



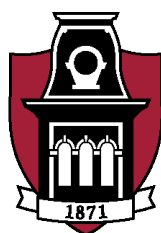
University of Arkansas

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

Welcome

The University of Arkansas has been graduating outstanding students in the area of nutrition and dietetics for over 100 years. The University of Arkansas's Nutrition and Dietetics Education Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND). Students graduating from the DPD will be eligible to apply to ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs (dietetic internships). This handbook contains information about the pathway to a career in dietetics as well as the University of Arkansas DPD Program.

Accreditation Status: The University of Arkansas's Nutrition and Dietetics Education Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. ACEND establishes standards for dietetics education programs. The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) has been accredited since 1975 and completed a successful full review in 2019-2020 and is fully accredited through 2028. The DPD Program at the University of Arkansas is operating under the 2017 ACEND Accreditation Standards. For more information, contact:

Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics
120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995
Phone: 312-899-0040 (ext. 5400)
<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend>

Contact Information:

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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
479-575-4306
<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 ACEND. Upon completion of the Human Nutrition and Dietetics (HNAD) degree at the University of Arkansas, students will also earn a DPD verification statement and are then eligible to apply for an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program/dietetic internship.
- **Completion of an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program** consisting of at least 1000 hours of supervised practice. Typically, this step will run six to 12 months in length (or longer if graduate studies are included in this step). The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville does not offer an ACEND-accredited dietetic internship.
- **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.

NOTE: Effective January 1, 2024, CDR will require a minimum of a master's degree to be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become an RDN.

For more information about educational pathways to become an RDN please visit <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/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; DI). There are various types of supervised practice programs all leading to qualification to sit for the exam. The majority of DPD students at the University of Arkansas apply to either a DI or MS-DI program. The tuition and/or fees associated with supervised practice programs will vary greatly. Please note many/most of these programs are unpaid and may not offer stipends.

Dietetic Internship (DI): A stand-alone program designed for DPD graduates offering the required number of supervised practice hours (1000 hours). Applications are through the computerized matching process.

Dietetic Internship with a Master's Degree (MS-DI): Offers a master's degree plus the required number of supervised practice hours (1000 hours). Some of these programs may offer the MS degree in an online format. Applications are through the computerized matching process.

Master's Coordinated Program (MS-CP): Similar to the MS-DI, students earn a master's degree in addition to the required number of supervised hours (1000 hours); however, the application process is different in that applications are directly to the program.

Future Graduate Program (FG): This supervised practice program is accredited under a different set of standards which are being piloted through ACEND as the new format of dietetics education. FG programs include a master's degree (or doctorate) in addition to the required number of supervised hours (1000 hours).

The successful completion of the HNAD degree and the earning of the DPD verification statement does not guarantee placement into an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program.

The application program utilized for dietetics is the Dietetic Internship Centralized Application Process (DICAS) system (<https://portal.dicas.org/>) and the computerized matching process is administered by D&D Digital (www.dnddigital.com). The competition for placement in a supervised practice program is great. Students may apply to as many programs as desired, but will only receive one match. While the DPD Director will assist students in the application process it is the student's responsibility to complete the process. There is not a limit to the number of times you can apply for supervised practice programs. 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

Currently most states have statutory provisions regulating the profession of dietetics or the use of titles such as "dietitian or nutritionist". Registered Dietitians also must obtain licensure to practice. 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:

<https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/arkansas-dietetics-licensing-board1>

University of Arkansas DPD Mission, Goals and Objectives

The **mission** of the 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 complete program/degree requirements within 6 years (150% of the program length).
- 1.2 65% of program graduates apply for admission to a supervised practice program prior to or within 12 months of graduation.
- 1.3 75% of program graduates are admitted to a supervised practice program within 12 months of graduation.
- 1.4 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%.
- 1.5 85% of the program graduates who complete a dietetic internship/supervised practice will be rated as having met or exceeded performance expectations as indicated by DI Director Survey results.
- 1.6 85% of the program 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 and Information

Program outcomes data are available upon request. Please contact Mechelle Bailey at mlb13@uark.edu for details.

The Program

Human Nutrition and Dietetics Curriculum

Students who are preparing to become a RDN will major in Human Nutrition and Dietetics (HNAD). The other nutrition-related major within the School of Human Environmental Sciences (Food, Nutrition and Health, FNAH) does **NOT** meet the undergraduate curricular requirements for becoming a RDN. All students in the HNAD major must earn a grade of “C” or higher in the core curricula which includes all courses with the NUTR or HOSP prefix. Additionally, students must earn a grade of “C” or higher in all science courses (CHEM and BIOL prefixes). Students not earning a “C” or higher must repeat the course until a “C” or higher is earned. Please note that many courses are only offered once per year and as such, repeating a course (or courses) may delay graduation.

HNAD Check Sheet

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-8sdc.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 course descriptions are found in the University of Arkansas course catalog on the U of A website at <http://catalog.uark.edu/undergraduatecatalog/>.

The required 120 credit hours that compromise the Human Nutrition and Dietetics (HNAD) curriculum are structured so that courses build upon one another. It is critical to maintain the proper sequence of courses so that prerequisites are met. Please note that some courses are offered only once a year. Academic and faculty advisors will advise students so as 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.

Knowledge Requirements for DPD Students & Remediation Plan

The University of Arkansas DPD operates under the 2017 ACEND Accreditation Standards. As such, it is expected that students will obtain competence for each of the ACEND-specified knowledge requirements and student learning outcomes. Individual student achievement is continually monitored according to the KRDN Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) Assessment Plan. Learning activities to monitor achievement of the KRDNs are found within the DPD professional courses with each course listing the specific KRDNs covered in the syllabus. Students who are unable to meet the standard minimum performance will be identified and an individualized remediation plan will be developed and

instituted. If the student cannot achieve the core competencies, then they will be counseled to identify an alternate degree/career path.

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 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.

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 serving as a preceptor to others.

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 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.

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.

Program Progress & Remediation Plan

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 DPD 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. Please see the listing of resources for enhancing academic success here:

<https://bumperscollege.uark.edu/student-services/index.php>

All students in the HNAD major must earn a grade of “C” or higher in the core curricula which includes all courses with the NUTR or HOSP prefix. Additionally, students must earn a grade of “C” or higher in all science courses (CHEM and BIOL prefixes). Students not earning a “C” or higher must repeat the course until a “C” or higher is earned. Please note that many courses are only offered once per year and as such, repeating a course (or courses) may delay graduation. Students not performing well in the program will be counseled regarding alternate 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/>

Academic Integrity and U of A Student Handbook

The DPD 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 DPD Verification Statement from the DPD Director after the Registrar’s Office officially confirms the degree/program completion. This DPD Verification Statement will have an authenticated digital signature and the document will be “locked” to prohibit any editing after signing. Verification statements will be emailed to graduates within 4-6 weeks of graduation/program completion. Official copies of each student’s DPD verification statement is kept on file permanently by the DPD director at the University of Arkansas.

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 HNAD or FNAH. A listing of minors available at the University of Arkansas is here:

<http://catalog.uark.edu/undergraduatecatalog/fieldsofstudy/#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 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(s) for that course. Should any dietetics courses need evaluation, the DPD Director will be responsible for completing that evaluation. This may require transfer students to provide syllabi and/or assignments/projects completed from the transferring institution 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. Please note that the time to graduation may be lengthened by transferring from another institution or when changing majors.

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 (<https://courseequivalency.uark.edu/>). 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 Bachelor's degree and are seeking to return to college and pursue the pathway to becoming a RDN 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. 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/international-students>

Bumpers Honors College

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):

Optional costs include membership dues for the Student Dietetic Association (\$5/semester) and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Student Membership (\$58/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 \$50 for first application and \$25 for each additional application
- Application fees to dietetic internships and/or graduate programs can vary; please refer to individual program websites for complete information.

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 for an appointment. Please see the Bumpers College Advising and Student Services website for additional details regarding the advising process: <https://bumperscollege.uark.edu/student-services/index.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.

- Physical and Psychological Health Services: <http://health.uark.edu/>
- Center for Educational Access: <http://cea.uark.edu/>

- Financial Aid: <http://finaid.uark.edu>
- Academic Calendar: <https://registrar.uark.edu/academic-dates/3-year-academic-calendar/index.php>
- Class + : <https://class.uark.edu/>

DPD Student Complaint Policy

a. The 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.

b. This DPD Student Complaint Policy is made available to students in the NUTR 1201 Introduction to the Dietetics Profession course, as well as in academic advising.

c. A chronological record of all student complaints is maintained by the Program Director, as required by ACEND.

d. The chronological record of all student complaints is available for inspection during ACEND on-site evaluation visits (e.g. site visitors) upon request.

e. Students may submit complaints directly to 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-notices-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.