



University of Arkansas

Student Handbook

Didactic Program in Dietetics

Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural Food and Life Sciences

School of Human Environmental Sciences



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS.

**Dale Bumpers College of
Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences**
School of Human Environmental Sciences



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Human Nutrition and Dietetics at the University of Arkansas

Accreditation Status: The University of Arkansas Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) is continuously accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND or the Academy).

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995
Phone: 800/877-1600 (ext. 5400)
Phone: 312/899-0040 (ext. 5400)
<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend>

The Didactic Program in Dietetics at the University of Arkansas is currently granted full accreditation status by the Accreditation for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

The DPD Program at the University of Arkansas is operating under the 2017 ACEND Accreditation Standards.

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<https://human-environmental-sciences.uark.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/human-nutrition-dietetics.php>

School of Human Environmental Sciences Main Office
118 HOEC
479-575-4307
<https://human-environmental-sciences.uark.edu/index.php>

Becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)

Overview of Process

The process of becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) (same as Registered Dietitian or RD) involves three steps:

- **Completion of a minimum of a bachelor's degree** at a US regionally accredited university or college and course work accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND®) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The DPD Program at the University of Arkansas is this first step. Upon successful completion of the DPD Program, students are issued a verification statement. This statement is required for entrance into an ACEND–accredited supervised practice program/dietetic internship.
- **Completion of an ACEND®-accredited supervised practice program** at a health-care facility, community agency, or a foodservice corporation or combined with graduate studies. Typically, a practice program will run six to 12 months in length (or longer if graduate studies are included in this step).
- **Pass a national examination** administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). For more information regarding the examination, refer to CDR's website at www.cdrnet.org.
- **Following registration, RDNs are required to complete continuing professional educational requirements** to maintain registration.

Effective January 1, 2024, the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) will require a minimum of a master's degree to be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN). In addition, CDR requires that individuals complete coursework and supervised practice in program(s) accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). In the state of Arkansas, graduates also must obtain licensure to practice. Graduates who successfully complete the ACEND-accredited DPD Program at the University of Arkansas are eligible to apply to an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program. For more information about educational pathways to become an RDN please visit <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancingeducation/information-for-students>

Applying to Dietetic Internships (Supervised Practice Programs)

Seniors in their final semester and qualified graduates of the DPD Program may apply to ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs (dietetic internships) in the spring or fall. This is typically completed through a computerized matching process administered by D&D Digital (www.dnddigital.com). This process is very competitive. There are over 250 programs/internships in the United States and Puerto Rico and most of these programs use the Dietetic Internship Centralized Application Process (DICAS) system. <https://portal.dicas.org/> The ACEND website is an excellent source of additional information regarding the application process, computer matching and the supervised practice programs. <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend>

Nutrition and Dietetic Technician Registered (DTR/NDTR)

Graduates of the University of Arkansas DPD Program are able to take the registration examination for dietetic technicians (DTR/NDTR) without having to meet additional academic or supervised practice requirements. DTRs work in a variety of work settings and are often in flexible roles that navigate between food service and clinical nutrition care, working independently or as a team member under the supervision of registered dietitians in a variety of employment settings, including health care, business and industry, community/public health, foodservice and research.

<https://www.cdrnet.org/certifications/dietetic-technician-registered-dtr-certification>

Licensure of Dietitians

Most states, including Arkansas, have licensure laws for registered dietitians. Registration and licensure serve to protect the public and to assure professional education and preparation of registered dietitians. For information on how to become licensed in the state of Arkansas or for additional tools and resources from the Arkansas Dietetics Licensing Board, please visit their website at: <http://www.ardieteticslicbrd.net/index.html>

University of Arkansas DPD Mission, Goals and Objectives

Mission of the University of Arkansas DPD Program:

The mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) is to produce students for supervised practice leading to eligibility for the CDR credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist who will serve their patients/clients with professionalism and leadership in diverse areas of practice in Arkansas, the United States and the world.

DPD Program Goals and Objectives:

Goal 1: The program will prepare DPD graduates with the foundational technical knowledge and communication skills to be competent for entry into supervised practice, other post-graduate programs and for careers in nutrition services for individuals and families in the state of Arkansas and beyond.

Outcome Objectives:

- 1.1 At least 80% of program students will complete the requirements to receive a verification statement of DPD program completion within 6 years (planned program length is 4 years).
- 1.2 65% of DPD graduates will apply to dietetic internships/supervised practice before or within 12 months of graduation.
- 1.3 75% of DPD graduates applying to dietetic internships/supervised practice programs are admitted within 12 months of graduation.
- 1.4 The DPD program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of their first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for registered dietitian nutritionists will be at least 80%.

1.5 85% of the DPD graduates who complete a dietetic internship/supervised practice will be rated as having met or exceeded performance expectations as indicated by Dietetic Internship (DI) Director Survey results.

1.6 85% of the DPD graduates will rate their overall preparation in human nutrition and dietetics as having met or exceeded expectations

Goal 2: The program will prepare graduates to be active professionals exhibiting characteristics of professionalism, leadership, and service to the profession of nutrition and dietetics and their community.

Outcome Objectives:

2.1 90% of Dietetic Internship Directors will agree that DPD graduates met or exceeded expectations for professionalism and leadership as indicated by DI Director Survey results.

2.2 50% of program graduates responding to alumni survey will report participation in professional and/or community service activities.

2.3 50% of program graduates responding to alumni survey will recognize the importance of professionalism and service through their participation in Nutrition and Dietetics professional local, state, and/or national groups and/or through service to the profession through service as a mentor to students/interns.

Program outcomes data are available upon request. Please contact Mechelle Bailey at mlb13@uark.edu or 479-575-6726 for details.

The Program

Human Nutrition and Dietetics Curriculum

Students who are preparing to become registered dietitian nutritionists (RDN) will major in Human Nutrition and Dietetics (HNAD). The other option within the School of Human Environmental Sciences (Food, Nutrition and Health, FNAH) does NOT meet the undergraduate curricular requirements for becoming a registered dietitian nutritionist.

The HNAD Degree check sheet can be found on the School of Human Environmental Sciences website at: <https://bumperscollege.uark.edu/resources/pdf/-checksheets-degree-plans/2018-2019/18-19-hnadbs.pdf>

The 8-Semester degree completion check sheet can also be found on the School of Human Environmental Sciences website at: <https://bumperscollege.uark.edu/resources/pdf/-checksheets-degree-plans/2018-2019/18-19-hnadbs-8sdcp.pdf> . The 8-Semester Degree Completion plan shows one sequencing of courses that will result in completion of the program in 4 years, taking into consideration prerequisites/co-requisites and which courses are offered fall semesters or spring semesters only.

Current courses descriptions are found in the University of Arkansas course catalog on the UA website at <http://catalog.uark.edu/undergraduatecatalog/> .

The Human Nutrition and Dietetics curriculum is structured so that courses build upon one another. It is critical to maintain the proper sequence of courses so that prerequisites are

met. Academic and faculty advisors will advise students so to maintain proper sequencing, however, each student is responsible for understanding and following the degree requirements.

DPD Program Admission Requirements

At this time, the requirements for admission to the DPD Program (HNAD major) are the same as the requirements for admission to the University of Arkansas.

Program Progress

Students taking freshman (1000) or sophomore (2000) level courses will receive an early progress grade at approximately the midterm of each semester in addition to an end-of-semester final grade for each course taken at the University of Arkansas. Students in the Didactic Program in Dietetics are required to meet with an academic advisor at least once each semester to discuss degree progress and to plan for the selection of courses for the following semester.

Students in academic jeopardy will be identified by the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences and asked to participate in the College's Academic Enhancement Program: <https://bumperscollege.uark.edu/programs/academic-enhancement-program/>

Students not performing well in the program will be counseled regarding career paths that may be more suited to their abilities.

Students are subject to the University's policies on academic progress: <http://catalog.uark.edu/undergraduatecatalog/academicregulations/academicprobationsuspensionanddismissal/>

Integrity and U of A Student Handbook

The Didactic Program in Dietetics follows the University's policies on academic integrity and student conduct.

The University of Arkansas upholds academic integrity as foundational to appropriate conduct within the university setting. The Academic Integrity Policy is found here: <http://honesty.uark.edu/policy/>

The Code of Student Life outlines student conduct and disciplinary policies that pertain to students and student organizations at the University of Arkansas. <http://handbook.uark.edu/code-of-student-life/student-conduct/index.php>

Program Completion

All program graduates will receive a Verification Statement from the DP Director after the Registrar's officially confirms the degree/program completion. Students have access to their records and graduates have access to their verification statements upon request.

Minors

Minors can certainly be added to the degree plan. However, special care must be taken to assure that the proper sequencing of courses is maintained. While a minor in Human Nutrition is available, it is not available for those students majoring in Human Nutrition and Dietetics (or in Food, Nutrition and Health). A listing of minors available at the University of Arkansas is here:

<http://catalog.uark.edu/undergraduatecatalog/fieldsstudy/#fieldsalphabeticallytext>

Transfer Students and Assessment of Prior Learning for Undergraduates

Undergraduate students planning to transfer to the University of Arkansas to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Environmental Sciences with a major in Human Nutrition and Dietetics (HNAD) will apply through the Office of Admissions (<https://admissions.uark.edu/apply/transferstudent.php>). The Registrar's Office will determine which courses will transfer directly into the U of A. Any courses not directly transferring will be evaluated by the respective department for that course. Should any dietetics courses need evaluation, the DPD Director will be responsible for completing that evaluation. This may require syllabi and/or assignments/projects completed which reflect student learning outcomes. It is expected that students will take NUTR 4263/4273 (Medical Nutrition Therapy I & II), NUTR 4213 (Advanced Nutrition), NUTR 4103 (Research Methods in Nutrition) and NUTR 4223 (Life Cycle Nutrition) at the University of Arkansas. No course credit is given for prior work experience.

Students wishing to self-evaluate course work taken at another regionally accredited institution or currently enrolled students who wish to take courses at another institution can view the transfer course equivalency by searching the [Transfer Course Equivalency Guides](#). If the course is not listed, consult with an academic advisor to ensure the course will transfer directly to the University of Arkansas.

Assessment of Prior Learning for Post-Baccalaureate Students and International Students

Students who have successfully completed a Bachelors degree and are seeking to return to college and pursue the pathway to becoming a registered dietitian nutritionist may be eligible to complete only the DPD coursework (and any associated pre/co-requisites). Please make an appointment with the DPD Director to discuss specifics by emailing mlb13@uark.edu or by phone at 479-575-6726. Transcript evaluations are good for one year.

International students will also need to submit a formal course-by-course evaluation/transcript evaluation from an ACEND approved agency. Please refer to information from the ACEND website: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/information-for-students/foreign-degree-evaluation-agencies>

Honors

The University of Arkansas has a distinguished history of honors studies that dates back to 1954, when the honors program in the College of Arts and Sciences was established. Since that time, the University has expanded the honors experience to students in all disciplines, tailored to their specific majors. Incoming DPD students who have an ACT score of at least 28 and a high school GPA of at least 3.50 are invited to apply for admission to the Bumpers College Honors Program. Current and transfer students with no more than 62 hours completed and a college GPA of at least 3.50 are also invited to apply for admission to the Bumpers College Honors Program. DPD students will complete research or a creative project in a variety of areas related to nutrition as a component of their honors experience. Additional information can be found here:

<https://bumpershonors.uark.edu/index.php>

Study Abroad

Various study abroad opportunities are available through a variety of sources, including faculty lead study abroad programs, ranging in length from a few weeks to full semesters. Full semesters abroad must be planned carefully to allow maximum utilization of credit hours earned abroad as well as to minimize impact upon DPD course sequence. See the University of Arkansas's Study Abroad website at <https://studyabroad.uark.edu> and the Bumpers College International Programs website at <https://bumpersinternational.uark.edu> for additional information.

Tuition and Fees

Educational expenses at the University of Arkansas will vary according to a student's course of study, personal needs and place of residence. Tuition rates are approved by the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees in the spring of each year so estimates may not reflect the new rates for a future term. Tuition and fees are charged per credit hour. ID and new student fees will be assessed to all undergraduate students their first term on campus. Tuition and college fees are determined by a student's college of record for the term. Detailed information about tuition is available at [Fayetteville Policy 511.0](#) and about fees at [Fayetteville Policy 511.1](#). The University of Arkansas provides a tuition and fees estimation calculator on the Treasurer's Office website: <https://treasurernet.uark.edu/Estimator.aspx> Information regarding withdrawal and refund of tuition and fees and other academic regulations can be found on the UA Treasurer's website.

<https://treasurernet.uark.edu/withdraw.aspx>

UA Housing

University housing information is posted on their website at <https://housing.uark.edu> . Information regarding dining on campus options is listed here

https://housing.uark.edu/campus_communities/dining_rates.php .

Scholarship and Financial Aid Information

Scholarship and financial aid information can be found at <https://bumperscollege.uark.edu/future-students/scholarships.php> .

Program Costs

DPD specific fees include expenses associated with required courses (approximate costs):

Physical and Biological Science courses may have additional costs associated with laboratory components of those courses such as lab goggles (variable costs).

NUTR 2111L (1 hour) Principles of Foods Lab. Students will need a lab coat (estimated cost of \$35) and closed toed, non-skid shoes (variable cost).

Incidental costs involved with other class projects will vary.

Optional costs include membership dues for the Student Dietetic Association (\$5/semester) and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Student Membership (\$60/year).

Applications for dietetic internships will include the following:

D&D Digital Computer Matching fee is \$55

DICAS (Dietetic Internship Centralized application System) fee is \$45 for first application and \$20 for each additional application

Application fees to dietetic internships and/or graduate programs can vary; please refer to individual program websites for complete information.

Knowledge Requirements for DPD Students

The University of Arkansas DPD operates under the 2017 ACEND Accreditation Standards listed below:

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

Knowledge

Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

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

KRDN 1.2 Use 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 professional dietitian nutritionist level of practice.

Knowledge

Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

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 Nutrition and Dietetics Practice and the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Nutrition and Dietetics; and describe interprofessional relationships in various practice settings.

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 in the delivery of food and nutrition services.

KRDN 2.6 Demonstrate an understanding of cultural competence/sensitivity.

KRDN 2.7 Demonstrate identification with the nutrition and dietetics profession through activities such as participation in professional organizations and defending a position on issues impacting the nutrition and dietetics profession.

KRDN 2.8 Demonstrate an understanding of the importance and expectations of a professional in mentoring and precepting others.

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

Knowledge

Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

KRDN 3.1 Use the Nutrition Care Process to make decisions, identify nutrition-related problems and determine and evaluate nutrition 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 Explain the processes involved in delivering quality food and nutrition services.

KRDN 3.5 Describe basic concepts of nutritional genomics.

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.

Knowledge

Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

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

KRDN 4.2 Evaluate a budget and interpret financial data.

KRDN 4.3 Describe the regulation system related to billing and coding, what services are reimbursable by third party payers, and how reimbursement may be obtained.

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

Describe safety principles related to food, personnel and consumers.

KRDN 4.5 Analyze data for assessment and evaluate data to be used in decision-making for continuous quality improvement.

Additional Information for DPD Students

Academic Calendar

The official calendar of the academic semester dates and deadlines for the University of Arkansas is found here: <https://registrar.uark.edu/academic-dates/academic-semester-calendar/>

Academic Advising

The mission of Bumpers College Advising is to enhance the educational experience and maximize opportunities for students in the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences. Students with fewer than 60 hours are assigned to an academic advisor. Students' academic advisor's contact information is listed on their [UAConnect](#) Student Center screen. After completing 60 credit hours, students are assigned to a faculty advisor. All DPD students (or potential students) are encouraged to visit with the DPD Director. Please email mlb13@uark.edu or phone 479-575-6726 for an appointment. Please see the Bumpers College Advising and Student Services website for additional details regarding the advising process: <https://bumperscollege.uark.edu/current-students/advising.php>

Protection of Privacy of Student Information (FERPA)

Students' Rights to Privacy are found on the University of Arkansas website at <http://registrar.uark.edu/studentrecords/ferpa/>

Access to Personal Files

Students at the University of Arkansas have specific rights regarding the information the institution is keeping. Information regarding the access to records can be found on the website at <https://registrar.uark.edu/student-records/ferpa/ferpa-for-students.php>

Verification of Student Identity in Online Testing or in Large Classes

In large class sections, students may be required to show their student ID card on examination days to verify their identity before submitting their exam. For those classes utilizing online testing, students are required to log into Blackboard using their uark.edu account and password.

Student Support Services

A variety of academic resources exists at the University of Arkansas to ensure student success. Please visit the following sites for details.

*Class+: <https://class.uark.edu/>

• Physical and Psychological Health Services: <http://health.uark.edu/>

- Center for Educational Access: <http://cea.uark.edu/>
- Financial Aid: <http://financialaid.uark.edu> 3 Academic Calendar: <http://registrar.uark.edu/765.php>

DPD Student Complaint Policy

- The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) follows the University policy for Student Academic Appeals to resolve student complaints. The University policy may be located at <https://catalog.uark.edu/undergraduatecatalog/academicregulations/studentacademicappeals/>. As stated in the policy, students should first seek to resolve concerns through informal discussions. Specifically, grievances surrounding academic matter should begin with the student's instructor. Students may also seek to discuss the matter with the DPD Program Director, however if informal discussions do not reach a satisfactory resolution, then the student may pursue a grievance according to the University policy.
 - This DP Student Complaint Policy is made available to students in the NUTR 1201 Introduction to the Dietetics Profession course, as well as in academic advising and in the DPD Student Handbook located at http://human-environmentalsciences.uark.edu/academics/undergraduate-studies/human-nutrition-hospitalityinnovation/Dietetics_Interactive_Student_Handbook_2.pdf.
 - A chronological record of all student complaints is maintained by the Program Director, as required by ACEND.
 - The chronological record of all student complaints is available for inspection during ACEND on-site evaluation visits (e.g. site visitors) upon request.
 - Students may submit complaints directly to the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) only after all other options for resolving complaints with the Dietetics Program and the University of Arkansas have been exhausted, according to ACEND policy (<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/public-notice-and-announcements/filing-a-complaint-with-acend/procedure-for-complaints-against-accredited-programs>).
- Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190 Chicago, IL 60606-6995 (312) 899-0040 x5400 Email: ACEND@eatright.org.