

**Ph.D. and M.S. Degree Learning Goals and Assessment for the
Rutgers University Nutritional Sciences Graduate Program
November 15, 2016**

The goal of the Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in Nutritional Sciences is to obtain multi-disciplinary training that provides a broad understanding of the field of Nutrition, while obtaining specialized knowledge required to conduct research in a sub-field. This training will provide individuals with expertise required to fulfill positions of leadership in research, teaching, and service in academia, industry, or government.

Learning Goals

1. Attain and maintain an advanced level of knowledge in key content areas of nutritional sciences.

Assessment of student achievement:

- a. Grades in graduate courses
- b. Qualifying examinations for Ph.D. students assessing depth and breadth of knowledge and analytical thinking skills
- c. Annual preparation of a student progress report form with review by faculty of student progress accompanied with advising and mentoring
- d. Self-reported student learning outcomes in exit surveys
- e. Career advancement and placement in positions consistent with acquired abilities and scholarship in the field

2. Demonstrate the ability to design and defend a scientifically valid project to advance the field of nutritional sciences.

Assessment of student achievement:

- a. Grades in graduate courses aimed at proposal development
- b. Proposal writing Ph.D. qualifying examinations
- c. Applications for outside fellowships with funding agencies

3. Develop professional level oral and written communication skills designed to disseminate nutritional science research findings.

Assessment of student achievement:

- a. Grades in graduate courses aimed at oral and written communication
- b. Submission of manuscripts describing M.S. or Ph.D. research project for publication
- c. Presentation of research findings at local and national scientific conferences
- d. Writing and oral of an M.S. thesis or Ph.D. research project

4. Demonstrate critical thinking and the ability to critically evaluate current research and proposals in specific scientific areas related to the nutrition field.

Assessment of student achievement:

- a. Grades in graduate courses aimed at research manuscript and proposal evaluation
- b. Contributions to manuscript and proposal review with mentorship by advisor

5. Conduct research independently for a successful transition into academics, industry or government related jobs.

Assessment of student achievement:

- a. Submission of manuscripts describing M.S. or Ph.D. research project for publication
- b. Presentation of research findings at local and national scientific conferences
- c. Writing and defense of an M.S. thesis or Ph.D. research project
- d. Career advancement and placement in positions consistent with acquired abilities and scholarship in the field