Program Description

The University of Illinois Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition is proud to offer an online non-thesis Master of Science degree. Many of the students in this program are working professionals. The online delivery option makes the program accessible to students in various locations, who may also be balancing a travel schedule for their careers.

Admission Requirements

For admission to the Graduate College:

- A baccalaureate degree is required. It is desirable, but not required, that this degree be related to physical, biological, agricultural, or engineering sciences.

- Required background courses include general chemistry, organic chemistry, microbiology, physics, and calculus. If you are deficient in these areas of study, then you may take correspondence courses, other distance education courses, or traditional classroom courses (at a community college or four-year institution) to satisfy the necessary prerequisite requirements.

- If your cumulative GPA for your last 60 hours of coursework is less than a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, it is recommended that you complete 2-3 courses in the program as a non-degree student prior to applying to the program.

- If you are later admitted to the program, completed non-degree courses may be petitioned to count towards your degree program if you earned a grade of B or better. No more than 12 hours of non-degree coursework may be petitioned for use.

- The TOEFL is required of all students who have studied in a non-English speaking institution prior to attending the University of Illinois AND have not had 2 of the last 5 years of full time study at an English speaking institution, or are receiving an advanced degree (MS equivalent or better) from an English speaking institution.

Information about Applying

- When applying online, please select 10KS0037MSU [Food Science and Human Nutrition (Online)-MS].

- All supporting materials (transcripts from all universities attended, three letters of reference, and personal statement) must be received by the posted application deadline to be fully considered for acceptance in that term.

- The GRE may be required as part of your application. Applicants that have held a full-time professional position (in the food industry or other fields) for less than 3 years are required to complete the GRE. Or, regardless of years of professional experience, if you cumulative undergraduate GPA is less than the university requirement of 3.0, you are required to complete the GRE.
To earn the online non-thesis MS degree, students must complete 32 hours of coursework and successfully pass an oral examination. Students who have earned up to 12 hours of graduate credit while enrolled as a non-degree student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign may petition those hours and up to 12 hours of graduate credit taken at another institution. All students must earn a grade of B or better to transfer any course towards a graduate degree.

On average, students take one course per semester, which translates into approximately 11 semesters of coursework. The oral examination is given after a student has completed all 32 hours of coursework, and it is highly recommended that a student prepare for approximately 2-3 months before taking the oral examination.

Thus, for students taking one course at a time, the degree takes approximately four years to complete. Students can register for more than one class each semester; however, it is the recommendation of the department that a student does not participate in more than two classes in any one semester.

The food science online MS program offers one to three courses each semester, including summer semester. A full list of courses is available below.

- FSHN 414 Food Chemistry
- FSHN 440 Applied Statistical Methods
- FSHN 460 Food Processing Engineering
- FSHN 461 Food Processing, I
- FSHN 464 Beverage Science & Technology
- FSHN 469 Package Engineering
- FSHN 471 Food and Industrial Microbiology
- FSHN 517 Fermented and Distilled Beverages
- FSHN 518 Chemistry of Lipids in Foods
- FSHN 519 Flavor Chemistry & Analysis
- FSHN 595 Food Science Advanced Topics

Program URL: http://fshn.illinois.edu/online