



The Didactic Program in Dietetics at The University of Texas at Austin is currently granted Accreditation by the Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), Email: ACEND@eatright.org, Mail: 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995, Phone: (800) 877-1600 ext.5400.

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Introduction

The University of Texas at Austin offers a *Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)* for students who are interested in becoming a registered dietitian. Student who complete the DPD program and earn or have earned a bachelor's degree will receive a verification statement issued by the DPD Program Director that will qualify them to apply to supervised practice programs (SPP). In addition to completing the DPD program, a competitive applicant for an SPP will have a strong GPA, and a combination of volunteer and work experience in the core areas of dietetics: clinical, community, and foodservice management. DPD graduates who complete a SPP up until January 1, 2024 are eligible to write the national registration examination of the Commission of Dietetic Registration to become Registered Dietitians (RD) and may become active members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. As of January 1, 2024 there will be an additional requirement of a master's degree. The DPD Program Director is Diane Papillion, MPH, RD.

Program Mission and Goals

The mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics at The University of Texas at Austin is to provide excellent academic preparation of students from all backgrounds and perspectives for admission to dietetic internships and/or graduate school through integration of science-oriented education and professional preparation for dietetics practice. This program seeks to develop in students an awareness of economic, social, cultural and psychological influences on behavior necessary for promotion and maintenance of nutritional well-being among individuals and groups in the community. Guidance in critical thinking and evidence-based analysis of current research are combined with scientific and managerial principles to promote skills needed to create and evaluate sound nutritional care.

Program Goal 1: - Program graduates will demonstrate the core knowledge, critical thinking skills, and technical expertise needed for acceptance into ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs and/or graduate study.

Objectives:

1. At least 80% students complete the program requirements within three years (150%) of the program length.
2. At least 60% of program graduates apply for admission to a supervised practice program prior to or within 12 years of graduation.
3. Of program graduates who apply for admission to a supervised practice

- program, at least 60% are admitted within 12 months of graduation.
4. At least 90% of DPD graduates who apply to a graduate program, either alone or combined with a SPP, upon graduation will be accepted for admission.

Program Goal 2: Program graduates will perform competently in a supervised practice program and successfully complete the CDR credentialing exam to become an entry-level registered dietitian.

Objectives:

1. At least 90% of program graduates enrolled in a supervised practice program, responding to a survey, will rate their preparation “good” or better using a 5-point scale, where 3 is “good”, in five of seven area.
2. At least 90% of supervised practice program directors responding to a survey will rate program graduate’s preparation for supervised practice as “good” or better using a 5- point scale, where 3 is “good.”
3. The program’s one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%.
4. Mean scaled score of graduates sitting for the Registration Examination for Dietitians will be above the national mean for the total exam, and the nutrition and foodservice management sections.

Annual program outcome data is available upon request.

Curriculum and Verification Statement

The DPD program is one of two Dietetics degree options within the Department of Nutritional Sciences. The following link provides the suggested coursework for completing the DPD degree program at The University of Texas at Austin.

<http://www.cns.utexas.edu/degree-checklists>

Verification Statement

Requirements to earn a verification statement are to complete the suggested coursework for the DPD degree program and to have successfully demonstrated competence in all the required KRDNs (2022 ACEND Standards). See *Evaluation* in the Didactic Program Policies for further policy on the process of how KRDNs are tracked per student.

The verification statement is adjusted, as needed, based on changes that are made to the degree program. Students are required to complete the verification coursework that aligns with their year of selecting the DPD degree option. The current and past DPD course requirements can be found at: <https://he.utexas.edu/ntr/dietetics/didactic-program-in-dietetics/curriculum>

Transfer Students

When transfer students are admitted to UT at Austin the office that works with transfer students will determine what courses transfer to UT equivalents. The transfer student then may have their transcript evaluated by the DPD Program Director to determine the classes they need to complete.

If a student has already been awarded a bachelor degree, they are allowed to complete just the required verification statement coursework as a nondegree-seeking student.

The DPD curriculum is designed so the student progresses from pre-major or supporting coursework to the core dietetics curriculum. Admission to the DPD program requires the student to be in good academic standing within the University (GPA greater than 2.0) A grade of “C-” in prerequisite courses is required in order to progress in the DPD program. The DPD curriculum ensures that the Knowledge Requirements for Nutrition and Dietetics (KRDN) are adequately covered, in order to prepare students for supervised practice programs. Upon completion of the DPD program and successful demonstration of competence in all the required KRDNs (2022 ACEND Standards), graduates earn a verification statement.

Credit for Prior Experience:

The DPD program does not grant undergraduate course credit for prior experience.

Credit Through Testing and Prior Course Credit:

Students may be able to receive credit for certain courses through testing. Information about the process can be found at: <https://testingservices.utexas.edu/credit>

To receive credit for prior courses taken go into the UT course catalog to see if the course descriptions match up, using this link for automated transfer equivalency on the UT admissions website: <http://www.utexas.edu/student/admissions/ate/> Then provide a syllabus for each course when you are ready to petition for it.

Foundation Knowledge Requirements and Learning Outcomes

Domain 1: Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice: Integration of scientific information and translation of research into practice.

KRDN 1.1 Demonstrate how to locate, interpret, evaluate and use professional literature to make ethical, evidence-based practice decisions.

KRDN 1.2 Select and use appropriate current information technologies to locate and apply evidence-based guidelines and protocols.

KRDN 1.3 Apply critical thinking skills.

Domain 2: Professional Practice Expectations: Beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviors for the nutrition and dietetics practitioner level of practice.

KRDN 2.1 Demonstrate effective and professional oral and written communication and documentation.

KRDN 2.2 Describe the governance of nutrition and dietetics practice, such as the Scope of Practice for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Nutrition and Dietetics.

KRDN 2.3 Assess the impact of a public policy position on nutrition and dietetics practice.

KRDN 2.4 Discuss the impact of health care policy and different health care delivery systems on food and nutrition services.

KRDN 2.5 Identify and describe the work of interprofessional teams and the roles of others with whom the registered dietitian nutritionist collaborates.

KRDN 2.6 Demonstrate cultural humility, awareness of personal biases, and an understanding of cultural differences as they contribute to diversity, equity and inclusion.

KRDN 2.7 Describe contributing factors to health inequity in nutrition and dietetics including structural bias, social inequities, health disparities and discrimination.

KRDN 2.8 Participate in a nutrition and dietetics professional organization and explain the significant role of the organization.

KRDN 2.9 Defend a position on issues impacting the nutrition and dietetics profession.

Domain 3: Clinical and Customer Services: Development and delivery of information, products and services to individuals, groups and populations.

KRDN 3.1 Use the Nutrition Care Process and clinical workflow elements to assess nutritional parameters, diagnose nutrition related problems, determine appropriate nutrition interventions and develop plans to monitor the effectiveness of these interventions.

KRDN 3.2 Develop an educational session or program/educational strategy for a target population.

KRDN 3.3 Demonstrate counseling and education methods to facilitate behavior change and enhance wellness for diverse individuals and groups.

KRDN 3.4 Practice routine health screening assessments, including measuring blood pressure and conducting waived point-of-care laboratory testing (such as blood glucose or cholesterol).

KRDN 3.5 Describe concepts of nutritional genomics and how they relate to medical nutrition therapy, health and disease.

KRDN 3.6 Develop nutritionally sound meals, menus, and meal plans that promote health and disease management and meet client's/patient's needs.

Domain 4: Practice Management and Use of Resources: Strategic application of principles of management and systems in the provision of services to individuals and organizations.

KRDN 4.1 Apply management theories to the development of programs or services.

KRDN 4.2 Evaluate a budget/financial management plan and interpret financial data.

KRDN 4.3 Demonstrate an understanding of the regulation system related to billing and coding, what services are reimbursable by third party payers, and how reimbursement may be oriented.

KRDN 4.4 Apply the principles of human resource management to different situations.

KRDN 4.5 Apply safety and sanitation principles related to food, personnel and consumers.

KRDN 4.6 Explain the process involved in delivering quality food and nutrition services.

KRDN 4.7 Evaluate data to be used in decision-making for continuous quality improvement.

Domain 5: Leadership and Career Management: Skills, strengths, knowledge and experience relevant to leadership potential and professional growth for the nutrition and dietetics practitioner.

KRDN 5.1 Perform self-assessment what includes awareness in terms of learning and leadership styles and cultural orientation and develop goals for self-improvement.

KRDN 5.2 Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge and experiences relevant to the position desired and career goals.

KRDN 5.3 Practice how to self-advocate for opportunities in a variety of settings (such as asking for needed support, presenting an elevator pitch).

KRDN 5.4 Practice resolving differences of dealing with conflict.

KRDN 5.5 Promote team involvement and recognize the skills of each member.

KRDN 5.6 Demonstrate an understanding of the importance and expectations of a professional in mentoring and precepting others.

Academic Calendar

The DPD Program follows the academic calendar for the University of Texas at Austin. The academic calendars can be found at:

<https://registrar.utexas.edu/calendars>

Didactic Program Policies

The DPD Program adheres to the University policies and procedures for undergraduate academic integrity. The policies and procedures are found in Chapter 11 of the *Institutional Rule on Student Services and Activities*. Found at:

<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sa/downloads/InstRulesCh11.pdf>

Academic Policy:

Upper division courses require a "C-" or better in prerequisite courses. Students are able to retake a course with a grade below a "C-". When they retake a course for a higher grade, UT averages the two grades together for GPA purposes.

If students drop below a 2.0 GPA, he/she is put on scholastic probation and has to sign a grade contract that specifies what he/she needs to do in order to continue the following semester. Individual professors can send out warning notifications to students who are

not performing well in classes. Advisors can see these notifications in the Advisors Toolkit and can then discuss what is going on with the student to possibly identify ways to improve the performance, or offer suggestions on where to seek help. Further information can be found at: <http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/academic-policies-and-procedures/scholastic-probation-and-dismissal/>

Evaluation:

Faculty members are free to develop their own methods of evaluating the performance of students in their classes, both undergraduate and graduate, but they are required to make the methods of evaluation to be used known in writing before the end of the fourth class day each semester and the second class day each summer term.

Responsibility for assuring adequate methods of evaluation rests with departmental faculties and is subject to administrative review. In courses with multiple sections, departments should provide for necessary coordination.

Materials used in evaluating a student's performance must be collected by the instructor at or before the regularly scheduled final examination. The final examination is a common method of final evaluation in courses.

ACEND-required Knowledge Requirements:

The DPD Program Director tracks individual DPD student progress for successful demonstration of the knowledge and skills dictated by the KRDNs. Faculty are able to indicate if students demonstrated success on the Learning Activities linked to the KRDN through the Canvas LMS. An outcomes success or failure criteria is built into each key learning activity rubric. The DPD Program Director is able to record the outcome for individual students. Satisfactory completion of all designated KRDN outcomes is required to earn a verification statement.

The DPD Program Director will monitor DPD student progress of satisfactory completion of KRDNs at the end of each semester. Students are able to verify completion of the KRDNs with the DPD Program Director.

Retention and Remediation:

Undergraduate students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 to remain in good academic standing with the University. Upper division courses in the Department of Nutritional Sciences require a "C-" or better in prerequisite courses. Students are able to retake a course with a grade below a "C-". When they retake a course for a higher grade, UT averages the two grades together for GPA purposes.

The University of Texas has several support services available for students: The Sanger Learning Center: <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/slc>

The Undergraduate Writing Center: <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>

Termination Policy:

Disciplinary/termination procedures: <http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/student-services/discipline/>

Graduation Requirements:

Degree-seeking students must satisfy the degree option requirements and all other University requirements in order to graduate.

Program Completion and Verification Statement Requirements:

The program does not have a limit on the time necessary to complete the requirements. Students are encouraged to progress through the program in a timely manner. Program completion and verification statement requirements are located at: <https://he.utexas.edu/ntr/dietetics/didactic-program-in-dietetics/curriculum>

A minimum of four upper division nutrition courses must be taken in residence at the University of Texas at Austin. All courses listed must be completed with a grade of “C-” or better.

Tuition and fees:

http://www.utexas.edu/business/accounting/sar/t_f_rates.html

Withdrawal and refund of tuition and fees: available at: <http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/academic-policies-and-procedures/withdrawal/>

Student Support Services:

Services for Students with Disabilities:

<http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/>

Health Services: <https://www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu/>

Mental Health: <http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/student-services/counseling-and-mental-health-center/>

Testing: <http://www.ctl.utexas.edu/studenttesting/welcome-to-student-testing-services/>

Financial Aid: <http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/student-services/student-financial-services/>

Grievance Procedures:

The DPD Program as undergraduate curriculum adheres to the University grievance policy. The policy of the University states that course complaints are to be dealt with at

the instructor level and if not resolved move to the Department Chair, and on to the Academic Dean if not resolved within the Department. Specific Program complaints are handled by the DPD Program Director.

Student Grievance Procedures are available in the University Catalog at <http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/student-services/student-grievance-procedures/>

UT Policy on Protection from Retaliation for Reporting Suspected Wrongdoing: <https://www.utsystem.edu/sites/policy-library/policies/uts-131-protection-retaliation-reporting-suspected-wrongdoing>

If students have complaints concerning the DPD program and have exhausted all avenues with the program and the University, then the student may submit a complaint directly to ACEND.

120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190
Chicago, IL 60606-6995
312.899.0040 ext. 5400
www.eatright.org

There are currently no grievances filed to ACEND for this program.

The DPD program adheres to the University privacy and records access policies. These can be found at:

<http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/educational-records/>

and: <http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/educational-records/>

Insurance and Liability:

Insurance requirements, including those for professional liability:

<http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/registration-tuition-and-fees/tuition-and-fees/student-insurance/>

Liability for safety in travel to or from assigned areas:

Students are expected to provide their own transportation to and from sites assigned for course activities as necessary. Travel to off campus sites is minimal and well within the Austin city limits. The University assumes no liability for their safety during this travel.

Equity and Inclusion

The DPD program supports the adheres to the policies promoted through the Office of Inclusion and Equity.