

## Technical Standards for Admission

The Coordinated Program at the University of Pittsburgh is a rigorous and intense Master of Science degree program that places specific requirements and demands on the students enrolled in the program. An objective of this program is to prepare graduates to enter a variety of employment settings and to render care to a wide spectrum of individuals. The technical standards set forth by this program establish the essential physical, cognitive, and behavioral abilities considered necessary for students admitted to this program to achieve the knowledge, skills, and competencies of an entry-level dietitian/nutritionist.

The following abilities and expectations must be met by all students admitted to The Coordinated Program.

Candidates for selection to the Coordinated Program must demonstrate:

1. the intellectual capacity to assimilate, analyze, synthesize, integrate concepts and problem solve to formulate assessment, diagnoses and intervention judgments and to be able to distinguish deviations from the norm.
2. ability to meet physical requirements: Sedentary (10 lbs. max. lifting and/or carrying articles); walking/standing on occasion; use of industrial kitchen equipment; travel to supervised practice sites. Candidates must have adequate motor skills to perform physical examination procedures and food service duties.
3. the ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and colleagues, including individuals from different cultural and social backgrounds; this includes, but is not limited to, the ability to establish rapport with patients and communicate nutrition assessment, diagnoses and treatment information effectively and efficiently. Students must be able to hear, understand and speak the English language at a level consistent with competent professional practice. Students must be able to use appropriate grammar, spelling and vocabulary.
4. the ability to record the Nutrition Care Process (assessment, diagnosis, intervention, monitoring and evaluation clearly and accurately in the electronic medical record and on all other required forms.
5. the capacity (maturity, emotional stability) to maintain composure and continue to function well during periods of high stress.
6. the physical stamina, perseverance, diligence and commitment to complete the nutrition and dietetics program (didactic and supervised practice) as outlined and sequenced.

7. flexibility and the ability to adjust to changing situations and uncertainty in clinical situations.
8. affective skills, civility, appropriate demeanor and rapport that relate to professional education and quality patient care.

Candidates for selection to the Coordinated Program will be required to meet these technical standards with or without reasonable accommodation.

If you have a disability that requires special accommodations, you need to schedule an intake interview with [Disability Resources and Services](#). You will be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. Documentation must meet the guidelines established by the University of Pittsburgh. The documentation guidelines are available [here](#) or by contacting DRS at 412-648-7890 / VP: 412-536-5568. To notify Disability Resources and Services call (412) 648-7890 (Voice or TTD) to schedule an appointment. The Disability Resources and Services office is located in 140 William Pitt Union on the Oakland campus.