

Nutrition Option Of the Didactic Program in Dietetics Student Handbook

Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences

South Carolina State University



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WELCOME

Welcome to the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at South Carolina State University. This Student Handbook is your primary resource for understanding program regulations, planning your course schedule and preparing for your professional career in nutrition. Students are responsible for becoming familiar with the contents of this handbook and adhering to all program, departmental, college, and university policies. The handbook should be used in conjunction with the South Carolina State University Undergraduate Catalog and Student Code of Conduct.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

The accreditation of South Carolina State University's Nutrition Option of the Didactic Program in Dietetics is accredited the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND®) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Upon request, program outcome data is available to the public, current and prospective students. A written request must be sent to Carmen Thompson, Director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics at cthomass@scsu.edu. For additional program information about ACEND please contact:

ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION IN NUTRITION AND DIETETICS (ACEND)

ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS
120 South RIVERSIDE PLAZA, SUITE 2190
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606-6995
800/877-1600 EXT 5400
EMAIL: ACEND@EATRIGHT.ORG
WEBSITE: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend>

DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

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MISSION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

DPD MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics is to prepare students for a supervised practice program with a master's degree component leading to eligibility for the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian. The learning environment is structured to promote an appreciation for lifelong learning, effective problem-solving and for service to the community and profession. Education is congruent with standards of education enunciated by the credentialing organization, including the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY DPD GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: To prepare didactic program in dietetics by emphasizing foundation knowledge and competencies in nutrition and dietetics so that graduates of the DPD program will successfully apply their undergraduate education to a dietetic internship, or other supervised practice pathway.

Objectives:

1. After acceptance into Nutrition Option of the DPD, over a five -year period, there will be an 80% completion within 2 years (100%) and 100% completion within 3 years (150%)
2. Over a five- year period, 50% of graduates will apply for an accredited supervised practice program within 12 months of graduation.
3. Over a five- year period, 10% of graduates will be accepted into an accredited supervised practice program within 12 months of graduating from Nutrition Option of the DPD.
4. Over a five- year period, 80% of graduates who take the registration examination will pass the examination on the first attempt.
5. 75% of the Dietetic Internship Director's response to a program survey of satisfaction with graduates' preparation for supervised practice will rate South Carolina State University's DPD graduates a minimum of 2 on a 3 point scale where 1 = below average, 2 = average, and 3 = above average.

Goal 2: To prepare graduates with the Nutrition Option of the DPD to assume leadership roles in professional and community organizations.

Objectives:

1. Over a five-year period, 30% of alumni will respond to surveys and will indicate that they participated in a leadership role in a professional organization.
2. Over a five-year period, 30% of alumni will respond to surveys and will indicate that they participated in a leadership role in community organizations.

PROGRAM CURRICULUM

The Bachelor of Science Degree (BS) in Nutrition and Food Management (NFM) is an integral part of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at South Carolina State University. The Nutrition Option of the Didactic Program in Dietetics is designed for students to meet the Foundation Knowledge Competencies specified by ACEND. The Core Knowledge is the basis on which the program curriculum and learning activities are built within the context of the mission and goals of the program. In addition, the degree provides a broad general education with required courses in Fine Arts, English Composition, Humanities, Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences.

The Nutrition Option of the Didactic Program in Dietetics curriculum is 130 credit hours, which is designed to be completed in four years. Students must receive a grade of “**B**” or better in each major course required on the curriculum AND on the foundational knowledge competencies by ACEND. Students who complete the Nutrition option and meet the University’s minimum GPA requirement of 3.00 will be issued five copies of their verification statement, which will enable them to apply for an (ACEND) approved supervised practice program. Upon successfully completing the supervised practice program and a master’s degree, students are eligible to take the CDR credentialing exam.

The Food Management Option curriculum is 120 credit hours, which is also designed to be completed within four years. Students must receive a grade of “**C**” or better in each major core course required on the curriculum. Nutrition and Food Management students will be involved in field experiences, especially once they are admitted to Upper Division. Some of the experiences will be completed in laboratories in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, and some will be completed in healthcare and foodservice facilities in the local area. Although this degree is similar to the nutrition option and requires some of the courses as the DPD Program, it does not satisfy the required courses necessary to become a RD/RDN. Travel will be at the students’ expense.

CURRICULUM IN NUTRITION AND FOOD MANAGEMENT OPTIONS
**Curriculum Leading of the Degree of Bachelor of Science in
 Nutrition and Food Management (Nutrition Option)
 (130 Credits)**

FRESHMAN		Credits	
First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	
_____ English 150-English Composition I	3	_____ English 151-English Composition II	3
_____ Chemistry 150-General Chemistry I	3	_____ Chemistry 152-General Chemistry I	3
_____ Chemistry 151-General Chemistry lab I	1	_____ Chemistry 153-General Chemistry lab I	1
_____ Mathematics 151-Algebra	3	_____ Speech 150-Fundamentals of Speech	3
_____ Physical Education 150 OR		_____ Mathematics 155-Intro to Math Modeling	3
_____ Military Science 101 OR		_____ NFM 102*- Nutrition and Food	3
_____ Health Education 151	2		
_____ UNIV 101	2		
_____ FCS 101 Professional Foundations*	2		
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> 16		<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> 16
SOPHOMORE			
First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
_____ Chemistry 306-Organic Chemistry I	3	_____ Biology 208-Physiology	3
_____ Chemistry 316-Organic Chemistry lab	1	_____ Biology 218-Physiology lab	1
_____ Biology 207-Anatomy	3	_____ Economics 255-Survey of Economics	3
_____ Biology 217-Anatomy lab	1	_____ Music 250 OR Art 250	3
_____ Computer Science 150	3	_____ History 250 OR 251	3
_____ Sociology 250-Intro to Sociology	3	_____ REACH ACT Course	3
_____ English 250 OR 251-World Literature	3	_____ Nutrition and Food Management	1
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> 17	_____ 201-Intro to Dietetics	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> 17
JUNIOR			
First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
_____ NFM 311-Human Nutrition	3	_____ NFM 321-Quantity Food Production	4
_____ FCS 250-African American Family	3	_____ NFM 410-Medical Nutrition Therapy I	3
_____ Biology 305-Microbiology	1	_____ NFM 308-Nutritional Biochemistry	3
_____ Biology 315-Microbiology lab	3	_____ FCS 251-Consumer Resource Mgt*	3
_____ Management 301-Intro to Mgt	3	_____ NFM 315-Nutrition II	3
_____ SOC 310-Cultural Anthropology	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> 16		<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> 16
SENIOR			
First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
_____ NFM 324-Foodservice Management	2	_____ NFM 335-Community Nutrition	3
_____ NFM 412-Medical Nutrition Therapy II	3	_____ NFM 416-Clinical Applications in Nutr.	3
_____ FCS 304-Marriage & Family*	3	_____ NFM 418-Food Science	3
_____ FCS 308-Instructional Strategies in FCS	3	_____ NFM 424-Nutrition Seminar	1
_____ Elective	3	_____ FCS 498* Professional Perspectives	1
_____ Management 304-Human Res. Mgt	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> 18	_____ Elective	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> 14

**CURRICULUM LEADING TO THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
NUTRITION AND FOOD MANAGEMENT (FOOD MANAGEMENT OPTION)
(120 CREDITS)**

FRESHMAN

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
_____ English 150-English Composition I	3	_____ English 151-English Composition II	3
_____ Computer Science 150	3	_____ Chemistry 102-Principles of Chemistry	3
_____ Mathematics 151-Algebra	3	_____ Mathematics 155-Intro to Math Modeling	3
_____ Physical Education 150 OR		_____ Speech 150-Fundamentals of Speech	3
_____ Military Science 101 OR		_____ NFM 102*- Nutrition and Food	3
_____ Health Education 151	2		
_____ UNIV 101	2		
_____ Family and Consumer Sciences 101*	2		
	<hr/> 15		<hr/> 15

SOPHOMORE

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
_____ Chemistry 150-General Chemistry I	3	_____ Chemistry 152	3
_____ Chemistry 151-General Chemistry lab I	1	_____ Chemistry 153	1
_____ Art 250 OR		_____ Family and Consumer Sciences 207	3
_____ Music 250	3	_____ Economics 255	3
_____ Sociology 250 OR Psychology 250	3	_____ History 250 or 251	3
_____ FCS 203-	3	_____ Nutrition and Food Management 210	3
_____ Elective	3		
	<hr/> 16		<hr/> 16

JUNIOR

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
_____ Marketing 300	3	_____ Marketing 303	3
_____ English 250 OR 251	3	_____ Management 304	3
_____ Family and Consumer Sciences 250	3	_____ REACH ACT Course	3
_____ Family and Consumer Sciences 251*	3	_____ Nutrition and Food Management 321	4
_____ Management 301	3	_____ Nutrition and Food Management 311 OR	
		_____ Nutrition and Food Management 307	3
	<hr/> 15		<hr/> 16

SENIOR

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
_____ Nutrition and Food Management 324	4	_____ Nutrition and Food Management 335	3
_____ Family and Consumer Sciences 304*	3	_____ Nutrition and Food Management 424	1
_____ Family and Consumer Sciences 310	3	_____ Family and Consumer Sciences 412	3
_____ Business Communications 311	3	_____ Family and Consumer Sciences 426	3
		_____ Family and Consumer Sciences 498*	1
		_____ Elective	3
	<hr/> 16		<hr/> 14

**Profession of Family and Consumer Sciences Core Courses --- Required of all Majors*

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR NUTRITION AND FOOD MANAGEMENT

NFM 102. Nutrition and Food. 3(3, 0). A study of the significance and nature of food as related to technological, psychological, and socioeconomic influences; values, standards, goals, and provisions for nutrition and food decisions and their relationship to health; and the impact of public policy on food and nutrition. Cross cultural/global concerns and career in nutrition management will also be emphasized. S

NFM 201. Introduction to Dietetics. 3(3, 0). Introduction to the profession to dietetics and responsibilities associated with dietetic professional practice. The emphasis is on development of a pre- professional portfolio, career options in dietetics and preparation for a dietetic internship. Leadership and professional career development for the dietitian is addressed through self-reflection, creation to materials for post-baccalaureate programs and job shadowing experience. Professional issues related to dietetic practice include Code of Ethics, legal credentialing and standards of Professional practice, leadership and future trends in the profession. (F,S)

NFM 210. Meal Management. 3(1, 3). This course provides principles and practice in food selection, preparation and service in conjunction with the management of human and economic resources to meet the needs and eating patterns of various groups. Emphasis centers on consumer concerns and conservation of resources affecting the nutrition of individual and families. Prerequisite: NFM 102. (F, S)

NFM 308. Nutritional Biochemistry. 3(3,0). This course illustrates biochemical processes of human nutrition metabolism. Using an integrative approach, it intertwines nutrition, biology and physiology by providing in-depth analysis of digestion, absorption, transport and intermediary metabolism of nutrients. Included is a limited presentation of clinical nutritional deficiencies with emphasis on normal vs. abnormal processes. This course also examines pathophysiology of organ systems and function in the development of nutrition-related diseases and disorders. Nutritional requirements in various diseases are studied and the impact of impaired systems on nutrient digestions, absorption and metabolism is determined.

NFM 311. Human Nutrition. 3(3, 0). The scientific basis of nutritional principles is an integral part of this course. The course encompasses the nutrients; their digestion, absorption and metabolism; and their procurement through prudent food selection. Prerequisites: C 150, C 151, or consent of instructor. (F, S) NFM 315.

Nutrition and Food II. 3 (3, 0). This course is an in- depth study of the significance of nutrients in maintaining homeostasis in the human body and investigating the interrelationships between the nutrients in metabolism. Since the science of nutrition is still evolving, the ability to understand how research impacts the dietetics profession is essential. It will enable the student studying to become a nutrition professional understand the complexity of the inter-relationship of nutrients in the human body. Prerequisite: NFM 311. (S)

NFM 321. Quantity Food Production. 4(2, 4). This is a course in the application of principles of cookery to the preparation of food in large quantity with emphasis on food planning, purchasing, storage, and service; cost, care, and use of institutional equipment. Prerequisites: junior or senior standing or consent of instructor. (S)

NFM 324. Food Service MGT. 4(2, 4). This course is a study of the problems involved in the organization and management of food services as applied to quantity food preparation; selection, arrangement and installation of institutional equipment; food service policies; and food cost and control. This course also includes an analysis and interpretation of management functions in conducting a feasibility study for establishing a food service facility. (i.e., site analysis, facilities layout, functional design and planning). Prerequisite:

NFM 335. Community Nutrition. 3(1, 3). This course emphasizes nutritional care as a part of health promotion and maintenance. It examines the relationship of the community resource structure and dynamics to the individual needs and ability to be well fed; community nutritional needs and programs; and the means of effecting change in nutritional knowledge and practice. Experiences in community nutrition programs are included. Prerequisites: NFM 311 and FCS 308, or consent of instructor. (S)

NFM 410. Medical Nutrition Therapy I. 3(3, 0). This course examines the pathophysiology of organ systems and their function(s) in the development of disease conditions. Nutritional requirements in various diseases are studied and the impact of impaired systems on nutrient digestions, absorption and metabolism is determined. Prerequisites: B 207, B 217, B 208, B 218, C 403 and NFM 311. (S)

NFM 412. Medical Nutrition Therapy II. 2(2, 0). This course is a continuation of the examination of the pathophysiology of organ systems and their function(s) in the development of disease conditions. Nutritional requirements systems on nutrient digestions, absorption and metabolism is determined. Prerequisites: B 207, B 217, B 208, B 218, C 306, C 316, C 403, NFM 311, and NFM 410. (F)

NFM 416. Clinical Applications in Nutrition and Dietetics. 3(0, 9). This course provides a variety of clinical experiences in health care facilities which complement the didactic component of medical nutrition therapy. Students will be supervised by registered dietitians and other qualified practitioners. Prerequisites: C 403; B 305; B 315, NFM 311, NFM 410; or concurrent enrollment. (S)

NFM 418. Food Science. 3(1, 3). This course consists of laboratory experiences, testing fundamental principles of food preparation and recent advances in foods; the evaluation of products and establishing standards of foods. The development of an independent research project is required. Senior standing or consent of instructor. Prerequisites: C 403, and B 305. (S)

NFM 424. Seminar in Food and Nutrition. 1(1, 0). This course requires reports based on current research, recent articles and reviews which give perspectives in food and nutrition. Prerequisites: NFM 311, NFM 410, and C 403. Senior standing. (S) 196 in various diseases are studied and the impact of impaired

POST-EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

BECOMING A REGISTERED DIETITIAN

Students must fulfill the following three major requirements to become a Registered Dietitian (RD/RDN).

1. First, students must complete all educational core requirements established by the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at South Carolina State University, and all other graduation obligations of the University. Those students enrolled in the Nutrition Option of the Food and Management Degree meet these qualifications. Completion of these academic requirements will be verified by the DPD Director who will issue a Verification Statement, a requirement for the Internship, showing that the Core Requirements have been met.
2. Second, students complete a Supervised Practice Experience which is a practical, hands-on phase, comprised of 1200 hours of supervised practice. Students compete nationally through a computer matching system. These are very competitive programs and the students accepted into these programs each year are based on overall GPA, well-roundedness, among other qualifying factors established by the program. (See information on Supervised Experience). Although SCSU does not offer a post-baccalaureate internship, faculty members provide guidance to students through the application process. Students may apply for the Dietetic Internship or Graduate Program in Dietetics during their last semester at SC State, however, students are advised to start the application process very early since it is time consuming and requires much detail.
A full listing of ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs is located on the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics – Eatrightpro website at <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs/program-directory>
After completion of the supervised practical experience (internship), students are issued another Verification Statements to indicate successfully completion of the requirements.
3. Third, students are then required to pass the National Registration Examination for Dietitians administered by the Commission of Dietetic Registration (CDR). This exam is administered by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Students are encouraged to review and sit for the exam as soon as possible after completing the Internship Program.
4. Students who successfully pass the National Registration Examination for Dietitians use the RD/RDN credential after their name, signifying their knowledge and expertise in foods, nutrition and dietetics. Registered Dietitians are required to engage in continuing professional development after obtaining the RD/RDN credential.

For information about how to become an RD, please visit.

<https://www.eatright.org/become-an-rdn> and
<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/professional-information-and-scholarships/registered-dietitian-nutritionist-fact-sheet>

Please note that acceptance into a supervised practice program is highly competitive and there are a limited number of available positions. For further information on the availability of dietetic internship positions / graduate programs in dietetics and strengthening your application, please visit the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics website at

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs/about-accredited-programs>

Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 S Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995; 800/877-1600 ext. 5400.

DIETETIC TECHNICIAN, REGISTERED (DTR) CERTIFICATION

Graduates of a DPD Program are eligible to take the Dietetic Technician, Registered Exam (*DTR*). This route to DTR is the Pathway III and can be pursued after the completion of a Didactic Program in Dietetic. South Carolina State University graduates of the nutrition option meet this required criteria. This is a suitable alternative for those who do not wish to complete a supervised practice program and master's degree to become a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist or those who are not immediately pursuing the required supervised experience. Those with a DTR Certification have a competitive option and are often employed in WIC (Women, Infants, and Children's Programs), long-term care, food service, and clinical dietetics (often working under the supervision of an RD).

For information about what a DTR is and how to become a DTR, please visit
<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/professional-information-and-scholarships/nutrition-and-dietetics-technician-registered-fact-sheet>

DIETETIC INTERNSHIP/GRADUATE PROGRAM IN DIETETICS

Application and admission processes vary depending on the program type. View the website of ACEND to view the various program types

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs/about-accredited-programs>

DIETETICS INCLUSIVE CENTRALIZED APPLICATION SERVICES (DICAS)

This is a web-based application service that simplifies the dietetics application process by allowing applicants to apply to multiple programs with one application. Visit the [DICAS Platform](#) to search for and apply to dietetics programs (DI, DP, GP, and ISPPs) of interest.

The following are helpful links from the ACEND website regarding using DICAS.

[Dietetics Traffic Rules](#)

[Applicant Help Center](#)

[Applicant Information Handout \(includes Q&A\)](#)

[Applicant Training Video](#)

[DICAS Cycle Tips](#)

[DICAS for Students and Program Directors](#)

If you need assistance with the centralized application, please contact DICAS customer support at (617) 612-2855.

Looking for a preceptor? The Find-a-Preceptor Database allows program directors and students to search for a preceptor within a certain geographical or specialty area.

[Find-a-Preceptor](#)

GRADUATE SCHOOL

For information about graduate school at SCSU, please visit [the School of Graduate and Professional Studies](#)

For information about a Master of Science degree in Nutritional Science, please visit [Master of Nutritional Sciences webpage](#)

EMPLOYMENT

For information about a career in dietetics, please visit.

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/career>

STATE LICENSURE

Forty-six states have laws regulating the practice of dietetics. South Carolina's information is available at: <https://lir.sc.gov/diet/>

ADMISSION & PERFORMANCE POLICIES

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION TO SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Office of Admission, Recruitment and Scholarships has as its primary mission the identification, recruitment, acceptance and matriculation of a distinct student population. The University is committed to the enrollment of traditional and non-traditional aged students, minority students, international, and academically trained students and to provide educational opportunities in a caring and nurturing learning environment. Please visit our website at <https://scsu.edu/admissions/index.php> for more details.

DPD ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS TO UPPER DIVISION

Minimum requirements for admission into upper division include completion of the following courses: Chemistry 150, 151, 152, 153, 306, 307, Math 151, 155, 153, Biology 207, 217, 208, 218, FCS 101, NFM 102,) with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

An application must be submitted to the Director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics one semester prior to starting the upper division coursework: **with no grade less than a “C” and a minimum curriculum GPA of 3.0 or higher.** The curriculum GPA is not the same as the overall cumulative GPA posted on the student’s transcript. The curriculum GPA is calculated using only courses that are listed on the curriculum sheet (or university approved substitutions for these courses. Students can contact their advisors at any time to check their curriculum GPA. (*Note: Students can repeat classes in which they earn grades less than a “C” to earn a higher grade. However, both grades will be factored into the calculation of curriculum GPA.*)

Application to upper division is made after the completion of the sophomore year, although students can apply during any semester in which they meet the eligibility requirements. A copy of the Upper Division application form is provided in *Appendix A* of this Handbook.

POST-BACCALAUREATE APPLICATION AND ADMISSION POLICY FOR DPD VERIFICATION STATEMENT

The purpose of this policy is to define the application and admission requirements for post-baccalaureate individuals seeking admission to the South Carolina State University (SCSU) Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) for the sole purpose of completing ACEND-required coursework and obtaining a DPD Verification Statement. This policy ensures transparent, equitable, and ACEND-compliant admission practices.

This policy applies exclusively to individuals who already hold a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution and are seeking a DPD Verification Statement through completion of required dietetics coursework at South Carolina State University. This pathway does not result in the award of an additional undergraduate degree.

This policy is aligned with: - ACEND accreditation standards related to admissions practices, student progression, and eligibility for verification statements. - South Carolina State University policies governing admission of post-baccalaureate students, transfer credit evaluation, academic standing, and student conduct.

University admission policies and ACEND standards govern where applicable. To be considered for admission to the post-baccalaureate DPD Verification Statement pathway, applicants must meet the following minimum requirements: - Completion of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university. - An overall cumulative undergraduate GPA that meets or exceeds the minimum requirement established by SCSU and the DPD. - Completion of prerequisite coursework as defined by the DPD, which may include foundational courses in chemistry, biology, anatomy and physiology, mathematics, and nutrition.

Applicants whose prior coursework does not meet prerequisite requirements may be required to complete additional coursework prior to or during DPD enrollment.

Post-baccalaureate applicants must submit the following by published deadlines: - A completed SCSU application for post-baccalaureate admission. - Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended. - A personal statement outlining professional goals and reasons for pursuing a DPD Verification Statement. - Any additional documentation required by SCSU or the DPD, such as a résumé, letters of recommendation, or prerequisite verification. Admission is competitive and contingent upon program capacity.

Applications are reviewed by the DPD admissions committee or program director using criteria aligned with ACEND standards and program goals. Admission decisions consider: - Academic preparation and prior coursework. - Cumulative GPA and performance in prerequisite courses. - Alignment of applicant goals with dietetics professional pathways. Applicants are notified in writing of admission decisions in accordance with SCSU admissions procedures.

All prior coursework is evaluated by SCSU and the DPD to determine equivalency to ACEND-required knowledge requirements. Not all previously completed coursework may be accepted toward DPD requirements. Students may be required to complete additional coursework to satisfy current ACEND standards and program curriculum requirements.

Post-baccalaureate DPD students are subject to all academic, professional, and ethical standards of the DPD and South Carolina State University. Students must: - Meet minimum course grade and GPA requirements as defined by the DPD. - Maintain satisfactory academic progress. - Comply with University academic integrity and student conduct policies. Failure to meet these expectations may result in probation or dismissal from the DPD.

Admission to the post-baccalaureate DPD does not guarantee issuance of a Verification Statement. Students are awarded a Verification Statement only after: - Successful completion of all required DPD coursework. - Meeting minimum grade and GPA requirements. - Compliance with all DPD, SCSU, and ACEND requirements.

This policy is reviewed periodically to ensure continued compliance with ACEND accreditation standards and South Carolina State University admission and academic regulations. Revisions may be made as necessary to reflect changes in accreditation or institutional policy.

DISCIPLINARY AND TERMINATION POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to define the disciplinary and termination processes used by the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at South Carolina State University (SCSU) when a student fails to maintain the academic, professional, or ethical standards required to receive a DPD Verification Statement and to matriculate into a supervised practice program following completion of the DPD. This policy ensures due process, transparency, and alignment with Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) standards and SCSU academic regulations.

This policy applies to all students enrolled in the ACEND-accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics at South Carolina State University. It governs disciplinary actions, probation, remediation, and termination from the DPD based on academic performance, professional conduct, and academic integrity.

This policy is aligned with: - ACEND accreditation standards requiring programs to clearly define expectations for student performance, progression, disciplinary action, and eligibility for verification statements. - South Carolina State University academic regulations and student conduct policies governing grading, satisfactory academic progress, academic integrity, disciplinary action, dismissal, and appeals.

Where applicable, University policies take precedence, and ACEND standards guide program-specific requirements related to eligibility for supervised practice.

To remain in good standing in the DPD and to be eligible for issuance of a DPD Verification Statement, students must: - Meet SCSU satisfactory academic progress requirements, including minimum cumulative GPA standards. - Earn a grade of B or higher in all required DPD coursework, unless a higher standard is specified by the program. - Successfully complete all ACEND-required knowledge requirements. - Demonstrate professional behavior consistent with University policies and the Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession. - Adhere to SCSU academic integrity standards. Failure to meet these standards may result in disciplinary action or termination from the DPD.

A student may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination from the DPD, for reasons including but not limited to: - Failure to meet minimum academic performance or progression standards. - Repeated or unresolved deficiencies in required DPD coursework or competencies. - Unprofessional, unethical, or inappropriate conduct. - Violations of academic integrity, including cheating, plagiarism, falsification, or misrepresentation of work. - Failure to comply with remediation plans or program requirements.

The DPD utilizes a progressive disciplinary approach when appropriate, which may include the following steps:

- **Notice of Concern**

When academic or professional concerns are identified, the student is notified in writing by the DPD Program Director or designee. The notice outlines the areas of concern, applicable standards, and expectations for improvement.

- **Program Probation**

If concerns persist or performance falls below required standards, the student may be placed on program probation. Probation status is communicated in writing and specifies: - The deficiencies requiring correction - Conditions and timelines for improvement - Consequences of failure to meet probation requirements.

- **Remediation Plan**

A written remediation plan may be required and includes specific actions, performance benchmarks, timelines, and methods of evaluation. Student progress is monitored and documented throughout the remediation period.

- **Termination from the DPD**

If a student fails to meet probation or remediation requirements, or if serious academic or professional violations occur, the student may be terminated from the DPD. Termination results in loss of eligibility for a DPD Verification Statement and may preclude recommendation for supervised practice programs.

Certain violations (e.g., severe academic integrity breaches or egregious professional misconduct) may result in immediate termination without progression through all prior steps, consistent with SCSU policies.

NOTIFICATION OF TERMINATION AND VERIFICATION STATEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Students subject to termination receive written notification detailing: - The reason(s) for termination - The effective date of termination - The impact on eligibility for a DPD Verification Statement - Applicable appeal rights and procedures. Students who are terminated from the DPD are not eligible to receive a Verification Statement and may not be recommended for supervised practice programs. When a student's GPA falls below 3.0, the program director will meet with the student regarding the policy of changing the major to food management option. Students are not allowed to remain in the nutrition option with a GPA less than 3.0.

- **Appeals Process**

Students have the right to appeal disciplinary actions or termination decisions in accordance with South Carolina State University academic and student conduct appeal procedures. Appeals must be submitted within the timelines specified by University policy. During the appeal process, the student's status is governed by SCSU regulations.

- **Documentation and Confidentiality**

All disciplinary actions, remediation plans, and termination decisions are documented and maintained in accordance with SCSU record retention policies and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Access to records is limited to individuals with a legitimate educational interest.

- **Readmission**

Students terminated from the DPD may seek readmission only in accordance with SCSU readmission policies and at the discretion of the DPD, subject to ACEND standards and program capacity. Readmission does not guarantee eligibility for a Verification Statement.

- **Policy Review**

This policy is reviewed periodically to ensure continued compliance with ACEND accreditation standards and South Carolina State University academic regulations. Revisions are made as necessary to reflect changes in accreditation requirements or institutional policies.

STUDENT IDENTITY VERIFICATION POLICY FOR DISTANCE INSTRUCTION AND ONLINE ASSESSMENT

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for verifying the identity of students enrolled in the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at South Carolina State University (SCSU) who participate in distance education courses and/or complete online assessments outside of the University's in-person Assessment Center. This policy ensures compliance with accreditation expectations, academic integrity standards, and federal and institutional requirements.

This policy applies to all DPD students participating in distance instruction, hybrid courses, and online testing or assessment activities conducted outside of the SCSU Assessment Center. It applies to all faculty, staff, and administrators responsible for course delivery and assessment.

This policy is aligned with:

- Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) standards related to assessment integrity, student verification, and program quality.
- South Carolina State University policies governing distance education, academic integrity, use of learning management systems, and student records.

University policies take precedence where applicable.

SCSU and the DPD employ multiple methods to verify that the student who registers for a course or assessment is the same individual who participates in distance instruction and completes academic work. Identity verification methods may include one or more of the following:

- Students are issued unique SCSU network credentials (username and password) upon enrollment.
- Access to the University's Learning Management System (Blackboard) requires secure login using these credentials.
- Students are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of their login information.
- Blackboard is used as the official platform for distance instruction, course participation, and grade reporting.
- System features such as activity tracking, login records, time stamps, and submission histories are used to support identity verification and academic integrity.

For examinations or high-stakes assessments conducted outside of the in-person Assessment Center, faculty may require:

- Remote or online proctoring services approved by SCSU.
- Real-time or recorded video monitoring during assessments.
- Presentation of valid, government-issued photo identification at the time of testing.
- Secure browsers or assessment tools that restrict access to unauthorized resources.

Faculty may incorporate additional identity verification practices, such as:

- Verification of student identity through synchronous online activities (e.g., live video sessions).
- Use of personalized assignments, oral assessments, or follow-up questions to confirm authorship of submitted work.

Students participating in distance instruction or online assessments must:

- Use only their assigned SCSU credentials to access Blackboard and other University systems.
- Comply with all identity verification and proctoring requirements established for a course or assessment.
- Present valid identification when required for online proctoring or assessment activities.
- Refrain from sharing login credentials or engaging in conduct that misrepresents their identity.

Failure to comply with identity verification requirements may be treated as a violation of academic integrity.

In accordance with federal regulations and SCSU policies:

- Students are notified in advance of any additional identity verification or online proctoring requirements.
- Any fees associated with identity verification or remote proctoring are disclosed to students prior to course enrollment or assessment administration.
- Student data collected through verification or proctoring processes are handled in compliance with FERPA and applicable privacy regulations.

Suspected violations related to identity misrepresentation or unauthorized assistance are addressed in accordance with SCSU academic integrity and student conduct policies. Sanctions may include academic penalties, course failure, or dismissal from the DPD, consistent with University procedures.

This policy is reviewed periodically to ensure continued compliance with ACEND accreditation standards, SCSU academic regulations, and best practices in distance education. Revisions are made as necessary to reflect changes in technology, accreditation requirements, or institutional policy.

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to formalize the process by which student learning is assessed, documented, and communicated within the program in alignment with the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) assessment and outcomes standards and South Carolina State University (SCSU) academic regulations. This policy ensures that students receive timely, accurate, and transparent information regarding their academic performance and progress.

This policy applies to all students enrolled in ACEND-accredited nutrition and dietetics programs at South Carolina State University, including didactic, laboratory, and experiential learning components. It applies to all faculty responsible for assessing student learning and reporting grades in accordance with University policies.

This policy supports ACEND requirements related to: - Systematic assessment of student learning and achievement of program competencies. - Ongoing monitoring of student progress and outcomes. - Transparent communication of assessment results and expectations.

This policy is also consistent with South Carolina State University academic regulations governing grading, course assessment, student records, and academic progress as published in the University catalog, faculty handbook, and student handbook.

Student learning is assessed using multiple, direct and indirect measures aligned with course learning outcomes and ACEND-required competencies. Assessment methods may include but are not limited to: - Examinations and quizzes - Written assignments, projects, and presentations - Practical, laboratory, clinical, or supervised practice evaluations - Participation and other course-required activities.

Assessments are designed to measure student achievement of stated learning objectives and to provide data for continuous program improvement, consistent with ACEND assessment expectations.

Following ACEND standards and SCSU academic regulations, students receive regular and ongoing reports of their assessment results, academic performance, and progress throughout each academic term. Communication of assessment results includes: - Timely, constructive feedback on assignments, examinations, and other assessments - Clear grading criteria and evaluation methods as outlined in course syllabi and assignment instructions. Faculty provide feedback within a timeframe that supports student learning, improvement, and informed decision-making regarding academic progress.

All student grades are posted, recorded, and maintained in real time through South Carolina State University's official Learning Management System, Blackboard, in accordance with University grading policies. Blackboard serves as the official platform for: - Posting assignment and examination grades - Monitoring cumulative course performance - Providing students continuous access to their current academic standing. Students are responsible for reviewing grades and feedback regularly through Blackboard.

Consistent with ACEND expectations for early identification of academic difficulty and SCSU academic regulations: - Students receive mid-term grade reports that reflect their academic progress at the midpoint of the term. - Students receive end-of-term grade reports documenting final course grades in accordance with University academic calendar deadlines and grading procedures. Mid-term grade reporting supports timely advising, remediation, and referral to academic support services when necessary.

All assessment records and grades are maintained in accordance with South Carolina State University policies, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and other applicable regulations. Faculty are responsible for ensuring the accuracy, integrity, and timely entry of grades into Blackboard. Access to student records is limited to authorized individuals with a legitimate educational interest.

This policy is reviewed periodically to ensure continued compliance with ACEND accreditation standards, SCSU academic regulations, and institutional assessment practices. Failure to adhere to assessment and grade reporting requirements may be addressed through established University and program-level procedures.

DIDACTIC PROGRAM IN DIETETICS (DPD) STUDENT RETENTION POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear standards and procedures for student retention and progression within the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at South Carolina State University (SCSU). This policy is explicitly aligned with the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) accreditation standards related to student progress, retention, and outcomes, and with SCSU academic regulations governing satisfactory academic progress and student standing.

This policy applies to all students admitted to and enrolled in the ACEND-accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics at South Carolina State University. It governs academic progression, monitoring, intervention, and conditions for continued enrollment in the DPD.

This policy supports ACEND standards that require programs to: - Monitor student progression and retention systematically. - Communicate clear requirements for continued enrollment and program completion. - Use retention and progression data as part of outcomes assessment and continuous program improvement.

This policy is implemented in accordance with South Carolina State University academic regulations as published in the University catalog, student handbook, and faculty handbook, including policies related to grading, satisfactory academic progress, probation, suspension, dismissal, and appeals. Where applicable, University policies take precedence.

The DPD is committed to promoting student retention through proactive academic advising, early identification of academic difficulty, and access to University support services. Retention practices balance student support with the academic rigor and professional expectations required by ACEND and the dietetics profession.

To remain in good academic standing and be retained in the DPD, students must: - Meet South Carolina State University requirements for satisfactory academic progress, including minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. - Earn a minimum grade of B or higher in all required DPD coursework, unless a higher standard is specified by the program. - Demonstrate continuous progress toward completion of ACEND-required knowledge requirements and degree requirements. - Comply with all SCSU academic regulations and DPD program policies.

Students who fail to meet these standards may be placed on academic or program probation, required to complete remediation, experience delayed progression, or be dismissed from the DPD, consistent with University procedures.

Consistent with ACEND expectations, student retention is supported through systematic monitoring of: - Course grades, GPA, and academic standing through the University's official Learning Management System (Blackboard) and student records. - Performance in key DPD courses aligned with ACEND competencies. - Attendance, engagement, and completion of required academic activities.

Faculty and program administrators review student progress at regular intervals to identify students at risk for academic difficulty and to initiate timely advising or intervention.

Students identified as at risk for attrition or delayed progression may receive one or more of the following interventions: - Academic advising with DPD faculty advisors or the program director. - Development of a written remediation or academic improvement plan with defined expectations, timelines, and evaluation criteria. - Referral to SCSU academic support services, including tutoring, academic advising centers, counseling services, and other student success resources.

Participation in required advising or remediation activities is considered part of the retention process. Continued retention in the DPD requires adherence to: - South Carolina State University policies on student conduct and academic integrity. - Professional behavior expectations consistent with the Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession. Violations of academic integrity or professional conduct may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal from the DPD, in accordance with University disciplinary and due process procedures.

Students may voluntarily withdraw from the DPD in accordance with SCSU withdrawal procedures. Students who fail to meet retention standards or remediation requirements may be dismissed from the DPD following due process consistent with SCSU academic regulations.

Students have the right to appeal academic or programmatic decisions affecting retention or dismissal in accordance with South Carolina State University academic appeals procedures as outlined in the University catalog and student handbook.

Retention, progression, and completion data are reviewed regularly as part of the DPD's ACEND-required outcomes assessment plan. These data are used to evaluate program effectiveness and to guide continuous program improvement. This policy is reviewed periodically to ensure continued compliance with ACEND accreditation standards and South Carolina State University academic regulations. Revisions are made as necessary to reflect changes in accreditation requirements or institutional policies.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

At the beginning of the fall semester, students receive a current copy of Dates & Data (Student Handbook) which contains the policy on Academic Dishonesty. Students should familiarize themselves with the complete regulation. New students entering the spring semester receive copies of Dates & Data in January.

GRADE APPEALS/COMPLAINTS

A student may appeal a course grade if the student has evidence that the grade was assigned in a malicious, capricious, erroneous, or arbitrary manner. The steps that follow provide a guideline for the appeals process. All people concerned with this process should make every attempt to adhere to the time schedule outlined in the process. No appeal will be entertained more than one year following the date the grade was assigned.

UNIVERSITY CODE OF CONDUCT POLICIES FOR NON-ACADEMIC OFFENSES

The Office of Judicial Affairs (OJA) is charged with oversight of the student judicial system. The mission of OJA is to foster students' learning and development that reflects enforcement of standards of conduct in an educational environment. OJA also administers the SC State University Student Code of Conduct and Policies through investigation in conjunction with the University Police Department and adjudication of general conduct complaints; coordination of mediation referrals; interpretation of the Student Code of Conduct and Policies for faculty, staff, students and other stakeholders; and administrative support to the Division of Student Affairs general conduct cases. Additionally, OJA supports student engagement and involvement through the administration of Counseling and Self Development Center, Brooks Health Center and Student Support Service referrals.

See details at <https://www.scsu.edu/studentaffairs/officeofjudicialaffairs.aspx>

INSURANCE

Students enrolling in upper division courses should acquire personal liability insurance medical insurance coverage. Proof of coverage must be provided to the preceptor of the shadow experience.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING SITES

Students will have experimental learning in the Child Development Learning Center on the campus of South Carolina State University. This site does not require an affiliation agreement because the facility is a part of the Department of Family and Consumer Services. Experiential Learning Sites not a part of the university and require an affiliation agreement.

DRUG TESTING AND CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Students may be required to submit drug testing and criminal background checks based upon the shadowing sites they will serve if applicable.

ATTIRE

Students enrolled in laboratories on campus will be required to wear a white $\frac{3}{4}$ length lab coat, non-slip closed-toe shoes and hairnets or nylon skullcaps.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips to professional activities such as district and state dietetic association meetings will be scheduled as part of class requirements. In addition, field trips to regional dietetic facilities may be planned in conjunction with specific course work. Students are expected to attend, but alternative assignments will be made for exceptional cases. As students participate in field experiences, association meetings, or other South Carolina State University related events, attire should be professional and appropriate.

Faculty maintains the right to make decisions regarding students' participation in field experiences based on appropriateness of their appearance. Any experience denied the student on the basis of appearance will be the responsibility of the student to make up the required work. A confirmed report of inappropriate behavior by a student in a facility will result in a grade of zero for that lab assignment. No make-ups will be allowed.

STUDENT ACCESS TO INSTITUTIONAL EDUCATION RECORDS POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to outline the procedures by which students enrolled at South Carolina State University (SCSU), including students in the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD), may access their official institutional education records maintained outside of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and the DPD. This policy ensures compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), South Carolina State University academic regulations, and Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) expectations regarding student rights and due process.

This policy applies to all currently enrolled and formerly enrolled SCSU students seeking access to education records maintained at the institutional level by offices other than the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences/DPD. This policy is aligned with: - The Family Educational Rights

and Privacy Act (FERPA) - South Carolina State University academic and student records policies - ACEND accreditation standards requiring programs to inform students of their rights related to access to records and institutional due process. In the event of a conflict, applicable federal law and University policies take precedence.

Education records are defined as records that are directly related to a student and maintained by South Carolina State University or by a party acting on behalf of the University. Education records may include, but are not limited to, academic transcripts, enrollment records, grades, financial aid records, advising records, and disciplinary records.

In accordance with FERPA, students have the right to inspect and review their education records maintained by the University. Access must be provided within forty-five (45) days of the University's receipt of a written request.

The Office of the Registrar maintains official academic records, including transcripts, grades, enrollment history, and degree audits. Students may access many of these records through the University's student information system. Formal requests to inspect additional records or to obtain official transcripts must be submitted in accordance with Registrar-established procedures and may require identity verification.

Education records maintained by offices such as Financial Aid, Student Affairs, the Bursar, Academic Advising, or Accessibility Services are accessed by submitting a written request directly to the office maintaining the record. Each office may establish specific procedures for record review, consistent with FERPA and University policy.

In accordance with FERPA and SCSU policy: - Students may inspect records but may not remove or alter original documents. - Copies of records may be provided at the discretion of the University office; FERPA guarantees inspection rights but does not require copies in all circumstances. - Certain records are excluded from student access, including confidential letters of recommendation for which the student has waived access, law enforcement records, medical or counseling records maintained separately, and employment records unrelated to student status.

Students who believe their education records are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of their privacy rights may request amendment of the record through the office maintaining the record. Requests and any subsequent appeals are handled in accordance with SCSU's FERPA grievance and records correction procedures.

This policy governs access to institutional records maintained outside of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences/DPD. Access to DPD-maintained program records is governed by separate departmental policies. Students are informed of both institutional and program-level record access procedures.

This policy is reviewed periodically to ensure continued compliance with FERPA, South Carolina State University academic regulations, and ACEND accreditation standards. Revisions are made as necessary to reflect changes in federal law or institutional policy.

STUDENT COMPENSATION

The federal policies regarding compensation such as federal work study and student researchers are followed by the University.

STUDENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

To file an informal or formal complaint against another university student, service or department, follow the steps below to determine your next role in reporting a complaint/grievance to the SC State. Read completely, the Procedures for Complaint Resolutions, posted in the Student Policy Manual, before continuing with the process. If you are filing a complaint:

STEP 1: You may submit the online complaint form or obtain one from the Office of Judicial Affairs.

STEP 2: File the complaint or grievance as “informal” or “formal”. If informal procedures are implemented and prove to be unsatisfactory, the complainant may institute formal procedures.

STEP 3: Submit the completed form to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

STEP 4: The Coordinator of Judicial Affairs will review the information provided. On all matters, this Office will either investigate the complaint or will send it directly to the Department that is authorized to address the concerns.

Students have an additional option of initiating a grievance at the Departmental level:

STEP 1: Make grievance known to faculty member in question.
a. If your problem is solved, your grievance is completed.
b. If your problem is not solved, move to STEP 2.

STEP 2: Pick up a Student Grievance Form from the Department Chair’s office and give an accurate account of the situation. This form should be completed and returned to this office. Make sure to keep a copy of the form for your records.

STEP 3: The Student Affairs Committee Chair will convene with the Student Affairs Committee. During this meeting, each committee member will have a copy of the grievance form. A thorough discussion will be held on the course of action that should be taken.

STEP 4: If needed, the Student Affairs Committee will designate a time, date, and place for a student hearing. The student will be given proper notification of when the hearing will be held.

STEP 5: If needed, the Student Affairs Committee will designate a time and place for a faculty hearing. The faculty member will be given proper notification of when the hearing will be held.

STEP 6: At the conclusion of hearing(s), members of the Student Affairs Committee will convene to make final decisions. Decisions made will be reported to the Department Chair.

STEP 7: Student and/or Faculty member will be informed of the decision made by the Student Affairs Committee.

STUDENT COMPLAINTS RELATED TO ACEND STANDARDS

If the student has a complaint regarding the DPD adhering to the ACEND accreditation standards, the student is encouraged to first address the issue using the University policy. If a satisfactory resolution is not reached, then the student has a right to submit the complaint directly to ACEND using the “Complaint Investigation Form” which is available on the ACEND website at <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/public-notices-and-announcements/filing-a-complaint>

ESTIMATED PROGRAM EXPENSES

Books	\$500.00
White Lab Coat	\$30.00
SC Dietetic Association State Meeting	\$50.00 (plus travel)
Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics Student Membership	\$58.00
SC State University Dietetic Association Membership	\$20.00
Slip-Resistant Closed Toe Shoes	\$65.00
Laptop	\$500.00-1500.00
Health Insurance	(variable)

TUITION AND FEES

All expenses for the semester, including fees and room and board, must be paid before or at the beginning of each semester as a condition of admission to class. Additional information can be found at:

https://scsu.edu/financial-aid/previous_forms/SCSU%202025-2026%20Online%20Fee%20Sheet.pdf

The Office of Financial Aid (OFA) coordinates all financial assistance offered to South Carolina State University (SCSU) students and is charged with responsibility of assuring that federal, state and institutional policies are operationally effective. The philosophy is to provide access and choice to students who without such aid would not be able to attend SCSU. The programs administered provide monetary assistance to students who can benefit from further

education but who cannot do so without such assistance. Current financial aid information is located at the following link:

<https://scsu.edu/financial-aid/index.php>

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM

Students who fail to maintain the minimum GPA of 3.0, will be dismissed from the program, and entered into the Food Management curriculum. The university's policy regarding withdrawal and refund of tuition is in the undergraduate catalog.

https://scsu.edu/_resources/pdfs/Final-2022-2024-Undergraduate-Catalog-1.24.pdf

pp. 21 and 50.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Past, present, and future calendars are available online at https://scsu.edu/academics/academic_calendars.php. Students who have to take leave for an extended period may contact Brooks Health Center for further instruction.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation requirements include completion of all the courses in the Nutrition and Food Management curriculum, nutrition option, with a grade of "B" or better, completion of all KRDN competencies and a curriculum GPA of 3.0 or above. Students who meet these requirements will also be awarded the ACEND verification statement upon completion. The curriculum is 130 hours and is designed to be completed in four to six years. However, students who are not continually enrolled (except summer) will be required to complete the curriculum that is in place when they return. This may mean that some of the courses already completed will not count toward graduation requirements, or that the student may be required to complete additional courses not on the original curriculum.

All students completing the curriculum for the Nutrition of DPD are required to submit a professional portfolio as part of their graduation requirements. The portfolio assignment is introduced in NFM 410 and/or NFM 321. It must be submitted to the Program Director at the end of each semester.

DPD POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Program policies, procedures and practices related to student recruitment and admission must comply with state and federal laws and regulations to ensure nondiscrimination and equal opportunity. The program must have written policies and procedures that protect the rights of enrolled students and are consistent with current institutional practice. Additional policies and procedures specific to the program and supervised practice component must be provided to students on a timely basis in a program handbook. The quality of services that are provided to students must be adequate to address their needs.

The following policies and procedures required by institutional/regional accreditation and ordinarily published in the university/college catalog or program handbook must be provided to students.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE MONITORING POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to define South Carolina State University's nutrition and dietetics program system for monitoring student performance in accordance with the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) standards and applicable University policies. This policy ensures early detection of academic, professional, or ethical difficulties and supports student success while upholding academic integrity and professional standards.

This policy applies to all students enrolled in ACEND-accredited nutrition and dietetics programs at South Carolina State University, including didactic, supervised practice, and experiential learning components. It applies to all faculty, preceptors, and administrators involved in student evaluation.

This policy is aligned with: - ACEND Accreditation Standards, including requirements related to student progress, monitoring, remediation, and professional conduct. - South Carolina State University policies governing academic performance, student conduct, academic integrity, nondiscrimination, and student support services. Where conflicts arise, University policies and ACEND standards will govern as applicable.

The student performance monitoring system is guided by the following principles: - Continuous and systematic evaluation of student progress toward ACEND-required competencies. - Early identification of academic, professional, or ethical concerns. - Fair, consistent, and transparent assessment practices. - Timely intervention and remediation designed to promote student success. - Protection of academic integrity and adherence to professional ethics consistent with the nutrition and dietetics profession.

Student academic performance is monitored on an ongoing basis using multiple measures, which may include: - Course examinations, quizzes, and written assignments. - Laboratory, practical, and clinical skill evaluations. - Performance in supervised practice or experiential learning settings. - Attendance, participation, and completion of required program activities.

Faculty review student performance at regular intervals during each academic term. Program-defined benchmarks, consistent with ACEND standards and University requirements (e.g., minimum course grades, cumulative GPA thresholds, and competency attainment), are used to evaluate satisfactory academic progress.

The program employs early-alert mechanisms to identify students at risk for academic difficulty, including: - Review of early-course assessments and competency-based evaluations. - Faculty referrals when students demonstrate declining performance, repeated assessment failures, or difficulty achieving ACEND competencies. - Monitoring of attendance issues, missed assignments, or inadequate engagement in coursework or supervised practice.

When concerns are identified, faculty or program leadership notify the student in a timely manner and initiate advising or support consistent with South Carolina State University procedures.

Consistent with ACEND expectations and University standards, professional and ethical behavior is an essential component of student performance monitoring. Evaluation includes, but is not limited to: - Professional conduct, communication, and interpersonal skills. - Compliance with program policies, University regulations, and supervised practice site requirements. - Adherence to the Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession. - Demonstration of responsibility, accountability, and respect for diverse individuals and communities.

Concerns related to unprofessional or unethical behavior are documented and addressed promptly through program-level processes and, when necessary, University conduct procedures.

The program adheres to South Carolina State University's Academic Integrity Policy. Student performance monitoring includes oversight for behaviors such as: - Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or falsification of academic or clinical records. - Misrepresentation of work or unauthorized collaboration.

Alleged violations are handled in accordance with University-established academic integrity and student conduct procedures and may result in sanctions up to and including dismissal from the program.

When academic, professional, or ethical concerns are identified, the program may implement one or more interventions, including: - Academic advising with program faculty or the program director. - Development of a written remediation plan outlining specific deficiencies, required actions, timelines, and evaluation criteria. - Referral to University support services such as tutoring, counseling, disability services, or academic success programs.

Student progress under remediation is monitored and documented. Failure to meet remediation requirements may result in probation, delayed progression, or dismissal, consistent with ACEND standards and University policies.

All student performance evaluations, communications, and remediation records are documented and maintained in accordance with South Carolina State University record retention policies and applicable privacy regulations. Access to records is limited to individuals with a legitimate educational need to know.

This policy is reviewed regularly to ensure continued compliance with ACEND accreditation requirements and South Carolina State University policies. Students who fail to meet academic, professional, ethical, or integrity standards may be subject to actions including probation, remediation, suspension, or dismissal, in accordance with program and University procedures.

TRANSFER, SECOND DEGREE, AND STUDENT INTERESTED IN NUTRITION OPTION OF DPD, CREDENTIALING PROCESS, AND FOOD MANAGEMENT OPTION

Students transferring into the Nutrition Option or Food Management Option of the program from another major on campus or from another institution will be assigned an academic advisor who will review academic transcripts and make a tentative recommendation about which courses already completed by the student that will count toward degree requirements. In many cases, students will have completed some of the courses as specified on the Nutrition Option and Food Management Option curriculum sheet. In some cases, students will have completed similar courses or higher-level courses. In such situations, the advisor will complete paperwork to request substitutions. Substitutions are not official until they have been approved by the Chairperson of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, Dean of the College, Acting Provost, and Registrar. Transfer from a 2-year community college, or completion of 60 credit hours from another major or institution does not guarantee the program will be completed in 2 years. The DPD at South Carolina State University does not grant course credit for prior work experience.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to define the conditions, procedures, and implications of a Leave of Absence (LOA) for students enrolled in the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at South Carolina State University (SCSU). This policy is aligned with Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) standards and with SCSU academic regulations, including the University's **Request to Retain Catalog Year** policy.

This policy applies to all students enrolled in the ACEND-accredited DPD at South Carolina State University who request a temporary interruption in enrollment due to academic, personal, medical, or other extenuating circumstances.

This policy is aligned with: - ACEND accreditation standards requiring programs to clearly define policies affecting student progression, retention, and completion. - South Carolina State University academic regulations related to enrollment status, withdrawal, readmission, satisfactory academic progress, and degree requirements. - South Carolina State University's **Request to Retain Catalog Year** policy, which governs the curriculum requirements applicable to students following an interruption in enrollment. University policies take precedence in the event of conflict.

A Leave of Absence is defined as an approved, temporary interruption of enrollment in the DPD during which a student does not participate in coursework for one or more academic terms, excluding summer sessions.

Students in good academic and disciplinary standing may request a Leave of Absence. Requests may be considered for reasons including, but not limited to: - Medical or health-related circumstances - Personal or family emergencies - Military service obligations - Financial or other extenuating circumstances. Approval of a Leave of Absence is not automatic and is contingent upon review by the DPD Program Director and compliance with SCSU policies.

To request a Leave of Absence, students must: - Submit a written request to the DPD Program Director outlining the reason for the request and the anticipated duration of the leave. - Complete all required SCSU withdrawal or leave documentation. - Submit a **Request to Retain Catalog Year** if the student seeks to complete the DPD under the curriculum requirements in effect at the time of initial enrollment.

The DPD Program Director, in consultation with appropriate University offices, will review the request and notify the student in writing of the decision, including the approved duration of the leave and applicable curriculum requirements upon return.

A Leave of Absence is typically granted for up to one academic year. Extensions may be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with SCSU policies and program capacity. Failure to return at the end of the approved leave may require reapplication to the University and/or the DPD. Students approved for a Leave of Absence are subject to the following conditions:

- In accordance with SCSU policy, students who interrupt enrollment are normally required to follow the **catalog year in effect at the time of re-enrollment**.
- Students may submit a Request to Retain Catalog Year for review and approval by the University.
- Approval to retain a prior catalog year is not guaranteed and is subject to SCSU policy and program feasibility.
- If a request to retain catalog year is not approved, students must complete the DPD curriculum and ACEND requirements in effect at the time of return.
- Curriculum changes during the leave period may result in previously completed coursework no longer meeting current DPD requirements, and students may be required to complete additional coursework. Academic advising will be provided upon return to assist students in developing an updated plan of study consistent with the approved catalog year.

A Leave of Absence may delay completion of the DPD and issuance of the ACEND Verification Statement. Verification Statements are issued only after all DPD requirements are successfully completed in accordance with the approved catalog year, current ACEND standards, and SCSU policies.

To return from an approved Leave of Absence, students must: - Notify the DPD Program Director in writing of their intent to return by the deadline specified in the approval notice. - Meet all SCSU readmission or re-enrollment requirements. - Comply with the curriculum requirements associated with the approved catalog year. Failure to meet return requirements may result in delayed re-enrollment or denial of return to the DPD.

Students who discontinue enrollment without an approved Leave of Absence or who fail to return as scheduled may be considered withdrawn from the DPD and subject to SCSU withdrawal and readmission policies.

This policy is reviewed periodically to ensure continued compliance with ACEND accreditation standards and South Carolina State University academic regulations, including the Request to Retain

Catalog Year policy. Revisions are made as necessary to reflect changes in accreditation or institutional policy.

STUDENT PRIVACY

According to the Family Educational Right and Privacy Act of 1974, students' privacy of education records is maintained by the faculty and staff of the University.

DPD GRADUATION COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS STATEMENT

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at South Carolina State University (SCSU) establishes graduation completion requirements in accordance with the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) accreditation standards and South Carolina State University academic policies.

To successfully complete the DPD, students must:

- Complete all required coursework in the approved DPD/Nutrition and Food Management curriculum in effect at the time of enrollment or re-enrollment, consistent with SCSU academic regulations.
- Earn a minimum of **B or higher in all required DPD courses**.
- Maintain a minimum DPD curriculum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher.
- Successfully demonstrate achievement of all ACEND-required knowledge requirements and competencies.
- Comply with all SCSU academic regulations, including policies related to academic integrity, satisfactory academic progress, and student conduct.

Students who meet all DPD completion requirements and University graduation requirements will be considered to have successfully completed the Didactic Program in Dietetics. Upon verification of completion, eligible students will be awarded an ACEND Verification Statement, which confirms fulfillment of ACEND academic requirements and eligibility to apply for post-baccalaureate supervised practice programs or other ACEND-approved pathways. Failure to meet DPD completion requirements may result in delayed graduation, denial of the Verification Statement or dismissal from the program, consistent with DPD policies and South Carolina State University procedures.

STUDENT SERVICES

The Division of Student Affairs includes the units of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. The division supports the University's mission in providing quality student services responsive to student's needs. The Division works collaboratively with other divisions in the college and local community to create experiences that will expose students to new ways of thinking, learning through leadership, service and opportunities. These opportunities contribute to the enhancement and the quality of life of our students. The goal is to prepare each student to depart South Carolina State University highly skilled, competent, socially aware, and prepared for the competitive global marketplace keeping within the University's Core Values: Excellence, Access and Equity, Integrity and Respect in the forefront of our student learning.

DIVERSITY

The International Programs Office is administratively housed in the Division of Academic Affairs. A vital mission of the program is to develop intercultural communication skills and international understanding among students and faculty.

We intend for SC State to be recognized as the institution of choice in terms of providing a rigorous and challenging program for the intellectually curious student. A distinguished faculty and a qualified staff are integral to sustaining this level of performance. Focus and responsive administrative processes are in place to support the effort.

The Program is designed to appeal to a diversity of students who seek opportunities to develop skills and understanding about international events, issues, and problems. The Program aims to achieve a global perspective through an interdisciplinary network of experiences and courses. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in a study abroad program. Planning should occur early in the student's academic career.

The University defines an international student as a student who is not a citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States. Students applying for admission from countries other than the United States must submit the required credentials and examination scores as U.S. Applicants. To apply for admission, international students must submit all required credentials and supporting documents by June 1 for the fall semester, and October 30 for the spring semester. The SAT or ACT is optional.

ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER

Each student enrolling in the DPD in Dietetics will be assigned an Academic Advisor. The Nutrition Option of DPD and Food Management advisors are faculty teaching in the Nutrition Option of the DPD and Food Management program. The DPD Director advises all students in both options. South Carolina State University values academic advising, noting that advising will occur each semester and will include more than scheduling courses. Students with a minimal chance of success in the program must be counseled into career paths that are appropriate to their abilities. The University charges the advisor helping students to with learn university policies and procedures; helping students to learn about their major, including degree requirements, post-baccalaureate education and career opportunities; helping students plan their schedules to allow them to meet personal career goals; helping students with transfer courses and substitutions; and advising students about minors, practicum experiences, student organizations, part-time jobs, scholarships, etc. The overall goal is to help each student to be as successful as possible in the program.

OTHER STUDENT SERVICES

The University offers services for students throughout the academic year. Students with disabilities are an important part of the student body. Providing equal opportunities for students with disabilities is a campus-wide responsibility and commitment. In accordance with ADA laws and requirements, the university provides support services for students with disabilities through the Office of Disabled Student Services. This office is housed within the [Counseling and Self Development Center](#). Among the services provided are counseling, advocacy and, when necessary, referral for appropriate management of the students' needs. Referral sources include [Brooks Health Center](#) and the local South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. Requests for additional information concerning services provided by the Office of Student Disability Support Services may be obtained by calling (803) 536-7245 or by visiting the office, which is housed in the Counseling and Self-Development Center.

Referral services are offered to students who present with long-term clinical concerns, which, due to limited staffing resources, cannot feasibly be addressed at the Counseling and Self-Development Center.

The Counseling and Self-Development Center offers counseling, testing, and student disability services and is accredited by the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS). The center's aim is to address the counseling and developmental needs of SC State students. The mission of the Counseling and Self-Development Center is to provide quality mental health services that assist students with defining and accomplishing their personal goals while coping with stressors, which may arise during the course of their matriculation.

University policies, as well as the law, require the provision of accommodations to students requesting assistance based on Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Act essentially states that "no otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall solely by reason of disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity, such as a college, university, or other postsecondary institution, or public system of higher education."

In addition, the University offers testing and tutoring at the [Student Success Center](#) to help students meet their academic and career goals.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

All dietetic students are encouraged to join and participate in the South Carolina Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (SCAND). SCAND is involved in a variety of activities that include monthly meetings with guest presenters, fundraising activities, National Nutrition Month activities, and social events. In addition, students are strongly encouraged to become student members in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

DEPARTMENTAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The following scholarships are offered to academically talented students:

1. Department of Family and Consumer Sciences:
 - Edna W. Harrison Scholarship
 - Marian Baxter Paul Endowed Scholarship
 - Sara Aiken Waymer Scholarship
 - Leola Adams Leaders Scholars in Family and Consumer Sciences
 - Family and Consumer Sciences Faculty/Alumni Scholarship

Other Scholarships applicable to Family and Consumer Sciences:

- Betty Feezor Scholarship
- Kappa Omicron Nu Scholarship
- The Cecelia McIver Scholarship
- USDA/189 Scholarship
- Sodexo Scholarship
- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation Scholarships

FINANCIAL AID

The Office of Financial Aid (OFA) coordinates all financial assistance offered to South Carolina State University (SCSU) students and is charged with responsibility of assuring that federal, state and institutional policies are operationally effective. The philosophy is to provide access and choice to students without such aid would not be able to attend SCSU. The programs administered provide monetary assistance to students who can benefit from further education but who cannot do so without such assistance. Current financial aid information is located at the following link:

<https://scsu.edu/financial-aid/index.php>

ACEND FOUNDATION KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING OUTCOMES REQUIREMENTS FOR DPD (2022)

Foundation learning is defined by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) as follows: the Core Knowledge must be the basis on which the program curriculum and learning activities are built within the context of the mission and goals of the program.

The following five emphasis areas are specified by ACEND as foundation knowledge requirements and for the didactic component of entry-level dietetic education programs:

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

Knowledge

Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

KRDN 1.1	Demonstrate how to locate, interpret, evaluate and use professional literature to make ethical, evidence-based practice decisions.
KRDN 1.2	Select and use appropriate current information technologies to locate and apply evidence-based guidelines and protocols. Apply critical thinking skills.
KRDN 1.3	Apply critical thinking skills.

Domain 2. Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice: Integration of scientific information and translation of research into practice.

Knowledge

Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

KRDN 2.1	Demonstrate effective and professional oral and written communication and documentation.
KRDN 2.2	Describe the governance of nutrition and dietetics practice, such as the Scope of Nutrition and Dietetics Practice for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Nutrition and Dietetics.
KRDN 2.3	Assess the impact of a public policy position on nutrition and dietetics profession.
KRDN 2.4	Discuss the impact of health care policy and different health care delivery systems on food and nutrition services.
KRDN 2.5	Identify and describe the work of interprofessional teams and the roles of others with whom the registered dietitian nutritionist collaborates.
KRDN 2.6	Demonstrate cultural humility, awareness of cultural bias, and an understanding of cultural differences as the contribute to cultural diversity, equity, and inclusion.
KRDN 2.7	Describe contributing factors to health inequity, in nutrition and dietetics including structural bias, social inequities, health disparities, and discrimination.
KRDN 2.8	Participate in a nutrition and dietetics professional organization and explain the significant role of the organization.
KRDN 2.9	Defend a position on issues impacting the nutrition and dietetics profession.

Domain 3. Clinical and Client 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 and clinical workflow elements to assess nutritional parameters, diagnose nutrition related problems, determine appropriate nutrition interventions and develop plans to monitor the effectiveness of the 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 enhance wellness for diverse individuals and groups.
KRDN 3.4	Practice routine health screening assessment including measuring blood pressure and conducting waived point-of-care laboratory testing (such as blood glucose or cholesterol).
KRDN 3.5	Describe concepts for nutritional genomics and how they relate to medical nutrition therapy, health, and disease.
KRDN 3.6	Develop nutritionally sound meals, menus, and meal plans that promote health and disease management and meet client's/patient's needs.

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

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/financial management plan and interpret financial data.
KRDN 4.3	Demonstrate an understanding of the regulation system related to billing and coding, what services are reimbursable by third party payers, and how reimbursement may be obtained.
KRDN 4.4	Apply the principles of human resource management to different situations.
KRDN 4.5	Apply safety and sanitation principles related to food, personnel, and nutrition services.
KRDN 4.6	Explain the process involved in delivering quality food and nutrition services.
KRDN 4.7	Evaluate data to be used in decision-making for continuous quality improvement.

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

Knowledge

Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

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

APPENDIX A: DIDACTIC APPLICATION

DIDACTIC PROGRAM IN DIETETICS (DPD) APPLICATION FOR UPPER DIVISION

Requirements for Upper Division

Students must apply for and be admitted to Upper Division of the Nutrition Option of DPD. Students are eligible to apply for upper division once they have completed the courses below by the end the semester. No grade lower than a “C” will be accepted as a part of the admissions requirement.

- Chemistry: 150, 151, 152, 153, 306, 316
- Biology: 207, 217, 208, 218
- Math: 150, 155
- NFM 102
- FCS 101

Procedure

1. Complete the upper division application form.
 - a. Indicate grades earned in all courses completed in the curriculum.
 - b. If transfer credit is used, indicate course title and name of university where course was completed.
 - c. For any required lower division course that you have not yet completed, indicated the dat that you will take the course.
2. Carefully read, sign and date the statement below.
3. If your application is accepted, you will be notified in writing by the Director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics prior to registration for the semester you plan to enroll in upper division courses.

<i>Course</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>If a course was transferred, include the name of the institution and copy of the</i>	<i>If transferred (name of institution and grade) * include a copy of the transcript from</i>
Chemistry 150			
Chemistry 151			
Chemistry 152			
Chemistry 153			
Chemistry 306			
Chemistry 316			
Biology 207			
Biology 217			
Biology 208			
Biology 218			
Math 151			
Math 155			
Nutrition and Food Management 102			
Family and Consumer Sciences 101			

Name: _____

Banner ID #: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX B: ORIENTATION FORM

ORIENTATION TO NUTRITION AND DIETETICS PROFESSION SIGNATURE FORM

I have read and understand the content of the Didactic Program Student Handbook including departmental, college, and university guidelines, regulations, and services.

Student Name (please print full name including first, middle, or maiden/last):

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Banner ID: _____

APPENDIX D: STUDENT ORGANIZATION FORM

STUDENT ORGANIZATION FORM



Name of Student _____

Name of Organization _____

Faculty Sponsor's Name _____

Faculty Sponsor's Signature _____

Faculty Sponsor's Email _____

Faculty Sponsor's Phone Number _____

APPENDIX E: DIETITIAN SHADOWING DOCUMENTATION

DIETITIAN SHADOWING DOCUMENTATION



This form is for students applying to study dietetics at South Carolina State University. The form provides evidence that the applicant has shadowed a dietitian. The form should be completed by both the supervising dietitian and by the applicant. It must be signed and stamped with the department, hospital or clinical official stamp.

(To be completed by the supervising dietitian)

Name of the applicant who shadowed you:	
Date of shadowing visit:	
Name of the dietitian(s) being shadowed:	
Name of Hospital/Clinic/Agency	
Please briefly summarize the dietetic activities That the applicant observed:	
Please briefly comment on your impression of the Applicant (e.g., interest, enthusiasm, punctuality, Questions asked, etc.):	
Dietitian's signature:	
Official stamp of Hospital/Clinic/Agency	

(To be completed by the applicant)

Name of applicant:	
Student ID:	
Course applying for:	

Please return the original form to:
 Carmen Thompson, MS, RDN, LD
 South Carolina State University
 Department of Family and Consumer Sciences
 300 College Avenue, Northeast
 P.O. Box 7657
 Orangeburg, South Carolina 29117-0001

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does DPD stand for and what is it?

Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) is a Bachelor of Science degree program that provides students with the appropriate coursework to apply for a dietetic internship in order to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). Completion of a didactic program will also allow one to take the Dietetic Technician, Registered (DTR) exam.

How do I find an advisor?

Please contact the DPD Director by phone at 803-516-4590, or email: cthomass@scsu.edu. You may also contact the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at 803 536-7110.

What is a core course?

Core courses are required for all majors. (FCS 101, NFM 102, FCS 251, FCS 304, FCS 498).

Is there a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) requirement for the Nutrition Option in the DPD program?

Yes, you must have a GPA of at least 3.0 to be accepted into the program. Additionally, it is necessary that you maintain a GPA of 3.0 or above to continue in the program.

Are there any funds available to dietetic students?

There are many resources available to students in need of financial assistance, i.e., grants and scholarships from various organizations, the school you are interested in attending, and the federal government. Funding is also available to qualifying students interested in graduate studies and dietetic internships. For more information, please visit the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, the [Office of Financial Aid](#), [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation](#), and [Scholarships and Fulbright Awards for Students and Faculty](#).

Is South Carolina the only place I can do my internship?

There are internships available throughout the United States. For information on supervised practice programs, go to the [ACEND program directory](#).

Do I have to start my internship immediately following graduation?

While it is not required, it is encouraged. Talk with your advisor and faculty members to determine the best course of action for you.

What is the difference between a Dietetic Technician, Registered (DTR) and a Registered Dietitian (RD)?

An RD has completed a minimum of a bachelor's degree at an accredited college or university, whereas a DTR has completed at least an associate's degree. Additionally, both an RD and a DTR must pass a national examination and complete continuing professional educational requirements to maintain registration. For more details, please visit [RDN vs DTR](#).

What is the difference between a Nutritionist and a Registered Dietitian?

An RDN has successfully passed the National Registration Exam administered through the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. A Nutritionist may or may not be an RDN.

What kind of salary can I expect to earn as a Dietetic Technician, Registered?

It is important to consider various factors determining salary such as geographic location, practice area, level of education, benefits package, and years in practice. For additional information, please visit [NDTR Salary Calculator](#).

What kind of salary can I expect to earn as a Registered Dietitian?

According to the 2024 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor and Statistics, the median annual income of all RDNs in the U.S. \$73,850. It is important to consider various factors determining salary such as geographic location, practice area, level of education, benefits package, and years in practice. For additional information, please visit [RDN Salary Calculator](#).

What are the career possibilities for a Registered Dietitian?

RDs work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, institutions, school systems, outpatient clinics, corporate wellness, and more. Within these settings, RDs can work in various fields, including clinical, community, food service and systems management, sports nutrition, and more. For more detailed descriptions of career possibilities, please visit the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' website at [FAQs About Careers in Dietetics](#).

What are the career possibilities for non-RDs?

There are career opportunities for students who earn their bachelor's degree, but do not complete the RD requirements. These students are eligible to take the registration examination to become a Dietetic Technician, Registered (DTR). According to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, DTRs work in settings such as hospitals and clinics, extended-care facilities, home health-care programs, schools, correctional facilities, restaurants, food companies, foodservice providers, public health agencies, government and community programs, health clubs, weight management clinics, and wellness centers. For more information on employment opportunities for DTRs, please visit [FAQs About Careers in Dietetics](#)

How do I know if a career in dietetics is right for me?

You can contact the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences for advice about careers.