

## *Common Pre-requisites for Dietetics & Nutrition Graduate Programs*

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**Common Prerequisite Coursework for Admission to Dietetic & Nutrition Graduate Programs.** Students should research the admission requirements for the graduate programs to which they intend to apply early in their academic career, and they should schedule their undergraduate classes based on the requirements of the programs in which they are interested. *Each student is ultimately responsible for knowing and fulfilling the admission requirements of the programs to which they intend to apply.*

**Most Dietetics & Nutrition graduate programs require the following classes:**

- 1 semester of English composition (most graduate programs will accept INT 101, INT 201, and WRT 101 instead);
- 2 semesters of human anatomy and physiology (BIO 202 and 203);
- 1 semester of statistics (STA 126);
- 1 semester of introductory psychology (PSY 101)
- 2 semesters of general chemistry with laboratory (CHM 111 and 112; *note that the pre-requisite for this class is MAT 133 credit or placement in MAT 191*)
- 1 semester of general biology with laboratory (BIO 211; *note that the pre-requisite for this class is CHM 111, and that the pre-requisite for CHM 111 is MAT 133*);
- 1 semester of organic chemistry (CHM 221; *note that CHM 212 is a pre-requisite for this course*)
- 1 semester of microbiology (BIO 303; *note that BIO 212 is a prerequisite for this course, and CHM 221 is recommended*)
- 1 semester of social science that focuses on group behavior (SOC 101 or ANT 101)
- 1 semester of a communications course (COM 200, 210, or 220)
- 1 semester in introduction to nutrition (GHS 101); and
- 1 semester in an ethics course (PHI 195)

**Common pre-requisite courses NOT offered at Mercer** (students who need these courses are advised to find an accredited institution who offers them online and/or in the summer):

- 1 semester of medical terminology
- 1 semester of food science
- 1 semester of lifestyle or human nutrition
- 1 semester of nutrient metabolism
- 1 semester in medical nutrition therapy
- 1 semester in introduction to dietetics

*Because admission requirements may vary, students are urged to investigate the graduate programs available and identify their preferred programs early.*

**Suitable Majors and Minors for Pre-Dietetic & Nutrition Students.** The Bachelor of Science in Biology degree offered by the College of Liberal Arts fits well with this chosen field, but students are urged to investigate graduate schools to identify their targets to see what each prefers before choosing a major field of study.

Students whose target schools do not prefer a degree in Biology may major in any discipline they chose, but they must also complete the required courses for admission to their preferred graduate programs. Before officially declaring a major, therefore, a student should create a personalized 4-year plan (4YP) that includes all required coursework to see how well the two programs fit together. Students need to be aware that extra semesters might be required for degree programs that do not fit well with these prerequisite classes. Students will also want to plan to take the courses not available at Mercer.

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**Chemistry and Biology Minors:** Students who complete 16 credit hours in chemistry (with 6 or more hr in courses numbered 200 or higher in residence at Mercer) fulfill the Mercer University College of Liberal Arts requirements for a minor in chemistry.

Students who complete 17 credit hours in biology (with 6 or more hr in courses numbered 300 or higher in residence at Mercer, which is half fulfilled by the BIO 303 course) fulfill the CLA's requirements for a minor in biology.

**The Importance of Mathematics to Dietetics & Nutrition.** To enroll in the first semester of general biology (BIO 211), a student must have first successfully completed general chemistry (CHM 111). To enroll in CHM 111, a student must demonstrate a minimum mathematics competency that is equivalent to pre-calculus (MAT 133) or above. This competency may be demonstrated through a "math index" (calculated upon entry as a first-year student using the high school GPA and math score on the SAT or ACT) of 980 or higher; college credit for MAT 133 (transfer, AP, or CLEP), or by scoring 15 or higher on the math placement test. Information about the math placement test can be found online here: <http://aas.mercer.edu/for-students/placement-exams/>.

**CLEP Exam for Pre-calculus.** A student who scores 50% or higher on the CLEP pre-calculus exam may submit his or her test official transcript to the Mercer registrar and receive MAT 133 credit. Information about the CLEP pre-calculus exam can be found here: <http://clep.collegeboard.org/exam/precalculus>.