University of Kentucky
Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition

Didactic Programs in Nutrition & Dietetics

STUDENT HANDBOOK

School of Human Environmental Sciences
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
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.

Revised 08/20
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Goals and Objectives</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPD Core Knowledge</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Sequence</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didactic Program Policies</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Academic Requirements</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Volunteer Activities</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Professional Associations</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Evaluation of Student Progress</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Electronic mail/Gmail Account</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Scholarships</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Student Grievances</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Protection of Privacy of Student Information</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Verification Statements</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Resources</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHN 480: Dietetics Pre-Professional Practice</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Insurance</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Attendance</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Emergency Policy</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dietetics as Your Major</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Registered Dietitian</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Opportunities</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reasons for Becoming and RD</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steps Involved in Becoming a Registered Dietitian</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Applying for Supervised Practice (Internship)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs in Dietetics:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule of Fees</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) provides the academic curriculum that meets the standards for dietetics education. Completion of the didactic curriculum provides “eligibility” to apply for a supervised practice experience (dietetic internship) which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). When choosing a DPD program, students must consider the highly competitive scenario in acquiring acceptance into a dietetic internship program. Successful completion of the Didactic Program enhances the advantage for acceptance to a dietetic internship. A competitive applicant to a dietetic internship will have a grade point average (GPA) ≥ 3.5 and have a combination of volunteer and work experience in the core areas of dietetics; clinical, community, and food service management. Completion of the dietetic internship assures eligibility to write the national registration examination of the Commission of Dietetic Registration that grants use of the nationally recognized credential, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). The DPD Program office is located in room 203 Funkhouser Building on the University of Kentucky campus. The DPD Director is Dawn Brewer, PhD, RD, LD whose office is located in 209A1 Funkhouser Building.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Didactic Program in Dietetics at the University of Kentucky (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 a diverse 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 Didactic Program 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 Didactic Program in Dietetics are consistent with the high ethical standards and the philosophy and goals of the University, the School of Human Environmental Sciences and the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition.

**Link to Vision, Mission, Plans and general information**
www.uky.edu/Provost/strategic_planning/mission.htm

**Link to the Academy of Nutrition of Dietetics which includes information pertaining to the dietetics profession and the Code of Ethics:** [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org)

### PROGRAM GOALS

The Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics (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.

**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:**

- 60% of program graduates apply for admission to a supervised practice program prior to or within 12 months of graduation.

- 50% of program graduates are admitted to a supervised practice program within 12 months of graduation.

- 70% of program graduates will receive “satisfactory” ratings or higher in relation to their overall dietetics knowledge and skills as reported from supervised practice program director survey respondents while participating in a supervised practice program leading to eligibility for the CDR credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist.

- 70% of program graduates will receive “satisfactory” ratings or higher in relation to their overall dietetics knowledge and skills as reported from graduate/professional-school professors or employer survey respondents.

- 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%.

- 50% of program graduates will report participating in service activities to benefit their community.

- Of the program graduates that participated in the DHN 374 research course, 75% will report “satisfactory” ratings or higher.
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:

Of the program graduates completing the alumni survey, 60% will report “yes” regarding their perception of having a positive impact on the community, patients and employers through their work.

Of the supervised practice program director survey respondents, 70% will report “yes” regarding their perception of the program graduate having a positive impact on the community, patients and employers through their work.

Of the employer survey respondents, 70% will report “yes” regarding their perception of the program graduate having a positive impact on the community, patients and employers through their work.

Of the students completing the exit survey, 70% will report “satisfactory” ratings or higher regarding their perceived ability to perform successfully in a supervised practice program, entry-level nutrition-related position, graduate program, or a pre-professional program.

At least 80% of program students complete program/degree requirements within 3 years (150% of the program length).

DPD CORE KNOWLEDGE

During the four years of the DPD program, the 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 DPD program will possess:

Core Knowledge for the Didactic Program in Dietetics:

Core Knowledge for Didactic Curriculum Content

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>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:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KRDN 2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KRDN 2.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>KRDN 2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KRDN 2.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>KRDN 2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>KRDN 2.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>KRDN 2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KRDN 2.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. |

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. |
| KRDN 4.5 | Describe safety principles related to food, personnel and consumers. |
| KRDN 4.6 | Analyze data for assessment and evaluate data to be used in decision-making for continuous quality improvement. |
CURRICULUM

The four-year curriculum leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics is delivered in accordance to 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:
   http://www.uky.edu/registrar/Major-Sheets/MS1617/afe/diet.pdf
   
   a. The transfer student is encouraged to receive early guidance in the first semester from the Director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD), the School of Human Environmental Sciences Student Services Office, and the faculty of the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition.

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 105, CHE 107, CHE 111, CHE 113, BIO 152, 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.

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 in order 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 Department of Dietetics & Human Nutrition (major coursework/core curriculum). Upper-division admission into the human nutrition or dietetics degree programs is necessary in order to be granted a baccalaureate degree from the Department of Dietetics & Human Nutrition. Students who have **attained a 2.8 or higher grade-point average in the pre-major component** required for all students in the Department of Dietetics & Human Nutrition 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 in the University of Kentucky. (Students are considered for acceptance by the Department only after acceptance by the University of Kentucky);  
2. Completion of the pre-major component (Pre-major courses include: CHE 105, CHE 107, CHE 111, CHE 113, BIO 152, 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.*  
3. Submission of an application form to the Department of Dietetics & Human Nutrition Academic Coordinator.

*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.

Lower-division students enrolled in the Department of Dietetics & Human Nutrition should apply for upper-division admission to the Human Nutrition Program or Didactic Program in Dietetics during the semester they are completing the pre-major course work. Application deadlines are September 15th, February 15th, and July 15th. Notification will be made before priority registration begins for the following semester to allow students to register for major-level coursework that coming semester.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Deadline*</th>
<th>Notification Deadline</th>
<th>Notification Deadline</th>
<th>Notification Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 15th</td>
<td>October 1st</td>
<td>October 7th</td>
<td>One week after appeal received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15th</td>
<td>March 1st</td>
<td>March 7th</td>
<td>One week after appeal received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 15th</td>
<td>August 1st</td>
<td>August 7th</td>
<td>One week after appeal received</td>
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* Students completing the required pre-major coursework (CHE 105, CHE 107, CHE 111, CHE 113, BIO 152, DHN 212, and DHN 241) before this time will automatically be granted upper-division status.

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 the Department of Dietetics & Human Nutrition, acceptance may be granted. Materials and information necessary for the appeals process are available from the Academic Coordinator.
### Didactic Program in Dietetics

**Program Sequence**

#### Junior Fall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DHN 301</td>
<td>Dietetics Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHN 302</td>
<td>Principles of Food Preparation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHN 311</td>
<td>Nutritional Biochemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHN 312</td>
<td>Community and Lifecycle</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nutrition I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHN 374</td>
<td>Research &amp; Writing in Dietetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK Core</td>
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**Total Credits:** 17

#### Junior Spring

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DHN 346</td>
<td>Management for Food Industries</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHN 304</td>
<td>Experimental Foods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHN 313</td>
<td>Community and Lifecycle Nutrition II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHN 510</td>
<td>Advanced Nutrition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHN 512</td>
<td>Medical Nutrition Therapy I</td>
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</tbody>
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**Total Credits:** 16

#### Senior Fall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DHN 480</td>
<td>Dietetics Pre-Professional Practice</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHN 514</td>
<td>Dietetics: Counseling and Communication: Theories and Applications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHN 517</td>
<td>Medical Nutrition Therapy II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professional Support Electives</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free Electives</td>
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<td></td>
<td>UK Core</td>
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</table>

**Total Credits:** 16

#### Senior Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DHN 408G</td>
<td>Seminar in Food and Nutrition</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHN 342</td>
<td>Quantity Food Production</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free Electives</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits:** 16

The academic calendar of the University can be accessed [here](#).
**Coordinated Program:**
Students may apply to the Coordinated Program (CP) (Option B) the second semester of their sophomore year. Completion of the CP results in a BS degree in Dietetics and eligibility to take the CDR registry exam to become a Registered Dietitian. The CP program admits 12 students per class. The CP consists of two years of intensive academic, professional, and supervised practice experience. The didactic component is three semesters and the supervised practice program is completed in three sessions; spring semester, four-week summer session, and an eight-week summer session. Admission to the CP is competitive and involves an application process that includes an interview. More details pertaining to the CP application program can be found within the [CP website](#).

**DIDACTIC PROGRAM 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 105, CHE 107, CHE 111, CHE 113, BIO 152, 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. Tutorial support is available to students via the [Center for Academic Resources and Enrichment Services](#). The student’s academic progress is reviewed each semester by the Department’s Academic Coordinator. If the Academic Coordinator has a concern about a student, the Dietetics faculty will meet with the student to review the student’s progress and make recommendations.
**Termination Policy:**

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

A. Unprofessional behavior as outlined in the Code of Ethics.

B. Violation of Automatic Termination Policies as indicated in the UK Rights and Responsibilities Code Standards of Conduct.

C. Student fails to maintain a GPA high enough to progress through the DPD curriculum.

**Volunteer Activities:**

Dietetic students are encouraged to participate in service-related activities to increase their competitiveness in obtaining a dietetic internship. Service is considered a practice done without receiving payment or completed as part of any course requirement. The service activities can be a combination of nutrition-related and non-nutrition related activities. 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. Go to our website to learn about student engagement opportunities, ask your advisor for a list of general volunteer activities, check DHN bulletin boards for volunteer activities, and read the Department newsletter and emails posted to the Dietetics list serve. 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 dietetic internships.

**Professional Associations:**

**Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (A.N.D.)**
Dietetic students are eligible for affiliate membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (A.N.D.). Fees provide for a subscription to the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Students are encouraged to become affiliate members by fall of the first year of the DPD program.

**Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (KAND)**
Membership in the A.N.D. automatically grants membership to the Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (KAND) who holds its annual meeting in the spring of each Year.

**Bluegrass Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (BGAND)**
Students are also encouraged to join the Bluegrass Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (BGAND), which meets approximately nine times per year, September through May. Membership application forms are available from the BGAND.
Scholarships:
The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics offers scholarships to encourage eligible students to enter the field of dietetics. Student members of the A.N.D., may apply for scholarships. Scholarships are also available for students participating in dietetic internships and graduate studies. The School of Human Environmental Sciences (HES) and the Department of DHN offer several scholarships to support student education and professional travel. A student can contact A.N.D.’s Education and Accreditation Team (800/877-1600, ext. 5400 or education@eatright.org) for A.N.D. scholarship information. At UK, visit this website here. In the Department of DHN, contact the Department Chair at 859-257-3800. Information pertaining to financial aid can be obtained from Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships.
**Student Grievances:**

Students attending the University of Kentucky 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 Senate Rules. For the exact Senate Rules covering student rights see: [http://www.uky.edu/deanofstudents/student-rights-and-responsibilities](http://www.uky.edu/deanofstudents/student-rights-and-responsibilities)

If a student experiences an instance where they feel their rights have been violated, they are to first talk with the instructor or the chair of the department where the course is taught, then contact the University of Kentucky 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 and e-mail 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.

Academic Ombud Location: 109 Bradley Hall  
Telephone: 859.257-3737  
Confidential FAX: 859.257-5346  
Email address:  
ombud@uky.edu  
Website: [http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/](http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/)

Walk in visits are welcome at any time. Call-in and e-mail inquiries are also encouraged. Learn more about student rights and responsibilities.

In addition, students have the ability to 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, Director, and complainant develop a resolution plan.  
**Step 6:** DHN Department Chair and HES Director are 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 with the DHN Department Chair. All complaints are handled in a non-realtliatory and private manner between director, student, and faculty member or mentor.

Students and mentors may bring their concerns to the department head or ACEND without fear of retaliation. ACEND will review 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, 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
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 Didactic Program 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 the University of Kentucky Student Bulletin. 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 in the University of Kentucky Student Bulletin. The bulletin is only available online and is easily accessible on the University of Kentucky Registrar’s website.

All distance learning courses have been vetted and approved by the University of Kentucky 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.

**Verification Statements:**

Upon successful completion of the Didactic Program in Dietetics, the DPD program 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 the ACEND accrediting body. These verification forms should be submitted to dietetic internships directors upon acceptance to a particular dietetic internship, to A.N.D. as a part of the application to achieve active membership status, and may be requested by employers or graduate school programs.

If you apply to a dietetic internship program(s) before your coursework is officially completed, you can request a Declaration of Intent form from the DPD program director. This form serves as a substitute for the verification form. The Declaration of Intent lists the coursework that the student is in the process of completing to fulfill didactic program requirements. A final verification form will be awarded as previously described and should be submitted to the dietetic internship director if you accept an internship.
Resources:

Resources for the DPD Program include William T. Young and Medical Center libraries, computer labs throughout campus, Food Systems labs, and smart classrooms in Erikson Hall and Funkhouser Building.
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 during their 60 hours of experiential
learning. Students can however, obtain more than 60 hours of experiential learning by
registering for more than one course credit hour (60h x number of credit hours = hours of
experiential learning). The student is required to work with the mentor at the mentor’s place
of employment or facility. 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 purchase professional liability insurance from the University of
Kentucky and they must read and sign the emergency policy & procedures form. 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. 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 60 hours of experiential learning with a registered dietitian
who serves as a mentor. The student and mentor need to discuss attendance expectations. 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 preceptor, 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 and evidence of such coverage shall be kept on file in the
office of the Dietetics and Human Nutrition department. Student liability insurance may be
obtained through the University for approximately $20.00 per year. Submit checks to the DHN
administrative assistant by the second week of the semester, which is prior to commencing pre-
professional practice at a site. A report on any accident that occurs that potentially involves
legal liability on the part of the intern 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.
Emergency Policy
As a student enrolled in DHN 480: Dietetics Pre-Professional Practice, you are expected to convey the utmost care and attention when completing your duties. With this stated, please understand that accidents can still occur at your volunteer site, and it is important for you to know ahead of time what to do if an accident takes place.

IF THE ACCIDENT OR INJURY IS LIFE THREATENING:

1. **REPORT THE ACCIDENT/INJURY TO YOUR NEAREST SITE SUPERVISOR AND SEEK EMERGENCY MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY.**
2. As soon as possible, contact a representative from your insurance company and explain the accident/injury.
3. Contact the DPD Director.
4. Follow community faculty site rules/regulations on filing a report regarding the accident.

IF THE ACCIDENT OR INJURY IS **NOT** LIFE THREATENING:

1. Report the accident/injury to your nearest site supervisor and/or community faculty.
2. Warn employees around you if hazards are in the area (i.e. broken glass).
3. Contact your insurance company for authorization to seek medical attention if emergency room services are necessary.
4. Proceed to medical services if deemed necessary.
5. Contact the DPD Director.
6. Follow community-based faculty/community faculty site rules/regulations on filing a report regarding the accident.

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**UK DHN 480 Student: Sign and Return to UK DHN DPD Director**

I have read and fully understand the above DHN Dietetic Intern Supervised Practice Program Emergency Policy.

_________________________  __________________________
DHN 480 Student Signature  Date
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 the University of Kentucky. What does this choice mean for you once your studies are over? The following section of this handbook 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 RDN’s? Why should I become an RDN? What are the steps involved in becoming an RDN? How do I apply to an internship? What do you do if you do not receive an internship slot?

The Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN):

RDNs are food and nutrition experts who have met the following criteria to earn the RDN credential:

- Completed a minimum of a bachelor's degree at a US regionally accredited university or college and course work 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. The Dietetic Internship program through the Department of DHN at the University of Kentucky runs from January until July.

- Passed a national examination administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR).

- Complete continuing professional educational requirements to maintain registration.

Some RDNs hold additional certifications in specialized areas of practice, such as pediatric or renal nutrition, nutrition support, and diabetes education. These certifications are awarded through CDR, the credentialing agency for A.N.D., and/or other medical and nutrition organizations and are recognized within the profession, but are not required. In addition to 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 initials CN Certified Nutritionist. Go to...

For more information regarding the career path to become a RDN please visit the A.N.D. website.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE RD

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 nutritionist as part of a hospital or other health care team, Food Service Systems Manager, Sports Nutrition or Wellness Program Coordinator, Food and Nutrition Consumer Affair Spokesperson, Community or Public Health Nutritionist, Nutrition Research Coordinator, Food and Nutrition Program Development and many more!

Reasons for Becoming an RD:

Becoming a registered dietitian 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.

STEPS INVOLVED IN BECOMING AN RD:

As a didactic student at the University of Kentucky, 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 achieve good grades in your classes, become active in the SDNA and other University organizations and activities as your schedule allows. Think about volunteering your time in a nutrition or dietetics setting or organization, and start researching dietetic internship opportunities early! Students should start looking at potential internship programs no later than their junior year in order to be ready for the application process their senior year. Once a student is accepted into a dietetic internship program, they will complete at least 1200 hours of supervised practice experience. Upon successful completion of internship requirements, students will be eligible to sit for the national dietetic registration examination. Approximately 83% of our dietetic students pass the dietetic registration exam upon their first attempt.
Applying for Supervised Practice (Internship) Programs in Dietetics:

Application for a Dietetic Internship will usually be done towards the end of the junior year or beginning of the last semester of the senior year with the intent to begin the internship the following year. Similar to national averages, approximately 52% of the University of Kentucky’s dietetic students match to supervised practice programs (dietetic internships).

The following resources will be the students’ best sources for up-to-date information regarding application to dietetic internships. Students should always defer to individual Dietetic Internship program’s website content for current application policies and procedures.

- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics [http://www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org)
- D & D Digital [www.dnddigital.com](http://www.dnddigital.com)
- Dietetic Internship Centralized Application System (DICAS) [https://portal.dicas.org/](https://portal.dicas.org/)

During the first semester of the junior year, students enrolled in DHN 301 are automatically enrolled in the Canvas Dietetics Internship site. In addition, dietetic advisors ask each of their students if they are enrolled in the Canvas site. If not, the 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 Dietetic Internships 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.

Application Steps:
Step 1: Students learn about the application process and how to complete each section of the DICAS application the first semester of their junior year 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 select at least three dietetic internship programs to apply. Selections are based on their competitiveness and future plans (Type of program - hospital, public health, or graduate school credits, length of program, number of students accepted, cost, start/end dates, and location). Use the following website to learn about dietetic internship program [http://www.eatrightpro.org/resources/career/become-an-rdn-or-dtr](http://www.eatrightpro.org/resources/career/become-an-rdn-or-dtr). Students should assess their competitiveness by evaluating: GPA, volunteer/work experiences, and letters of reference. For letters of reference students should ask people who know you well, and provide them with their personal statement, which includes goals and reasons for applying.
Step 3:
Student should participate in a dietetic internship’s open house to learn more about their program and to meet the director. If an internship does not offer an open house then contact the director to schedule a site visit. If you are unable to visit the dietetic internship directly then contact the director of the program and ask any questions that you may have that are not answered on their website. 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 the junior year or beginning of senior year.

Step 4:
Students should research and evaluate the programs. Rank them according to the student’s priorities. Plan to apply to at least three programs. Draft a personal statement for the application. Seek help and have the letter edited at UK’s Writing Center for grammar and style and then by others the student trusts for content and professionalism. UK’s Stuckert Student Career Center can also review your personal statement.

Step 6:
Satisfy the pre-requisites for the dietetic internship 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.

Step 7:
Follow a program’s application guidelines carefully. Secure the required number of letters of reference. Be sure to provide your reference writers with a resume and unofficial transcripts to the people from whom you are requesting a reference. This helps them write a good letter of recommendation. Give them plenty of advance notice.

Step 8:
Finalize the personal statement. Edit and re-edit. Re-check application requirements. Provide telephone numbers/email where you can be reached on the Appointment Date.

Step 9:
Request required forms from DPD program director through DICAS:
- Declaration of Intent (for classes you have left until graduation)
- Verification of Completion of Approved DPD (complete this if you have graduated)
Request your official transcripts from the registrar. Do this in a timely manner to ensure DICAS receives your transcripts 10 days prior to the application deadline.

Step 10:
DICAS and the D&D Digital Match System:
Most Dietetic Internships select applicants for appointments through a matching process. All DI Applicants Must Complete a 2-step Process:

1. Apply to internships through DICAS and pay a fee
2. Prioritize internships with D&D Digital for DI Matching and pay a fee

You must register and pay the fee charged by D&D Digital to be able to list your priorities for internship programs to be entered into the match process.

Each Dietetic Internship program that you are interested in must receive your application and must be on your prioritized list of Internships for matching!

Most Internships will participate in an online Dietetic Internship Centralized Application System (DICAS) 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 dietetic internship program’s website.

For internships that do not participate in DICAS, submit applications to schools based on the program’s deadline and mail by certified mail (return receipt requested). For additional information, contact the Director of the Dietetic Internship program that you are interested in.

**SCHEDULE OF FEES**

Approximate cost to attend the University of Kentucky for the 2019-20 academic year for a Kentucky resident:

- $12,360 for tuition and fees
- $601.00 online learning rate (PER credit hour) for students with at least one on campus course,
- $570.00 online learning rate (PER credit hour) for students with no on campus courses
- $13,210 for room and board
- $1,000 for books and supplies
- $4,358 for miscellaneous and travel expenses

Approximate cost to attend the University of Kentucky for the 2019–20 academic year for an out–of–state student:

- $30,680 for tuition and fees
- $601.00 online learning rate (PER credit hour) for students with at least one on campus course
- $570.00 online learning rate (PER credit hour) for students with no on campus courses
- $13,210 for the average cost of room and board
- $1,000 for books and supplies
- $4,953 for miscellaneous and travel expenses

Early withdraw from the University may be subject to refund or fee liability.