

What will DNS do for you?

DNS graduate students...

...pursue a variety of career paths after graduation. Many students choose to obtain further education and experience via postdoctoral research positions or internships. Some graduates move directly into faculty positions at the assistant professor level. In addition to academic positions, many students take staff positions at private research institutes, consulting firms, or food and drug companies. Other students choose to work for international agencies (such as UNICEF or WHO) or work for non-government organizations. A number of students go on to work for government agencies such as NIH or FDA. Several of our graduates have accepted Epidemiology Intelligence Service fellowships and gone on to work for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Academic Overview

Molecular Nutrition and Genomics:

Uses tools and paradigms from chemistry, biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics and cell biology to address questions in nutrition at the molecular, cellular and model organism levels of biological organization.

Human Metabolism & Nutrition:

Examines metabolism in humans through clinical and population studies with human volunteers and through observational studies in human subjects.

Community and International

Nutrition: Draws heavily from methods and theories in the social/behavioral sciences with an objective to promote more efficient and effective community and public health interventions and influence public policy both nationally and internationally.

Graduate Studies



"The doctor of the future will no longer treat the human frame with drugs, but rather will cure and prevent disease with nutrition."

~ Thomas Edison

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Research Topics

Doctoral Degree in Nutrition

Students can plan their graduate programs to fit their career goals. A hallmark of the Field of Nutrition at Cornell University is the variety of faculty research interests, which provides an exceptional range of opportunities for graduate students to do multidisciplinary research. Candidates for the PhD/RD or Ph.D. degrees may specialize in:

- Molecular Nutrition
- Human Nutrition
- Community Nutrition
- International Nutrition

For more information visit: www.human.cornell.edu/dns/academic/graduate

Students select their research advisor from among the members of the Field of Nutrition. Research interests and recent publications of current members of the Field of Nutrition can be found by visiting www.nutrition.cornell.edu.

Major programmatic foci that are currently addressed by faculty and cut across the range of disciplinary integration include: Maternal & Child Nutrition; Obesity & Chronic Disease; Nutritional Genomics; and Global Health & Nutrition. These themes are addressed using approaches and perspectives from the life sciences, social/behavioral sciences, and physical sciences. Individual faculty research programs often span across the programmatic themes and address issues concerning nutrition in human growth & development, nutrition & disease, nutrition problems of poverty, agriculture & food systems, food choice & eating behavior, food insecurity, and nutrition interventions & public policy.

These problem-oriented themes serve to foster multidisciplinary research and support the evidence-based development of interventions and outreach strategies. The Ph.D. degree requires a minimum of six semesters of full-time study. Students complete courses in the Field of Nutrition and complete minors in two additional graduate fields of their choosing. Candidates for the Ph.D. degree must pass the Admission to Candidacy examination within six semesters of matriculation and successfully defend a dissertation based on original research.

Combined PhD/RD Program

Cornell offers a combined PhD/RD training program that emphasizes clinical effectiveness, basic science and translational research, and evidence-based practice and policy. The postgraduate Cornell Dietetic Internship program is an effective partnership with Strong Memorial Hospital at the University of Rochester. For more information on the PhD/RD program contact Professor Patsy Brannon at pmb22@cornell.edu.



Cornell University
Division of Nutritional Sciences

