Admissions

How many students are accepted each year?
The program accepts 8 students each year.

How competitive is it to get into the CMP?
On average we receive about 7-8 applications for every CMP slot we have, thus it is a very competitive program to get into.

Do you only admit students with an undergraduate degree in nutrition?
No, admitted students may or may not have an undergraduate degree in nutrition or dietetics.

What are the prerequisite courses for students entering the program without an undergraduate degree in nutrition?
Students without an undergraduate degree in nutrition must have already taken the following courses: one general biology course with a lab; two general chemistry courses with a lab; one organic chemistry course, one biochemistry course and one social science course (sociology, psychology); one microbiology course; one introductory nutrition class; one Intro to Food Science course; and one Food Service Operations Management course.

If I don’t get into the CMP but am admitted to the Standard Public Health Nutrition program, can I transfer over to the CMP after the first year of enrollment?
No, admissions to the CMP occur only once a year for a newly admitted class of students. Students may not accept admission to the standard MPH program then transfer over to the CMP program at a later date.

What are you looking for in applicants?
We are looking for high grades, excellent GRE scores, a well written statement of purpose that articulates that you know what public health nutrition is and what your career goals are and how an MPH in public health nutrition can help you achieve those goals. Your statement of purpose should reflect a good match between what our program offers and your career objectives. Relevant work experience is also preferred.
What would you consider relevant work experience?
Any work or volunteer experience that shows a strong desire to work with disadvantaged populations is helpful. The types of experiences are varied and may include Peace Corps, Americorps or Teach for America, work at local health departments, community clinics, Cooperative Extension, WIC clinics, food banks and non-profit agencies that serve disadvantaged populations.

Where can I find more information about Admissions to the Public Health Nutrition and CMP programs?
Please visit our website for more information: http://www.sph.umn.edu/programs/phn/admissions.asp

About the program

What is the difference between the CMP and the Standard MPH in Public Health Nutrition?
The CMP provides both a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree in Public Health Nutrition (PHN) and the didactic course work and supervised practice hours to be eligible to sit for the Registered Dietitian exam.

The standard MPH in PHN provides coursework in public health with an emphasis in nutrition. It does not provide the required number of supervised practice hours and specialized training needed to become a Registered Dietitian.

What is the CMP's area of concentration?
Public Health Nutrition with an emphasis on rural and disadvantaged populations.

Where do students complete supervised practice hours?
Students complete supervised practice hours in a variety of facilities and agencies, including public schools, Women, Infant and Children Clinics, community nutrition programs, public health agencies, non-profit agencies, long-term-care facilities and hospitals. The majority of facilities serve disadvantaged populations. During the summer months students complete a practicum in a rural area or at an Indian Health Reservation.

How do students complete the required 1200 hours of supervised practice experience?
Over a two year period, during fall and spring semesters, students complete 60 hours of field experiences each semester, for a total of 240 hours of supervised practice. Two summer practicums provide 420 hours of supervised practice in community nutrition and 420 hours in clinical nutrition at sites in rural areas, for a total of 840 hours. In addition, students complete a masters research project that provides 120 hours of supervised practice.

Does the CMP have its own Academic calendar?
No, the CMP follows the University of Minnesota's academic calendar, which can be found at: http://onestop.umn.edu/calendars/index.html.
In addition to MPH coursework students must set aside time each semester to complete supervised practice hours, as described in the prior question. To complete a total of 60 hours of supervised practice over the course of a semester students must set aside a minimum of 4 hours a week to BE at the assigned facility. Additional time needs to be factored in for commuting purposes.

Are students allowed to work during the course of the CMP?
Most CMP students seek employment during the course of the program. Students must prioritize their time as follows: First, they must attend their courses and participate in all class assignments and projects. The next
priority is their supervised practice experience and activities related to the experience, as well as time set aside for CMP meetings and activities. After the class and field experience schedules have been determined the student can decide upon hours in which he/she can pursue employment. If a student is unable to adequately devote time to his/her assigned field experience due to employment conflicts, disciplinary action may take place. During summer months students are not able to work since they must devote 40 hours a week to their summer experience in addition to being enrolled in an online course (Community Nutrition- 8 credits, or Clinical Nutrition practicum- 9 credits).

Where can I find more information about the CMP, including its mission, goals and outcomes?
You can find more information about the CMP in our website: http://www.sph.umn.edu/programs/phn/curriculum/coordinated.asp

Program Costs

What are the program costs?
Students incur a $115 fee for the Schools of Public Health Application System (SOPHAS) application when applying to the program.

The University of Minnesota has a tool which allows students to estimate yearly costs according to their academic status. This tool can be found at: http://onestop.umn.edu/finances/costs_and_tuition/index.html

The following is a list of anticipated CMP costs per academic year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall + Spring Semesters</th>
<th>Summer Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition/FEES (resident status)</td>
<td>$22,685*</td>
<td>$9,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(non-resident)</td>
<td>$28,555*</td>
<td>$9,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>$5,370</td>
<td>$3,000**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$2,400</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas/Transportation</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books/Supplies</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal/Misc.***</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$32,655 (resident)</td>
<td>$13,565 (resident)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$38,525 (non-resident)</td>
<td>$13,565 (non-resident)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on 2010-2011 SPH Tuition of $665/credit for residents and during the summer and $883/credit for non-residents. Tuition/fees includes the cost of the AHC Student Health Benefit Plan. The amount listed for Fall and Spring semesters is based on 27 credits, which students with a non-nutrition/dietetics undergrad background would take during their first year. Costs during the second year would be approximately $2000 less (resident status) or approximately $2600 less (non-resident status) due to taking fewer credits during the second year. Tuition would also be lower if a student takes fewer credits due to having a nutrition/dietetics undergrad background.

**Rent during summer term factors in extra costs that may be accrued if a student pays double rent for living in a different city for their field experience.

***Personal/Misc includes additional costs such as parking, immunizations, extra insurance not covered under Student Health Benefit plan, or any other costs

There are no additional university fees for the CMP at this time. Students enrolled in the CMP are expected to pay tuition and fees for the School of Public Health. The CMP student may incur additional costs related to field experiences, which are outlined below.
• Student ADA membership ($50/year)
• Lab coat if required by clinical rotation (approx. $25-$40)
• Background check if not done by the facility or the University (approx. $40)
• Travel to practicum site over summer (in or out of State) (approx. $200/year)
• Physical exam and immunization costs as required by facilities (contact student health)
• Parking fees at supervised practice sites (approx. $100/year)

Graduation and Becoming a Registered Dietitian

What are the requirements for graduation and to become a Registered Dietitian (RD)?

Students must complete all of the following program requirements for graduation and to obtain a Verification Statement for eligibility to sit for the Registered Dietitian exam:

• Complete all required courses as outlined in the Student Guidebook. Student guidebooks can be accessed at: http://www.sph.umn.edu/programs/phn/index.asp
• Complete all supervised practice hours through the completion of four field experiences, two summer practicums and one credit of Masters project research, totaling 1,200 hours of supervised practice.
• Complete and defend a Masters project and successfully pass an oral examination at the time of the Masters Project defense.
• CMP students that complete all graduation requirements obtain a Masters or Public Health degree and a Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) Verification Statement, which grants them eligibility to sit for the Registered Dietitian exam.
• At this time the program director submits documents to CDR verifying the names of students who have been issued a Verification Statement and are eligible to take the exam. CDR sends candidates a packet of information including the application to take the registration exam. Additional information regarding the registration exam can be found on the CDR website at: http://www.cdrnet.org/programdirector/index.html

Once I become an RD, am I able to practice, or do I also need to seek licensure?
The majority of states have enacted laws which regulate the practice of dietetics. Should you plan to practice dietetics in these states it is important that you contact a state regulatory agency prior to practicing dietetics. In many states it is a VIOLATION of state law to practice dietetics without a license. The CDR website has a list of State Licensure Agencies, which can be found at: http://www.cdrnet.org/certifications/licensure/agencylist.htm