



**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**  
*College of Physicians  
and Surgeons*

**Institute of Human Nutrition**  
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<http://cumc.columbia.edu/dept/ihn/>

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for inquiring about the MS Program in Human Nutrition at Columbia University. We welcome applicants of all backgrounds and career interests who will benefit from a Masters degree in Nutrition and use the knowledge and skills gained through this program in their future careers.

Admission to the MS in Human Nutrition program is done on a "rolling" basis. This means that as application packets are complete they are passed on to the admissions committee for review and decision. We continue to review applications until the class is full (not an absolute number), which some years can happen by mid-to-late June.

When reviewing applications, we consider several criteria. This includes grades, previous coursework, work or research experience, standardized test scores, changes in career direction, letters of recommendation (group letter from pre-med advisor offices are fine), etc. We do not use absolute cut-offs in any specific category. Test scores, transcripts etc. help us make an educated prediction of whether an applicant has the background and academic training, abilities, and commitment to succeed in our program.

Graduates of the MS in Human Nutrition are diverse in many ways - culturally, geographically (within the US and internationally), and in terms of academic backgrounds (romance language majors, bankers changing career directions, budding journalists, trained chefs, practicing health care workers, as well as the more traditional biology/pre-med majors coming right out of college).

Graduating from our program does not guarantee admission into any other program at Columbia University. It does provide you with additional basic biomedical science training, both classroom and research, and a greater appreciation for the role of nutrition in sustaining human health. Our graduates typically go on to Medical/dental school, graduate school in basic science or further training in Public Health. In order to apply, applicants must have completed at least 2 years of chemistry, one year of biology and the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). An elementary course in biochemistry is recommended.

General information on students admitted to the MS in Human Nutrition is provided below, but please note that we consider a range of criteria when selecting applicants. Otherwise outstanding applicants who may have GPAs or MCATs somewhat below the average are encouraged to apply.

Average GPA of MS class is about 3.4 (on a 4 pt scale).

Average GRE of MS class is 534-Verbal, 674-Quantitative, 4.5-Analytical

Average MCAT - 30 (at a minimum we recommend a score of 27, with sub-scores of 9)

Average DAT - 18

Students are required to complete 33 or more total credits (in graduate level courses), maintain a B- average and complete a short, research based thesis. It is designed to take 12 months, and is done optimally by starting in September (although 1-2 students a year start in January and do fine). It is also possible to do the program on a part-time basis.

The tuition cost for the program (full time Fall, Spring and 3 credits for the Summer) for the 2007/2008 year is \$36,672.00

I hope this information is helpful and look forward to hearing from you in the near future. For additional information, please visit our website at <http://cumc.columbia.edu/dept/ihn> or contact us at the Institute of Human Nutrition at 212-305-4808.

Sincerely,

Sharon R. Akabas, Ph.D.  
Co-Director, MS Program in Human Nutrition

Susan Vannucci, Ph.D.  
Co-Director, MS Program in Human Nutrition