



**Martin-Gatton**  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

Department of  
**Dietetics and Human Nutrition**

# **Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)**

## **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment  
University of Kentucky  
203 Funkhouser Building  
Lexington, Kentucky 40506-0054**

The Didactic Program in Dietetics at the University of Kentucky is currently granted Accreditation by the Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606, Phone number (800) 877-1600 or (312) 899-0040.

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome! This document is designed to assist current and potential students in exploring the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) in the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition (DHN) at the University of Kentucky (UK). The DPD (Option A) at UK provides an academic curriculum that meets the standards for dietetics education and is designed to prepare students to become a credentialed Registered Dietitian (RD)/Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). These two credentials are used synonymously.

Students in the DPD pathway get to learn from a team of nutrition and dietetics experts in a variety of practice settings through classroom, paid, and volunteer opportunities. Our curriculum provides the foundational knowledge in the core areas of dietetics including medical nutrition therapy, community nutrition, and food service systems management. Students can gain hands-on research experience by working with faculty in state-of-the-art food and nutrition assessment labs and in the community. Additionally, our department offers students the chance to expand their knowledge of food behavior and health practices internationally through faculty-led education abroad programs to Greece, Italy, Costa Rica, and Portugal.

When choosing a DPD program, students must consider the highly competitive scenario in acquiring acceptance into a supervised practice program. Completion of the didactic curriculum provides students with their verification statement and eligibility to apply for a post-baccalaureate supervised practice experience (dietetic internship or supervised practice program) which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), either concurrent or following completion of a master's degree. After completing these requirements, students are eligible to take the Commission of Dietetic Registration (CDR) Examination to earn the RD/RDN credential.

For additional information, contact the DPD director.

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## **PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY**

The philosophy of the DPD at UK is based on the belief that the dietitian is the food and nutrition expert and that nutrition is an important basis of the health and well-being of all human beings functioning in society.

The program supports a learning environment that encourages students to become active learners, use problem-solving skills, create innovations, and continue to seek new learning opportunities. We recognize that each student has individual and unique differences in levels of learning. The faculty will provide experiences that develop individual independence, critical thinking, initiative, creativity, maturity and self-reliance for entry into the profession. The program will provide an environment for individuals to develop professional attitudes and instill standards of ethical professional practice by working with dietitians who serve as role models. Graduates of the DPD are expected to provide quality nutritional care with concern and awareness of individual needs.

The mission of the DPD is to provide a quality undergraduate experience of education, research, and service using a comprehensive evidence-based program in food, nutrition, and management that will prepare students for supervised practice leading to eligibility for the CDR credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist.

The philosophy and goals of the DPD are consistent with the high ethical standards and the philosophy and goals of DHN, the Martin-Gatton College of Food, Agriculture and Environment (M-G CAFE), and the University.

**Link to University Vision, Mission, Plans and General Information**

<https://pres.uky.edu/strategic-plan>

**Link to the Academy of Nutrition of Dietetics which includes information pertaining to the dietetics profession and the Code of Ethics:** <https://www.eatrightpro.org/>

## PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The DPD prepares students to function in entry-level positions in hospitals, primary and long-term care facilities, school and university food service, food systems operations, public health departments, health promotion and wellness agencies. Annual program outcome data is available upon request; email the DPD director for this data.

**Goal 1:** Prepare graduates for acceptance to, and success in, a supervised practice program leading to eligibility for the CDR credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist by providing opportunities for graduates to develop dietetics core knowledge, enhance their understanding of research, and participate in service activities to benefit their community.

### **Goal 1 objectives:**

1. "At least 80% of program students complete program requirements within 3 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 months of graduation."
3. "Of program graduates who apply to a supervised practice program, at least 50% are admitted within 12 months of graduation."
4. "The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of the first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%."
5. At least 70% of program graduates will receive "satisfactory" ratings or higher in relation to their overall dietetics knowledge and skills, as reported by dietetic internship directors, graduate professors, or employers within 12 months of graduation.
6. At least 75% of program graduates will report "satisfactory" ratings or higher in their understanding of research within 12 months of graduation.
7. At least 50% of program graduates will report participating in service activities to benefit their community within 12 months of graduation.

**Goal 2:** Graduates of the dietetics program will have a positive impact on the community, patients and employers by providing meaningful nutrition education, research and/or service experiences to enhance the well-being of people.

### **Goal 2 objectives:**

1. At least 70% of program alumni will report "yes" regarding their perception of positively impacting the community, patients, and employers through their work.
2. At least 70% of supervised practice program directors will report "yes" regarding their perception of the program graduate having a positive impact on the community, patients, and employers through their work.
3. At least 70% of employers will report "yes" regarding their perception of the program graduate having a positive impact on the community, patients, and employers through their work.

## DIDACTIC PROGRAM IN DIETETICS CORE KNOWLEDGE

During the four years of the DPD, students will engage in learning experiences that satisfy the standards to acquire the core knowledge established by ACEND and integrate this knowledge into mastery of the knowledge requirements. A graduate of the DHN DPD will possess Core Knowledge for the Didactic Program in Dietetics:

### Core Knowledge for Didactic Curriculum Content

<b>Domain 1. Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice: Integration of scientific information and translation of research into practice.</b>	
<b>KRDN 1.1</b>	Demonstrate how to locate, interpret, evaluate and use professional literature to make ethical, evidence-based practice decisions.
<b>KRDN 1.2</b>	Select and use appropriate current information technologies to locate and apply evidence-based guidelines and protocols.
<b>KRDN 1.3</b>	Apply critical thinking skills.

<b>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:</b>	
<b>KRDN 2.1</b>	Demonstrate effective and professional oral and written communication and documentation.
<b>KRDN 2.2</b>	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.
<b>KRDN 2.3</b>	Assess the impact of a public policy position on the nutrition and dietetics profession.
<b>KRDN 2.4</b>	Discuss the impact of health care policy and different health care delivery systems on food and nutrition services.
<b>KRDN 2.5</b>	Identify and describe the work of interprofessional teams and the roles of others with whom the registered dietitian nutritionist collaborates.
<b>KRDN 2.8</b>	Participate in a nutrition and dietetics professional organization and explain the significant role of the organization.
<b>KRDN 2.9</b>	Defend a position on issues impacting the nutrition and dietetics profession.

<b>Domain 3. Clinical and Client Services: Development and delivery of information, products and services to individuals, groups and populations.</b>	
<b>KRDN 3.1</b>	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.
<b>KRDN 3.2</b>	Develop an educational session or program/educational strategy for a target population.
<b>KRDN 3.3</b>	Demonstrate counseling and education methods to facilitate behavior change and enhance wellness for individuals and groups.
<b>KRDN 3.4</b>	Practice routine health screening assessments, including measuring blood pressure and conducting waived point-of-care laboratory testing (such as blood glucose or cholesterol).
<b>KRDN 3.5</b>	Describe concepts of nutritional genomics and how they relate to medical nutrition therapy, health and disease.
<b>KRDN 3.6</b>	Develop nutritionally sound meals, menus and meal plans that promote health and disease management and meet client's/patient's needs.

<b>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.</b>	
<b>KRDN 4.1</b>	Apply management theories to the development of programs or services.
<b>KRDN 4.2</b>	Evaluate a budget/financial management plan and interpret financial data.
<b>KRDN 4.3</b>	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 obtained.
<b>KRDN 4.4</b>	Apply the principles of human resource management to different situations.
<b>KRDN 4.5</b>	Apply safety and sanitation principles related to food, personnel and consumers.
<b>KRDN 4.6</b>	Explain the processes involved in delivering quality food and nutrition services.
<b>KRDN 4.7</b>	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.**

<b>KRDN 5.1</b>	Perform self-assessment that includes awareness in terms of learning and leadership styles and develop goals for self-improvement.
<b>KRDN 5.2</b>	Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge and experiences relevant to the position desired and career goals.
<b>KRDN 5.3</b>	Practice how to self-advocate for opportunities in a variety of settings (such as asking for needed support, presenting an elevator pitch).
<b>KRDN 5.4</b>	Practice resolving differences or dealing with conflict.
<b>KRDN 5.5</b>	Promote team involvement and recognize the skills of each member.
<b>KRDN 5.6</b>	Demonstrate an understanding of the importance and expectations of a professional in mentoring and precepting others.



## CURRICULUM

The four-year curriculum leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics is delivered in accordance with the timeline the academic calendar and consists of two phases, lower and upper division.

1. Two years of basic pre-professional and general studies courses are taken at the University of Kentucky or other accredited colleges or universities. See [Program Major Sheets](#) for pre-major course requirements.
  - a. The transfer student is encouraged to receive early guidance in the first semester from their Academic Advisor, the DPD Director, and the DHN faculty.
2. The program has a structure for progression from pre-major courses to the core dietetics curriculum. A student can enter the core dietetics curriculum by achieving a GPA of 2.8 or above in the following courses CHE 104, CHE 108, BIO 148, DHN 212, and DHN 241 (See admissions policy below).
3. A grade of “D” or better in the core courses of the dietetics curriculum is required to remain in the dietetics program. In addition, students must maintain an overall GPA of a 2.4 or greater while progressing through the core curriculum. Students must also meet expectations for the Core Knowledge for Didactic Curriculum to receive a verification statement.
4. Please find the [University Academic Calendar](#) here with dates for start and end of classes, university holidays, academic holidays, and other important dates such as deadlines for adding or dropping courses. You may also contact your academic advisor, course faculty, or the DPD Director if you have questions about the Academic Calendar.

### Rationale for progression requirements:

The courses are sequenced to build on the core knowledge and skills gained at the novice level and allow students to progress to the competent level. A verification statement is given to each student upon completion of their didactic coursework requirements. The program is rigorous to give students the best possible chance for success. The requirements of students to achieve a 2.8 GPA in specific classes to progress onto major dietetics courses and to maintain an overall 2.4 GPA, and a “D” or above in all major dietetics courses/core curriculum help students to be more competitive. The program aims for at least 80% of the students to complete the program of study within four to six semesters of starting their core curriculum.

### Dietetics & Human Nutrition Admissions Policy

Admission to the University is sufficient for lower-division admission to the human nutrition & dietetics majors (pre-major coursework). However, lower-level admission to the majors or any admission to the University does not guarantee upper-division admission to either of the degree programs in the DHN Department (major coursework/core curriculum). Upper-division admission into the human nutrition or dietetics degree programs is necessary to be granted a baccalaureate degree from DHN. Students who have **attained a 2.8 or higher grade-point average in the pre- major component** required for all students in the DHN Department will be assured admission.

To be considered for upper-division admission to either the human nutrition or dietetics undergraduate degree programs, an applicant must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Enrollment at UK (Students are considered for acceptance by the Department only after acceptance by the University).
2. Completion of the pre-major component (Pre-major courses include CHE 104, CHE 108, BIO 148, DHN 212, and DHN 241) required for all students within the Department of Dietetics & Human Nutrition with a minimum pre-major coursework grade-point average of 2.8.<sup>1</sup>
3. Meet with the DHN Academic Advisor to confirm upper-division status.

Lower-division students should enroll in upper-division admission to the DPD during the spring of year 2. Application deadlines, appeals, and notification dates below are approximate. Notification will be made before priority registration begins for the following semester to allow students to register for major- level coursework that coming semester.

<b>Application Deadline<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Notification</b>	<b>Appeal</b>	<b>Deadline Notification</b>
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	October 1 <sup>st</sup>	October 7 <sup>th</sup>	One week after appeal received
February 15 <sup>th</sup>	March 1 <sup>st</sup>	March 7 <sup>th</sup>	One week after appeal received
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	August 1 <sup>st</sup>	August 7 <sup>th</sup>	One week after appeal received

### **Appeal Process**

Students with a GPA below 2.8 and who have completed all pre-major requirements may appeal for admission into the human nutrition or dietetic programs. If the Appeals Committee feels that there is persuasive evidence that personal, academic, or professional circumstances have affected a student's grades and the student shows promise for successful completion of a degree in DHN, acceptance may be granted. Materials and information necessary for the appeals process are available from the Academic Advisor.

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<sup>1</sup> A student can repeat a pre-major course to meet this GPA requirement. If a student repeats the course as one of their three University-accepted repeat options only the repeat grade will be factored into the pre-major coursework GPA. If a student repeats the course outside of the University-accepted repeat options then the course grades will be averaged and then factored into the pre-major coursework GPA.

<sup>2</sup> Students completing the required pre-major coursework (CHE 104, CHE 108, BIO 148, DHN 212, and DHN 241) before this time will automatically be granted upper-division status.

## DIDACTIC PROGRAM IN DIETETICS PROGRAM SEQUENCE

Year 1: Fall		Cr. Hrs.
<b>APE 100</b>	Issues in Ag, Food, & Environment	3
<b>CHE 104</b>	Introductory General Chemistry	3
<b>UK CORE</b>	Humanities	3
<b>UK CORE</b>	Composition & Communication I	3
<b>UK CORE</b>	Quantitative Foundations	3
<b>UK 101</b>	Academic Orientation (Optional)	1
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>15-16</b>

Year 1: Spring		Cr. Hrs.
<b>BIO 148</b>	Introductory Biology I	3
<b>CHE 108</b>	Intro to Inorganic, Organic, & Biochemistry	3
<b>DHN 212</b>	Intro to Nutrition	3
<b>DHN 241</b>	Food Service Sanitation	1
<b>SOC 101</b>	Introduction to Sociology	3
<b>UK CORE</b>	Composition & Communication II	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>16</b>

Year 2: Fall		Cr. Hrs.
<b>BIO 208</b>	Principles of Microbiology	3
<b>CLA 131</b>	Medical Terminology from Greek & Latin	3
<b>DHN 210</b>	Discovering Balance: Health & Nutrition	3
<b>PSY 100</b>	Introduction to Psychology	4
<b>STATS</b>	STA 210: Intro to Statistical Reasoning <u>OR</u> STA 296: Statistical Methods & Motivations <u>OR</u> BST 230: Statistical Thinking in Public Health	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>16</b>

Year 2: Spring		Cr. Hrs.
<b>DHN 302</b>	Principles of Food Preparation	3
<b>DHN 315</b>	Nutrition Issues in Physical Activity	3
<b>ECO 201</b>	Principles of Economics 1	3
<b>PGY 206</b>	Elementary Physiology	3
<b>UK CORE</b>	Global Dynamics	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

Year 3: Fall		Cr. Hrs.
<b>DHN 301</b>	Dietetics Practice	1
<b>DHN 311</b>	Nutritional Biochemistry	3
<b>DHN 312</b>	Life Cycle & Community Nutrition I	3
<b>DHN 374</b>	Research and Writing in Dietetics	3
<b>DHN 593</b>	Introduction to Culinary Medicine	3
<b>ELECTIVE</b>	Elective (200+ Level)	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>16</b>

Year 3: Spring		Cr. Hrs.
<b>DHN 313</b>	Life Cycle & Community Nutrition II	3
<b>DHN 346</b>	Management for Food Industries	3
<b>DHN 510</b>	Advanced Nutrition	3
<b>DHN 512</b>	Medical Nutrition Therapy I	4
<b>ELECTIVE</b>	Elective (200+ Level)	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>16</b>

Year 4: Fall		Cr. Hrs.
<b>DHN 480</b>	Dietetics Pre-Professional Practice	1
<b>DHN 514</b>	Dietetics: Counseling and Communication	3
<b>DHN 517</b>	Medical Nutrition Therapy II	3
<b>UK CORE</b>	Natural/Physical/Mathematical Sciences	3
<b>ELECTIVE</b>	Elective (200+ Level)	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>13</b>

Year 4: Spring		Cr. Hrs.
<b>DHN 342</b>	Quantity Food Production	4
<b>DHN 408</b>	Seminar in Dietetics & Human Nutrition	1
<b>ELECTIVE</b>	Elective (200+ Level)	6
<b>ELECTIVE</b>	Free Elective (Any Level)	1-5
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>12-16</b>

The academic calendar of the University can be accessed [here](#).

**Accelerated Coordinated Program:**

Students may apply to the Accelerated Coordinated Program (ACP) (Option B) the fall semester of Year 3 of the Dietetics program. The ACP provides the foundational knowledge requirements provided by the academic component of dietitian education in the form of a B.S. in Dietetics, an M.S. in Nutrition and Food Systems, and an ACEND-accredited supervised practice component. The ACP requires four semesters and two summer sessions of didactic course work at the undergraduate and graduate level prior to beginning the supervised practice program that takes place in the spring and summer of Year 5. Students in the ACP must successfully complete the didactic and supervised practice components to receive the B.S. in Dietetics, the M.S. in Nutrition in Food Systems, and a Verification Statement to sit for the RD credentialing exam. More details pertaining to the ACP application program can be found within the ACP [website](#).

Visit the DHN website for a one-page downloadable four-year-timeline for each dietetics program pathway: <https://dhn.ca.uky.edu/undergraduate-degrees>

## **DIDACTIC PROGRAM IN DIETETICS POLICIES**

### **Academic Requirements**

Students must complete the required didactic courses and professional responsibilities before becoming eligible to enter the internship match process. Upon admission to the University of Kentucky students can declare dietetics as their major and take pre-major courses, however, to progress onto the core dietetics courses (major courses) a student must achieve a 2.8 GPA or higher in the following courses: CHE 104, CHE 108, BIO 148, DHN 212, and DHN 241. Once the student has been granted admission to enroll in the major courses the student must meet the progression requirements listed below.

1. Students must achieve a grade of a “D” or higher in all courses designated as major dietetic courses. If a student does not achieve a D, options would include:
  - a. Retake the course. However, this will disrupt course sequence and delay graduation.
  - b. Withdrawal from the program.
2. Students must maintain an overall GPA of 2.4 or above to progress through the major dietetics coursework.
3. Student performance is regularly evaluated throughout the semester in any given course via exams, homework assignments and quiz grades. The student’s academic progress is reviewed each semester by the Department’s Academic Advisor. If the Academic Advisor has a concern about a student, the DPD Director will meet with the student to review the student’s progress and make recommendations. The maximum amount of time for completing program requirements is within 3 years at the time the student enrolls. The program has no policy for assessing prior learning or competence.

### **Dismissal Policy**

Dismissal from the UK DPD may occur under any of the following conditions:

- A. Unprofessional behavior as outlined in the [Code of Student Conduct](#).
- B. Violation of Automatic Termination Policies as indicated in the [UK Rights and Responsibilities](#).
- C. Student fails to maintain a GPA high enough to progress through the DPD curriculum.

### **Evaluation of Student Progress**

Periodic informal evaluation conferences will be held with the appropriate academic advisor to assist the student in developing as a dietetic professional. At the end of each academic semester, the academic advisor will evaluate the progress of each student toward meeting the goals of the program. The student’s right to privacy is carefully protected during the evaluation process.

Students enrolled in the Dietetics Program are expected to achieve a grade of a “D” or higher in all DPD core classes while maintaining an overall GPA of 2.4 or higher. Additionally, students must demonstrate competence in all areas of the didactic curriculum as indicated by ACEND’s Core Knowledge for the RD/RDN.

### **Electronic mail Account**

Each DPD student must have an established University e-mail account. E-mail will be used for announcements and general communication and students should check their e-mail at least three times per week. You may link your UK email to a private email account. Information for University email and cloud apps can be found at <https://its.uky.edu/>

### **Student Grievances**

Students attending UK have rights, and sometimes the rights afforded to them are violated. If an incident occurs where a student believes their rights have been violated, they should first review the [Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) at UK.

If a student experiences an instance where they feel their rights have been violated, they should contact the instructor or the Department Chair where the course is taught, then contact the UK [Academic Ombud Services](#). The Academic Ombud Services are available 8:00 am– 5:00 pm, Monday—Friday in 109 Bradley Hall. Walk-in visits are welcome at any time. Call-in (859-257-3737) and e-mail ([ombud@uky.edu](mailto:ombud@uky.edu)) inquiries are encouraged too. Often speaking with the well-qualified and helpful Ombud Office staff can solve a problem, and an appointment with the Ombud is not even necessary.

In addition, students can file a complaint directly through the DPD Director which activates a six-step process if needed. After a complaint is received by the DPD Director then:

Step 1: Complaint is investigated.

Step 2: Student receives a request for a meeting with the DPD Director.

Step 3: Student receives a letter stating the complaint and the students' rights and responsibilities.

Step 4: Student reports to DPD Director regarding the complaint.

Step 5: Student, DPD Director, and complainant develop a resolution plan.

Step 6: DHN Department Chair is notified of the complaint, resolution plan, and follow-up. The record of the complaint, including any resolution of complaints, is maintained for seven years by the DPD Director.

If a complaint is directly related to the DPD Director, then students are asked to meet with the Director to resolve the issue. If a resolution cannot be met, then a complaint can be made to the DHN Department Chair. All complaints are handled in a non-retaliatory and private manner between director, student, and faculty member or mentor.

Students and mentors may bring their concerns to the Department Chair or ACEND without fear of retaliation. ACEND only reviews complaints from students, faculty, and preceptors that relate to a program's compliance with accreditation standards in the interest of maintaining quality in dietetics education programs. However, ACEND will not interfere in matters of admission, such as appointment, promotion or dismissal of faculty, staff, or students. A copy of the accreditation standards and/or ACEND's policy and procedure for submission of complaints may be obtained through the [ACEND Website](#) or by contacting personnel at: The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995.

### **Protection of Privacy of Student Information**

Written policies and procedures that govern the DHN DPD comply with state and federal laws and regulations to ensure nondiscrimination and equal opportunity related to student recruitment and admission and protect students' rights. Institutional policies and procedures that impact dietetic students are available in UK's [Office for Student Success](#). Policies and procedures, including but not limited to withdrawal and refund of tuition and fees, scheduling and program calendar, protection of student privacy information, [access to personal files](#), and access to student support services can all be found through the UK website.

All distance learning courses have been vetted and approved by UK for specific instruction as online courses. As such, all courses meet the best-practice guidelines established by UK Online. Student privacy is maintained in distance learning courses by requiring students to enter a username and password unique to them, which grants only them access to course materials including grades. For online exams, ProctorU is utilized for exam proctoring to verify student identity. As well, a variety of different types of assignments are included as part of all online courses. This includes assignments requiring students to upload a video, personal dietary analysis assignments, and quizzes from a large test bank with questions randomly assigned. [OBJ]

### **Verification Statements and Declaration of Intent Forms**

Upon successful completion of the didactic requirements, the DPD director will issue the student with a Verification Statement indicating that the student has completed all coursework requirements for a didactic degree in dietetics as dictated by ACEND. These forms should be submitted to supervised practice program directors upon program acceptance, to the Academy as a part of the application to achieve active membership status, and may be requested by employers or graduate school programs. Students must meet expectations for the Core Knowledge for Didactic Curriculum to receive a Verification Statement.

If you apply to a supervised practice program(s) before your coursework is officially completed, you can request a Declaration of Intent form from the DPD director. This form serves as a substitute for the Verification Statement. Depending on the program you are applying for, you may need to submit a request for the Declaration of Intent through the Dietetic Inclusive Centralized Application Service (DICAS) system. The DPD director will receive an email requesting the appropriate documentation. Once done, DICAS will notify the applicant who will confirm accuracy and accept the form and proceed with applications.

A final Verification Statement will be awarded to the student as previously described and should be submitted to the supervised practice program director if you accept an internship.

### **Resources and Student Services**

All DPD students have access to all resources and services available at UK. These services include [Mental Health Resources](#), [University Health Services](#), [Academic Support](#), [Disability Resource Center](#), and [Financial Aid Resources](#). The Office for Student Success has several services and units providing support to the academics and well-being of students: <https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/>.

## Scholarships

The Academy offers scholarships to encourage eligible students to enter the field of dietetics. Student members of the Academy may apply for scholarships. Scholarships are also available for students participating in supervised practice programs and graduate studies. Other scholarship opportunities to support student education and professional travel are available through M-G CAFE and DHN. A student can contact the Academy Foundation at [scholarship@eatright.org](mailto:scholarship@eatright.org) for Academy Foundation scholarship information. At UK, visit [Student Financial Aid and Scholarships](#). Learn more about scholarships available in DHN [here](#).

## PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

### Volunteer and Service-Learning Activities

Dietetic students are *strongly encouraged* to participate in volunteer service-related activities to increase their competitiveness in obtaining a supervised practice program. Service is considered a practice done without receiving payment or completed as part of any course requirement.

The activities can be a combination of nutrition-related and non-nutrition related activities though seeking hours aligned with the three disciplines of food service systems management, medical nutrition therapy, and community nutrition are encouraged. Examples of activities include volunteer with a dietetic mentor, assisted living facility, hospital, church, YMCA, extension, work at a community agency, serve at a health fair, volunteer at a food bank such as God's Pantry, etc.

Learn about [student engagement opportunities](#), ask your academic advisor for a list of general volunteer activities, check the weekly DHN Digest email, and follow DHN social media platforms for volunteer activities. As you participate in service-related activities be sure to keep a list of your supervisors and contact information as you will need this type of information when you apply to supervised practice programs.

### Professional Associations

#### Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Dietetic students are expected to maintain membership in the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics \(Academy\)](#). Fees provide for a subscription to the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Students will become affiliate members by fall of year 3 in DHN 301. Student membership and organization involvement should be included on your resume and supervised practice applications.

#### Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Membership in the Academy automatically grants membership to the [Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) (KAND), the state affiliate of the Academy. KAND holds its annual meeting in the spring of each year and students are strongly encouraged to attend this professional meeting.



### **Bluegrass Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics**

Students are also encouraged to join the [Bluegrass Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) (BGAND), which meets regularly September through May. Membership information is available on the BGAND website.

### **On-Campus Opportunities**

#### **Student Dietetic and Nutrition Association**

The UK Student Dietetic and Nutrition Association (SDNA) reflects the structure of the Academy. The organization provides social and professional contacts through University and community outreach opportunities. Learn more at <https://dhn.ca.uky.edu/student-experience>

#### **Campus Kitchen at UK**

The Campus Kitchen at UK (CKUK) is a student-driven organization dedicated to reducing food waste and eliminating food insecurity. Internship, research, and volunteer opportunities are available for all DPD students. Learn more at <https://dhn.ca.uky.edu/CKUK>

#### **Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Student Ambassadors**

The M-G CAFE ambassadors are a select group of undergraduate leaders who represent the college, its mission, and programs. Ambassadors serve a one-year term where they lead campus tours, participate in panels, admission events, college fairs, and communications to support future UK students. Ambassadors gain valuable leadership, professional development, and networking experiences and receive course credit for each term of service. Learn more at <https://students.ca.uky.edu/CAFE-ambassador>

### **DHN 480 DIETETICS PRE-PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

Students working towards the attainment of the dietetics degree are required to complete at least 1 course credit hour of DHN 480: Dietetics Pre-Professional Practice. The student is required to identify a registered dietitian as their mentor and choose dietetics-related professional goals and learning outcomes to achieve a minimum of 25 supervised practice hours of experiential learning.

Together, the student and mentor are required to complete a learning contract. Students should not serve as a substitute for an employee of an organization and their projects/activities should be designed to teach the student about the purpose of the organization, the responsibilities of the mentor, and to provide the student with a general understanding of how the dietitian functions as a team member in a particular organization. The student is also required to obtain professional liability insurance from the University of Kentucky. The University of Kentucky DHN DPD does not require drug testing or a background investigation prior to a student participating in their experiential learning; however, a facility may require these and the student will be responsible for covering costs associated with such requirements. The student should be aware of other potential incurred costs such as the costs associated with transportation, the need for a lab coat, professional clothes, etc.

**Attendance**

The student is required to acquire 25 hours of experiential learning with a registered dietitian who serves as a mentor. In addition to required course attendance, the student and mentor need to discuss attendance expectations for the shadowing site. If the student is unable to attend the supervised experience due to illness or emergency, the student must notify their mentor. The course instructor must be notified if the student is unable to attend a class session. If the student cannot reach the instructor or mentor, then he/she must: 1) Call the DHN 480 course instructor; 2) leave a message at the Dietetics and Human Nutrition Office (859-257-3800); or 3) email the DHN 480 course instructor.

**Insurance**

Professional liability insurance shall be carried by the student while enrolled in DHN 480: Dietetics Pre-Professional Practice. Student liability insurance will be paid for by the department and documentation of such coverage shall be kept on file in the DHN Business Office. Liability insurance will be valid within two weeks of the start of the semester; coverage is valid for one calendar year.

A report on any accident that occurs that potentially involves legal liability on the part of the student should be filed in the DHN DPD Director's office within five (5) days after the occurrence of the accident and with the University's insurance office. The University and/or the DHN 480 program facility cannot be held liable for injuries or death that may occur in travel to or from facilities and/or university campus. Students shall be responsible for personal insurance coverage as required by state statutes.

**DHN 241 FOOD SERVICE SANITATION**

Students will complete DHN 241: Food Service Sanitation as part of their DPD coursework. The course covers principles of food microbiology, common food borne illnesses, safety standards enforced by regulatory agencies, and applied measures for the prevention of food borne diseases and other microbiological problems. The course includes the National Restaurant Association ServSafe® Certified Food Protection Manager examination. While certification is not a requirement for DPD progression, passing the exam and becoming ServSafe® Certified is valuable for acceptance to supervised practice programs. Many programs require the certification for food service systems management rotations.

## DIETETICS AS YOUR CHOSEN MAJOR

As a recipient of this handbook, you have chosen the field of dietetics to be your undergraduate major course of study at UK. What does this choice mean for you once your studies are over? The following section is designed to answer some of the questions that students pursuing a dietetics degree often have such as: What is a dietitian? What employment opportunities are available for dietitians? Why should I become an RD/RDN? What are the steps involved in becoming an RD/RDN? How do I apply to an internship? What do you do if you do not match to an internship?

### The Dietitian:

RDs/RDNs are food and nutrition experts who have met the following criteria:

- Completed a minimum of a bachelor's degree at a U.S. regionally accredited university or college and course work accredited or approved by ACEND.
- Completed an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program (dietetic internship) at a healthcare facility, community agency, or a foodservice corporation, or combined with undergraduate or graduate studies. Typically, the length of an internship program ranges from six to twelve months.
- Passed the Registration Examination for Dietitians, the national examination administered by CDR.
  - *Effective January 1, 2024, CDR, the organization that administers the credentialing exam, requires a minimum of a master's degree to be eligible to take the exam. More information can be found at <https://www.cdrnet.org/graduatedegree>*
- Complete continuing professional educational requirements to maintain registration.

Some RDNs hold additional certifications in specialized areas of practice, such as pediatric or renal nutrition, obesity management, nutrition support, sports nutrition, and diabetes education. These certifications are awarded through CDR, the credentialing agency for the Academy, and/or other medical and nutrition organizations and are recognized within the profession, but are not required. In addition to RD/RDN credentialing, many states have regulatory laws for dietitians and nutrition practitioners. Frequently, these state requirements are met through the same education and training required to become an RDN.

Some states require RDNs to be licensed before they can practice. In Kentucky and the surrounding states, licensure is available. The credential is known as "Licensed Dietitian" (LD), which signifies to other health professionals and consumers that the individuals providing nutritional care meet the standards of the state in which they practice. Licensure must be renewed every year. In Kentucky a non-dietitian with an MS in nutrition or dietetics can be certified and use the Certified Nutritionist (CN) credential. Visit the [Kentucky Board of Licensure and Certification for Dietitians and Nutritionists](#) for further information.

For more information regarding the career path to become a dietitian, visit the [Academy website](#).

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DIETITIAN**

Registered dietitians work in a wide variety of employment settings, including health care, business and industry, public health, education, research, and private practice. Examples of employment opportunities include:

- Clinical dietitian performing medical nutrition therapy as part of a hospital or other health care team
- Food service systems manager overseeing purchasing and procurement or managing teams in a hospital, school district, long-term care facility, or other location
- Performance nutrition dietitian helping athletes or military members understand the importance of nutrition for sport or activity
- Wellness program coordinator overseeing community and public health initiatives for overall well-being
- Food and nutrition consumer affairs spokesperson developing public awareness campaigns to improve population health
- Nutrition research coordinator seeking to answer critical nutrition questions through rigorous qualitative and quantitative methodologies
- And many more!

### **Reasons for Becoming a Dietitian:**

Becoming an RD/RDN is a competitive advantage in securing an employment position. Many work environments, particularly those in medical and health care settings, require that an individual be credentialed as an RD/RDN to provide nutrition recommendations. Dietitians are the only health care providers with extensive training in evidenced-based nutrition guidelines.

## **STEPS INVOLVED IN BECOMING A DIETITIAN:**

As a didactic student UK, you have already completed the first step of the process, which is enrollment in an ACEND-accredited program. While you are in your didactic program, you must maintain your GPA and are encouraged to become active in university-based and professional organizations and activities as your schedule allows. Students should start looking at potential supervised practice programs no later than year 3 to be ready for the application process year 4. Once a student is accepted into a supervised practice program, they will complete at least 1000 hours of supervised practice experience. Upon successful completion of internship requirements, students will be eligible to sit for the national dietetic registration examination. Approximately 86% of our dietetic students pass the dietetic registration exam within one year of the first attempt.

### **Applying for Supervised Practice (Internship) Programs:**

Application for a supervised practice program will usually be done towards the end of year 3 or beginning of the last semester of year 4 with the intent to begin the internship the following year. Some programs offer a graduate degree concurrent with supervised practice. Like national averages, approximately 84% of UK's DPD students match to supervised practice programs.

The following resources will be the students' best sources for up-to-date information regarding application to supervised practice programs. Students should always defer to individual supervised practice program's website content for current application policies and procedures.

- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Program Directory <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs/program-directory>
- D & D Digital [www.dnndigital.com](http://www.dnndigital.com)
- DICAS <https://dicas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>

During the first semester of year 3, students enrolled in DHN 301 are automatically enrolled in the [DPD Canvas](#) site. The academic advisor confirms if they are enrolled in the Canvas site. If not, the academic advisor provides the DPD Director with the student's linkblue ID to enroll them in the site. This resource provides extensive information on the process of:

- Applying for supervised practice programs using the DICAS system and extensive information about what DICAS is and how it works.
- Information about D&D Digital and the matching process as well as the DICAS application system is included on this site.
- The DPD Director maintains the Canvas site with input from other DPD faculty.

Each individual program sets their own application deadline. For some programs, you may be asked to complete a separate application for graduate admissions which may incur a separate fee. Be sure to review each program's website for detailed information.

Some programs accept applications on a rolling basis. Programs may begin extending offers of admission at any time during the admissions cycle. Applicant notification dates can be any date during the cycle, but the last date of notification is November 1 (fall) and March 1 (spring). All programs are expected to notify applications by these dates and applicants will need to respond to programs by certain deadlines. Once you decide to accept a program, you must email the programs that offered you acceptance to inform them of your decision as soon as possible.

### **DICAS Application Steps:**

Step 1:	Students learn about the application process and how to complete each section of the DICAS application the first semester of year 3 in DHN 301. The student is advised throughout the matching period through the Canvas site, information sessions held by the DPD director, or through individual appointments.
Step 2:	Students should research and evaluate at least three supervised practice programs to apply. Selections are based on their competitiveness and plans (Type of program - hospital, public health, or graduate school credits, length of program, number of students accepted, cost, start/end dates, and location).

	Students should assess their competitiveness by evaluating: GPA, volunteer/work experiences, and letters of reference. For letters of reference, students should ask people that know them well, and provide them with their resume, personal statement (including goals and reasons for applying), and unofficial transcripts. This helps them write a good letter of recommendation. Give them plenty of advance notice.
Step 3:	<p>Student should participate in a supervised practice program's open house to learn more about their program and to meet the director. If an internship does not offer an open house, contact the director to schedule a site visit. If you are unable to visit the supervised practice program directly, contact the director of the program and ask any questions that you may have that are not answered on their website.</p> <p>A student's letter/email/phone call can be short, but project a professional image because programs may remember the student. Site visits and program inquiries should be completed towards the end of year 3 or beginning of year 4.</p>
Step 4:	Create your DICAS account and begin completing the colleges attended and recommendations sections at least 3 months prior to the application deadline.
Step 6:	<p>Satisfy the pre-requisites for the supervised practice programs. If the program you are applying to requires you to submit GRE scores, schedule your test appointment early! Test centers grant GRE test appointments on a first come – first serve basis.</p> <p>Request required forms from DPD program director through DICAS: Declaration of Intent (for classes you have left until graduation) or Verification of Completion of Approved DPD (complete this if you have graduated)</p> <p>Request your official transcripts from the registrar. Do this in a timely manner to ensure DICAS receives your official transcript at least 10 days prior to the application deadline.</p>
Step 7:	Ensure you enter your coursework into your application. If you want to use the Professional Transcript Entry service, sign up and submit your payment.
Step 8:	<p>Check in with your recommenders to confirm they received and completed the recommendation request via email.</p> <p>Monitor your application for receipt of transcripts and letters of recommendation. Follow up with any missing items. Continue to monitor your application until your status is complete.</p>
Step 9:	Complete and submit your application to all programs you are applying.

Step 10:	<p>DICAS and the D&amp;D Digital Match System: Follow program application guidelines carefully.</p> <p>Most supervised practice programs select applicants for appointments through a matching process. All DI Applicants Must Complete a 2-step Process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apply to internships through <a href="#">DICAS</a> and pay a fee</li> <li>2. Prioritize internships with D&amp;D Digital for <a href="#">DI Matching</a> and pay a fee</li> </ol> <p>You must register and pay the fee charged by D&amp;D Digital to be able to list your priorities for internship programs to be entered into the match process.</p> <p>Each supervised practice program that you are interested in must receive your application <b>and</b> must be on your prioritized list of Internships for matching!</p> <p>Most Internships will participate in <a href="#">DICAS</a> to receive your application. For applications to Internships that DO NOT participate in DICAS, the application should be sent directly to the DI program director of the chosen program or should be sent as directed on the supervised practice program's website.</p> <p>For internships that do not participate in DICAS, submit applications to schools based on <b>the program's deadline</b> and mail by certified mail (return receipt requested). For additional information, contact the Director of the supervised practice program that you are interested in.</p>
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Refer to [this website](#) for more information regarding the Dietetics supervised practice application process. Visit the [DICAS Applicant Help Center](#) for additional guidance.

## SCHEDULE OF FEES

Cost to attend the University of Kentucky for the 2025-2026 academic year is available via [Student Account Services](#).

In 2023-2024, the costs were estimated as follows:

*Full-Time Tuition and Mandatory Fee Rates (Per Semester)*

	Academic Year 2024-2025		Academic Year 2025-2026	
Undergraduate	Resident	Non-Resident	Resident	Non-Resident
Tuition	\$6,054.50	\$16,373.50	\$6,236.00	\$16,864.50
Mandatory Fees	\$696.50	\$696.50	\$717.50	\$717.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,751.00</b>	<b>\$17,070.00</b>	<b>\$6,953.50</b>	<b>\$17,582.00</b>

Early withdraw from the University and DPD may be subject to [refund or fee liability](#).

Additional costs associated with the DPD **may** include:

Item	Justification	Estimated Cost (\$)
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Student Membership	Membership is required for DHN 301. Benefits of Academy membership include scholarship, leadership, and networking opportunities at the national, state, and local level.	\$58 per year
Bibbed apron	Students are required to purchase a bibbed apron for DHN 302 food lab coursework.	\$25
Education Abroad	Students are encouraged to participate in a DHN Education Abroad program to gain a global perspective, enhance cross-cultural understanding, and develop valuable skills for personal and professional growth.	Variable
DICAS	DICAS is the centralized application system for supervised practice programs.	\$50 for the first program you apply to and \$25 for each additional program
Textbooks	Materials for each DPD course may include textbooks and other resources to support learning.	Variable costs per semester



Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo (FNCE)	Attending FNCE is encouraged at least once to provide students with opportunities to engage with the dietetics profession. Students can apply to be a student host or apply for an Academy Foundation stipend to receive a reduced student registration fee.	\$170 plus travel, lodging, and food
Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Annual Conference (KAND ANCE)	Similar to FNCE, students are encouraged to attend the state affiliate meeting to connect with dietitians from across Kentucky.	\$60 plus travel, lodging, and food
Transportation	Some courses (i.e., DHN 480) may require transportation to an off-campus experiential learning site based on student-identified placements.	Variable
Lexington-Fayette County Health Department Food Handlers Permit	Students without a valid ServSafe® certificate will need to purchase a food handlers permit for DHN 342.	\$25
NutritionCalc Plus	Online dietary analysis software needed for DHN 593.	\$20