

2021

PROGRAM INFORMATION & APPLICATION GUIDE



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PROGRAM INFORMATION

How is the program offered?

- The MHS program is a full-time classroom based program. Fall 2021 classes will be offered online to ensure a safe learning environment for all.
- If you are offered admission, you must attend classes.
- Option 1 (accredited practicum) students participate in two semesters of practicum rotations at locations across the GTA and beyond.

When do classes begin?

- Classes begin in September. There is no other intake point.

What is nutrition communication?

- Dietitians are embracing their role as the voice of sound, reliable nutrition information for Canadians, across all media and in all settings – health care, business, food industry, technology companies, public health, private practice, food service management, administration, and beyond.
- Ours is the only graduate program in Canada that focuses on nutrition communication and our graduates are poised to provide professional leadership in this field.
- Our graduates have opportunities to develop advanced nutrition communication skills and are exposed to new and burgeoning areas of dietetic practice.

What will I learn?

- You will:
 - develop advanced skills to identify, understand, and critically appraise high quality scientific literature as the foundation of evidence-based practice and communication
 - integrate and synthesize evidence to create multi-component knowledge translation products
 - enhance your communication skills (oral, written, multimedia, etc.) and create a variety of nutrition communication products (e.g., essays, press releases, précis, presentations, scholarly writing, videos, knowledge translation and public education campaigns, website-based messages, social media messages, etc.)
 - examine the roles of institutional and government policies in current food issues
 - critically examine alternative perspectives on nutrition and food
 - create a 3-year professional development plan to guide your career choices
 - network and discuss emerging issues and areas of practice with guest experts

What are Options 1 and 2?

Option 1 is the Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice accredited practicum.

Students complete four semesters (16 months) of study – September 2021 to December 2022 inclusive. Students complete the required dietetic practical training through rotations in a variety of dietetic practice environments. Our graduates qualify to write the Canadian Dietetic Registration Exam and become dietitians.

This dietetic education program is accredited under the Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP) and prepares students for eligibility for registration with a provincial dietetics regulatory body.

Option 2 is the major research project/paper (MRP). Students complete three semesters (12 months) of study – September 2021 to August 2022 inclusive. This option is ideally suited for dietitians who want to enhance their nutrition communication skills to provide professional leadership in current or future employment.

If I complete Option 1 (accredited practicum) can I become a registered dietitian?

- Yes. Successful completion of Option 1 (accredited practicum) will enable you to meet all of the Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice and qualify you to write the Canadian Dietetic Registration Examination and if you are successful, become an RD.

How long does it take to complete the program?

- **Option 1 (accredited practicum):** 4 semesters (16 months) of study – September to December of the following year
- **Option 2 (MRP):** 3 semesters (12 months) of study – September to August of the following year

How is the program structured?

	Option 1 (Practicum) Four semesters	Option 2 (MRP) Three semesters
Fall (Sept-Dec)	NC8104A Nutrition Communication Seminar NC8101 Appraising Scientific Evidence NC8102 Health Behaviour Communication NC8103 Nutrition Communication Strategies	
Winter (Jan-April)	NC8104B Nutrition Communication Seminar NC8201 Food and Nutrition Policy NC8209 Knowledge Translation	
	NC8300 Preparation for Dietetic Practice	NC8205 Directed Studies
Spring/Summer (April-July)	NC8301 Practicum I	MRP Milestone
Fall (Sept-Dec)	NC8302 Practicum II	

What are the educational requirements to apply?

Option 1 (accredited practicum):

- You must be eligible to study in Canada and have graduated from a Dietitians of Canada or PDEP [accredited Canadian undergraduate nutrition program](#):
 - Within the past three years*
 - With a minimum B+ average (3.33/4.33) in the last two years of study

- And have successfully completed at least one course in each of these subject areas: research methods or statistics, interpersonal/professional communications, biological sciences (e.g. physiology, biochemistry), and social sciences (e.g. sociology, psychology) (or equivalents)

*If you graduated from an accredited Canadian undergraduate program more than three years ago (from convocation date to application deadline), you must:

- Contact the College of Dietitians of Ontario to complete the [Knowledge and Competence Assessment Tool](#). An applicant is deemed to have academic currency if they have written the College's Knowledge and Competence Assessment Tool (KCAT) and obtained a Level I result.
- Option 1 is open to qualified applicants who wish to become registered dietitians. It is not open to individuals who are or have been dietitians in Canada or elsewhere.
- If you completed your education outside Canada please see [Educated outside of Canada?](#) or contact [Dietitians of Canada](#).

How many students will the program accept for Option 1?

- Approximately 35 students but enrolment may vary slightly from year to year.

Option 2 (MRP):

- [PDEP accredited undergraduate degree](#) in Food and Nutrition with a minimum B average (3.00/4.33) in the last two years of study
- A minimum B in at least one course in research methods, statistics, interpersonal/professional communications, biological sciences (e.g. physiology, biochemistry), and social sciences (e.g. sociology, psychology) (or equivalents)

How many students will the program accept?

- Enrolment may vary from year to year.

What is the cost of the program?

- **Option 1 (accredited practicum) students** complete **four** semesters of study with a total tuition cost of approximately \$14,301.38*. In **addition**, they pay ancillary fees of \$1,800.00 for each of the two practicum courses. These ancillary fees fund provision of the practical training component of the program. **Total cost of the program for Option 1 students for the four terms of study is approximately \$17,901.38.** Other practicum related costs include:
 - Police vulnerable persons check fees
 - Mask fit test fees
 - Qualifying membership in Dietitians of Canada (optional)
 - Costs incurred for travel to external rotation locations
- **Option 2 (MRP) students** complete **three** semesters of study with a total program cost of approximately \$10,414.55*.

*Based on information available as of June 2021. Subject to change without notice.

Applicants must check <http://www.ryerson.ca/registrar/fees/detail/graduate/> for

current fee information. Fees for the upcoming cohort are posted online in August each year; be sure to consult the fee schedule for *your* academic year.

Why do I pay tuition, ancillary, and program fees?

Tuition fees are charged to partially cover the costs of program delivery.

All full-time Ryerson students pay **ancillary fees** (e.g., Ryerson Student Union membership fees, athletics fee, student campus centre fee, etc.). The full list of ancillary fees is available at: <https://www.ryerson.ca/current-students/tuition-fees/ancillary-fee-descriptions/>.

On the fee schedule provided by the Registrar's office, you will also see that you pay a **program fee** in the fall, winter, and spring semesters. This fee partially covers the cost of managing and administering the practicum elements of the program.

Is financial support available?

- **Yes.** Applicants who have an A- or higher GPA in the last two complete years of study will be considered for Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) awards that are adjudicated at both the Faculty and University levels. Top students in our program have consistently received one of the following awards: Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000), Ontario Graduate Fellowship (\$12,000) award **or** a Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology (\$15,000). Applicants who accept offers of admission are automatically considered for these awards.
- All other students will receive a Ryerson Graduate Fellowship award which varies in value based on the number of students enrolled in the program.
- Our program is OSAP eligible
- MHSc students are eligible to apply for graduate/ teaching assistant (GA/TA) positions in the School of Nutrition which range from 30-50 hours per semester at \$45.68/hour (~\$1300-2150 per semester, gross). See <https://www.ryerson.ca/hr/employee-resources/cupe-3904-3/ta-ga-lab-monitors-invigilators/pay-info/hourly-pay/> for current pay rates.
- Marian Rosalie Good Award for Excellence in Knowledge Translation: recognizes the academic achievement of a MHSc student in the final project in NC8209 Knowledge Translation. (\$1000)
- Dean's Writing Award: recognizes outstanding achievement in the health behaviour project in NC8102 Health Behaviour Communication. (\$500)
- Option 1 (accredited practicum) students receive a Graduate Development Award during semester 4.
- Option 1 (accredited practicum) students may be eligible to apply for a limited number of financial needs-based Graduate Development Awards (*when available*).
- All students are eligible to apply for Ryerson emergency bursary funding in the case of an unexpected and dire financial issue. Contact Amber Rebello, Program Administrator for instructions arebello@ryerson.ca
- The Yeates School of Graduate Studies lists awards on this site: <https://www.ryerson.ca/graduate/future-students/financing-your-studies/scholarships-awards/>
- The Faculty of Community Services offers a few graduate awards: <https://www.ryerson.ca/fcs/student-success/student-awards-and-grants/>

- Students are encouraged to use Ryerson's AwardSpring portal to explore their eligibility for multiple awards. <https://www.ryerson.ca/registrar/students/scholarships/awards-guide/>
- Qualified Indigenous students are encouraged to apply for the following awards:
 - Yeates School of Graduate Studies:
 - [Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement Award \(SAGE\)](#)
 - [Indigenous Graduate Scholarship](#)
 - [Indigenous Graduate Student Bursary](#)
 - Faculty of Community Services
 - [Faculty of Community Services Aboriginal Student Success Awards](#)
- Qualified Black students are encouraged to apply for the following awards:
 - Yeates School of Graduate Studies
 - [Black Graduate Student Bursary](#)
 - [Black Graduate Student Fellowship](#)
 - [Black Graduate Student Scholarship](#)
 - Faculty of Community Services
 - [Faculty of Community Services \(FCS\) Graduate Black Student Award](#)
- You may be eligible to apply for awards and grants provided by the Ryerson Student Union
See: <http://www.rsuonline.ca/awards-and-bursaries>
- Student Access Guarantee:
<https://www.ryerson.ca/student-financial-assistance/scholarships-bursaries/student-access-guarantee/>

Are there other awards that I may be eligible for?

- We support eligible students' applications for
 - Dietitians of Canada awards:
 - Dietitians of Canada Graduate Student awards.
 - Morgan Medal Award: in recognition of individual personal achievement of a dietetic intern or practicum students for their research project.
 - Judy van Tilburg Memorial Bursary: supports DC annual conference registration for two DC Qualifying members who are currently enrolled in a DC accredited internship/practicum program
 - DC Network Scholarships: 14 network scholarships are available to support students' attendance at the national conference.
 - See www.dietitians.ca Member's side, Awards for details.
 - Other external awards: (check eligibility criteria)
 - Aboriginal post-secondary student support program:
<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1100100033682/1531933580211>
 - Council of Ontario Universities. Canadian Women's Health Scholars Awards:
<http://cou.on.ca/about/awards/ontario-womens-health-scholars/>
 - CanLearn scholarships:
<http://www.canlearn.ca/eng/common/documents/publications/guide.pdf>
 - Desjardins Foundation scholarship: <https://www.desjardins.com/ca/about-us/social-responsibility-cooperation/education-cooperation/desjardins-foundation/academic-scholarships/index.jsp>
 - Disability Awards: <http://www.disabilityawards.ca/>

- Mackenzie King Scholarships: <http://www.mkingscholarships.ca/index-e.html>
- Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities: <http://www.ontario.ca/page/student-loans-grants-scholarships-and-bursaries>
- Ontario Legion Command Bursary: <http://www.on.legion.ca/remembrance/youth-programs/bursaries>
- Scholarships Canada database: <http://www.scholarshipscanada.com/>
- Service Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/student-financial-aid/scholarships.html>
- Soroptimist Foundation of Canada: <http://www.soroptimistfoundation.ca/>
- RBC Future Launch Scholarship: <https://www.rbc.com/dms/enterprise/futurelaunch/future-launch-scholarship.html>
- Yconic.com (formerly StudentAwards.com): <https://yconic.com/>

Will I be able to work while completing the program?

- The MHSc program is intensive and demanding. Students need excellent time management and organizational skills.
- Semesters 1 and 2 each entail four courses, totaling about 12 hours per week of classes. Each class requires about 1-2 hours of preparation. You'll spend a *minimum* of 20 hours per week on course work, **in addition to** time spent completing assignments and preparing for classes. You will need great time management skills.
- Students can apply for teaching assistant positions that involve about 30-50 hours of work per semester.
- When deciding whether or not to work while in the program, please consider work-life balance. Students who can complete the program without working may enjoy the program more and feel less stressed than those who work while they study.
- **Option 1 (accredited practicum)** students will spend 35 to 40 hours per week during the two practicum courses in various dietetic practice environments. It is not possible to work during these semesters. You can expect to spend 1-2 hours on evenings and weekends doing practicum related home work.
- Some **Option 2 (MRP)** students have worked part-time during their studies.

When are classes scheduled?

- **Option 1 (accredited practicum)** students will be enrolled in courses continuously from Sept 2021 to Dec 2022. These students will be enrolled in classroom based courses scheduled on two days per week in the fall (Sept-Dec 2021) and winter (Jan-April 2022). They will complete the practicum courses during the spring/summer (May-Aug 2021) and fall (Sept-Dec 2022) semesters. The practicum courses involve 35-40 hours per week of attendance in various dietetic practice environments and regular class meetings.
- **Option 2 (MRP)** students will be enrolled in classroom based courses scheduled on two days per week in the fall (Sept-Dec 2021) and winter (Jan-April 2022) semesters. These students will complete their MRPs during the spring/summer (May-Aug 2022) semester.
- Fall and winter courses are scheduled on weekdays, during the day. We do not offer evening classes.

How can I connect with recent graduates?

- Recent program graduates have professional profiles and are members of the School of Nutrition Professional Network group on LinkedIn®. <https://www.linkedin.com/>
- You'll find brief biographies for an assortment of recent graduates at <http://www.ryerson.ca/nutrition/admissions/nutrition-communication/alumni-career-paths/>

MORE ABOUT OPTION 1 (ACCREDITED PRACTICUM)

What do the practicum courses for Option 1 students involve?

- You will complete your practical training (internship rotations) during the practicum courses.
- You will complete 2-3 rotations in dietetic practice environments under the supervision of highly qualified preceptors during each course; usually a total of 4-5 placements.
- Our practicum coordination staff will take your interests and career goals into consideration as they create a practicum plan through which you can meet all of the Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice. This planning occurs in the fall semester.
- During practicum rotations, you will be in the workplace during the same hours as your supervisor – typically 35 to 40 hours per week. You'll meet regularly at Ryerson for classes to consolidate your skills through cased-based learning and peer support.
- We are committed to providing well-rounded practical training that prepares you for work in any dietetic practice setting. Sometimes, you will be required to travel, at your own expense, to complete your practicum rotations.

What is the success rate for Option 1 graduates who write the CDRE?

- 100%. All Option 1 graduates who have written the Canadian Dietetic Registration Exam passed.

What is the employment rate for Option 1 graduates?

- Many Option 1 students gain employment within the first 6 months after completing the program. Graduates may need to relocate beyond Toronto to secure employment in their desired area of interest.

Will I be qualified to work in any dietetic practice environment?

- Yes. You will have met ALL of the Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice and you will qualify to apply for entry-level dietetic practice positions. Some work settings may require applicants to have additional certifications/skills, e.g., Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE).

What if I don't know which area of dietetics interests me most?

- Most students don't have a clear idea where they want to work and that's OK. The best approach is to keep an open mind.
- In our program, you'll complete a 3-year professional development to help plan your path.
- We design our practicum rotations to ensure that graduates are well-rounded and ready for success in *any* area of dietetic practice – from inpatient nutrition to industry and beyond.

Why should I consider the MHSc in Nutrition Communication?

- Master's level study in nutrition communication will:
 - position you for success in the changing world of dietetic practice; you'll be a well-rounded professional with a graduate education
 - enable you to excel and provide leadership in any dietetic practice environment

- build your confidence and skills
- enable you to create a 3-year professional development plan to fuel your career
- distinguish you among job applicants
- You'll gain a master's degree and meet the ICDEPs in four semesters.

Where will I find more information about Option 1?

See <http://www.ryerson.ca/nutrition/programs/nutrition-communication-mhsc/practicum-option/>

MORE ABOUT OPTION 2 Major Research Project/Paper (MRP)

Who applies for Option 2?

- Most applicants are dietitians who want to develop their nutrition communication skills to add value in their current job or forge a new career path.

How can enrolling in Option 2 fuel my dietetic career?

- You can develop your MRP to pursue a strong interest in a particular area
- Your MRP may involve collaboration with external agencies or partners and foster valuable networking opportunities
- You will have opportunities to connect with dietitians working in a wide array of fields
- You'll complete a detailed 3-year professional development plan to guide your choices

What are the objectives of completing an MRP?

An MRP will enable you to:

- develop subject matter expertise
- demonstrate your ability to synthesize evidence and formulate original ideas
- use a rigorous process to create a project that may shape policy, practice, and teaching
- pursue your interests – whether that's a specific topic, communication medium, or project
- create the central piece in your professional communication portfolio

Is a MRP the same as a thesis?

No. A major research project/paper can encompass completion of a wide range of projects and usually does not necessarily involve primary data collection. To be feasible, your MRP must be completed within the three semesters of our program. A thesis involves collection and analysis of primary and/or secondary data.

What is expected of me as an MRP student?

We expect that you:

- are strongly motivated and committed to completing very high quality work
- have excellent time management skills
- will welcome constructive feedback regarding your work
- are highly self-directed yet seek guidance when needed
- will demonstrate a high level of integrity in your work

When are the MSc classes?

- **Class schedule:** We try to schedule all MSc courses on two days each week (Tuesdays and Wednesdays). All classes are three hours long.
- **Special events:** There will be other days when you are expected to attend special events at Ryerson (or beyond) in relation to specific courses. You will be notified of those additional events at the beginning of each semester.
- **Days on campus:** You should expect to be on campus *more than* two days each week – to participate in team meetings, to do research, to meet with your MRP supervisor, to meet with instructors, etc.

What is the total time commitment for the program?

- **Coursework:** For each class, you should expect to spend 3-6 hours working outside class time to complete readings, assignments, and activities.
- **Attendance:** Attendance in class and participation in classroom activities are essential expectations of our program.
- **MRP:** You will plan and conduct background research for your MRP in the fall semester, start your project in the winter (in the NC8205 Directed Studies course), and complete it in the spring/summer semester. You should plan to work on your MRP up to 35 hours per week during the spring/summer semester.

What constitutes an MRP?

- 1) **Completion of a rigorous structured literature review:** This entails use of a systematic methodology and focused inclusion/exclusion criteria to identify, select, and critically appraise published relevant scientific evidence. The structured literature review is the evidence base for, and enhances the dissemination potential of, your MRP.
- 2) **Length:** 40 – 60 pages excluding references, appendices.
- 3) **Composition:** Typically, an MRP is comprised of multiple components such as:
 - i. development/testing of a research tool, nutrition communication technique, a learning, teaching or assessment tool;
 - ii. completion of an analytic project, such as a policy or secondary data analysis;
 - iii. development of a unique, evidence-based nutrition communication and/or knowledge translation (KT) piece suitable for dissemination such as a multi-media product (e.g., audio, video and/or Internet-based) and/or another form of scholarly work (e.g., a paper, poster, abstract, KT piece)
 - iv. creation of a critique or application of a theoretical framework or construct; or
 - v. participation in an on-going research project (e.g., primary data collection)
- 4) **Format:** See the guidelines provided at: <https://www.ryerson.ca/graduate/student-guide/academic-matters/dissertation-thesis-exams/>

What kind of MRPs have previous students completed?

Here are some recent MRP titles:

- Exploring university athletic departments' sports nutrition education programs, partnerships and policies: An environmental scan.

- The role of dietary protein at breakfast on satiety, food intake and glycemic response in children 9-14 years old.
- Person centred approach to diabetes management.
- “It’s just common sense”: A theoretical model of women’s nutrition information behaviour activities.
- Updating dietary intervention recommendations from the Canadian clinical guidelines on the management and treatment of obesity.
- A comparative analysis of packaged products with sodium reduction claims.
- Antioxidant messages on food products in Canadian grocery stores: A content analysis.
- What online communication strategies are communities of practice using to facilitate knowledge exchange or translation?
- Food system renewal in Toronto: A qualitative inquiry and critical analysis of the public consultation and engagement process.
- Best practices of written and oral knowledge translation for low health literary populations.
- Broken telephone II: Website quality assessment tool development and testing.
- The evolution of FoodShare: An exploratory investigation of Canada's largest community food security organization.

Where are MRP graduates working?

- See <http://www.ryerson.ca/nutrition/admissions/nutrition-communication/alumni-career-paths/> for brief biographies of some recent graduates
- Most recent program graduates have professional profiles and are members of the School of Nutrition Professional Network group on LinkedIn®. <https://www.linkedin.com/>

Where will I find more information about the MRP process?

- You’ll find the MRP Guidelines online at <http://www.ryerson.ca/nutrition/programs/nutrition-communication-mhsc/mrp-option/>

APPLICATION GUIDE

When is my application due?

For Option 1 - DC Accredited Practicum Option

- Complete your OUAC online application by 11 pm on **November 30, 2021**
- Upload all documents to the Ryerson Applicant Upload portal by 11 pm on **January 9, 2022**

For Option 2 - Major Research Project/Paper

- Complete your OUAC online application by 11 pm on **November 30, 2020**
- Upload all documents to the Ryerson Applicant Upload portal by 11 pm on **January 9, 2022**
- Early applications are encouraged and will be reviewed and responded to immediately.

How do I apply?

Step 1

Contact your referees. You need their names and **correct** email addresses to upload with your application. **Take care to record the correct email address**

Step 2

Apply to OUAC (Ontario Universities' Application Centre) by 11 pm on **November 30, 2021**
Pay the \$110 OUAC fee when you submit your online application
Once the fee is paid, OUAC will notify Ryerson of your intention to apply

Step 3

Ryerson's Graduate Studies Admissions and Recruitment office will email you within 2-3 days of application receipt with instructions on how to create your online identity and upload your documents through the Ryerson portal.
Follow the instructions provided to activate your Ryerson online identity.

Step 4

Gather all documents listed in the "Required Documents" tab and save them as .pdf documents.
Log in to the Ryerson Applicant Upload portal and upload your documents. Please ensure the correct documents are uploaded. You cannot go back once they have been uploaded.
Upload required documents by 11 pm on **January 9, 2022**

What documents will I need to provide?

Option 1 and Option 2 applicants must provide the following documents:

PLEASE NOTE: The document upload portal is closed and not monitored during Ryerson's mid-year break from December 24, 2021 to January 6, 2022 inclusive.

1. **Application Submission Summary:** Once you submit your online OUAC application, you will be directed to a summary of the information you submitted. Please save a copy of this .pdf summary and upload it as prompted when you log in to the Ryerson Application Upload portal.

2. **A statement of interest*:** (Max 500 words). Include an independently completed, well-written document that provides your response to the following question. **No further instructions will be provided.**

Why is nutrition communication important, relevant and timely? Describe why this program would be a good fit for you based on your experiences and career goals?

**Ryerson's School of Nutrition, Master's of Nutrition Communication strives to ensure equity, diversity and inclusion in the student body and aims to respond to community needs. The graduate admission committee provides opportunity for consideration to those applicants who wish to have their application reviewed in this light. Applicants may provide details regarding experiences that should be viewed within the lens of equity, diversity, and inclusion in their statement of interest.*

3. **A comprehensive, current resume:** (maximum 6 pages) Share details of your volunteer and paid experiences, educational background, awards, certifications, extracurricular learning achievements and specialized knowledge/expertise. Highlight the aspects of your education and experiences through which you have developed your communication, decision making, problem solving, interpersonal and leadership skills. Include descriptions of your research-related experiences and skills, including undergraduate research projects, research proposals and ethics review applications, experiences as a paid research assistant or volunteer, research-related publications and presentations. Use your resume as a communication tool.
4. **Two letters of recommendation:** As part of your online application, you will be asked to submit the names and contact information for **two referees** at least **ONE** of who must be an academic referee (e.g. a faculty member familiar with your academic performance). The second recommendation may come from a professional (non-academic) referee. Referees will be contacted electronically by the Graduate Admissions office **2-3 days after** you complete your online application with instructions on how to complete a reference form. If you have any questions about references, please send them to gradreference@ryerson.ca.
5. **Communication Product:** Review the [article on the MHSc Nutrition Communications Admissions website](#). Using the information in the article about environmentally sustainable diet and food practices, describe the issue and pull out 5 key messages to inform your future clients by creating a one-page infographic. This is your opportunity to demonstrate your creativity (i.e., layout, color design), critical thinking skills (appropriate messaging for your audience). Please include references.
6. **Transcripts** for all relevant post-secondary education. These transcripts are considered unofficial. If you are currently a student, upload your transcripts **after your fall 2021 grades are posted**. Official transcripts will be requested if an admissions offer is made.

7. Proof of English language proficiency for those whose previous language of instruction was not English.

Option 1 applicants must also submit:

8. A "Confirmation of Completion" form available from our website verifying your eligibility to apply for a PDEP accredited graduate program.

What is the statement of interest?

- The statement of interest is your response to this question:
Why is nutrition communication important, relevant and timely? Draw from your experiences and describe why this program would be a good fit for you based on your experiences and career goals?
- Maximum 500 words. Your response should exemplify your best written communication and self-reflection skills.
- No further explanation will be provided.

What should my resume include?

- Use your resume to communicate who you are and demonstrate your writing skills
- What relevant skills, experiences, and expertise do you bring to the MHSc program?
- Include experiences where you showed your communication skills
- Share details of your volunteer and paid experiences, educational background, awards, certifications, extracurricular learning achievements and specialized knowledge/expertise.
- Highlight research-related experiences and skills, including undergraduate research projects, research proposals and ethics review applications, experiences as a paid research assistant or volunteer, research-related publications and presentations.

Who should I ask to provide references?

- Always contact potential referees and ask if they agree to provide references for you. If so, **record their names and email addresses accurately**. Entering the wrong email address for a referee will delay your application considerably.
- Tell referees the submission timeline: **January 9, 2022**.
- One referee should be academic, one can be professional (e.g., someone who supervised you in a paid or volunteer position)
- When you've completed the Ryerson application, Ryerson will send each referee an email with a link where s/he can complete the report
- It is your responsibility to monitor your online application and ensure that references are received by the deadline

Who should I ask for references if I've been out of school for several years?

- Option 2 (MRP) applicants who cannot identify a suitable academic referee can submit the names/contact information for two professional referees

Where do Option 1 applicants get the "Confirmation of Completion" form?

- Ask your accredited undergraduate program coordinator to complete your form

What happens after I submit my application to the Ryerson portal?

- 2-3 business days after you submit your application each referee will be contacted by email by Ryerson's Graduate Admissions and Recruitment office with instructions on how to submit her/his report
- Once your application is complete, it will be sent to the MHSc admissions committee for review.

How do I find out the status of my application?

- You can monitor the status of your application through the Ryerson Applicant Upload portal.

What should I do if my application is not complete?

- Submit any missing documents via the Ryerson Applicant Upload portal ASAP
- If it's **December 15, 2021** and your referees have not submitted their reports, contact them with a friendly reminder

When will I know if I'm invited for an interview?

- Short-listed applicants will be contacted in early February 2022

When will interviews be held?

- Option 1 (accredited practicum) interviews will occur in February.
- Option 2 (MRP) interviews occur in March 2021.

What should I do if interview dates overlap?

- Tell our Program Administrator when you are contacted to schedule our interview. We are limited by the availability of our interviewers and can only accommodate to a certain extent.

Where are the interviews?

- Interviews will take place online through Zoom.

What is a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI)?

- We use a process called multiple-mini interviews (MMIs) for Option 1 applicants. MMIs take a typical interview and divide it into 6-10 stations. Rather than sitting with a group of interviewers and responding to questions in one place, each interview question or task is set at its own station with a single interviewer in a breakout room. Applicants are moved from "room" to "room" to respond to questions or complete tasks. The process is timed to ensure that applicants keep moving through the interview "rooms" while providing enough time to read and respond to a question or complete a task. You may be asked to interact with someone else or take part in a role play situation. Each station is scored independently.
- If you receive an invitation to participate in an interview for Option 2, the interview format will be confirmed at that time.

Why does Ryerson use the MMI process?

- MMIs are used in many health professions. They offer applicants several advantages and:
 - Enhance objectivity of assessments

- Reduce interviewer bias
- Create multiple opportunities to 'start fresh'
- Provide time to read and think about questions
- Provide an enjoyable interview experience

How should I prepare?

- In many cases there are no right or wrong answers to the MMI questions. **The questions are designed to enable you to showcase your communication, interpersonal and critical thinking skills, as well as your knowledge and judgement.**
- Our best advice is **be authentic**. Review your resume and remind yourself of your many accomplishments. We'd love to get to know you through your responses.
- MMI items give you opportunities to express your interpersonal, oral and written communication, and critical thinking skills.

Where can I find more information about MMIs?

- We recommend resources provided by universities that use the MMI format, such as McMaster and McGill. For example:
 - [https://mdprogram.mcmaster.ca/md-program-admissions/how-we-select/multiple-mini-interview-\(mmi\)](https://mdprogram.mcmaster.ca/md-program-admissions/how-we-select/multiple-mini-interview-(mmi))
 - <https://www.mcgill.ca/caps/students/gradschool/medinterview>

When will I know if I have been accepted?

- Offers of admission to Option 1 (accredited practicum) applicants are made as soon as possible following the completion of all interviews.
- You will be notified by email and a formal offer of admission will follow

If I receive an offer of admission, how long do I have to decide?

- We know that many top applicants are considering multiple offers. Applicants are typically given about 48 hours to respond. We strongly encourage you to respond as soon as possible to secure your place in the program.

INFORMATION FOR CURRENT STUDENTS

What services are available to me?

Ryerson students have access to a full range of services and benefits offered by Ryerson. The table below provides a brief description of available services and contact information.

Services	Description	Contact
Academic Accommodation Support	Our friendly, knowledgeable team of accommodation support staff - facilitators, specialists, and administrators – will offer support with academic accommodation and related academic supports and the processes involved with these. Students eligible for Academic Accommodation Support have singular and multiple disabilities, such as learning disabilities, sensory impairments, acquired brain injuries, ADHD, and mental health, medical, and mobility issues.	<p>Email: aasadmin@ryerson.ca</p> <p>Web: https://www.ryerson.ca/accommodations/</p>
Centre for Student Development and Counselling	<p>The CSDC offers free, confidential counselling services in a professional and friendly environment. While our services are predominantly short term in nature, the duration of counselling is determined on a case by case basis depending on need and resources availability. Services are provided by our team of psychologists, counsellors, and master's and doctoral interns.</p> <p>Our services, programs and resources are intended to assist students not only to solve immediate problems, but also to define their personal, educational and career goals, and to acquire the self-confidence and transferable skills necessary for professional success and individual growth. We provide these services on a one-to-one basis or in a group format.</p> <p>All Ryerson graduates are invited to participate in Career Centre support services for 5 years post graduation.</p>	<p>Web: https://www.ryerson.ca/student-wellbeing/counselling/</p>

English Language Support	To help multilingual students engage fully in their education at Ryerson, we offer a variety of free support programs designed to help students improve and develop their communication skills – help with writing, speaking, listening, and reading. This also becomes an opportunity to meet fellow students and practice language skills in a friendly, stress-free environment	Web: https://www.ryerson.ca/student-life-and-learning/learning-support/writing-support/
Graduate Student Support	For students enrolled in one of Ryerson’s Master’s or PhD programs looking for help with developing graduate-focused academic skills. Graduate students have specific concerns about their academic skills and the demands of graduate-level study. Our programming will help you to further develop these skills under the guidance of our professional staff.	Web: https://www.ryerson.ca/student-life-and-learning/learning-support/graduate-student-support/
Health Promotion Unit	The Health Promotion Unit consists of a Health Promotion Programs Coordinator, peer health promoters, placement students and volunteers. We are dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of Ryerson University students by providing current and relevant health information, working with students and staff to develop a healthy community and ensuring high quality health promotion information and support	Web: https://www.ryerson.ca/student-wellbeing/healthpromotion/
International Student Services	The International Student Support (ISS) is a unit of Student Life, a part of Student Affairs at Ryerson University. We are here to help international students and students new to Canada adjust to life in our country, connect with fellow students and succeed in achieving their personal and professional goals. Understanding UHIP, issuing status letters, supporting in immigration matters and nurturing personal development-these are just some of the many things that we provide for our international students so that they	Email: issask@ryerson.ca Web: https://www.ryerson.ca/student-life-and-learning/international-support/

	are able to make the most of their time at Ryerson.	
Math Support	Are you looking for help with math? This is the place to go. SLS offers comprehensive support to all Ryerson students looking for help with math, guidance in their math-related courses, or simply to develop their math skills.	Email: sls@ryerson.ca Web: https://www.ryerson.ca/student-life-and-learning/learning-support/tutor-match/
Medical Centre	The Medical Centre is a medical clinic which provides currently registered Ryerson students, staff and faculty, with a wide range of medical services that you would normally expect to receive from your family physician. This includes the treatment of illnesses, such as colds or the flu, to routine examinations like annual physicals and internal examinations.	Web: https://www.ryerson.ca/student-wellbeing/medicalcentre/
ONE Card Office	The OneCard is the official identification card for the Ryerson University community. In addition to being the single most important piece of ID you possess during your time here at Ryerson it also serves as a convenience card for many of the services available on campus, including the library, printing and photocopying, food purchases, discounts, savings and more.	Email: onecard@ryerson.ca Web: www.ryerson.ca/onecard
Ryerson Aboriginal Services	Ryerson Aboriginal Student Services provides a culturally supportive environment to promote academic excellence and serves as a place to balance academic learning with traditional teachings and culture.	Web: www.ryerson.ca/aboriginal
Student Affairs	Student Affairs provides numerous services to support student success, including: learning support, health & wellness, career support, housing & residence, student programs, leadership, international student support and more.	Web: www.ryerson.ca/studentaffairs
Study Skills & Transition Support	Being a successful student requires hard work and dedication but it also requires developing the skills to learn effectively and efficiently. Our study skills and	Email: sls@ryerson.ca Web: www.ryerson.ca/studentlearnin

	transition programs will help you to start that process	gsupport/study-skills-and-transition-support
Writing Support	We think our writing is best when we get to talk about it with others at various stages of the process. So, that's what we do - help students become better writers by engaging them in meaningful conversations about their writing. If you get in the habit of doing this, it will become a meaningful part of your ongoing writing processes and development at Ryerson.	Email: sls@ryerson.ca Web: www.ryerson.ca/studentlearnin/gsupport/writing-support

What benefits are available to me?

As members of Ryerson Student Union (RSU), the following benefits are available to you:

- **Health & Dental insurance plan:** Provides excellent coverage for health and dental expenses as well as travel insurance. If you wish to opt out of this coverage and receive a refund, you must follow instructions found at rsuonline.cfshosting.ca/Services/Health-Dental-Plan
- **Discounted TTC Metropass Tickets and Merchandise:** discounted TTC passes and tokens, Cineplex Entertainment movie tickets, Carlton Cinema tickets, Rainbow Cinema tickets, Canada's Wonderland tickets. Available at the Member Services Office, Student Campus Centre Lobby. More information at <http://www.rsuonline.ca/discount-tickets>
- **Used Book Room:** Buy and sell your used text books. See <http://www.rsuonline.ca/used-book-room>
- **CopyRITE Printing Service:** Discount digital printing services. <http://www.rsuonline.ca/copyrite>
- **Tax Clinic:** Free access to Ufile.ca; RSU tax clinic appointments. See <http://www.rsuonline.ca/tax-clinic>
- **Legal Service:** Access to a lawyer to advise and assist with legal issues. See <http://www.rsuonline.ca/legal-service>
- **Academic Advocacy:** Support and advice for issues with the University (appeals, misconduct, etc.,) See <http://www.rsuonline.ca/academic-advocacy>
- **Graduation Photos:** Free class composite photos See <http://www.rsuonline.ca/grad-photos>
- **International Student Identity Card (ISIC):** entitles you to discounts and services at home and around the world. For more details, see <http://www.rsuonline.ca/Services> or go to Student Campus Centre at 55 Gould St, SCC311, Toronto, ON M5B 1E9 Phone: 416-979-5255 Email: info@rsuonline.ca
- **Your tuition includes access to Ryerson Athletics and Recreation Facilities** You are entitled access to the Ryerson Athletic Centre (RAC) and the Mattamy Athletic Centre. Additional athletic services (e.g. personal training and group fitness classes) are available at a discounted rate. Information about group fitness classes, personal training, intramurals, clubs, skate and hockey training, facilities, athletics, etc. can be found at: <https://www.ryerson.ca/recreation/>

- **General Liability, Professional Liability and Workplace Safety Insurance** While you are on placement, you will be covered by Ryerson University for Comprehensive General Liability Insurance and Professional Liability Insurance. Students, while fulfilling the unpaid Placement, have Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) or private insurance coverage in the event of an incident or injury. The cost of the coverage will be paid for by Ryerson University. For additional details. Please refer to the Graduate Programs Practicum Policies and Procedures document
- **Anti-virus protection software is available for free for students at:**
<http://ryerson.ca/ccs/services/software/security.html>
 You will need to enter your my.ryerson username and password to access the software. If you have trouble, you can contact Ryerson's Computing and Communications Services (CCS) at 416-979-5000 ext. 556840 or help@ryerson.ca. Please make sure you practice safe computing practices while connected to Ryerson's network. Here's what you can do:
 - Make sure all your computers are running antivirus software, that it is working properly, and that it is up to date. If you recently upgraded to Windows 10 and use Sophos you will have to uninstall Sophos and reinstall it. If you are having problems on a Ryerson computer getting Sophos to work, to update itself, or if Sophos is issuing alerts please call the CCS help desk at extension 6806 or email help@ryerson.ca.
 - Make sure you keep your operating system, browser and other software up-to-date. Software updates are frequently issued to fix security vulnerabilities.
 - Do not open emails or attachments from unknown sources. If you do not recognize the sender do not open attachments or follow links. If you are inclined to open an attachment on your computer, pause a moment and consider if the attachment is legitimate. Does it come from an email address you recognize and are expecting an attachment from? If not, do not open it. If you must look at an attachment use a viewer instead of opening it on your computer. For example, if you use your browser to access your Ryerson Gmail account (via gmail.ryerson.ca) clicking on an attachment will show you a preview of the document. A common scam is to send malware disguised as a resume. If you must see the attachment, review the "resume" using Gmail's preview feature. Do not download and open the attachment.
 - Make sure Microsoft office macros are not enabled. If a document or spreadsheet claims macros must be enabled to view it, do not turn on macros. A recent scam involves sending fake invoices that claim they cannot be read properly without enabling macros. Don't fall for it.
 - Do not use peer-to-peer or other "file sharing" or "free file download" services to download movies, music, file sharing utilities and so on. If you insist on doing this, do not do it on a Ryerson computer, a computer connected to Ryerson's network, or a computer that contains or has access to confidential or personal information. A common tactic for spreading malware is to post the malware to file sharing sites and systems and pretend they are movies, music, apps or application files. Don't click on links in emails to download files. If you inadvertently start to download a file, cancel the download or delete the file. Don't open it.

- **Access to specialized software at:**
http://www.ryerson.ca/ccs/services/software/Virtual_Applications/
Students can securely access various licensed software applications without having to install them on their computer. Please visit the website above for more information.

Is housing available to me?

- Yes. See www.ryerson.ca/housing

What are my rights as a Ryerson student?

- **Human Rights Services:** All members of the Ryerson community are entitled to study, work, and live in an environment that is free of discrimination and harassment. See <http://www.ryerson.ca/humanrights/>
- **Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:** Ryerson University is committed to community engagement, action, inclusion, and respect for Aboriginal perspectives, equity, diversity, and putting people first. The Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion collaborates across campus to make Ryerson a truly inclusive place to learn and work. See <http://ryerson.ca/equity/>
- **Ombud's Office:** The Ombud's office works with students, faculty and staff to seek expeditious and fair resolutions to issues, concerns, and conflicts at Ryerson that they have not been able to resolve themselves. See <http://www.ryerson.ca/ombuds/>
- **Sexual Violence Support and Education:** Ryerson is committed to fostering a campus where consent comes first. See <http://www.ryerson.ca/sexual-violence/index.html>
- **Emergency Response & Security Services:** See <https://www.ryerson.ca/community-safety-security/>

What are my obligations as a Ryerson student?

All Ryerson students are obligated to conduct themselves in accordance with the:

- **Student Code of Non-Academic Conduct:** www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies/pol61.pdf. Additional information can be found at <https://www.ryerson.ca/student-care/students/student-code-of-conduct/>
- **Student Code of Academic Conduct:** www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies/pol60.pdf

What policies apply to me as a graduate student?

- **Academic Appeals Policy:** www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/senate/policies/pol152.pdf
- **Ethics Review of Research Involving Human Subjects:** www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/senate/policies/pol51.pdf
- **Ethics Review of Research Involving Animals:** www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/senate/policies/pol52.pdf
- **Graduate Course Management Policy:** [ryerson.ca/content/dam/senate/policies/pol151.pdf](http://www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/senate/policies/pol151.pdf)
- **Graduate Admissions Policy:** <https://www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/senate/policies/pol163.pdf>
- **Student Code of Academic Conduct:** www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies/pol60.pdf
- **Student Code of Non-academic Conduct:** www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies/pol61.pdf

- **Intellectual Property Guidelines:**

<https://www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/graduate/current-students/policies/IPGuidelines.pdf>

What do I need to do to graduate?

As completion of your program draws near, you'll need to apply to graduate. See

<https://www.ryerson.ca/graduate/student-guide/academic-matters/graduation/>