



Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics Student Handbook

First Edition, Updated August 2022

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Introduction

A Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics (DPND) is an undergraduate nutrition or dietetics program that meets the accreditation standards set by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; requirements set by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). This course work will ensure that students have the "Knowledge and Skills" required by ACEND to compete for a dietetic internship. Students must complete the Applied Nutrition degree and concentration with a GPA of at least 2.75 on a 4 point scale in order to earn a Verification Statement which qualifies them to apply for a dietetic internship that can be completed after graduation and completion of the DPND program. Graduates of a dietetic internship program can sit for a (computerized) national credentialing exam. At Cal Poly, the courses required for a B.S. in Nutrition following the Applied Nutrition concentration have been accredited to meet these requirements.

At Cal Poly, SLO, the didactic program can be completed as an undergraduate by completing the “Applied Nutrition” concentration or as a graduate student by completing the required DPND courses within the plan of study for completion of the Master's degree. Master's students must complete a minimum of seven senior (400) level courses (28 units) at Cal Poly in order to earn a verification statement from Cal Poly.

The Nutrition Program office is located in Building 11 Room 244. The DPND Director is Corinne Kohlen MS RD CDE CNSC whose office is located in Building 24 Room 112. Corinne Kohlen’s office hours vary from quarter to quarter and are posted near her door or on the FSN website in a file that can be accessed from the ‘Faculty Office Hours’ Link

<http://www.fsn.calpoly.edu/faculty-staff>

Academic Calendar

Academic Calendars can be accessed from the university registrar’s website

<https://registrar.calpoly.edu/academic-calendar>

Accreditation

The Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo is currently granted accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60606

Telephone (800) 877-1600 or (312) 899-0040

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs/didactic-programs-in-dietetics>

Program Mission

The mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics at Cal Poly is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to gather data, assess information, plan interventions, and evaluate outcomes appropriately to implement the nutrition care process in preparation for success in a dietetic internship and in the career of dietetics.

Program Goals

The goals of the didactic program in dietetics are:

To provide education in a learning environment that prepares graduates to demonstrate knowledge and skills producing the competencies needed to become entry-level dietitians.

Outcome measures

- Over a seven-year period, the pass rate for program graduates taking the registration examination for the first time will be at least 80%
- Over a seven-year period, 80% of those DPD graduates who apply to supervised practice programs will be accepted the academic year they complete the program
- Over a seven-year period, 60% of DPD graduates will apply to supervised practice programs the academic year they complete the program.
- Directors of dietetic internships rate 90% of our graduates as 'Met expectations' or better on survey related to preparation in the foundation knowledge areas
- 90% of Applied Nutrition students will 'Agree' or 'Strongly agree' (Likert scale) to questions on the 'Graduating Senior Survey' specific to attainment of the foundation knowledge learning outcomes
- $\geq 70\%$ of Senior Projects are ranked acceptable or exemplary (3/ 4 on 4 pt scale)
- 80% of the students in the Applied Nutrition concentration will complete the coursework for graduation within five academic quarters after completion of FSN 328–Nutrient Metabolism 1, or FSN 331 Macronutrient Metabolism

Program graduates demonstrate the knowledge, technical skills and interest in life-long learning needed for a successful career continuum in dietetics or in other professional fields

Outcome measures

- 60% of the program graduates who do not apply, or are not accepted to, supervised practice programs and who go to graduate school or seek employment in other fields will students will 'Agree' or 'Strongly agree' (Likert scale) on a scale of questions assessing satisfaction with current career preparation one year after graduation.
- 50% of the program graduates who respond to the alumni survey and did not apply or were not accepted to a supervised practice program will be accepted to a graduate program, pass the DTR exam, enter the Peace Corps/AmeriCorps or obtain employment in a nutrition, health or science-related profession within one year of graduation.
- 50% of program graduates who are matched/accepted into a supervised practice program express an interest in serving as a preceptor for dietetic interns once they have earned their credential and entered practice.

Core Knowledge for the RD/RDN

During the completion of the Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics students will engage in a variety of learning activities and experiences designed to meet the core knowledge requirements established by ACEND. Learning experiences of students are enhanced by curricula that blend theory and application, reflecting Cal poly's 'learn-by-doing' philosophy.

The following knowledge requirements are excerpted from the ACEND 2022 Standards for Didactic Programs in Nutrition & Dietetics

Domain 1: Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice: Integration of Scientific Information and Translation into Practice

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

KRDN 1.2: Select and use appropriate current information technologies to locate and apply evidence-based guidelines and protocols

KRDN 1.3: Apply critical thinking skills

Domain 2: Professional Practice Expectations: Beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviors for the nutrition and dietetics practitioner level of practice

KRDN 2.1: Demonstrate effective and professional oral and written communication and documentation.

KRDN 2.2: Describe the governance of nutrition and dietetics practice, such as the Scope of 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 the 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 personal biases and an understanding of cultural differences as they contribute to 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

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 these interventions.

KRDN 3.2: Develop and educational session or program/educational strategy for a target population.

KRDN 3.3: Demonstrate counseling and education methods to facilitate behavior change and enhance wellness for diverse individuals and groups.

KRDN 3.4: Practice routine health screening assessments, including measuring blood pressure and conducting waived point of care laboratory testing (such as BG or cholesterol).

KRDN 3.5: Describe concepts on nutritional genomics and how they relate to MNT, 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

Updated August 2022

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 consumers.

KRDN 4.6: Explain the processes 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.

KRDN 5.1: Perform self assessment that includes awareness in terms of learning and leadership styles and cultural orientation and development goals for self improvement.

KRDN 5.2: Identify and articulate one's skills, strength, 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.

The program's curriculum must provide learning activities to attain the breadth and depth of the required curriculum components and core knowledge. Syllabi for courses taught within the academic unit must include the KRNDs that will be assessed in the course or rotation and the learning activities that facilitate achievement of the KRDNs.

a. Learning activities must prepare students for professional practice with patients/clients with various conditions, including, but not limited to overweight and obesity; endocrine disorders; cancer; malnutrition and cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, and renal diseases.

b. Learning activities must prepare students to implement the Nutrition Care Process with various populations and diverse cultures.

c. Learning activities must address and build competency in diversity, equity and inclusion. The program must ensure that students have the skills to recognize biases in self and others and to embrace the diversity of the human experience.

d. Learning activities must use a variety of educational approaches necessary for delivery of curriculum content, to meet learner needs and to facilitate learning objectives.

1. If any portion of the program is offered through distance education, the program assures regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty

Curriculum

The DPND program at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) meets the standards established by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). The curriculum is designed to meet all of the “Knowledge Requirements” for didactic programs in dietetics, described under “Core Knowledge” on the previous 2 pages. The curriculum includes general education courses that meet the university requirements for the BS Degree in Nutrition along with specific science and professional courses necessary to meet the DPND requirements and prepare students for supervised practice in dietetics after graduation. Graduates who have completed the applied concentration are also prepared to take the DTR credential exam and work as a BS DTR in healthcare, schools or WIC and are also qualified for careers in foodservice management and environmental health.

The curriculum is planned to be developmental with specific prerequisites and sequences to build foundational knowledge and skills. DPND Course requirements for 2022-2026 Catalog

DPND Professional Courses	DPND Science Courses
	MCRO 221/224 Survey of Microbiology (L) (4)
FSN 121 Fundamentals of Food (L) (4)	CHEM 127 General Chemistry I (L) (4)
FSN 202 Nutrition (4)	CHEM 128 General Chemistry II (L) (4)
FSN 250 Food & Nutrition: Customs & Cultures (4)	CHEM 312 Survey of Organic Chemistry (L) (5) <i>or</i> CHEM 216 Organic Chemistry I (L) (5)
FSN 281 Writing in Nutrition Science (2)	CHEM 314 Survey Biochemistry & Biotechnology (L) (5) <i>or</i> CHEM 369 Biochemical Principles (L) (5)
FSN 310 Maternal & Child Nutrition (4)	
FSN 315 Nutrition in Aging (4)	BIO 161 Intro to Cell and Molecular Biology (L) (4)
FSN 319 Food Technology for the Consumer (4)	
FSN 321 Contemporary Issues in Food Selection and Preparation (L) (4)	BIO 302 Human Genetics (4) <i>or</i> BIO 303 Survey of Genetics (4)
FSN 331 Macronutrient Metabolism (4)	**BIO 231 Human Anatomy & Physiology I (L) (5)
FSN 332 Micronutrient Metabolism (4)	**BIO 232 Human Anatomy & Physiology II (L) (5)
FSN 333 Nutrient Metabolism Lab (1)	
FSN 343 Institutional Foodservice I (L) (3)	MATH 118 Pre-Calculus Algebra (4) <i>or</i> MATH 116& MATH 117 Pre-Calculus Algebra I, II (3) (3)
FSN 344 Institutional Foodservice II (L) (4)	
FSN 381 Critical Evaluation of Nutrition Research (4)	
FSN 415 Nutrition Education & Communication (4)	
FSN 416 Community Nutrition (4)	
FSN 417 Nutrition Counseling (4)	
FSN 426 Food Systems Management (4)	
FSN 431 Medical Nutrition Therapy I (2)	
FSN 432 Medical Nutrition Therapy II (L) (4)	
FSN433 Medical Nutrition Therapy III (L) (4)	
FSN 461/481 Senior Project (3)	
PSY 201/202 General Psychology (4)	
STAT 218 Applied Statistics in the Life Sciences (4)	

Schedule Planning

Students enrolled as Freshmen who complete an average of 15 - 16 units each quarter can expect to complete the requirements for graduation in 4 (four) academic years. Addition of a minor course of study, a double concentration or study abroad is likely to add time to completion of the degree. The costs and benefits of these should be considered carefully.

Newly admitted freshmen will be enrolled into a full schedule of classes for their first Fall quarter and a partial schedule for the following Winter and Spring. This is known as block scheduling and occurs only during your freshman year. Blocking considers courses that may have been taken at community college and/or advanced placement (AP) credit earned while in high-school. Students are provided with schedule options if they desire to make changes in the blocked schedule.

Students declare a major when applying to Cal Poly and therefore begin taking courses in Nutrition combined with general education and science courses during the first quarter of enrollment at Cal Poly. All new students (freshmen and community college transfer students as well as those who make a major change into the Nutrition program from another major) will be enrolled in the one (1) unit *Orientation to Nutrition* course during their first Fall quarter. This course provides an orientation to the major, professional practice opportunities with a degree in nutrition, campus resources (covered in detail later in this handbook), department faculty and schedule planning. Students who enter the major after the Fall offering of FSN 101 Orientation to Nutrition should meet with the DPND director for schedule-planning advising until they are able to enroll in FSN 101.

The schedule-planning portion of the *Orientation to Nutrition* course includes an orientation to the curriculum, prerequisites and sequential courses along with practice drafting a schedule plan and orientation to “Poly Planner.” Students are required to have their draft schedules reviewed by a Nutrition Peer Advisor before submitting to the instructor. This facilitates an early connection with the Peer Advising Center as an important resource related to schedule planning.

The instructor provides specific feedback and correction, if needed, to each student.

The flow chart on the next pages are one of the resources used to help students with schedule planning. Please note that the flow charts are designed with incoming freshman students in mind, not transfer students. Transfer students should meet with the CAFES Advising center to create their own individualized flow charts.

The flow chart is given with the following disclaimer:

“Limited course offerings may be necessary. Prerequisites may change at any time. Please check the online catalog FSN office or website for changes.”

Updated 7/11/2022

FRESHMAN			SOPHOMORE			JUNIOR			SENIOR		
Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring
Orientation to the Food Sci & Nutr Majors FSN 101 (1)	Food & Nutr: Culture & Customs FSN 250 (4)¹ [USCP & E]	Fundamentals of Food FSN 121 (4)	Choose one: MCRO 221 (4) MCRO 224 (5) *	Writing in Nutrition Science FSN 281 (2) (FSN 210; GE Areas A2 & A3 w/min C-)	Nutrition in Aging FSN 315 (4) (FSN 202 or 210; Soph Standing)	Maternal & Child Nutrition FSN 310 (4) (FSN 202 or 210; Jr Standing)	Micronutrient Metabolism FSN 332 (4) (FSN 331)	Critical Evaluation of Nutr. Research FSN 381 (4) (STAT 218; FSN 281; Coreq: FSN 329 or 332)	Select Path: Senior Project Option 1 FSN 461 (3) (Sr Stdy; GE A3 w/min C-; STAT 218; Coreq: FSN 329, or 332 & 333; 361)		
Introduction to Human Nutrition FSN 202 (4)	General Chem for Ag & Life Science I CHEM 127 (4)¹ * [B1 & B3]	General Chem for Ag & Life Science II CHEM 128 (4) (CHEM 127 or AP Chem score of 3)	Organic Chem: Fuels, & Apps. CHEM 312 (5)² (CHEM 125 or 128)	Surv. of Biochem & Biotech CHEM 314 (5)² (CHEM 212, 216, 312, or 316)	Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences STAT 218 (4)³ * [GE Elective]	Macronutrient Metabolism FSN 331 (4) (BIO 161; CHEM 310 or 369; FSN 210; Jr Standing)	Nutrient Metabolism Lab FSN 333 (1) (FSN 328 or 331; Coreq: FSN 332)	The Science of Food for the Consumer FSN 319 (4)¹ (Jr Standing; GE Areas A & B4 w/min C-) [Upper-Div B]	Nutrition Education & Communications FSN 415 (4) (FSN 328 or 331; Sr Standing; Coreq: FSN 329; or FSN 332 & 333)	Senior Project Option 2 FSN 478 (2) (FSN 381; Sr Standing; Instr. Consent)	Senior Project Option 2 FSN 481 (1) (FSN 478 or 479; Sr Standing)
Intro to Cell & Molecular Biology BIO 161 (4)⁴** [B2 & B3]			Organic Chemistry I CHEM 216 (5)² (CHEM 126 or 129 w/min C- or Stat- Consent)	Biochemical Principles CHEM 369 (5)² (CHEM 217 or 317; BIO 161; Recom: CHEM 233/331)		Human Anatomy and Physiology I BIO 231 (5) (BIO 111 or 161; CHEM 110, 111, 124, 127, or PSC 100)	Human Anatomy and Physiology II BIO 232 (5) (BIO 111 or 161; CHEM 110, 111, 124, 127, or PSC 100)		Medical Nutrition Therapy I FSN 431 (2) (BIO 231; Coreq: FSN 329, or 332 & 333)	Medical Nutrition Therapy II FSN 432 (4) (BIO 232; FSN 310; FSN 315; FSN 431)	Medical Nutrition Therapy III FSN 433 (4) (FSN 432)
Precalculus Algebra MATH 118 (4)^{1,3}** [B4]				Contemp. Issues in Food Choice & Prep FSN 321 (4) (FSN 121; FSN 202 or 210; Soph Standing)	General Psychology PSY 201 or 202 (4)	Foodservice Operations I FSN 343 (3) (FSN 121; Jr Standing)	Foodservice Operations II FSN 344 (4) (FSN 321; FSN 343)	Human Genetics BIO 302 (4) (Jr Standing; GE Areas A & B4; ABC 112; BIO 111, 123, 161, 215, or BOT 121)		Nutrition Counseling FSN 417 (4) (Sr Standing; PSY 201/202; Coreq: FSN 415)	Community Nutrition FSN 416 (4) (FSN 310, 315, 328 or 331; Sr Standing; Coreq: FSN 415)
	GE (4) **							Survey of Genetics BIO 303 (4) (BIO 111 or 161 or BOT 121; Recom: STAT 218)	Nutr. & Food Systems Mgmt. FSN 426 (4) (FSN 344)	OR	Nutr. & Food Systems Mgmt. FSN 426 (4) (FSN 344)
Oral Communication COMS 101 or 102 (4)** [A1] Can be taken anytime during Freshman Year									Prof. Practice in Nutr. and Dietetics FSN 463 (2)⁴		
Expository Writing ENGL 133 or 134 (4)** [A2] Can be taken anytime during Freshman Year									GE (4) **	GE (4) **	GE (4) **
	Reasoning, Argumentation, & Writing [A3] COMS 126, COMS/ENGL 145, ENGL 148, or PHIL 126 (4)** (Completion of GE A2 with a C- or better)										
					GE (4) **			Graduation Writing Requirement GWR* (Students can attempt to fulfill the requirement after 90 earned units; students should complete the requirement before senior year)			
TOTAL YEARLY UNITS	45		TOTAL YEARLY UNITS	44-45		TOTAL YEARLY UNITS	46		TOTAL YEARLY UNITS	45	TOTAL: 180-181

Notes:
MOST GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES CAN BE TAKEN IN ANY ORDER AS LONG AS PREREQUISITES ARE MET

* Refer to current catalog for prerequisites.

**One course from each of the following GE areas must be completed: A1, A2, A3, C1, C2, Lower-Division C Elective, Upper-Division C, D1, D2, Upper-Division D, F, and GE Elective. Upper-Division C and Upper-Division D should be taken only after Junior standing is reached (90 units).

Refer to online catalog for GE course selection and Graduation Writing Requirement (GWR).

¹ Required in Major; also satisfies GE.
² Most Nutrition majors should take CHEM 312 and CHEM 314. Students choosing the Nutrition Science concentration may need to take CHEM 216 and CHEM 369, depending on their career goals and approved electives. Students selecting CHEM 216 must also take CHEM 217 and CHEM 218. See advisor.
³ MATH 116 and MATH 117 substitute.
⁴ FSN 463 is an optional CR/NC course to help prepare Nutrition majors for career opportunities, such as the steps to becoming a registered dietitian.
Legend:

Course Title	Major (105-106)
Course # (Units)	Concentration (27)
(Prerequisite)	General Ed. (48)
[GE Area]	

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Food Science and Nutrition Department Faculty and Staff

Please refer to webpage for most up to date office assignments. Below listings are based on information available as of August 26th 2022. <http://www.fsn.calpoly.edu/faculty-staff>

Faculty	Office	Phone extension	Email@calpoly.edu
Alexander, Verena	11-239	**	vealexan
Amin, Samir	24-105A	66176	samin02
Cahn, Dr. Anna	74M-B103	66130	acahn
Castro, Dr. Luis	24-109	62804	lfcastro
Chessen, Julie	24 -111	62284	jchessen
Choudhury, Dr. Gour	11-253	62753	gchoudhu
Derelian, Dr. Doris	74M-B103	66130	derelian
Elliston, Sherry	74M-B103	62565	sellisto
Feng, Yiming	24-105C	62296	Yfeng06
Kohlen, Corinne	24-112	65495	ckohlen
Kristo, Alexandra	74M-A116	62618	akristo
Lammert, Dr. Amy	11-223	66108	alammert
Lathrop, Dr. Amanda	24-110	66269	lathrop
Nazmi, Dr. Aydin	11-245	66183	nazmi
Niku, Shohreh	24-105B	67152	ssniku
Pilolla, Dr. Kari	11-246	65419	kpilolla
Reaves, Dr. Scott	11-240	66126	sreaves
Sikalidis, Dr. Angelos	11-241	66496	asikalid
Administration & Staff			
Jung, Dr. Stephanie – Dept head	11-243	62660	stjung
Lear, Molly	24-107H	67358	lear
Jones, Dwayne	24-A	67345	ajones09
Christelle Hall	11-244	62205	chall52
Foote, Erin	24-107H	62587	erfoote
*No assignment yet			

Didactic Program Policies

Policies and procedures that govern the DPND program are formulated by the DPND director in collaboration with the Food Science and Nutrition faculty and department head with consideration of ACEND standards and Cal Poly / College of Agriculture Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) policies and procedures.

Academics

Any student enrolled in the Nutrition major is eligible to select and complete the Applied (accredited) concentration. The University requires a minimum 2.0 overall grade point average (GPA) and passing grades in all required courses in order to earn a B.S. degree. Considering the competitive dietetic internship application environment, we have set a higher GPA standard to earn a Verification Statement. **A minimum 2.75 cumulative GPA qualifies students for a Verification Statement. Additionally, all students earning a verification statement must show proficiencies in the KRDNs by achieving a 70% or better on the corresponding assessment methods. KRDNs and their associated assessment methods are listed in each applicable course syllabus.** A verification statement is required for students who plan to take the BS-NDTR exam or apply for dietetic internship in order to become an RD/RDN.

Considering the importance of foundational comprehension and the GPA requirement for Verification Statement we advise students to retake courses with low grades as soon as possible. University policy allows students to retake any course with a grade of C- or lower. Some dietetic internships and graduate programs will not consider applicants with less than a “C” grade in any DPND course. Up to 16 units may be re-taken to achieve passing and/or improved grade that replaces the lower grade in their GPA calculation. In addition, we strongly recommend against taking classes credit/no credit if students are planning on applying for dietetic internships, other professional schools, or graduate school of any type. Please contact either the DPD director or the advising center for further information.

Office of the Registrar policy on retaking classes: <https://registrar.calpoly.edu/repeats>

After graduation students may retake DPND courses if suitable equivalents can be found. Enrolling in or retaking DPND courses at other colleges/universities should be discussed with the DPND director and must be approved by the DPND director for DPND credit. DPND courses retaken after graduation do not have an impact on the Cal Poly GPA but can improve DPND GPA if higher grades are earned and if official transcripts are submitted to the DPND director.

Under non- pandemic conditions, applied nutrition students may take **1 (one)** general education (GE) for Credit/No Credit grading. This must be a course that is not identified as a DPND course. Students should confirm this choice with an academic advisor or the DPND Director before choosing Credit/No Credit grading. Currently, during the COVID 19 pandemic students have been allowed to, but strongly discouraged from taking any FSN units as credit/no credit. These students can still get a verification statement, pending all graded coursework is equal or better to a 2.75 GPA equivalent. This will continue to be assessed depending on the course of the pandemic, and its possible a limit to DPD credit/no credit coursework will be imposed in the future to ensure the highest academic standards for our DPD graduates.

Students who do not meet the GPA requirement to earn a verification statement at the time of graduation, may retake courses to improve DPD GPA and receive a Verification Statement. To receive a Verification Statement after graduation, graduates must meet the DPD course requirements of the catalog in effect at that time. Curriculum changes may require students to take additional courses to meet the current DPD requirements.

Administration and management

The director of the DPND, Corinne Kohlen MS RD CNSC CDE, is a full-time Nutrition faculty member appointed by the department head. Corinne Kohlen's office is in building 24 room 112. Office hours are updated quarterly and can be found on the FSN website <https://fsn.calpoly.edu/faculty-staff>. Telephone is 805-756-5495 and email ckohlen@calpoly.edu. Due to the current COVID 19 pandemic the best way to reach the DPD director is via email.

The DPND director must be an RD/RDN. Responsibilities of the DPND Director include a full teaching load and program responsibilities that include but are not limited to each of the following: (excerpted from ACEND standards for Dietetics Education Programs)

1. Provision or delegation of responsibilities to assure year-round coverage of director responsibilities in the absence of the director or in cases where the director's full-time appointment does not cover all 12 months. In programs where the program director assigns some responsibilities to other individuals, the director must ensure that all program director responsibilities are accomplished throughout the year
2. Development of policies and procedures for effectively managing all components of the program and to ensure fair, equitable and considerate treatment of prospective and enrolled students (such as program admission, retention and completion policies).
3. Student recruitment, advisement, evaluation and counseling
4. Maintenance of program accreditation, including:
 - a. Timely submission of fees, reports and requests for major program changes;
 - b. Maintenance of the program's student records, including student advising plans and verification statements. Of note DPD director will collaborate with CAFES Advising center for student advising plans.
 - c. Maintenance of complaints about the program received from students or others, including disposition of the complaint;
 - d. On-going review of program's curriculum to meet the accreditation standards;
 - e. Communication and coordination with program faculty, preceptors and others involved with the program and its students;
 - f. Facilitation of processes for continuous program evaluation, and
 - g. Timely submission of required documentation supporting the graduate's eligibility for a Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) credentialing exam.

Assessment of Prior Learning

The Office of Academic Records evaluates all courses taken at other colleges/universities for academic credit in each student's declared major. If a student does not receive credit for a course previously taken and feels that the course is substantially the same as a required Cal Poly course, the student may submit a course substitution that explains the rationale, includes catalog descriptions of the completed course and the course for which substitution is requested and a copy of the syllabus for the completed course. The FSN department substitution committee, which includes the DPND director, may approve the course substitution if the learning objectives, teaching and learning methods and rigor are determined to be comparable. The substitution committee does not consider non-academic work for academic credit.

Attendance

Attendance is expected at every class and lab session and most instructors take attendance. Classes begin at the posted start time. Building professional skills begins with prompt and consistent class attendance and communication. If students must be absent due to illness or emergency an email or call to the instructor is appropriate to keep them informed. Attendance at the first class meeting is critical as instructors can drop students who miss the first class meeting. Please refer to individual instructors for attendance policies during the COVID – 19 pandemic.

Updated August 2022

Change of Major

Students should review major change requirements for the major of interest and meet with an academic adviser to discuss how the major aligns with the student's plans and goals. Students wishing to change into the Nutrition Major should review the major change requirements found on the FSN Minors page linked here <http://www.fsn.calpoly.edu/minors>

Declaration of Concentration

All students in the FSN 101 Orientation course are given information about each of the nutrition concentrations and associated career options. Students are required to declare a concentration during Fall quarter as one of the conditions for 'Credit' in the FSN 101 course. Students declare a concentration by completing the following [form](#)

The form will request the following information:

- Full Name
- Empl ID
- Major
- Catalog Year (i.e., 17-19, 19-20, 20-21, etc.)
- Concentration you wish to pursue* - Please include the official name for your chosen concentration.
- * *Make sure your chosen concentration is available for the catalog you are following.*
- Refer to catalog.calpoly.edu for the current catalog.

Electronic Mail Account

All Cal Poly students are given instructions for accessing their student 'portal' and email accounts upon acceptance of admission to the university. Instructions for forwarding your @calpoly.edu mail to an existing email account can be found at the following link

<https://calpoly.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/CPKB/pages/2424922/Forward+My+Cal+Poly+Email+to+a+Different+Email#:~:text=Log%20in%20to%20the%20My%20Cal%20Poly%20Portal%20%3E%20My%20Apps,to%20your%20off%2Dcampus%20account>

Emails from faculty related to courses, the FSN department related to registration, course offerings, advising and other topics and the university related to registration, emergency alerts and other topics are all important methods of communication and should be reviewed when received.

Dress Code and Safety

Every class that includes the preparation of food or activities in food preparation and/or food processing has specific dress code and food safety practices that will be reviewed in detail at the first class or laboratory meeting (FSN 121, 319, 321, 343, 344 or other applicable labs). At a minimum, students must wear loose fitting ankle length pants, shirt that covers the shoulders and tummy, lab or chef coat, enclosed shoes and hair must be confined in a bonnet or hair net. Students may not wear nail polish, artificial nails or jewelry (except plain band wedding ring), during lab portions of these courses. Please refer to individual class syllabi for specific lab dress code and safety policies.

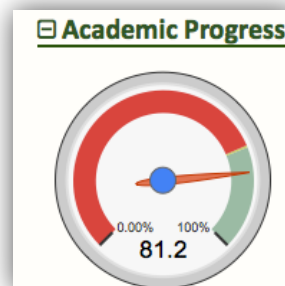
Nutrient Metabolism or Macronutrient Lab, Chemistry, Biology, Anatomy and Physiology labs also have specific lab safety requirements that will be explained during the first week of class.

Accident / Injury response and reporting

Instructors orient students to safe work practices and monitor performance to promote a safe environment however if a student is injured or involved in an accident the university policies and procedures for response, investigation and treatment are found at this link. <https://afd.calpoly.edu/risk-management/accidents-incident/>

Evaluation of progress

Many, but not all, faculty use an online gradebook in the Learning Management System (Canvas) that shows individual grades for assignments and exams throughout the quarter so that students can monitor their grades until and including when the final grade is calculated. Final grades are submitted no later than 4:00 pm Tuesday following the end of each final exam period and available for students to view the Wednesday following the end of each final exam period. Grades are visible by term in “Poly Profile” along with a graphic similar to the example here titled “Academic Progress” which displays your required course completion as a percentage of the total required.



As classes are completed each student's “Degree Progress Report” (DPR) is also updated. This is a different online resource also accessible from the student portal that includes every class required for completion of the degree and each class is coded according to the following chart. The DPR will include classes taken at Cal Poly and will also show credit for classes taken at community colleges or other universities. Students are encouraged to check their DPR at the end of every term and especially after submitting transcripts from other schools to be sure appropriate credit has been given.

Degree Audit Icons		Course Icons	
These symbols indicate the status of the student's degree progress.		These codes indicate the source/status of the credit. See <i>Course History</i> and <i>External Credit</i> for your full history.	
✓	Requirement Satisfied	✓	Cal Poly Graded Course
◆	In Progress	◆	Course In Progress
★	(Icon Not In Use)	★	(Icon Not In Use)
■	Requirement Not Satisfied	←	Transfer/Test/Other credit
⚠	Exception Made	?	(Icon Not In Use)

Academic Probation

Students who earn less than a 2.0 GPA cumulatively or in any quarter are placed on academic probation and required to work with their assigned academic advisor to develop an action plan to improve academic success. The plan is individualized to meet the unique needs of each student and usually involves repeating classes with grades less than ‘C’, self-reflection on study habits and needs, reduced course load, workshops related to time management, study skills, test-taking, reading for comprehension and referrals for counseling or medical screening. Students with 2 consecutive quarters on academic probation are subject to disqualification. Students who have been disqualified are eligible for readmission after a successful period of remediation that usually involves 2 semesters of prescribed coursework at the community college of their choice. Academic probation and disqualification are managed and directed by the College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences (CAFES) Advising Center.

Field trips

Field trips or field experience are included in many DPND courses as an excellent method for integrating theory with practice. Field trip expectations will be described in the course syllabus and usually at the first class or lab meeting, if required. And a “Student Participation Agreement” that can be found at the following link along with other field trip information will be provided by the instructor and completed by each student before field trip(s) take place.

<https://afd.calpoly.edu/risk-management/releases>

Updated August 2022

Insurance

As a result of registering and paying fees, all Cal Poly students are entitled to outpatient medical services at no additional charge. This link to the Health and Counseling Services web site includes details on services, location and hours of operation. <https://chw.calpoly.edu/>

Student complaints/grievances

The university has a formal grievance policy for all students described at the link below.

<http://www.catalog.calpoly.edu/academicstandardsandpolicies/academicstandards/#StudentGrievances>

Complaints/concerns about specific DPND course structure, rigor, management, grading, academic integrity and similar issues should first be brought to the attention of the instructor in person or in writing. Most problems or misunderstandings can be resolved through direct personal communication. If the problem or concern persists the student may use the university grievance policy linked above or may bring their complaint to the DPND director.

The option to talk and problem-solve with the DPND director is open to all students, by appointment or during drop-in office hours, however if the student expects action / investigation, their complaint/concerns should be summarized in writing. Depending on the nature of the complaint the DPND director will investigate and/or collaborate with instructors, the department head, academic advisor, campus police and other relevant individuals, keeping the student's identity confidential when possible. The DPND director will keep a file of the complaint and the resolution, though details of the resolution may not be able to be shared with the student. Records of complaints are kept for a 7 year timeframe.

If the student doesn't feel comfortable going to the DPD director, they are welcome to talk to the Department Head, Stephanie Jung.

Additionally, if a student feels they have exhausted all resources to make an internal complaint, they may contact the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and make a complaint using the following link:

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/public-notice-and-announcements/filing-a-complaint-with-acend>

Student conduct

The University and the FSN department is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy living and learning environment for students, faculty, and staff. We are committed to inclusion, diversity, and equity as core values. And our program fosters interpersonal growth and cultivates community enabling our students to learn in an environment that supports individual goals and learning styles and prepares them to serve diverse populations and communities in their chosen areas of professional practice.

Every student should read and be familiar with the university policies related to conduct and each student's rights and responsibilities. Individual instructors may include additional requirements for classroom behavior that will be included in course syllabi.

<https://osrr.calpoly.edu/academic-integrity>

Student Privacy

The university and the FSN department abide by all Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) standards. Students receive an annual announcement that explains FERPA standards. The standards can also be reviewed at the link that follows https://registrar.calpoly.edu/content/stu_info/ferpa

Verification statements

Verification statements are issued after degrees are posted, to students who complete the B.S. Nutrition curriculum following the Applied concentration, with a 2.75 GPA or better. Verification statements will be issued to master's students after completion of all required DPND courses with at least a 2.75 GPA. A minimum of 28 DPND course units must be completed at Cal Poly in order to receive a verification statement from Cal Poly. Courses that must be taken at Cal Poly include FSN 415, FSN 416, FSN 417, FSN 420, FSN

426, FSN 429 and FSN 430 (2017-2019 catalog) OR FSN 381, FSN 415, FSN 416, FSN 417, FSN 431, FSN 432 and FSN 433 (2019-2020, and 2020-202, 2021-2022, and 2022-2026 catalog). In addition to the GPA requirements to receive a verification statement, students must show they have achieved competency in all of the KRDNs.

The verification statement is documentation of successful completion of an accredited Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics (DPND). Six verification statements, signed by the DPND director, are mailed to graduates at the address in Poly Profile. A cover letter that describes the use and value of a DPND verification statement and eligibility with steps to achieve the BS – NDTR credential is included.

Verification statements should be filed with other important documents like diplomas and birth certificates. An additional signed verification statement remains permanently filed in the students departmental file.

Volunteer activities

Diverse experiences related to dietetics are important to the professional development of dietetics practitioners and a variety of volunteer experiences will be available every academic year and should also be explored during breaks in locations outside of San Luis Obispo to add to the variety and diversity of experiences. Volunteerism is not observing or shadowing it is an opportunity to serve and contribute to an organization while also developing collaboration, communication, problem-solving and other important professional skills and abilities.

Experiences related to foodservice, healthcare and community nutrition are especially valuable to students pursuing a career in dietetics and while paid positions in foodservice are readily available that is not the case with community nutrition or healthcare so volunteering in these areas is an excellent way to gain experience and serve organizations that benefit the community. Be alert to announcements or emails from instructors about specific volunteer opportunities. As your schedule for each quarter is set after registration this is a good time to consider a quarter-long commitment to a local organization if you see that you'll have a morning or afternoon open. Talk with your FSN instructors if you're ready to make a quarter-long commitment, they may know of specific needs or be able to direct you to community organizations that appreciate our student volunteers.

Service learning is integrated throughout the curriculum and many times a connection made while serving in a class can lead to volunteer or even paid employment. While volunteering is important, academics is the top priority so if schedules do not allow for volunteering during the academic year, breaks are good opportunities to serve as a volunteer and most of the faculty are great sources of information about volunteering.

Professional associations

Student membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is recommended and encouraged but not required. The membership year begins June 1 and student membership is \$58 per year. Information about Academy student membership is available from the DPND director, DI director and most other faculty and from the Academy web site

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/membership/membership-types-and-criteria/student-member>

Benefits of Academy membership includes electronic and by mail subscription to the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, daily emails with "Knowledge Center" summary of nutrition / dietetics related publications, professional networking, reduced prices on Academy sponsored events and eligibility for Academy Foundation and Practice Group scholarships.

Students and even graduates may continue student membership until credentialed as a professional member (BS-NDTR or RD/RDN).

Resources

Academic Skills Center

The Academic Skills Center is located in Kennedy Library Room 112 and sponsors a variety of seminars and workshops to support student success. Workshops are well publicized and open to all students.

<https://asc.calpoly.edu/>

Career Services

Career services provides resources and support throughout student's years at Cal Poly and after, in the form of resume and cover-letter writing advising and workshops, interview workshops and practice, career fairs and professional networking. Students may drop in or make appointments for specific kinds of support.

<http://www.careerservices.calpoly.edu/>

Center for Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity and Inclusion are very important to Cal Poly and the University is constantly trying to become more inclusive and diverse. This website has great resources including webinars, talks, and policies regarding diversity and inclusion.

<https://diversity.calpoly.edu/>

Center for Service in Action

The Center for Service in Action supports faculty and their service-learning needs and plans usually in the local community and works directly with students as the university link to 'Alternative Breaks' and 'Americorps'

<https://serviceinaction.calpoly.edu/>

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The DRC provides information and support services to Cal Poly students with permanent and temporary disabilities. Services are extensive and can be reviewed at their website

<http://drc.calpoly.edu/>

Information Technology Services (ITS)

ITS supports all computing, information technology and communication on the Cal Poly Campus and throughout the Cal Poly portal and learning management system. The ITS service desk can be contacted by phone, web or in person for all issues related to technology, email, passwords, and more.

<https://tech.calpoly.edu/services/servicedesk>

Library

Kennedy Library is the resource hub for all Cal Poly students, with an extensive print book and periodical collection along with online databases of peer-reviewed journals and other periodicals. Course reserve materials are available from the circulation desk. The library has quiet space for individual study and group collaboration. The library also has several computer labs and a technology center with laptops and iPads available for check-out. An orientation to the library is part of the FSN 101 course. Please check the library's website for updates to hours/library operation during the COVID 19 Pandemic. <http://lib.calpoly.edu/>

Supervised Practice (Internship) Application Support ("SPAS")- Website

The "SPAS" website is a password-protected resource, specifically designed to support the dietetic internship application process. Students are oriented to the "SPAS" website during the FSN 101 orientation course. Your Cal Poly CAS authentication login and password will also give you access to "SPAS". The site is password-protected because it serves as a repository for the Applicant Guide to Supervised Practice, alumni profiles, links to recorded seminars and workshops and other copyrighted or subscription information not appropriate for the general public.

This resource supports current students and graduates who may be applying for dietetic internship one or more years after graduation. The SPAS website does not take the place of personal advising but is a supplement to the advising process that is available to students and graduates 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. “SPAS” is linked from the FSN home page using your Cal Poly authentication. Once you are on the Nutrition home page click at the top for discover nutrition and then you will see the link to “SPAS” near the bottom right <http://fsn.calpoly.edu/>

Scholarships

This link is to the most current information about scholarships. <https://www.calpoly.edu/financial-aid/types-of-aid/scholarships>

By clicking on the “Cal Poly Scholarships and Awards” link students are directed to a page with this menu.



By next clicking the link to College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences (CAFES) students can view specific scholarships for which they might be considered. Keep in mind the list is extensive because all majors in CAFES are included here. The only way to be considered for a scholarship based on financial need is to complete the FAFSA by the beginning of March of each academic year. Check this web link for the exact deadline.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation offers a large number of scholarships to student members based on merit or specific areas of study.

Joining the Academy as a student member is a good first step towards qualifying for an Academy Foundation Scholarship. Click on the link below for Academy Foundation scholarship information.

<http://www.eatrightpro.org/resources/leadership/honors-and-awards/grants-and-scholarships>

Professional Practice with a Degree in Applied Nutrition

Becoming a Nutrition and Dietetic Technician, Registered (BS-NDTR™)

All students who complete the B.S. in Nutrition – Applied Concentration and earn a Verification Statement are eligible and qualified to take the exam to earn the BS-NDTR™ credential. The cover letter included with verification statements includes instructions for submitting the DTR eligibility application. The same information can be found at the CDR website under “Option 2”

<http://www.cdrnet.org/certifications/registration-eligibility-requirements-for-dietetic-technicians>

Candidates must complete the ‘Exam candidate Survey’ linked from the DTR eligibility application.

Candidates must also submit an official transcript, after degree is awarded, to the DPND program director. Electronic submission is preferred. Use ckohlen@calpoly.edu as the email and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo as the University when completing transcript request. Official transcripts sent by US mail are also acceptable (address above).

The DPND director verifies the candidate has earned the verification statement and submits the application to CDR. Within 10 business days the candidate will receive confirmation and information from CDR about eligibility to take the credentialing exam.

2024 Master's Degree Requirement

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

Applying for Supervised Practice (Internship) Programs in dietetics

There are two (2) application seasons for Supervised Practice programs (September & February application deadlines). Some students apply during their senior year and others wait and apply one or more years later in order to save money, get professional experience, allow time to clarify their goals and many other personal reasons. The process should be approached strategically and thoughtfully. Students will learn the strategy and details of the process throughout their years at Cal Poly, beginning in the FSN 101 orientation class and concluding in the FSN 463 Professional Practice in Dietetics senior seminar and individual advising. There is also an informational meeting every Fall quarter to review the details for students not enrolled in FSN 463.

The application process is changing and will be available to students October 4th 2022. If you are not enrolled in FSN 463, please contact the DPD director regarding help using this system.

1. Login to "SPAS" and review the recorded seminars found at the 'Recorded Seminars' link, if not enrolled in the FSN 463 seminar.
2. Create a DICAS account (note – account webpage address active October 4th 2022 – please contact DPD director)
3. Select if you have a verification statement, or declaration of intent (or not)
4. Select the internship programs that you are interested in applying to, then click "Continue to my application to begin the actual application". If you need to add programs later, you can go to the "add programs" tab at the top. Programs can also be deleted. Applicants do not need to add programs when they first open an account, this can be done later if necessary.
5. You will be directed to the main application portal. The application portal consists of 4 main sections. The first three sections will only need to be completed one time; the 4th section is specific to each individual institution the applicant is applying to. Each one of the quadrants contains a progress bar, to show what is needed to complete the quadrant. Once each part of a particular section is done, a check mark will appear. Sections with examples of content:
 - a. Personal Information – biographic info, contact info, citizenship info, race and ethnicity, DPD information, other information.
 - b. Academic History – colleges they attended, any tests you have taken or plan to take, courses taken, GPA. Note – they can pay to have someone enter their classes for them if they want.
 - c. Supporting Information – additional nonacademic information such as resumes, or licenses. Shadowing hours, awards and presentations, or achievements. Where the DPD director information is inputted (called "Evaluator's information"). This will trigger the DPD director to submit the verification statement of declaration of intent.
 - d. Program Materials – where specific program questions are, program information such as deadlines, custom internship branding, links to internship websites, tabs to collect additional documents and questions.

6. Check the “Check Status” tab – this will show you which payments, transcripts, and applications have been completed.
7. Download the application for your records
8. Create a D & D Digital account, enter programs and rank in order of preference.
<https://www.dnndigital.com/>
9. Submit application fees to programs and service fees to DICAS and D&D Digital

Recommended Dietetic Internship Preparation Timeline	
Freshman Year	Focus on academics
	Explore volunteer / work opportunities as time allows
	Join the nutrition club / explore other special interest clubs
	Join the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics as a student member
	Plan dietetics-related summer work experience – consider Bearskin Meadow Diabetes Camp – 8 weeks – paid (www.dyf.org), or any other food/nutrition related experiences.
	Get to know nutrition faculty
	Build E-Portfolio framework in FSN 121
Sophomore Year	Continue focus on academics – better to take fewer units and do well
	Retake any DPND courses with less than ‘C-’ grade
	Consider becoming a “Health Ambassador” (KINE 290) https://healthresearch.calpoly.edu/stride-welcomes-new-health-ambassadors-and-assessment-team-members-0
	Add artifacts and reflections to E-Portfolio
	Plus all freshman year recommendations
Junior Year	Continue focus on academics & all freshman/sophomore recommendations
	Explore SPAS (Supervised Practice Application Support)
	Explore Academy (eatright.org) website for professional interest information and dietetic internship links https://www.eatrightpro.org/about-us/become-an-rdn-or-dtr/high-school-students/5-steps-to-become-a-registered-dietitian-nutritionist
	Attend the Spring “Getting ready for your senior year” workshop
	Paid part-time employment in foodservice, community nutrition or healthcare. Campus Dining, ASI Children’s Center, Atascadero State Hospital, and Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center are the major employers of nutrition students.
	Plan to attend FNCE Fall of senior year
	Consider applying to be a ‘Peer Health Educator’ for all of senior year. https://hcs.calpoly.edu/content/pulse/pulse
	Consider who you will ask for letters of recommendation for DI or grad school – Don’t wait for the last minute to build relationships with faculty.
	Take the GRE exam summer before senior year – Research school options to find out if you need to do this
	Consider summer and other travel plans in light of internship site visits and open house schedule – plan ahead. (Pandemic pending)
	Plus all freshman / sophomore recommendations
Senior Year	Enroll in FSN 463 – Professional Practice in Dietetics – Fall quarter only
	Attend FNCE Dietetic Internship recruitment fair and conference sessions
	Narrow internship choices
	Select and request references for DI application before close of Fall quarter
	Begin building DICAS application Fall for submission Winter quarter
	Request official transcripts sent to DICAS during Fall quarter - Cal Poly transcripts as soon as Fall quarter grades are final
	Update and polish E-Portfolio
	Finalize/submit DICAS application and D & D rankings by mid-February
Formulate a ‘Plan B’ in case of ‘no match’	

Becoming a Registered Dietitian (RD/RDN™)

From the Academy website <https://www.eatrightpro.org/about-us/become-an-rdn-or-dtr/high-school-students/5-steps-to-become-a-registered-dietitian-nutritionist>

Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RD/RDNs) are food and nutrition experts who have met the following criteria to earn the RD credential:

- **Completed a minimum of a bachelor's degree** at a US regionally accredited university or college and course work accredited or approved by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.
- **Completed an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program** at a health-care facility, community agency, or a foodservice corporation or combined with undergraduate or graduate studies. Typically, a practice program will run six to 12 months in length.
- **Passed a national examination** administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). For more information regarding the examination, refer to CDR's website at www.cdrnet.org.
- **Completed continuing professional educational requirements** to maintain registration.

Some RD/RDNs hold additional certifications in specialized areas of practice. These are awarded through CDR, the credentialing agency for the Academy, and/or other medical and nutrition organizations and are recognized within the profession but are not required. Some of the certifications include pediatric or renal nutrition, sports dietetics, nutrition support and diabetes education.

In addition to RD/RDN credentialing, many states have regulatory laws for dietitians and nutrition practitioners. Frequently these state requirements are met through the same education and training required to become an RD/RDN.

Students should also be aware that beginning January 1st, 2024, a master's degree will be required for the entry-level RD/RDN practitioner. Credentialed RD/RDNs will be 'grandfathered' in and will not be required to earn a master's degree however the employment environment may be affected by new practitioners entering the field with advanced preparation.

Employment opportunities for the RD/RDN™

Information from <https://www.eatrightpro.org/about-us/what-is-an-rdn-and-dtr/what-is-a-registered-dietitian-nutritionist>

Registered dietitian nutritionists work in a wide variety of employment settings, including health care, business and industry, community/public health, education, research, government agencies and private practice.

Many work environments, particularly those in medical and health-care settings, require that an individual be credentialed as an RD/RDN. RDs/RDNs work in:

- **Hospitals, HMO's or other health-care facilities**, educating patients about nutrition and administering medical nutrition therapy as part of the health-care team. They may also manage the foodservice operations in these settings, as well as in schools, day-care centers and correctional facilities, overseeing everything from food purchasing and preparation to managing staff.
- **Sports nutrition and corporate wellness programs**, educating clients about the connection between food, fitness and health.
- **Food and nutrition-related business and industries**, working in communications, consumer affairs, public relations, marketing, product development or consulting with chefs in restaurants and culinary schools.
- **Private practice**, working under contract with health-care or food companies, or in their own business. RDs/RDNs may provide services to foodservice or restaurant managers, food vendors and distributors or athletes, nursing home residents or company employees.
- **Community and public health settings**, teaching, monitoring and advising the public and helping improve their quality of life through healthy eating habits.

- **Universities and medical centers**, teaching physician's assistants, nurses, dietetics students, dentists and others the sophisticated science of foods and nutrition.
- **Research areas** in food and pharmaceutical companies, universities and hospitals directing or conducting experiments to answer critical nutrition questions and find alternative foods or nutrition recommendations for the public

Employment opportunities for the BS-NDTR™

Information from <https://www.eatrightpro.org/about-us/what-is-an-rdn-and-dtr/what-is-a-nutrition-and-dietetics-technician-registered>

Nutrition and Dietetic technicians registered, work independently or as a team member under the supervision of registered dietitians in a variety of employment settings, including health care, business and industry, community/public health, foodservice and research.

Many work environments require that an individual be credentialed as a NDTR. NDTRs work in:

- **Hospitals, HMOs, clinics, nursing homes, retirement centers, hospices, home health-care programs and research facilities** helping to treat and prevent disease by conducting screens, gathering data and performing other tasks to assist the registered dietitian in providing medical nutrition therapy as an important part of health-care teams.
- **Schools, day-care centers, correctional facilities, restaurants, health-care facilities, corporations and hospitals**, managing employees, purchasing and food preparation and preparing budgets within foodservice operations.
- **Women, infant, children (WIC) programs, public health agencies, Meals on Wheels and community health programs**, developing and teaching nutrition classes for the public.
- **Health clubs, weight management clinics and community wellness centers**, helping to educate clients about the connection between food, fitness and health.
- **Food companies, contract food management companies or food vending and distributing operations** developing menus, overseeing foodservice sanitation and food safety and preparing food labeling information and nutrient analysis.

Employment opportunities for the graduate not interested in RD/RDN / NDTR

Graduates in the applied nutrition concentration who decide not to pursue the RD/RDN or NDTR credential are qualified to pursue employment in foodservice management, restaurant management, food or pharmaceutical sales, environmental health, public health, WIC and with additional study elementary or single subject teaching credential and other health professions including nursing, physician's assistant, occupational therapy, chiropractic and many other professions.

Tuition and fees

This link is to the most current tuition and fees for undergraduate students at Cal Poly.

<https://afd.calpoly.edu/fees/>

Information about withdrawal and refund of tuition or fees can be found at the following link

<https://afd.calpoly.edu/student-accounts/refunds/>

Glossary

Academy	Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics – The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is the world’s largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. The Academy is committed to improving the nation’s health and advancing the profession of dietetics through research, education and advocacy.
Accreditation	Process by which programs or institutions are reviewed and evaluated against specific standards to ensure that the program meets established standards.
ACEND	Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics – the Academy’s accrediting agency for education programs. ACEND exists to serve the public by establishing and enforcing standards for the educational preparation of dietetics professionals and by recognizing dietetics education programs and education providers that meet these standards. ACEND has sole and independent authority in all matters pertaining to accreditation of programs and providers of entry-level through specialist and advanced practice education, including but not limited to standard setting, establishment of fees, finances, and administration.
BS-NDTR	Bachelor of Science prepared – Nutrition and Dietetic Technician, registered – This is a new designation since 2014
Commission Dietetic Registration (CDR)	The Academy’s certification and credentialing agency. CDR protects the public through credentialing and assessment processes that assure the competence of registered dietitian nutritionist and dietetic technician, registered. CDR has sole and independent authority in all matters pertaining to certification, including but not limited to standard setting, establishment of fees, finances, and administration.
Concentration	There are 3 concentrations (emphasis or specialized area of study) within the nutrition major. Students are encouraged to declare their concentration as early as possible so the DPR accurately reflects progress in the major.
D & D Digital	Organization that manages the matching and ranking of dietetic internships
DICAS	Dietetic Internship Centralized Application Service – Service that enables a single application to be shared with one or more selected internships for consideration and matching.
Didactic	Teaching approaches that rely on information being provided to students in a structured manner through a second-hand source such as a teacher, readings or other media rather than through demonstration, laboratory or other forms of experiential learning
Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics (DPND) [formerly known as Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)]	An education program that provides the required dietetics coursework to meet ACEND’s core knowledge requirements to prepare graduates for an Internship Program in Nutrition and Dietetics. Graduates of ACEND-accredited didactic programs who are verified by the program director may apply for supervised practice experiences to establish eligibility to sit for the registration examination for dietitians. Currently ACEND, The Academy and this department use both the DPD and DPND terminology.

Disqualification (DQ)	Academic Probation (AP) has different levels based on GPA (below a 2.0 in any of the 3 GPAs) The final level is disqualification and the students may submit an appeal. If an appeal is not submitted or is denied, students must attend a community college and meet certain requirements prior to applying for re-admission.
DPR	Degree Progress Report – accurate student record of course requirements – accessible through student portal
FNCE	Food and Nutrition Conference and Exhibition – the annual meeting and conference of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
ICMA	Individual Change of Major Agreement – students can request to change into a major and need to meet with the academic adviser to review the major change requirements and complete the online form/ contract. New students (freshmen or transfer) must wait one quarter prior to starting an ICMA contract.
Internship program in nutrition and dietetics (also known as dietetic internship – DI – and/or supervised practice)	An education program that provides at least 1,200 hours of required supervised practice experiences to meet ACEND’s competency requirements to become an RD/RDN. A verification statement is issued to individuals who successfully complete the program as evidence of eligibility to sit for the credentialing examination.
Poly Planner	Found on Poly Profile. Tool used by students to plan a long-term course schedule. Students should check the catalog and other advising tools as Poly Planner does not consider prerequisites.
Poly Profile	Unofficial listing of coursework and lists courses in order of completion with quarterly, Cal Poly and Higher Education GPA
Practicum	At Cal Poly the lab, activity or service-learning portion of courses that requires applied or practical work that supports and reinforces the learning objectives of the course.
Preceptor	A preceptor is an expert or specialist, such as a Registered Dietitian/Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, who provides guidance, practical experience and training to a Dietetic Intern.
RD/RDN	Registered Dietitian / Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. The CDR defines the registered dietitian (RD) or registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) as an individual who has met current minimum (baccalaureate) academic requirements with successful completion of both specified didactic education and supervised-practice experiences through programs accredited by the ACEND of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and who has successfully completed the Registration Examination for Dietitians. To maintain the RD or RDN credential, the RD or RDN must comply with the Professional Development Portfolio (PDP) recertification requirements (accrue 75 units of approved continuing professional education every 5 years).
Strategic plan	A systematic process of envisioning a desired goal or objective and translating that vision into a step-by-step plan to achieve the goal.
Verification Statement	The form completed by an ACEND program director, indicating that a student or intern has successfully fulfilled the requirements for completion of the program in accordance with institutional, CDR and ACEND policies.

Volunteer	A person who offers their time, abilities and service to an organization or cause without pay or other compensation.
WIC	Short for “Special Supplemental Food and Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children”



Food Science and Nutrition Department
*Empowering students
to nourish the world*

Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics student handbook

Confirmation of receipt and review of this handbook

My signature below indicates that I have been oriented to the DPND Handbook.

I know where and how to access it or have downloaded my own copy.

I have read the handbook.

I agree to abide by the policies in this handbook throughout my enrollment in the Nutrition Major, Applied Concentration.

This form will be maintained in my student file in the program office.

Printed name of DPND student

Signature of DPND student

Date