR 691)	credits vary	credits vary	0-8*	No 691 credits allowed
Directed Studies (NUTR 685)	credits vary	credits vary	0-8*	0-8**
Supporting Electives	credits vary	credits vary	3	10
Total Credits	96	64	32	36

* Not more than **12 hours** may be used in any combination of the following categories: 1. Not more than 8 hours in the combination of 691 (research), 684 (Professional Internship) 2. Not more than 8 hours of 685 (Directed Studies) may be used.

** No more than **25 percent (9 hours)** of the total degree plan hours may be used in any combination of the following categories: a. Not more than 4 hrs of 684 (Professional Internship) may be used. b. Not more than 8 hrs of 685 (Directed Studies) may be used.

Graduate Degree (M.S. or Ph.D.) - Dietetic Internship

The Graduate Degree-Dietetic Internship is an accredited program of the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education. Students complete the course requirements for graduate study in College Station and then a dietetic internship. The primary affiliations for the dietetic internship are the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System and Baylor Scott and White Memorial Hospital. Other affiliations include Bryan Independent School District, College Station Independent School District, Texas Cooperative Extension, Excellence in Health, Brazos County WIC, and Memorial Hermann Hospital-Texas Medical Center. Examples of rotations to which interns are assigned include the clinical specialties of cardiology, pediatrics, surgery, nutrition support, gastroenterology, psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, renal dialysis, and general medicine. Community nutrition rotations include those with public health, wellness programs, eating disorders programs, and a food distributor while food service management may be done in either the hospital or school food service setting.

Graduates of the dietetic internship have successfully passed the registration exam to become registered dietitians as evidenced by a pass rate of over 80%. The interns who have completed the program have come from Texas A&M and other universities and colleges and are employed in areas of clinical and community nutrition, food service management, and the food industry from coast to coast.

SECTION A – NUTRITION DEPARTMENT RESOURCES

Research Facilities

The Department of Nutrition contains extensive modern research facilities, which are generously equipped with a full range of instrumentation required for research in cellular, molecular, developmental, endocrine, and reproductive biology. Included are laboratories for recombinant DNA research, facilities for cell culture, electron microscopy, flow cytometry, histology, image analysis/cytogenetics, laboratory/transgenic animal research and containment, peptide sequencing, genomic/proteomic/metabolomics, processing pilot plant, veterinary medicine diagnostics, avian diagnostics, mass spectrometry, and horse, swine, avian, and aquaculture centers. There is also a multi-million dollar Animal Nutrition and Physiology Lab available for research studies.

Research Symposium Competition. Graduate students present their research work to staff and faculty members via either poster or oral presentations.

Travel Grants. Students may be awarded up to \$500 to travel to scientific meetings where they are giving presentations. Students must acknowledge the Department of Nutrition support in the abstract.

NUTRITION GRADUATE FACULTY MEMBERS AND THEIR RESEARCH INTERESTS

Hubert Amrein, Professor, Molecular and Cellular Medicine, MS 1114 (amrein@tamu.edu), 979-436-0799

- Research Interests: Taste sensory coding; Taste receptor specificity; Nutrient sensing by the brain and the gut.

Jenna D. Anding*, Associate Department Head for Extension, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, MS 2253 (j-anding@tamu.edu), 979-847-9227

- Research Interests: food insecurity and hunger, consumer food safety, evaluation of food and nutrition education programs

Robert S. Chapkin, Distinguished Professor of Nutritional Sciences, Regents Professor, University Faculty Fellow and Allen Endowed Chair in Integrative Nutrition & Complex Diseases, MS 2253 (r-chapkin@tamu.edu), 979-845- 0419, 979-845-0448

- Research Interests: Molecular mechanisms by which diet modulates host-microbiome interaction, e.g., aryl hydrocarbon signaling cascades and genomic responses in relation to stem cell biology; noninvasive biomarkers using host exfoliomics and gut microbial metagenomics; membrane therapy and proteolipid nanoclustering; dietary interactions, colon cancer and chronic inflammation.

Mahua Choudhury, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Texas A&M Health Science Center (mchoudhury@pharmacy.tamhsc.edu), 979-436-0286

- Research Interests: prediction of disease risk, genes and the environment, pathology, diabetes, obesity, pregnancy complications, epigenetics

Stephen F. Crouse, Ph.D., FACSM, Professor, Health & Kinesiology Department & Joint Professor of Internal Medicine, Director of Applied Exercise Science Laboratory, MS 4253 (s-crouse@tamu.edu), 979-845-3997

- Research Interests: The enhancement of human health, physical fitness, and quality of life through physical activity, including the effects of exercise and diet on blood lipid metabolism, on the cardiovascular system, and on other accepted atherosclerotic disease risk factors.

Roderick Dashwood, John S Dunn Chair, Professor, and Director, Center for Epigenetics & Disease Prevention, Institute of Biosciences and Technology, MS 1201 (rdashwood@tamu.edu), 713-677-7806

- Research Interests: Genetic/epigenetic mechanisms in cancer prevention and treatment.

Delbert M. Gatlin III, Regents Professor, Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology, MS 2258 (d-gatlin@tamu.edu), 979-847-9333

- Research Interests: Studying nutrient requirements and metabolism of fish as well as evaluation of feedstuffs and diet formulations for application to aquaculture.

Erin Giles, Assistant Professor, Department of Nutrition, MS 2253 (egiles@tamu.edu), 979-458-1849

- Research Interests: Mechanisms linking obesity to increased breast cancer risk, including insulin signaling, inflammation, changes in adipose and tumor microenvironment, and interventions to decrease risk (diet, exercise, pharmacological interventions).

Shaodong Guo, Associate Professor, Department of Nutrition, MS 2253 (Shaodong.guo@tamu.edu), 979-845-0850

- Research Interests: Mechanisms of insulin resistance, diabetes mellitus, and associated cardiac disorders, aiming at nutritional and therapeutic intervention.

Jun-Yuan Ji, Associate Professor, Molecular and Cellular Medicine, Texas A&M Health Science Center, MS 1114 (junyuan@tamu.edu), 979-845-6389

- Research Interests: Cell cycle and transcriptional regulation during development and tumorigenesis

Bradley Johnston, Associate Professor, Department of Nutrition, MS 2253 (Bradley.johnston@tamu.edu)

- Research Interests: Methodology and reporting standards of randomized trials, systematic reviews, meta-analysis, and dietary practice guidelines. Dietary patterns and the management of obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.

Richard Kreider, Professor, Health & Kinesiology, MS 4253 (rbkreider@tamu.edu), 979-458-1498

- Research Interests: Exercise and Sport Nutrition

John M. Lawler, Professor of Health and Kinesiology, MS 4243 (jml2621@tamu.edu), 979-862-2038

- Research Interests: Redox regulation of mechanotransduction and remodeling in skeletal muscle and heart. Antioxidant and nutraceutical therapeutic development against pathology with spaceflight, aging, metabolic disease, and Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

W. Alex McIntosh, Professor of Sociology, MS 4351 (w-mcintosh@tamu.edu), 979-862-7948

- Research Interests: Investigation of social factors that affect food habits, dietary intake, and nutrition.

Rhonda K. Miller, Professor of Animal Science and Food Science & Technology, MS 2471 (rmiller@tamu.edu), 979-845-3935

- Research Interests: The effects of pre- and post-harvest factors that affect red meat palatability, composition, and shelf life.

Peter Murano, Senior Associate Professor, Nutrition and Food Science Department, MS 2477 (psmurano@tamu.edu),

- Research Interests: Implementation and evaluation of nutrition intervention strategies to address world hunger; Nutrition education for medical professionals and pre-professionals

Bhimu Patil, Interim Head, Department of Food Science and Technology, University Professor,

Director, Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center, Director, USDA National Center of Excellence, MS 2133 (b-patil@tamu.edu), 979- 458-8090

- Research Interests: Isolation, purification and characterization of functional components and disease prevention; enhancing bioactive compounds through pre and postharvest practices.

Steven Riechman, Associate Professor of Health and Kinesiology, Health and Kinesiology Department, MS 4243 (sriechman@hlkn.tamu.edu), 979-862-3213

- Research Interests: Environmental and genetic factors associated with muscle loss with aging and responses to preventative interventions, specifically resistance training.

Rebecca Seguin-Fowler, Associate Professor, Associate Director of AgriLife Research, Texas A&M AgriLife Research (r.seguin-fowler@ag.tamu.edu)

- Research Interests: Development and implementation of community-based randomized intervention trials and dissemination research for at-risk populations (e.g., low income families) and settings (e.g., rural communities) focused on obesity and chronic disease prevention; health equity; food insecurity; and policy, system, and environmental change.

Joseph R. Sharkey, Professor of Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences, School of Public Health, MS 1266 jrsharkey@tamu.edu), 979- 436-9374

- Research Interests: University/community collaborative research that examines interrelationships among the food and activity environments, lifestyle behaviors, food insecurity, obesity, dietary intake, nutritional literacy, burden of chronic diseases, and physical performance in rural and Mexican-origin families and children.

Stephen B. Smith, Regents Professor of Animal Science, MS 2471 (sbsmith@tamu.edu), 979-845-3936

- Research Interests: Dietary and cellular factors determining the fatty acid composition of lipids in muscle and adipose tissue; cellular and genetic factors that regulate the growth rate of adipose tissue, especially in the marbling fat depot of beef cattle; cholesterol metabolism and measures of metabolic syndrome in human populations consuming naturally modified beef and pork products.

Yuxiang Sun, Associate Professor, Department of Nutrition, MS 2253 (yuxiangs@tamu.edu), 979-862-9143

- Research Interests: Nutritional regulation and metabolic programming of obesity, diabetes, aging and Alzheimer's disease using cutting-edge tools and methodologies. Current focuses are the roles of nutrient- sensing hormone ghrelin in immunometabolism and inflamm-aging, that are the newly emerged interdisciplinary mechanisms central to many diseases.

Susanne Talcott, Associate Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology, MS 2253 (smtalcott@tamu.edu), 979-458-1819

- Research Interests: Efficacy, Safety and Dosing recommendations for secondary plant compounds with the long- term goal to define dosing recommendations for secondary plant compounds in the promotion of health and prevention of chronic diseases including cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes.

Luis O. Tedeschi, Professor of Animal Science, Texas A&M AgriLife Research Fellow, Animal Science Department, MS 2471, (luis.tedeschi@tamu.edu), 979-845-5065

- Research Interests: The development and evaluation of mathematical nutrition models, physicochemical characterization of feeds, and determination of energy and nutrients requirements for ruminant animals.

David Threadgill, Interim Department Head, Department of Nutrition, Distinguished Professor of Molecular and Cellular Medicine and Biochemistry & Biophysics and Director of the Texas A&M Institute of Genome Sciences and Society, MS 4467 (dwthreadgill@tamu.edu), 979-436-0850

- Research Interests: The role of genetics in mediating how individuals respond to diet to alter health and disease.

Rosemary L. Walzem, Professor, Department of Poultry Science, MS 2472 (rwalzem@tamu.edu), 979-845-7537

- Research Interests: Lipoprotein biology and functional foods.

Chaodong Wu, Professor, Faculty Fellow of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Department of Nutrition, MS 2253 (cdwu@tamu.edu), 979-458-1521

- Research Interests: Roles for nutrient-gene interactions and inflammation in the pathogenesis of obesity and nutrition stress-associated metabolic diseases such as insulin resistance, diabetes, and fatty liver disease.

Guoyao Wu, Distinguished Professor of Animal Science, Texas A&M AgriLife Research Senior Faculty Fellow, and University Faculty Fellow, MS 2471 (g-wu@tamu.edu), Tel. 979-845-1817; Fax 979-845-6057

- Research Interests: Biochemistry, nutrition and physiology of amino acids; Fetal nutrition and metabolism, cardiovascular physiology and disease; Diabetes; Intestinal Metabolism and development; Comparative Animal Nutrition.

Linglin Xie, Associate Professor, Department of Nutrition, MS 2253 (Linglin.xie@tamu.edu), 979-862-9141

- Research Interests: Understanding the impact and molecular mechanisms of maternal diet intervention on offspring obesity and related metabolic complications. 2. Understanding the molecular and genetic mechanisms of heart development and the ontogeny of congenital heart defects, with special focus on how maternal obesity and diabetes affect the heart development in next generation.

Kurt Zhang, Associate Professor, Center of Epigenetics & Disease Prevention, Institute of Biosciences and Technology, Texas A&M Health Science Center, MS 1201 (kzhang@tamu.edu), 979-847-8714

- Research Interests: The transgenerational epigenetic inheritance and regulation for metabolic diseases; 2. Integrate advanced genomics research to understand the gene-gene and gene-environmental interactions during heart development.

Courses approved to meet the Core Curriculum Requirements include the following.

NUTR 641 and NUTR 642 may be used for either the nutrition or the biochemistry requirement, but not for both.

Nutrition

NUTR 602	Energetics of Metabolism and Growth (3-0) Credit 3
ANSC 604	Ruminant Nutrition (3-0) Credit 3
NUTR 610	Nutritional Pharmacometrics of Food Compounds (3-0) Credit 3
ANSC 611	Equine Nutrition (3-0) Credit 3
NUTR 613	Protein Metabolism (3-0) Credit 3
NUTR 614	Fermentation and Gastrointestinal Microbiology (3-0) Credit 3
POSC 615	Avian Nutrition (3-0) Credit 3
FSTC 617	Experimental Techniques in Meat Science (1-6) Credit 3
NUTR 618	Lipids and Lipid Metabolism (3-0) Credit 3
POSC 625	Precision Diet Formula (2-2) Credit 3
NUTR 632	Nutrition in Disease (3-0) Credit 3
NUTR 640	Therapeutic Microbiology I (3-0). Credit 3.
NUTR 641	Nutritional Biochemistry I (3-0) Credit 3
NUTR 642	Nutritional Biochemistry II (3-0) Credit 3
NUTR 645	Nutrition and Metabolism of Vitamins (3-0) Credit 3
NUTR 646	Fundamental Space Life Science (3-0) Credit 3
NUTR 651	Nutritional Biochemistry of Fishes (3-0) Credit 3
NUTR 650	Nutrition and Metabolism of Minerals (3-0) Credit 3
NUTR 655	Nutrition and Healthy Aging (3-0) Credit 3
NUTR 669	Experimental Nutrition & Food Science Laboratory (1-6) Credit
NUTR 679	Lipoproteins in Health and Disease (3-0) Credit 3
NUTR 681	Seminar (1-0) Credit 1
NUTR 689	Special Topics.
KINE 628	Nutrition in Sport and Exercise (3-0) Credit 3

Biochemistry

BICH 601	Fundamentals of Biochemistry I (3-0) Credit 3
BICH 602	Fundamentals of Biochemistry II (3-0) Credit 3
BICH 603	General Biochemistry I (3-0) Credit 3
GENE 626	Analyses of Gene Expression (0-3) Credit 2
NUTR 641	Nutritional Biochemistry I (3-0) Credit 3
NUTR 642	Nutritional Biochemistry II (3-0) Credit 3

Physiology

ANSC 630	Reproductive Biology I (4-0) Credit 4
ANSC 631	Reproductive Biology II (4-0) Credit 4
KINE 637	Exercise Physiology I (3-0) Credit 3
KINE 638	Exercise Physiology II (3-0) Credit 3
MPHY 613	Medical Physiology Credit 1-5
POSC 609	Avian Physiology (3-3) Credit 4
VTPP 605	Systemic Veterinary Physiology I (5-0) Credit 5
VTPP 606	Systemic Veterinary Physiology II (5-0) Credit 5
VTPP 652	Fetal and Embryo Physiology (3-0) Credit 3
VTPP 655	Vascular Physiology (4-0) Credit 4
VTPP 656	Physiology of the Heart (4-0) Credit 4
VTPP 657	Cardiovascular Physiology (3-3) Credit 4

Statistics

STAT 608	Least Squares and Regression Analysis (3-0) Credit 3
STAT 651	Statistics in Research I (3-0) Credit 3
STAT 652	Statistics in Research II (3-0) Credit 3
STAT 653	Statistics in Research III (3-0) Credit 3

If you have a question about degree plan credit for a course not listed, send the course number and syllabus to the graduate advisor for consideration in consultation with the graduate curriculum committee

Annual Nutrition and Food Science Research Symposium

W hat:	Departments of Nutrition and Food Science RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
W ho should participate?	Participation in the annual Graduate Research Symposium is required for all graduate students beyond their first year of graduate study. All students must present either a poster or oral presentation. If you are unable to participate due to an academic conflict then you must notify the graduate advisor in order to make alternative presentation plans.
W hen:	TBD
W hat's in it for me?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The opportunity to get to know each other.2. A chance to hone presentation skills.3. A chance to win a monetary award for research.
W hat do I do?	Submit an abstract related to your research efforts. Those abstracts not selected for oral presentation will be scheduled for poster presentation.
W here do I send it?	All abstracts must be electronically submitted to NSGA. A call for abstracts will be sent to the graduate student listserv in the fall semester.
W hat can I win?	Those graduate students whose abstracts are deemed most meritorious will receive competitive awards.
W hom do I contact?	Contact NSGA at TAMUNSGA@gmail.com or Kristin de Ruitter at kderuiter@tamu.edu .

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Admissions

Applications for admission to the Graduate Program may be obtained on-line at <http://admissions.tamu.edu>. Other application requirements are available at the Department of Nutrition [website](#). Admission to Texas A&M University and any of its sponsored programs is open to qualified individuals regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin or educationally unrelated handicaps. Applicants are urged to return completed applications by December 1 in order to be considered for various scholarships and awards prior to enrollment for the fall semester.

Acceptance criteria for the graduate programs in nutrition include a GRE score above 300 and a GPR above 3.0 in the last 60 hours of in class study. An applicant whose academic record is not satisfactory or who is changing fields of study may be required to take additional course work to acquire the background necessary to meet core course requirements. The core curriculum includes courses in nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, and statistics. Anyone not having the prerequisites for these courses can fulfill those requirements during the first year.

Graduate and Professional School

The Graduate and Professional School is responsible for overseeing all graduate students at Texas A&M. Over the course of your graduate career, there are several steps where Graduate and Professional School approvals are needed: when you submit your degree plan, when you turn in your checklist and signature sheet for your preliminary exams (prelims), when you submit your proposal, when you schedule your final defense, and when you are getting ready to graduate. The relevant functions of the Graduate and Professional School are described in this handbook and in a Graduate Student Handbook, available on the Graduate and Professional School website at <http://ogaps.tamu.edu/>. This website also has downloadable forms and relevant instructions required at various times during your graduate career.

International Student Services

International Student Services office is located in 110 Pavilion and offers assistance to international students. For further information, call 845-1824 or visit the website at <http://iss.tamu.edu/>.

Student Loans/Financial Aid

The Department of Student Financial Aid is located on the second floor of the Pavilion and offers both emergency loans for tuition and fees and short-term loans for expenses other than tuition and fees. Emergency loan applications must be completed online via a valid Texas A&M email account. For more information, call 845-3236 or 845-3987 or visit the website at <https://financialaid.tamu.edu/>.

Qualified full-time students may receive support in the form of graduate assistantships. In addition, the faculty may submit outstanding applications to various college and interdepartmental fellowship programs. These fellowships usually provide higher support levels and carry a partial or full exemption from tuition fees.

Student Health Insurance

Teaching and research assistants are considered TAMU employees and receive medical insurance through TAMU. Several plans are available.

Students on fellowships and training grants are not considered TAMU employees and must purchase their own health insurance. Students with fellowships have the option to purchase health insurance and should contact their mentor to obtain information on health insurance and reimbursement.

International students require additional health insurance for evacuation and repatriation. Information about health insurance is available through [International Student Services](#). Also, for latest student health insurance information, please visit [Student Health Services](#).

Housing

The University has a limited number of apartments for students at reasonable rental rates. Applications for these apartments should be submitted online at the [Department of Residence Life](#). For any further information, please contact University Apartments Office, 1253 TAMU; College Station, TX 77843-1253. A wide variety of off-campus housing is available. Information on off-campus housing can be obtained from the **Off-Campus Student Services**, Department of Student Life, College Station, TX 77843-1257; phone: (979) 845-1741; or the [Offices of the Dean of Student Life](#).

SECTION B - THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

FIRST YEAR

Prerequisites

Incoming students should have undergraduate training in nutritional sciences and/or any of the biological and life sciences. Specifically, most of our first-year students will have already had all of the following:

A two-semester course in Biochemistry (equivalent to BICH 410/411 at TAMU)

Two semesters of Organic Chemistry

One semester of Calculus

This background is considered essential for students in the doctoral program. Students lacking any of these prerequisites will likely be required to enroll in the necessary course during the first year or during the summer prior to the first year and earn a grade of "B" or above.

Courses

During orientations, each student will meet with their mentor to determine which courses they will take during the first year. You must register for at least 9 credit hours in both the fall and spring semesters and must maintain an average of 3.0 or better in the required core courses.

Please refer to Core Curriculum Requirements (Table 1) for the Doctoral Degree in Nutrition and the Courses Approved to meet the Core Curriculum Requirements

Seminars (also applicable to MS candidates)

All nutrition students are expected to attend the department's Distinguished Lecture Series every semester. These seminars provide graduate students with an excellent opportunity to learn about research being done by other students and faculty in the department.

The Nutrition Seminar (NUTR 681) is a variable credit (0-1 credit) course. All nutrition graduate students are required to register for a NUTR seminar every semester. 0 credit seminar cannot be used on degree plans, and it does not count for continuous registration requirements. Students who need the course credit for their degree plan should register for 1 credit. All students who are not registering for course credit must register for 0 credit.

For questions contact the graduate program coordinator, 138 Cater-Mattil, 2253 TAMU College Station, TX 77843-2253, 979-862-7955, 979-458-3129 (fax), tami.overby@agnet.tamu.edu

Scientific Meetings (also applicable to MS candidates)

Attending scientific meetings is an integral part of being a professional scientist. Researchers learn about the latest results before they are published, exchange ideas, and make professional contacts.

Student Travel Rules (also applicable to MS candidates)

For an Application for Student Research Travel Subsidy Form, visit the website's Graduate Student Resources page. <http://nutrition.tamu.edu/academics/graduate-programs/forms-and-documents/> Student travel related to internships, student teaching, research, or conferences should be registered with Texas A&M Student Activities. https://stuactonline.tamu.edu/app/form_travel

Advisory Committee

Upon entering a laboratory, the student forms an advisory committee. A list of the proposed members of the advisory committee must be turned in to the Graduate and Professional School when a graduate student submits their degree plan. The advisory committee must consist of four members of the graduate faculty representative of the student's field of study and research and include one member outside the student's department. The chair or co-chair must be from the Nutrition Graduate Faculty. The committee members should reflect a broad prospective. All advisory committees must be approved by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. Once formed, the advisory committee is encouraged to meet between September 1 and March 30 of each academic year.

All graduate students are required to meet with their committee at least once per year to discuss progress towards degree. **An evaluation form must be completed and turned into the graduate program coordinator, Tami Overby, by March 30 of each year.** If the form is not turned in a registration hold will be placed on the student's account.

BEYOND THE FIRST YEAR

Continuing Registration

A student in a graduate degree program requiring a thesis, dissertation, internship or record of study, who has completed all coursework on his/her degree plans other than 691 (Research), 684 (Internship) or 692 (Professional Study) is required to be in continuous registration until all requirements for the degree have been completed. If a student is registered only for zero credit 681, 684 or 685 course, this registration does not satisfy the continuous registration requirement for students in graduate degree program requiring thesis, dissertation, internship or record of study. Other courses, including 691 research hours, are not eligible for zero credit.

Degree Plan

The degree plan serves to establish the official advisory committee and states the coursework for the MS/doctoral degree. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences requires the doctoral degree plan to be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School upon formation of the Advisory Committee and before the end of a doctoral student's 4th regular semester. To be eligible to schedule the dissertation defense, a student must have completed all formal coursework on his or her degree plan. This is not counting 691 coursework. This rule affects how you design your degree plan.

In order to allow time for approval of the degree plan, the Department of Nutrition requires that the degree plan be turned in to the Graduate and Professional School Office by the end of the fall semester of the 2nd year. The degree plan should be formulated at the first meeting of the

student's Advisory Committee, which should be scheduled before or during the first semester of the second year.

If the Advisory Committee later determines there is sufficient reason to alter the plan of coursework, changes to the degree plan can be made by petitioning the Graduate & Professional School. Petitions to change your degree plan should be submitted to the [OGAPS Document Processing Submission System](#).

99 Hour Cap

The Department of Nutrition has been granted a Programmatic Exemption increasing the Ph.D. Nutrition at TAMU to 130 doctoral G8 Semester Credit Hours (**SCH**). Once a student accumulates 130 or more hours, no exemptions are allowed, and he or she will not be qualified to pay in-state tuition.

Time Limit

All requirements for doctoral degrees must be completed within a period of ten consecutive calendar years for the degree to be granted. A course will be considered valid until 10 years after the end of the semester in which it is taken. Graduate credit for coursework more than ten calendar years old at the time of the final oral examination may not be used to satisfy degree requirements.

After passing the required preliminary oral and written examinations for a doctoral degree, the student must complete the final examination within four calendar years. Otherwise, the student will be required to repeat the preliminary examination.

A final corrected version of the dissertation or record of study in electronic format as a single PDF file must be cleared by the Graduate and Professional School no later than one year after the final examination or within the 10-year time limit, whichever occurs first. Failure to do so will result in the degree not being awarded.

Teaching

Nutrition graduate students can apply for Department of Nutrition Teaching Assistantships in either undergraduate lab or lecture courses. International students serving as TAs must have certifications in English proficiency. For information about the English language requirement, visit <http://iss.tamu.edu/>.

Candidacy

A student must meet the following requirements to be admitted to Ph.D. candidacy.

- *Has completed all but six credit hours of formal course work on the degree plan except for any remaining NUTR 681, 690, and 691.

- *Has a 3.0 graduate GPR and a degree plan GPR of at least 3.0 with no grade lower than a C in any course on the degree plan.

- *Has passed the preliminary examination (written and oral portions).

- *Has met the residence requirements.

Having met these requirements, the student is admitted into candidacy for the Ph.D. degree at the beginning of the next academic semester. In the event that the student fails to pass either portion of the preliminary examinations, the advisory committee may elect to reschedule that portion of

the preliminary examinations after at least three months of additional preparation. Alternatively, the student may be assigned to, or elect to change to, the Master of Science degree.

Residence Requirements

A student who enters the doctoral degree program with a baccalaureate degree must spend one academic year plus one semester in resident study at Texas A&M University. A student who holds master's degree when he/she enters doctoral degree program must spend one academic year in resident study. One academic year may include two adjacent regular semesters or one regular semester and one adjacent 10-week summer semester. The third semester is not required to be adjacent to the one year. Enrollment for each semester must be a minimum of 9 credit hours each to satisfy the residence requirement.

To satisfy the residence requirement, the student must complete a minimum of 9 credit hours per semester or 10-week summer semester in resident study at Texas A&M University for the required period. A student who enters a doctoral degree program with a baccalaureate degree may fulfill residence requirements in excess of one academic year (18 credit hours) by registration during summer sessions or by completion of a less-than-full course load (in this context a full course load is considered 9 credit hours per semester).

Students who are employed full-time while completing their degree may fulfill total residence requirements by completion of less-than-full time course loads each semester. In order to be considered for this, the student is required to submit a Petition for Waivers and Exceptions along with verification of his/her employment to the Graduate and Professional School. An employee should submit verification of his/her employment at the time he/she submits the degree plan.

Dissertation Proposal and Preliminary Examinations

All students must complete preliminary examinations and have an approved dissertation proposal as part of the Ph.D. requirements.

A student first schedules the times of the written and oral exams. The schedule must be finalized at least three weeks before the date of the first written examination. When scheduling preliminary examinations, keep in mind that getting all of the members of the advisory committee together at the same time and place requires planning well in advance. Once the schedule is set, the student **MUST** fill out the **Preliminary Examination Checklist (PEC)**. The student will then need to obtain the advisory committee chair's signature on the PEC. The student will give the signed checklist to the graduate academic advisor to obtain the department head's signature.

The preliminary exams have two parts: written and oral. The written exams are usually scheduled for the week before the oral exam, with each member of the committee allotted one day. In any case, all written exams and the oral exam must be completed in a time period of no more than three weeks. Each member of the advisory committee gives the student a written examination. The student should discuss the format of each exam beforehand with the respective committee members. An individual member may choose to waive a written exam.

Upon successful completion of all written exams, the oral examination may be taken. The oral examination usually focuses on a defense of the dissertation proposal as well as general breadth of knowledge in the fields of Nutrition and Metabolic Physiology. The oral exam also gives committee members the opportunity to follow up on questions that arose in the written exams. Agreement of the committee that the performance was satisfactory is required for successful completion of the preliminary examination.

Upon completion of the oral exam, the committee chair (your research advisor) will submit the signed Report of the Preliminary Examination immediately to the Graduate and Professional School. The Graduate and Professional School will then do a post-review of the examination and the eligibility requirements.

A sample of the Preliminary Examination Checklist and the Report of the Preliminary Examination can be found in the Appendices on the Graduate Catalog. For the most recent information, visit [OGAPS Forms and Information](#).

PhD Proposal (also applicable to MS candidates)

A dissertation proposal documenting the research project must be prepared and submitted to the advisory committee. The proposal defines the scientific problem you will study for your research. The proposal is a description of proposed research so that it can be prepared as soon as the overall research plan is developed. There is no requirement or even expectation that a proposal will contain significant preliminary data.

The general field of research to be used for the dissertation should be agreed on by the student and the advisory committee at their first meeting, as a basis for selecting the proper courses to support the proposed research.

As soon thereafter as the research project can be outlined in reasonable detail, the dissertation research proposal should be completed. The research proposal should be approved at a meeting of the student's advisory committee, at which time the feasibility of the proposed research and the adequacy of available facilities should be reviewed. The approved proposal, signed by all members of the student's advisory committee, the head of the student's major department (or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School.

Compliance issues must be addressed if a graduate student is performing research involving human subjects, animals, infectious biohazards and recombinant DNA. A student involved in these types of research should check with the Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety at (979) 458-1467 to address questions about all research compliance responsibilities. Additional information can also be obtained on the website <http://rcb.tamu.edu>.

The proposal should explain the rationale or approach and the methodology you will use. A well-written proposal is organized according to NIH Grant Guidelines and should include four sections: 1) specific aims, 2) background and significance, 3) experimental design and methods, and 4) literature cited.

Defense of the Dissertation (also applicable to MS candidates)

The final step in obtaining a Ph.D. is defense of the dissertation. The student should discuss the status of the research with the advisory committee before beginning to write the dissertation. When the student, advisor, and advisory committee agree on a time for submission and defense of the doctoral dissertation, the Graduate and Professional School must approve the scheduling of the defense.

At the start of the semester, when you plan to defend your dissertation, you must apply to Graduate and Professional School for your graduate degree and pay a diploma fee. The Graduate and Professional School publishes a calendar for each academic term listing strict University deadlines for these events, which can be found at [http://ogaps.tamu.edu/ Buttons/Calendars](http://ogaps.tamu.edu/Buttons/Calendars).

The dissertation must be given to members of the advisory committee at least two weeks before the scheduled defense. A defense of a dissertation includes a public seminar. The student and research advisor must do the scheduling of the defense with this site requirement in mind. In addition, the Administrative Assistant must be notified of the date, time, place, and title at least two weeks beforehand to allow sufficient time to distribute and post notices of the defense.

For the most recent version of “Steps to Fulfill Doctoral Degree Requirements,” visit <http://ogaps.tamu.edu/Buttons/Resources-for-Degree-Completion>

For a Preliminary Examination Checklist and a Report of Preliminary Examination Checklist, visit <http://ogaps.tamu.edu/Buttons/Forms-Information>

For the most recent version of “Steps to Fulfill Master’s Degree Requirements,” visit <http://ogaps.tamu.edu/Buttons/Resources-for-Degree-Completion>

Please contact the department’s Graduate Program Coordinator, Tami Overby, at 979-862-7955 or email her at tami.overby@agnet.tamu.edu if you have any questions.

Annual Graduate Student Evaluation (also applicable to MS candidates)

All graduate students in the Department of Nutrition are required to have an annual committee meeting and submit an annual graduate student evaluation form. The form will be due to the graduate program coordinator every year on March 30. If an evaluation has not been received by the deadline, the student will not be considered for a Graduate Assistantship or Graduate Scholarship from the Department. Students will also be blocked from course registration.

SECTION C - MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE

Please refer to Core Curriculum Requirements (Table 2) for the Master's Degree in Nutrition and Courses Approved to be Used in the Core Curriculum.

Students in the Master of Science program are strongly advised to familiarize themselves with the University requirements for Master of Science degrees, which are extensive, and to consult with their advisors. A few guidelines in general for the Master's degree requirements are provided in the following sections.

THESIS OPTION

The Master of Science thesis option requires a minimum of 32-semester credit hours of approved courses, including all required core courses, and research hours;

A degree plan must be approved by a thesis advisory committee (Masters committees only require two faculty members [one of which must be outside of the department] in addition to the student's mentor), the Graduate Program Coordinator, the Associate Department Head, and the Graduate and Professional School. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences requires Master's degree students to submit their degree plan to the Graduate and Professional School before the end of the 2nd regular semester.

Students are also required to submit a thesis *proposal* approved by the advisory committee and the Department Head (this does not require a committee meeting, but a meeting may be useful to discuss the proposal).

The oral defense of a Master's thesis must be approved by the advisory committee.

Rules and procedures for submission of the completed thesis, with the appropriate approvals, can be found at <http://thesis.tamu.edu/>

Seminars, Scientific meetings and Student Travel Rules

Please refer to the corresponding policies in Section B above.

Residence

In partial fulfillment of the residence requirement for the degree of Master of Science, the student must complete 9 resident credit hours during one regular semester or one 10-week summer semester in resident study at Texas A&M University. Students who are employed full-time while completing their degree may fulfill total residence requirements by completion of less-than-full time course loads each semester. In order to be considered for this, the student is required to submit a Petition for Waivers and Exceptions along with verification of his/her employment to the Graduate and Professional School.

MS Thesis Proposal

For the thesis option Master of Science degree, the student must prepare a thesis proposal for approval by the advisory committee and the head of the major department or chair of the

interdisciplinary faculty, if applicable. This proposal must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School at least 20 working days prior to the submission of the request for the final examination.

Compliance issues must be addressed if a graduate student is performing research involving human subjects, animals, infectious biohazards and recombinant DNA. A student involved in these types of research should check with the Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety at (979) 458-1467 to address questions about all research compliance responsibilities. Additional information can also be obtained on the Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety website.

Final Exam/Defense of the Thesis

Please refer to PhD proposal and Defense in Section B above. **The student submits a research / thesis in place of a dissertation.**

To be eligible to request and announce the final exam Master's students must have completed all coursework, or be enrolled in the final courses, on the degree plan, and have an approved research proposal. Master's students may have incomplete grades on the degree plan but no grades of D or F on the degree plan are allowed.

A request to hold and announce the final examination must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School a minimum of 10 working days in advance of the scheduled date for the examination. The Graduate and Professional School must be notified in writing of any cancellations. A student may be given only one opportunity to repeat the final examination for the master's degree and that must be within a time period that does not extend beyond the end of the next regular semester (summer terms are excluded).

NON-THESIS OPTION

Please consult with the Graduate Advisor for details.

Please contact the Graduate Program Coordinator at 979-862-7955 or email tami.overby@agnet.tamu.edu if you have any questions.

SECTION D - UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY POLICIES

The Texas A&M University System and the Intercollegiate Faculty of Nutrition have a strong commitment to equal employment opportunity, without regard to race, color, sex, religion, or age.

Petitions

In the course of your graduate career, you may find it necessary to request changes in the approved degree plan on file with OGAPS. A petition can be used to change a committee member or change coursework on the approved degree plan. Petitions can be accessed through the [DPSS](#) system. Petitions must be approved by all members of your official advisory committee and by the department head.

Academic Status

The University mandates that all full-time graduate students supported by an assistantship or fellowship must register for 9 credit hours each fall and spring semester, plus 6 credit hours in summer, and maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or above.

If you fail to register for the required minimum number of credit hours, or if for any reason your credit hours fall below the minimum during the semester, your graduate assistantship position may be terminated. If you are out of compliance with the continuous registration requirements, your registration will be blocked. To have the block lifted, you must get both 1) a favorable recommendation your advisor (major professor), and 2) approval from the Graduate and Professional School. You may be required to reapply for admission if you fail to comply with continuous registration requirements.

International students may have additional requirements depending on their visa status. To obtain current information on visa requirements, international students should consult an international student advisor in the Office of International Student Services.

Tuition

For details concerning payment of tuition and fees, refer to the current Schedule of Classes or visit the academic calendar at <https://registrar.tamu.edu/Catalogs,-Policies-Procedures/Academic-Calendar>

PhD students working as teaching assistants who are employed at least one-half time at a Texas institution of higher education, and whose job duties are related to teaching in an academic program associated with their field of study, are entitled to resident tuition. Graduate students in nutrition are limited to 130 credit hours of resident tuition at the doctoral level.

English Language Requirement for International Students

The English proficiency of students whose primary language is not English must be certified before they are eligible to serve as TAs. Certification can be obtained in any of these ways:

*Score at least 80 on the oral section of the English Language Proficiency Examination (ELPE),

or

*Score at least 26 on the TOEFL speaking section,

or

*Score at least 8.0 on the IELTS speaking section.

or

*Acquire alternative certification from the Graduate and Professional School via a departmental request. A student who has received a baccalaureate degree following four years of study at an accredited U.S. institution or institutions qualifies for alternative certification. All other requests for alternative certification require strong department justification and review in compliance with Graduate and Professional School policies and guidelines.

Visit <http://ogaps.tamu.edu/New-Current-Students/English-Language-Proficiency> for more information on these requirements.

Right to Review Records

Students, once enrolled, have the right to review their educational records, except for those excluded by law, such as parents' financial statement or records maintained by a physician or psychiatrist. Educational records are maintained in departmental offices, the office of Student Records and of Student Financial Aid, the offices of various College Deans, the office of Career Development and Placement, and in the office of Educational Advising.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty in any form is a serious offense and cannot be tolerated in an academic community. Dishonesty in any form, including cheating, plagiarism, deception of effort, or unauthorized assistance, may result in a failing grade in a course and/or dismissal from the Graduate Program. Falsification of data can be grounds for immediate dismissal. Visit <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/> for details on the Office of the Aggie Honor System.

Ownership of Data

When a student enters a laboratory to work on a project, it is understood that any data produced remains the property of the University through the individual faculty member. NIH guidelines require that data and notebooks remain with the Principal Investigator and with the University. Final decisions on publication and on co-authorship of papers rest with the Principal Investigator (faculty advisor).

Ombuds Officer

The [Ombuds Officer](#) serves as an informal, neutral and confidential resource for graduate students to discuss questions and concerns related to their graduate experience. The university is a large and complex institution and graduate students often play multiple roles (e.g., student, research collaborator, instructor, technician, peer). Misunderstandings and conflicts can arise in any one of these roles. Having a safe, off-the-record conversation with an Ombuds Officer can be a first step if you do not know where to turn. The Ombuds Officer is here to help graduate students identify options for addressing concerns and will promote a fair and impartial process for all parties involved.

You might want to contact the Ombuds Officer when:

- * You need an impartial, independent, and confidential person to listen.
- * You think someone at the university has treated you unfairly.
- * You have an issue that you and others have not been able to resolve and that you would prefer not to address through formal channels.
- * You are not sure how to interpret a University policy or procedure or how it applies to your situation.
- * You feel that a University policy, procedure, or regulation has been applied unfairly, or itself is unfair or ambiguous.
- * You have a problem that requires an outside party to help facilitate communication and/or negotiate a solution.

The Ombuds Officer hears about a wide range of experiences and concerns related to graduate education. Some common concerns include:

- * Academic related issues (e.g., grade disputes, testing procedures, instructor/student misunderstandings)
- * Intellectual property
- * Interpersonal conflicts, lab politics, and problems with workplace climate
- * Professional ethics
- * Advice on how to have difficult conversations
- * Concerns about procedural fairness or due process
- * Conflicts between graduate students and their research advisors
- * Concerns about inequities in work expectations and/or funding opportunities
- * Disagreements with or misunderstandings of university policy/procedure
- * Cultural conflicts
- * Concerns about unethical or inappropriate behavior

Ombuds Officer contact information:

Ombuds Officer for Graduate and Professional Education

112 Jack K. Williams Administration Building

1113 TAMU College Station, TX 77843-1113

979-845-3631

ombuds@tamu.edu