



FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE PROGRAMS



DOCTORATE IN CLINICAL NUTRITION

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition (DCN) program at Fairfield University is an advanced practice doctoral degree with an emphasis on leadership, evidence based practice, and research. The program prepares graduates to become registered dietitian nutritionists who are leaders in the profession. Graduates expand the knowledge of clinical nutrition to improve health outcomes with particular attention to the needs of underserved or vulnerable populations.

The program prepares students to take the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) credentialing examination to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. Beginning January 1, 2024 a graduate degree will be required to sit for this Exam.

COURSEWORK

The DCN is under the Future Education Model standards. The DCN is a three-year, full-time or four-year part-time program, which includes didactic courses integrated with supervised experiential learning in community, healthcare and food service settings. Courses include nutrition and dietetics content as well as advanced leadership and research courses taught in conjunction with Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students. Collaborative learning opportunities include simulation to prepare students for interprofessional practice.

COURSES

Advanced Concepts in Pathophysiology
Foundations of Nutrition Through the Lifecycle
Assessment and Diagnosis
Nutrition Biochemistry
Nutrition Pharmacology
Nutrient Metabolism
Food Science
Finance and Quality Management in Healthcare
Research Methods and Evidence-Based Practice
Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Community Nutrition
Community Nutrition Practicum
Advanced Nutrition Counseling
Research Translation for Clinical Practice
Population Health
Food Systems Management
Food Systems Management Practicum
Nutrition for Prevention and Treatment of Chronic Disease
Nutrition Practicum I
Nutrition in Global Health
Information Technology in Healthcare
Advanced Practice Residency
Advanced Clinical Nutrition
DCN Project Seminar I
Advanced Healthcare Policy
Leadership and Interprofessional Collaboration
DCN Project Seminar II

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree in any major from an accredited four-year college or university, or its equivalent with a 3.0 GPA or better. Admission to the program is open to students who have completed a bachelor's degree in any discipline with required prerequisite courses or students who earned a degree in nutrition/dietetics and have received a verification statement. Registered Dietitian Nutritionists with or without a master's degree may apply for the DCN degree. Credit for prior learning and experience will be evaluated. Students who have not completed prerequisite courses prior to submitting their application will be considered for program admission as long as all prerequisite courses are completed with a grade of "C" or higher prior to the onset of the DCN courses.

PREREQUISITE COURSES

- 1 semester of general chemistry and lab
- 1 semester of organic chemistry and lab
- 1 semester of biochemistry
 - Or a combined course containing all required chemistry content
- 1 semester of microbiology
- 2 semesters of anatomy and physiology

Although an "Introduction to Nutrition" course is not required, it is strongly recommended.

FORMAL ADMISSION PROCESS

Applications to the graduate program are accepted on a rolling basis and require the following:

- A completed online graduate application at www.fairfield.edu/applynow
- A non-refundable \$60 application fee
- Applicants are required to submit a current resume that includes employment and education history
- A one page professional statement must include why you are interested in the program, what personal and/or professional experiences you have that would make you a strong applicant, your short and long term career goals
- **Official transcripts** from all colleges and universities attended demonstrating a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0. All foreign transcripts must be evaluated by an approved evaluating service
- At least two letters of recommendation, one from a faculty member and another from a manager or supervisor



Fairfield **EGAN**

Fairfield University Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies

Submit transcripts and any other documents that cannot be uploaded to:

Fairfield University
Office of Graduate Admission
Kelley Center
1073 North Benson Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics employment of dietitian nutritionists is projected to grow 11% from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations. The role of food in preventing and treating disease, such as diabetes, is now well known. More dietitians are needed to provide care for patients with various medical conditions and to advise people using evidence based practice to improve overall health.

Dietitians can work in a vast number of places, which could include hospitals, long-term care, food service operations, business and industry, sales, supermarkets and schools.

MANDATORY IMMUNIZATIONS

Connecticut State law requires each full-time or matriculated student to provide proof of immunity or screening against measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (chicken pox), meningitis and tuberculosis. Certain exemptions based on age and housing status apply. Matriculating students are defined as those enrolled in a degree seeking program. More detailed information and the required downloadable forms are available online at www.fairfield.edu/immunization. Completed forms should be submitted directly to the Student Health Center. Although this is not required to complete an application, you must provide proof of immunity/screening prior to course registration. Please consult your private health care provider to obtain the necessary immunizations. Questions may be directed to the Student Health Center: 203-254-4000, ext. 2241 or e-mail health@fairfield.edu.

TUITION/FINANCIAL AID

Academic Year 2020-21
Tuition: \$1,000 per credit hour

A graduate education can provide countless professional and personal rewards in the future. Many students need to look beyond their own financial resources or the resources of their employer for assistance. There are many ways to finance a graduate education, including graduate assistantships, federal direct loan programs and our Veterans Pride Program, which are all discussed at www.fairfield.edu/gradfa.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

Advisors from the Office of Financial Aid are committed to helping students find the options that best suit each of their needs. We encourage all Fairfield University graduate students to contact the Financial Aid office with any questions or to make an appointment to speak with a counselor.

FINANCIAL AID CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 203-254-4125
Fax: 203-254-4008
E-mail: finaid@fairfield.edu

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE OPERATIONS

Days: Monday-Friday
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

MORE INFORMATION

The DCN is in initial phases of accreditation with the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), and the process will be completed by Summer 2020. Qualified students will be admitted upon program accreditation by ACEND.

Janet Hiser serves as the advisor for the Clinical Nutrition program and is the appropriate person to contact with questions or to learn more.

Janet Hiser, MOE, RDN, CNSC, FAND
Program Director
Phone: 203-254-4000 ext. 3777
E-mail: jhiser@fairfield.edu

ADMISSION QUESTIONS

Questions about the application process should be directed to the **Office of Graduate Admission**.

Phone: 203-254-4184
Fax: 203-254-4073
E-mail: gradadmis@fairfield.edu

OFFICE OPERATIONS

Days: Monday-Friday
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

EGAN SCHOOL OF NURSING & HEALTH STUDIES WEBSITE

www.fairfield.edu/dcn

ONLINE CATALOG

For detailed course descriptions and other University information, please refer to our online catalog www.fairfield.edu/catalogs.