

Registered Dietitian Opportunity with Simmons University

If you have ever considered obtaining the training to be a Registered Dietitian (RD) in addition to the degree program you are in at the Friedman School, we have an opportunity for you.

The Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy has teamed up with Simmons University and formed an "Articulation Agreement" to allow Friedman School students the opportunity to take classes at Simmons University in order to complete the required courses that are necessary to become an RD. Simmons University has a Dietetics major and the curriculum is accredited by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Students enrolled in a Friedman School degree program are allowed to matriculate at a reduced cost into the necessary Simmons University nutrition/dietetics courses to complete the undergraduate dietetics requirements (called the DPD – Didactic Program in Dietetics) to be an RD. Since this is a formal program culminating in an educational credential, you **must formally** apply to Simmons University for admission to the Certificate in the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). A graduate Certificate from Simmons University will be awarded upon completion of the required courses (and after completing Simmons University Graduation Checkout process). While the Certificate from Simmons University is a graduate credential, all courses are undergraduate level courses. Simmons University has made the application process as easy as possible for you, but they must adhere to accreditation guidelines and Tufts students will need to be in compliance with these required accreditation guidelines.

1. How does it work?

Students should apply and be accepted to an eligible degree program at the Friedman School. After payment of the Friedman School nonrefundable tuition deposit, students may apply to the Simmons University DPD Certificate through the Simmons University application designating themselves as a Tufts affiliate. To facilitate sharing your credentials that you submitted with your Friedman School admissions application such as your official transcript and letters of recommendation, etc., with Simmons University you need to complete this online authorization form: <https://engage.simmons.edu/register/authtosinfo>.

Students must also complete a form acknowledging they have read and understand curricular requirements and policies/procedures. The form is found at https://tufts.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_daSTIMNan4Fxl9L.

Tufts students need to review the equivalency tables of courses offered at the Friedman School and Simmons University for the Certificate on pages 5 and 6. The equivalency tables identify the courses students may take at Tufts to fulfill the dietetics requirements and which courses (minimum of seven) they are required to enroll in only at Simmons University (no equivalent courses at Tufts). These necessary Simmons University courses may be completed simultaneously with your course requirements for your Friedman School degree.

Many of the Simmons University courses require undergraduate science course pre-requisites. For questions regarding whether prior coursework from other academic institutions will be accepted you must contact Simmons University. **If you have not been accepted into the Simmons University DPD Certificate program yet, please contact Leah Smith at 617 521-2718 (leah.smith@simmons.edu) for clarification.** If you have been accepted into the Simmons University DPD Certificate program then directly contact our Simmons University liaison, Dr. Kathrina Prelack (Kathrina.prelack@simmons.edu) to determine acceptance of a substitute course. You must supply a copy of the course syllabus for Simmons University to review and evaluate to determine if it is an approved course basic science substitute. Please note that science pre-requisites are reviewed on a continual basis, and you should obtain direct approval from Simmons University as to whether a specific substitute course will be accepted.

The course tables in this document show which Tufts courses fulfill specific Simmons University requirements and also show that the last seven Simmons University courses (Table 3/page 6) have no Tufts course equivalent. Please note if you enroll in a Simmons University course that is not included as one of the seven required courses you will register directly through Simmons University and will need to pay the full tuition amount to Simmons University. Please check in with Dr. Lynne Ausman, the Friedman School liaison for Simmons University, to discuss your enrollment plans. You will also need to discuss your enrollment plans with your Friedman School's Academic Advisor. After these steps are completed, you will be ready to talk with our contact at Simmons University, Kathrina Prelack, Ph.D., RD.

2. Does this lead to students having too many courses to take?

If planned from the very beginning some students can complete a full degree at Tufts while still finishing the undergraduate course requirements in dietetics at Simmons University within the four semester Friedman School program. However, many students find that the demands of completing their course requirements at the Friedman School, as well as the required seven courses at Simmons University, working/volunteering for needed dietetic experience, and sometimes also working a part-time job makes this unrealistic. You can complete the Simmons University course requirements after graduating from the Friedman School, or alternatively, decide to spread your Tufts and Simmons University coursework over five or even six semesters at the Friedman School. While the Simmons University courses don't provide you a degree, they will provide you a Certificate and they do allow Simmons University to sign a verification statement that you have met the accreditation requirements set forth by the Accreditation Council on Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) and that you have met the requirements for a dietetic internship. When developing a timeline for completion, students are **highly encouraged** to allot time to be spent outside of the classroom to obtain clinical and community experiences as this will strengthen their application for dietetic internships. Students from Tufts have two years after completion of their Friedman School degree to start the DPD coursework at Simmons University.

3. How much is the Simmons University tuition and how are the finances handled?

Tuition

Simmons University charges Tufts students a reduced cost only for the seven required courses listed in Table 3/Page 6 (with increases of about 5% a year). Simmons University bills the Friedman School for each of the seven specific dietetics courses you are required to take only at Simmons University. The Friedman School arranges for the Tufts Health Sciences Bursar's Office in Boston to post the tuition charges for your Simmons University courses on your Tufts account in [SIS](#). This has the advantage of having the cost of both the Tufts and Simmons University education on one bill for which you may be eligible for financial aid and eligible for 1098-T reporting while matriculated and **not** yet graduated from the Friedman School. The cost of the Simmons University courses for Friedman School students admitted to Simmons University in the Fall 2023 semester will be \$TBD (check back soon) for each Simmons University course credit for the 2023-2024 academic year. If you are a Friedman School student admitted to Simmons University prior to the Fall 2022 semester, please consult the Friedman School's Registrar (nutritionregistrar@tufts.edu). The community practicum experience (NUTR 380) will be billed at a rate of either 1 or 2 credits depending on whether the community fieldwork is completed through Simmons University. If a student plans to complete community fieldwork at Tufts, their proposal needs to be submitted to Simmons University for prior approval. If no prior approval is obtained, the community fieldwork will need to be completed through Simmons University. For the 2023-2024 academic year, the cost to the student for the seven required courses listed in Table 3/Page 6 covers the cost per credit that Simmons University charges plus a fee to cover clinical training in the hospital, and an operational cost assessed by Tufts University.

Please note if are completing any pre-requisite courses needed for the Simmons University DPD Certificate that are not listed in Table 3/Page 6, and do not have a Friedman School course equivalent option, you are not eligible for a discounted tuition rate and will need to pay tuition out-of-pocket for a course that you take at a different academic institution (e.g., Bunker Hill Community College, UC Berkley Extension, San Diego Extension, etc.).

Also, if you identify a Tufts University course that Simmons University approves for one of your DPD Certificate prerequisite courses (that is not a Friedman School course) you will need to cross-register via [SIS](#) and you will not incur additional tuition charges as long as it is in the fall and/or spring semesters. However, if you cross-register in the Summer semester in a Tufts University course that Simmons University approved, since the Friedman School's cross-registration partnership is not active in the summer (except with Tufts Public Health) you will in fact be billed tuition for the Tufts course (based on the Tufts School's tuition course rate not the Friedman School's tuition course rate). If you are an MNSP student, since your tuition is billed to you per course, you will be billed additional tuition charges if you enroll via cross-registration in a non-Friedman School Tufts course.

The same policy applies for Friedman School students that identify a course (that Simmons University approves for one of your DPD Certificate prerequisite courses) at one of the Friedman School's cross-registration partners including Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis, and the Harvard School of Public Health. However, the cross-registration partnership again is not active in the Summer semester and you would in fact be billed the course tuition for these Host School's unless you cross-register in the Fall semester or the Spring semester. Also, if you are an MNSP student, since your tuition is billed to you per course, you will be billed additional tuition charges if you enroll via cross-registration at one of Friedman School's cross-registration partners.

The Friedman School will continue to arrange for the cost of Simmons University courses to be billed to Friedman School students' Tufts account in [SIS](#) that are matriculated and have **not** yet graduated from the Friedman School (and are continuing to complete required Simmons University courses toward the completion of the Certificate). Once a Friedman School student graduates from Tufts they will no longer have an account in SIS. If a Friedman School graduate is still completing their Simmons University requirements, Simmons University will bill the same charges directly to the Friedman School graduate for any enrolled Simmons University courses they are completing for their Certificate. Friedman School graduates that are still completing their Simmons University requirements will be eligible for 1098-T reporting from Simmons University. In addition, Friedman School graduates completing their Simmons University requirements will be eligible for Simmons University Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) if the Friedman School graduate is enrolled at Simmons University full-time (9 or more credits of Simmons University coursework).

Financial Aid

Students accepted or enrolled at the Friedman School on at least a half-time basis (6 to 8.5 semester hour units (SHUs) for on-campus students and 3 semester hours (SHUs) for the MNSP program) are eligible for financial aid. No federal or institutional funds are available to international students. Please be in touch with the Tufts Office of Financial Aid at 617-636-6574 to discuss your options; more detailed information is available at: <http://medicine.tufts.edu/About-Us/Administrative-Offices/Financing-Your-Graduate-Education/Types-of-Financial-Aid/Financial-Aid-Policies-and-Deadlines>. **Important to note:** A Friedman School student that has graduated and is still completing their Simmons University requirements is NOT eligible for financial aid from Tufts. Friedman School graduates still completing their course requirements at Simmons University are eligible for Financial Aid from Simmons University.

4. How do I apply?

Under accreditation procedures Friedman School students must apply formally to the Simmons University Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) Certificate program for which Simmons University will waive the application fee. Friedman School students must follow application procedures set forth by the College of Natural, Behavioral, and Health Sciences. Tufts students seeking to qualify for dietetic internship programs by taking coursework at Simmons University must agree, at the time of initial enrollment, to take a minimum of seven (7) nutrition undergraduate courses at Simmons University. A comparison of current course offerings at the Friedman School and Simmons University is included via the ["Curriculum" tab](#). Only the Simmons University nutrition courses for which there are no Friedman School equivalent course, as shown in Table 3 featured in the "Curriculum" tab, are eligible for the discounted tuition rate arranged with Simmons University. Additionally, all Friedman School students accepted to Simmons University for the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) Certificate program must adhere to Simmons University's policies and procedures and grading (Simmons University requires students to earn a minimum grade of C for its undergraduate science courses, and minimum grade of B- for its nutrition and statistics undergraduate courses), which are detailed in the Simmons University's Nutrition Student Guide. Please note the Friedman School has a higher grading minimum requirement (B minus) for any required Friedman School courses for degree programs.

Steps to complete and submit an admissions application to the Office of Admissions at Simmons University:

1. Students should apply and be accepted to an eligible degree program at the Friedman School. After payment of the Friedman School nonrefundable tuition deposit, students may apply to the Simmons University DPD Certificate through the Simmons University application designating themselves as a Tufts affiliate. To facilitate sharing your credentials that you submitted with your Friedman School admissions application such as your official transcript and letters of recommendation, etc., with Simmons University you need to complete this online authorization form: <https://engage.simmons.edu/register/authtosinfo>.

2. At any time after committing to the Tufts program, complete the [Simmons University Application to the DPD](#). Be sure to identify yourself as a Tufts affiliate on the application.
 - **Deadline for consideration of September admission is July 1st at 4:30 PM (EST)**
 - **Deadline for consideration of January admission is November 1st at 4:30 PM (EST)**
 - You will be provided with a discount code to enter in the application to waive the application fee.
 - Please **direct questions to**:
 - The Simmons University Nutrition Department (617-521-2718) if they are about the DPD courses or the Certificate
 - The Simmons University Office of Admissions (617-521-2605) if they are about the application process
3. The following materials must be submitted with your Simmons University application:
 - You will need to submit a **personal statement** in the online application. In 500 words or less, please explain why you wish to obtain the Certificate and why you have chosen Simmons University to do so. Also submitted online is a current resume with the most recent information on academics, employment, health care and observational experiences, and any additional experiences that demonstrate community involvement.
 - **Three letters of recommendation** (each in sealed, signed envelopes) from individuals able to comment on the student's academic ability, work experience, and leadership potential are required. Two letters should be from faculty and one from a current employer. All recommendations should be written on preprinted, official letterhead stationery with original inked signatures; NO emails, faxes, or photocopies are accepted.
 - **All official transcripts** from colleges and universities previously attended. Transcripts must be received by Simmons University the 4:30 p.m. admissions deadline to be considered on time. If you attended a university abroad, Simmons University will need sealed/stamped copies of academic records, in the native language and an official English translation. While you have submitted these credentials to Tufts, unfortunately, Simmons University cannot accept photocopies or "copies issued to student" as they must have the official transcripts on file for both University and ADA accreditation purposes. If you have already taken Simmons University courses, Simmons University will obtain that transcript.
 - TOEFL is required for all non-native speakers of English who did not graduate from a regionally accredited college or university.
4. TOEFL is required for all non-native speakers of English who did not graduate from a regionally accredited U.S. college or university.
5. **Please submit all paper materials to:**

The College of Natural, Behavioral, and Health Sciences Admissions Office
Simmons University
300 The Fenway
Boston, MA 02115

All application materials must be received by the above admissions deadline dates and time for consideration for designated entry dates.

Once you have been accepted to the Simmons University DPD program, please email Dr. Lynne Ausman (lynne.ausman@tufts.edu) and Friedman School's Registrar (nutritionregistrar@tufts.edu) to self-identify and indicate the semester and year that you were admitted to Simmons University. You will then be added to the Friedman School's Simmons University DPD Program eList until you graduate from the Friedman School.

Simmons University will submit a consolidated bill to Tufts each semester for all Friedman School students enrolled, and Tufts agrees to pay the consolidated invoice within thirty (30) days of receipt. Tufts will be solely responsible for seeking payment from its graduate students while they are matriculated at the Friedman School.

Friedman School students taking Simmons University courses will be subject to all of Simmons University policies and procedures, including but not limited to those policies regarding deadlines (e.g., drop/add dates and course withdrawal rules), grievances regarding grading, and honor code violations (i.e., academic dishonesty). Tuition refund for dropping courses will be structured according to Simmons University's policy.

Simmons University will provide reasonable accommodation for disabled Friedman School students, provided such students notify Simmons University in writing of their needs at the time of enrollment. Such requests should be directed to Disability Services at 617-521-2474.

Contact information is listed below for the Friedman School and for Simmons University:

Friedman School Contact Persons

Lynne M. Ausman, DSc, RD
Professor of Nutritional Biochemistry
617-636-3712
Lynne.Ausman@Tufts.edu

Marny Lyn Mitchell, MLA.
Associate Director of Admissions
Friedman School, Tufts University
617-636-0864
Marny.Mitchell@Tufts.edu

Simmons University Contact Persons

Kathrina Prelack, PhD, RD
Assistant Professor of Nutrition
617-521-2709
Kathrina.Prelack@Simmons.edu

Simmons University Office of Admissions
School of Nursing and Health Sciences
617-521-2605
<mailto:SNHS@Simmons.edu>

Tufts / Simmons University DPD Corresponding Coursework

1. All the courses listed below must be completed in order to earn the Certificate. However, aside from the seven required Simmons University DPD courses listed in Table 3 below, coursework can be completed at different institutions. The following tables categorize courses according to where they can or must be taken.
2. If you are preparing to take a course requirement at someplace other than the preapproved courses at Tufts, **and you are an accepted student at Simmons University**, please send the syllabus to our Simmons University liaison, Dr. Kathrina Prelack, for preapproval.
3. No online laboratories accepted. Minimize online and community college courses to enhance chances of gaining an internship when applying. Lab courses require a minimum of 2 hours of lab/week.
4. There are recency limits. All nutrition courses, Anatomy and Physiology I and II, and Biochemistry must be taken within 5 years of entering the DPD program. If taken outside of 5 years but less than 10 years, students may choose to take a competency examination to place out of these courses. All other courses have a 10-year recency limit.

TABLE 1 - BASIC SCIENCE COURSES THAT CAN BE TAKEN AT TUFTS OR OTHER INSTITUTIONS

The courses listed in Table 1 are not included with the Tufts/Simmons University DPD discounted tuition rate and will require out-of-pocket tuition unless enrolling in a Friedman School course equivalent listed below or cross-registering at Tufts Medford campus in the fall or spring (tuition is billed for cross-registration at Tufts Medford campus in the summer). If you identify an alternate equivalent course at the Tufts Medford campus, Simmons University advanced approval is required.

Tufts Course #	Simmons University Course Information		
	Course #	Course Name*	Pre-requisites
	BIOL 113	General Biology with Lab	none
	CHEM 111 OR 113	Inorganic Chemistry with Lab	none
	BIOL 231 BIOL 232	Anatomy & Physiology I with Lab Anatomy & Physiology II with Lab	BIOL 113 BIOL 231
NUTR 206 & NUTR 309 OR NUTR 207 & NUTR 307 OR NUTB 250 & NUTB 350	MATH 118	Introductory Statistics	none
	CHEM 112 OR 114	Organic Chemistry with Lab	CHEM 111 OR CHEM 113
	BIOL 221	Microbiology with Lab	BIOL 113
	CHEM 223	Introduction to Biochemistry	CHEM 112/ CHEM 114

For courses that require Labs, Lab sessions must be a minimum of 2 hours/week. Online labs are NOT accepted.

Anatomy & Physiology I and/or II with Labs can be taken elsewhere including from Simmons University but you will need to pay for the corresponding tuition. All courses should be approved in advance of enrollment by Simmons University's Dr. Kathy Prelack.

TABLE 2 - OTHER REQUIRED DPD COURSES (COURSES THAT CAN BE TAKEN AT TUFTS)

The courses listed in Table 2 are not included with the Tufts/Simmons University DPD discounted tuition rate and will require out-of-pocket tuition unless enrolling in the Friedman School course equivalent listed below or cross-registering at Tufts Medford campus in the fall or spring (tuition is billed for cross-registration at Tufts Medford campus in the summer). If you identify an alternate equivalent course at the Tufts Medford campus, Simmons University advanced approval is required.

SIMMONS UNIVERSITY COURSE INFORMATION			
Tufts Equivalent Course #	Course #	Course Name	Pre-requisites
NUTR 202 OR NUTR 245 & NUTR 246	NUTR 111 OR 112	Intro to Nutrition	none
NUTR 370 & NUTR 371 OR NUTR 315 OR NUTB 205 & NUTB 305	NUTR 311	Nutrient Metabolism	CHEM 223, NUTR 111
NUTR 203 OR NUTB 206 AND NUTR 228 OR NUTB 227	NUTR 237	Community Nutrition	NUTR 111 OR NUTR 112
NUTR 203 OR NUTB 206 AND NUTR 228 OR NUTB 227 plus Community Practicum# (See Table 3)	NUTR 381	Adv. Community Nutrition	NUTR 237
NUTR 204 or NUTB 204	NUTR 390	Senior Seminar	NUTR 112, Math 118

NOTE: Simmons University will provide students with the competency requirements and procedures to submit documentation to verify that they have met the competencies in the courses listed above in Table 2.

TABLE 3 - NUTRITION COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR DPD
(COURSES TO BE TAKEN AT SIMMONS UNIVERSITY)

Only the courses listed in Table 3 below are included with the Tufts/Simmons University DPD discounted tuition rate.

SIMMONS UNIVERSITY COURSE INFORMATION				
Tufts Course #	Course #	Course Name	Pre-requisites	Semester
No equivalent	NUTR 201	Adv. Food Science with Lab (4 credits)	NUTR 111 OR NUTR 112	Fall
No equivalent	NUTR 248	Food Prod/Serv Systems (4 credits)	None	
No equivalent	NUTR 301	Dietetics Profession (1 Simmons University credit)	None	
No equivalent	NUTR 380 [#]	Community Practicum (1 or 2 Simmons University credits)	Friedman School Courses: NUTR 203 OR NUTB 206 AND NUTR 228 OR NUTB 227 (Can be taken concurrently with NUTR 380)	
No equivalent	NUTR 249	Leadership in Food Service Management (4 credits)	NUTR 248	Spring
No equivalent	NUTR 331	Practice of Clinical Dietetics with Lab (4 credits)	NUTR 111 OR NUTR 112	
No equivalent	NUTR 334	Medical Nutrition Therapy* (6 credits)	NUTR 311, BIOL 231 & BIOL 232	

* NUTR 334 is a 6-credit course. NUTR 301 is a 1-credit course. All other courses (with or without Lab) are 4 credits unless otherwise noted. NUTR 331 should be taken concurrently with NUTR 334.

[#] NUTR 380 is a required community practicum of at least 60 hours to fulfill the final requirements for NUTR 381 (Table 2). A comprehensive report (Simmons University will provide detailed specifications) to accompany NUTR 380 is also required. This community practicum effort will be reflected as enrollment in either a 1-credit course (for those with already established community placements that have prior approval from Simmons University) or a 2-credit course (for those seeking placement by Simmons University). These tuition charges will be included in your bill. The course will be listed on your Simmons University transcript upon completion. Simmons University will bill you even if your Friedman School internship qualifies for community practicum.

- In addition, there are two required social science courses; one should be in sociology or psychology.
 - It is recommended that science courses be taken at 4-year institutions if possible.
- Be sure to check the most updated Simmons University course catalog as course offerings may change each semester: <https://aarc.simmons.edu/schedule>.