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Welcome from the UF DPD Director

Welcome and thank you for your interest in the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) housed in the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department (FSHN) at the University of Florida (UF). The 2022 U.S. News and World Report recognizes UF as #5 among the top 10 best public universities. As part of UF, our department provides a dynamic and challenging environment for undergraduate study. Students have an opportunity to learn from nationally recognized nutrition, dietetic, and food science experts, as well as participate in abundant paid and volunteer opportunities within the community. In addition, many students choose to participate in a food- or nutrition-focused summer study abroad course located in places like Italy and Greece.

Our curriculum emphasizes the science of nutrition, medical nutrition therapy, and food systems management. Students gain experience through participation in group projects, case studies, counseling scenarios, and behavioral research. This combination of knowledge- and application-based learning provides a solid foundation for critical thinking and problem solving.

The undergraduate DPD provides a foundation for developing knowledge and competencies in the core areas of dietetics practice (i.e., clinical dietetics, community nutrition, and food service/systems management) and promotes academic ability to succeed in graduate education and/or a dietetic internship. The emphasis is on developing didactic skills that will help them succeed with their goal to be accepted into and complete a competitive dietetic internship.

Feedback from UF DPD graduates often mention “how prepared and confident” they are during their dietetic internship. To highlight this, in the past five years, UF DPD graduates have had between 93% – 100% placement rate into competitive dietetic internships located in 16 states and one territory of the United States; the average national dietetic internship placement rate has ranged from 62% (in 2018) to 74% (in 2022).

Our DPD is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (aka [the Academy or AND](#)), 120 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995, 1-800-877-1600.

If you would like additional information on the UF DPD program, please call me at 352-273-3471 or email me at gankofskie@ufl.edu.

Sincerely,

Beth T. Gankofskie, PhD, MS, RDN

Instructor and Program Director

Congratulations!

Congratulations for joining the dietetics major within the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Dietetics is a challenging and rewarding profession that applies the science of food and nutrition to the health and well-being of individuals and groups.

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at the University of Florida is a science- and research-based undergraduate program that is accredited by the [Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics \(ACEND\)](#) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND), 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995, 312-899-0040, acend@eatright.org. ACEND is the Academy's accrediting agency for education programs, preparing students for careers as Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) or Nutrition and Dietetics Technicians, Registered (NDTRs).

ACEND exists to serve the public by establishing and enforcing eligibility requirements and accreditation standards that ensure the quality and continued improvement of nutrition and dietetics education programs. Programs meeting those standards are accredited by ACEND.

ACEND is recognized by the United States Department of Education as a Title V gatekeeper. This affirms that ACEND meets national standards and is a reliable authority on the quality of nutrition and dietetics education programs. ACEND is also a member of the [Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors \(ASPA\)](#).

Successful DPD program completion enables you to compete for placement in accredited dietetic internship programs, a required step in becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). Beginning in 2024, the [Commission on Dietetic Registration \(CDR\)](#), which administers the national Registration Examination for Dietitians, will require students have a master's degree to be eligible to take the examination. At this time, the master's degree may be in any subject.

**UF Dietetic Graduates
(Master's and Bachelor's)
have a 100% first attempt
pass rate on the National
Registration Exam**

Overview of the College and Department

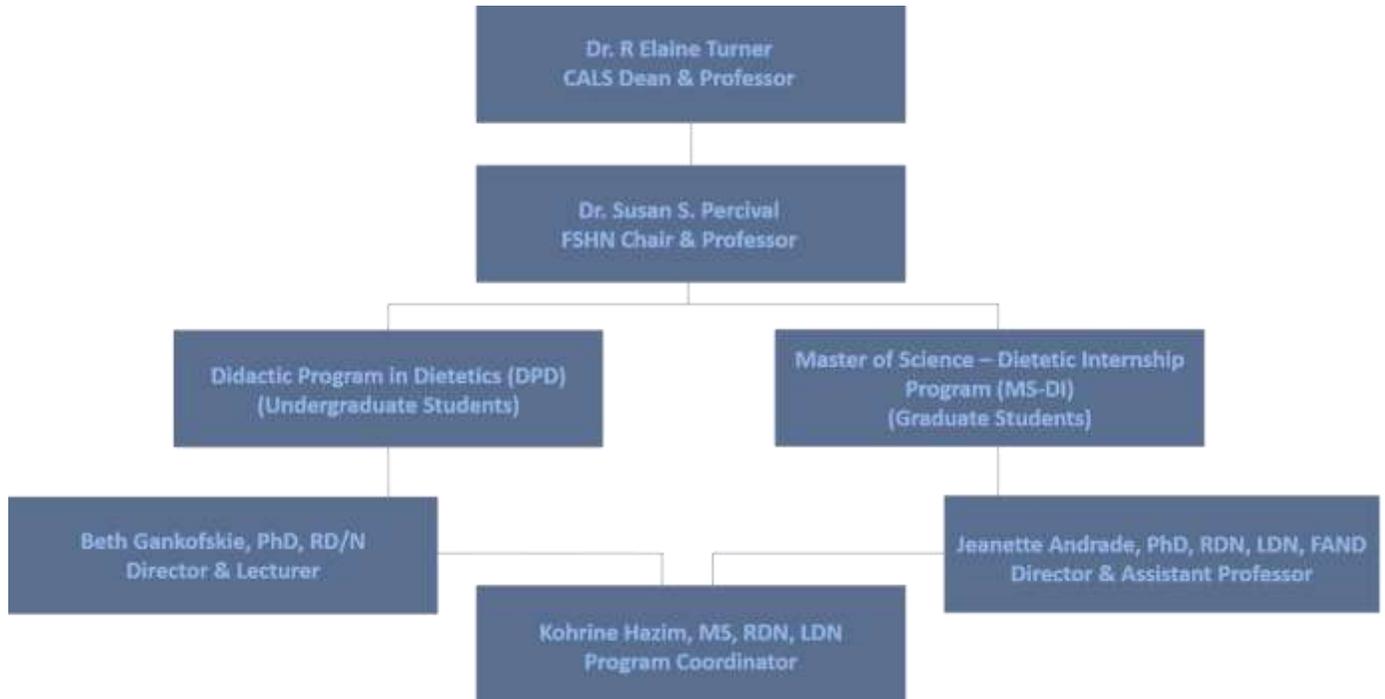
The [College of Agricultural and Life Sciences \(CALs\)](#) administers the degree programs of the University of Florida's [Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences \(UF/IFAS\)](#). IFAS is a federal-state-county partnership dedicated to developing knowledge in agriculture, human and natural resources, and the life sciences, and enhancing and sustaining the quality of human life by making that information accessible.

The [Food Science and Human Nutrition Department \(FSHN\)](#) is one of the world's largest combined academic programs where food science, nutritional sciences, and dietetics are all studied within one department. After completing undergraduate degrees, FSHN students typically move on to employment in the food industry or healthcare settings and graduate or professional programs. The FSHN department has a strong record of excellent placement of our graduate students in industry, professional organizations, academia, and government. Furthermore, the FSHN faculty have trained at institutions from around the world and they have been widely successful in their teaching, research, and extension efforts. Throughout the programs of food science, nutritional sciences, and dietetics, our faculty is recognized nationally and internationally as experts in their respective fields.



FSHN occupies four buildings centrally located on-campus, and several research laboratories in the Lake Alfred Citrus Research and Education Center. This combined space is dedicated to research, extension, and teaching programs, providing plenty of space well-equipped with a variety of analytical instrumentation, as well as equipment and research-scale pilot plants. In addition, FSHN has a clinical nutrition laboratory, two professional taste-panel facilities, an experimental foods kitchen laboratory, and numerous teaching laboratories.

Dietetics Administration



What is a Registered Dietitian (RD) and Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)?

A Registered Dietitian (RD), also known as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN), is an individual who has completed the following requirements:

- Achievement of academic requirements from an ACEND-accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics
- Minimum of a bachelor's degree from a US regionally accredited institution
 - Beginning in 2024, students will be required to have a master's degree (any subject) to be eligible to take the RDN examination.
- Completion of a dietetic internship (DI) program from an ACEND-accredited program
- Successful passage of the Registration Examination for Dietitians administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR)
- Maintenance of continuing professional education (CPE/CPEU) requirements

The title Registered Dietitian (RD) has been used by practitioners for over 50 years. Either the RD or RDN designation is acceptable, but most registered dietitians have transitioned to RDN to emphasize his or her nutrition expertise.

What is a Licensed Dietitian?

A licensed dietitian is a credential that is used to assure consumers and other health professionals that the individual with the license is providing nutritional care that meets the standards of the state in which they practice. State licensure is required for many RDNs. Each state has different licensure laws and application procedures. Students should check on the individual licensure requirements of the organization they choose to work for and the state in which they [reside](#).

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) program does not license or certify students. The program is part of a pathway that provides students with eligibility to become a registered dietitian nutritionist and potentially obtain state licensure.

Florida has a [licensure requirement](#) for dietitians. In Florida, completion of accredited DPD and dietetic internship programs (with a Master's degree after January 2024) and then passage of the national Registration Examination for Dietitians allows individuals to apply for "licensure by endorsement." The Dietetics and Nutrition Practice Council is responsible for licensing dietitians, nutritionists, and nutrition counselors to assure competency and safety to practice in Florida.

- At the present time, determination has been made that the UF FSHN DPD program's curriculum meets the state educational requirements for licensure in Florida (FL) (after completion of a dietetic internship and passage of the national RDN Examination).
- No determination has been made about whether the UF FSHN DPD program's curriculum meets the state educational requirements for licensure in: AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI, WY, or the US territories. We are currently working to verify and update our list.

What can I Expect from Employment as an RDN?

Registered Dietitians Nutritionists are employed in hospitals and other health care facilities, government and public health agencies, for-profit companies, non-profit food and/or nutrition related organizations, schools and universities, private practice, and a variety of other settings. Opportunities for RDNs to be employed in wellness and sports nutrition programs, as well as sales and marketing for business and industry, are also increasing. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the job market for dietitians will grow at 14%, faster than the average of other health care professions, through 2026 because of the increased emphasis on disease prevention, the aging population, and the public's interest in nutrition.

Career opportunities for graduates include:

- Clinical Dietitian/Nutritionist (in a health care setting, including acute, long-term care and outpatient facilities specializing in diabetes, kidney disease, eating disorders)*
- Public Health or Community Dietitian/Nutritionist*
- Private Practice or Consultant Dietitian*
- Sports Dietitian*
- Nutrition Educator or Teacher
- Nutrition Specialist (for food industries)
- Restaurant Manager
- Supermarket/Retail Dietitian
- Food Service Director (in acute care hospitals, senior living facilities, educational institutions)
- Pharmaceutical/Medical Sales Representative
- Corporate Wellness Dietitian
- Culinary Arts Dietitian/Chef
- Dietitian in Public Policy Development
- Non-Profit Advocacy Groups/Organizations
- National and International Health Organizations
- Research/Academic
- Nutrition Writer

*Requires RD/RDN and/or LD/N

Dietitian Salaries:

According to the Academy's 2021 Dietetics Compensation and Benefits Survey, the median hourly wage amongst all practicing Registered Dietitians and Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (in all positions) was \$33.65 per hour while the median average salary is about \$72,000 per year. Compensation varies based on the type of position, length of employment, geographic location, and supply of RDNs. Typically, compensation ranges from approximately \$52,000 (10th percentile; 10% earn less) to \$114,300 (90th percentile; 90% earn less). See the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) for more information.

DPD Mission Statement

The mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics at the University of Florida is to provide a progressive and effective program to educate students using a science-based food and nutrition curriculum to produce graduates who are prepared for supervised practice. This will lead to eligibility for the CDR credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist, prepared as future dietitians and nutrition professionals.

DPD Program Goals, Objectives, and Outcome Measures

Goal 1: Graduates of the Didactic Program in Dietetics are well prepared for dietetic internship, health or science-related profession, or graduate school.*

- 1.1.0 Objective:** At least 70% of program graduates apply for admission to a supervised practice program prior to or within 12 months of graduation.
 - 1.1.1 Outcome Measure:** 70% of DPD graduates apply for admission to a dietetic internship prior to or within 12 months of graduation.
- 1.2.0 Objective:** At least 65% of program graduates are admitted to a supervised practice program within 12 months of graduation.
 - 1.2.1 Outcome Measure:** 65% of program graduates are admitted to a supervised practice program within 12 months of graduation.
- 1.3.0 Objective:** At least 80% of dietetic DPD students complete program/degree requirements within 3 years (150% of program length).
 - 1.3.1 Outcome Measure:** 80% of dietetics DPD students complete program/degree requirements within 3 years (150% of program length).
- 1.4.0 Objective:** The program's one year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%.
 - 1.4.1 Outcome Measure:** Of the graduates eligible to take the CDR Registration Exam for Dietitians, 80% will take the exam and pass it within one year following the first attempt.
- 1.5.0 Objective:** 50% of graduates who return the graduate survey and did not seek a dietetic internship will agree they are eligible/attend graduate school or have obtained a job in a health- or science-related profession within 1 year of graduation.
 - 1.5.1 Outcome Measure:** Of graduates who return the graduate survey and who did not seek a dietetic internship, 50% will attend graduate school or obtain employment in a health- or science-related profession within 1 year of graduation.
- 1.6.0 Objective:** 80% of graduates who return the graduate survey will agree their preparation for internship, graduate school, or employment is satisfactory or higher.
 - 1.6.1 Outcome Measure:** 80% of graduates who return the graduate survey will agree their preparation for dietetic internships, graduate school, or employment is satisfactory or higher.
- 1.7.0 Objective:** At least 80% of supervised practice directors who return the director survey will rate satisfaction with preparation of DPD graduates at a 3.0 or above on a five-point scale.

1.7.1 Outcome Measure: 80% of supervised practice directors who return the graduate survey will rate satisfaction with preparation of DPD graduates at a 3.0 or above on a five-point scale.

Goal 2: Graduates who exhibit critical thinking and problem-solving skills.*

2.1.0 Objective: Graduates will agree that they received opportunities to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills as undergraduates.

2.1.1 Outcome Measure: 80% of graduates will agree that they received opportunities to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills as undergraduates.

2.2.0 Objective: Internship directors will agree that the graduates were prepared in critical thinking and problem solving.

2.2.1 Outcome Measure: 80% of internship directors will agree that the graduates were prepared in critical thinking and problem solving.

*Note: Outcome measures based on responses from participants who return the surveys of students, graduates, and program directors.

Program outcomes data are available upon request. Contact Kohrine Counts Hazim, Dietetics Program Coordinator, at kcounts77@ufl.edu.

Curriculum

The DPD Program at the University of Florida meets the ACEND Foundation Knowledge and Learning Outcomes. Students must successfully complete all courses on the DPD curriculum sheet, as one step, to achieve eligibility to receive a verification statement. The curriculum is sequentially developed so that students move from basic knowledge to applied knowledge and skills. It is important for students to follow the semester-by-semester sequencing, especially in the senior year, because some courses are not offered every semester. Check with the [FSHN Student Services Advisors](#) if you have questions.

If you choose not to complete an internship, the strong biological and social science foundation of the program also provides you with the knowledge and skills for a variety of health-related professional programs or employment as a nutrition educator, food service manager, pharmaceutical sales representative, or a variety of other professional positions.

A sample 4-year schedule is found on page 10 (actual schedules will vary):

FSHN COURSES

HUN2201 – Fundamentals of Human Nutrition (3) F/S/SS-B
 HUN3403 – Nutrition through the Life Cycle (2) F/S/SS-A
 HUN4221 – Nutrition and Metabolism (3) F/S
 HUN4445 – Nutrition and Disease I (2) F/S
 HUN4446 – Nutrition and Disease II (3) F/S
 DIE3310 – Community Nutrition (2) S
 DIE4125 – Food Systems Management (3) F
 DIE4125L – Food Systems Management Lab (2) F
 DIE4245 – Medical Nutrition Therapy Applications I (3) F
 DIE4246 – Medical Nutrition Therapy Applications II (3) S
 DIE4436 – Nutritional Counseling/Communication (2) S
 DIE4505 – Dietetics Seminar (1) F
 FOS3042 – Introductory Food Science (3) F/S/SS-A
 FOS4311 – Food Chemistry (3) S
 FOS4310L – Experimental Foods Lab (1) S

BIOLOGY COURSES

BSC2010 – Principles of Biology I (3)
BSC2010L – Principles of Biology I Lab (1)
BSC2011 – Principles of Biology II (3)
BSC2011L – Principles of Biology II Lab (1)

CHEMISTRY COURSES

CHM2045 – General Chemistry (3)
CHM2045L – General Chemistry Lab (1)
CHM2046 – Qualitative Analysis (3)
CHM2046L – Qualitative Analysis Lab (1)
 CHM2210 – Organic Chemistry I (3)[^]
 CHM2211 – Organic Chemistry II (3)
 CHM2211L – Organic Chemistry II Lab (2)
 BCH4024 – Biochem/Molecular Bio (4)
 or BCH 3025 – Fund Biochemistry (4)

**The following course sequence at a community college or other university is equivalent: CHM2040 & L, CHM2041 & L.*

MATH AND STATISTICS

STA2023 – Intro to Statistics (3)
MAC1147 Precalculus (4) or
MAC1114 Trigonometry and MAC1140 Precalculus Algebra

ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS

AEE3030C – Oral Communications (3)
 or SPC2608 – Intro Public Speaking (3)
 AEE3033C – Advanced Communication Writing (3)
 or ENC2210 – Tech Writing (3)
 or ENC3254 Professional Communications (3)

OTHER SCIENCE COURSES

MCB2000 – Microbiology (3)
 MCB2000L – Microbiology Lab (1)
 APK2105C – Applied Human Physiology (4)

ECONOMICS (choose one)

AEB2014 – Economic Issues Food & You (3)
 or ECO2013 – Prin Macroeconomics (4)
 or ECO2023 – Prin Microeconomics (4)

BUSINESS COURSES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

AEB3122 Financial Planning for Agribusiness (3)
 MAN3025 – Principles of Management (4)
 PSY2012 – General Psychology (3)

Key to when courses are offered:

*F = Fall, S = Spring, SS-A = Summer A, SS-B = Summer B,
 SS-C = Summer C, SS-A/B = Summer A and B*

These are subject to change; please see your advisor.

[^] Must complete in two attempts with C or better including withdrawals.

Bolded courses are tracking course; students must have a 2.5 or higher to stay in the major.

Dietetics Sample Course Schedule

Graduation requires 120 credits, and ALL courses listed below are required. Students are responsible for completing necessary prerequisites before enrolling in required courses; prerequisite information can be found online in the Undergraduate Catalog course descriptions.

(C+ grades or better in all courses required to earn a DPD Verification Statement)

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Economics: ECO 2013, ECO 2023, AEB 2014 or AEB 3103 (GE-S)	3-4	CHM 2045 & 2045L General Chemistry I (3) and Laboratory (1) (GE-P)	4
MAC1147 Precalculus: Algebra & Trigonometry (GE-M)	4	PSY 2012 General Psychology (GE-S)	3
Composition (GE-C) (WR)	3	Composition (GE-C) (WR)	3
Humanities w/ Diversity Designation (GE-H/D)	3	Quest 1 (GE-H)	3
		Elective	3
Total	13-14	Total	16
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
BSC 2010 & 2010L Integrated Principles of Biology I (3) and Laboratory (1) (GE-B)	4	BSC 2011 & 2011L Integrated Principles of Biology II (3) and Laboratory (1) (GE-B)	4
CHM 2046 & 2046L General Chemistry II (3) and Laboratory (1) (GE-P)	4	MCB2000 (3) & MCB2000L (1) Microbiology and Microbiology Lab	4
STA 2023 Introduction to Statistics (GE-M)	3	HUN2201 Fundamentals of Human Nutrition	3
Elective	4	Quest 2 w/ International Designation (GE-S/N)	3
Total	15	Total	14
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
† CHM2210 Organic Chemistry	3	CHM2211(3) & CHM2211L (2) Organic Chemistry II and Organic Chemistry Lab	5
FOS3042 Intro to Food Science	3	APK2105C Applied Human Physiology	4
MAN3025 Principles of Management	4	HUN3403 Nutrition Through the Life Cycle	2
AEC3030C Effective Oral Communication or SPC2608 Intro to Public Speaking	3	DIE3310 Community Nutrition	2
Advanced Communication Writing: AEC3033C, ENC2210 or ENC3254 (WR)	3	AEB3122 Financial Planning for Agribusiness	3
Total	16	Total	16
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
HUN4445 Nutrition and Disease I	2	HUN4446 Nutrition and Disease II	3
DIE4245 Medical Nutrition Therapy I	3	DIE4246 Medical Nutrition Therapy II	3
DIE4125 & DIE 4125L Food Systems Management (3) and Food Systems Management Lab (2)	5	HUN 4221 Nutrition and Metabolism	3
DIE4505 Dietetics Seminar	1	DIE4436 Nutritional Counseling/ Communication	2
BCH3025 Fundamentals of Biochemistry	4	FOS4311 Food Chemistry	3
		FOS4310L Experimental Food Lab	1
Total	15	Total	15

Minimum credits required for graduation: 120 credits

Elective Courses

As part of your undergraduate degree, you may want or need to take elective courses. There is an extensive range of courses you could take, so you should discuss your options with one of the FSHN Student Services Advisors.

Are there any GPA Requirements for the Dietetics Program?

Yes! Students in the Dietetics program must maintain a minimum 2.50 average GPA in their tracking courses or they will be required to change majors. However, it should be noted that higher GPAs are essential for dietetic internship program admission. Due to the current competitive nature of the dietetic internships, students should aim to have a 3.2 or higher overall GPA.

All transfer students must have successfully completed these tracking courses before admission. Tracking courses for the Dietetics program are:

General Chemistry Sequence

- *CHM2045 – General Chemistry I (3)
- *CHM2045L – General Chemistry I Lab (1)
- CHM2046 – Qual Analysis Chemistry II (3)
- CHM2046L – Qual Analysis Chemistry II Lab (1)

**The following course sequence at a Florida college or other university is equivalent to CHM2045 & Lab: CHM2040/1040 & Lab + CHM2041/1041 & Lab*

General Biology Sequence

- BSC2010 – Principles of Biology I
- BSC2010L – Biology I Lab
- BSC2011 – Principles of Biology II
- BSC2011L – Biology II Lab

Mathematics Sequence

- MAC1147 Precalculus
- or a combination of both*
- MAC1140 & MAC1114 – Trigonometry

Dietetic students must successfully earn C+ or higher in all FSHN courses (listed below) to earn their verification statement. The verification statement is required to enter an ACEND-accredited dietetic internship. If a student fails to receive a C+ in their HUN, DIE or FOS classes in their senior year, they will still graduate but must retake the courses within 2 years of graduation to earn a verification statement. If they retake a comparable course (after approval by the DPD Director), and receive a C+ or higher, then they will be eligible for a verification statement.

- | | |
|--|--|
| HUN2201 - Fundamentals of Human Nutrition (3) | DIE3310 – Community Nutrition (2) |
| HUN3403 - Nutrition through the Life Cycle (2) | DIE4125 - Food Systems Management (3) |
| HUN4221 - Nutrition and Metabolism (3) | DIE4125L – Food Systems Management Lab (2) |
| HUN4445 - Nutrition and Disease I (2) | DIE4245C - Medical Nutrition Therapy Applications I (3) |
| HUN4446 - Nutrition and Disease II (3) | DIE4246C - Medical Nutrition Therapy Applications II (3) |
| FOS3042 - Introduction to Food Science (3) | DIE4436 – Nutritional Counseling/Communication (2) |
| FOS4311 - Food Chemistry (3) | |
| FOS4310L- Experimental Foods Lab (1) | |

What are the Admission Requirements to the DPD Program?

Freshman and Transfer Admissions

The admission process to the University of Florida as a freshman or transfer student is described on the [UF Admissions](#) website. The University of Florida provides equal opportunity to applicants. Transfer admissions from a Community College, State College of Florida, or other universities requires a GPA of C+ in science and math courses (tracking courses in **boldface**) and an overall GPA of 2.0. In addition, community college students must have their A.A. degree before being considered.

Admission decisions are made in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences administrative offices.

Note: The dietetics major is competitive and highly sought after by a large number of applicants. Students with GPAs of 3.0 and higher are the strongest candidates for acceptance to the major.

Students who want to transfer from another major within UF must have a GPA of 2.5 in the tracking courses and permission from the DPD Program Director or dietetics faculty. As mentioned above however, due to the number of applicants and rigor of the curriculum, students with more competitive GPA's of 3.0 and higher are the strongest candidates for acceptance.

What are the Admissions Requirements as a Post-Baccalaureate?

Post-baccalaureate is only for students who have already earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. college or university.

BE AWARE: THIS IS NOT AN ONLINE PROGRAM!
PHYSICAL RESIDENCE WILL BE REQUIRED FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION.

If a student already has a degree in another field and is interested in becoming a Registered Dietitian, the UF DPD program has a very limited number of spaces for students seeking a second degree.

The UF Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) has a separate admission process and requirements for post-baccalaureate admissions. Space is limited and may not be available to all applicants. Number of spaces will vary depending on the current enrollment of the undergraduate students and space cannot be guaranteed. The **application deadline** is **October 1** for admission to the spring semester and **June 1** for the fall semester. The post-baccalaureate program requires a minimum of 30 semester hours earned at UF in dietetics, and you will receive a second bachelor's degree or second major. All Dietetic courses (with a prefix DIE) must be taken at the University of Florida to receive the required academic Verification Statement. For more detailed information and application procedure, contact the DPD Director, Dr. Beth Gankofskie, at gankofskie@ufl.edu or 352-273-3471.

There are two additional costs associated specifically with this program: student membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (\$58/yr.) and the ServSafe® Book and Exam (\$85). There is also potential travel cost to facilities for class projects. After completing the post-baccalaureate program, receiving a B.S. degree and your verification statement, you must also be accepted into and complete an accredited dietetic internship and pass the RD Exam to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. Please note: As of January 1, 2024, students/interns will need to have a Master's degree in order to take the [CDR credentialing exam](#) to become a registered dietitian nutritionist.

What is Needed to Apply as a Post-Baccalaureate Student?

You must have:

- Overall GPA of 3.2 or higher from your undergraduate degree.
- Tracking course GPA of 3.2 or higher. Tracking courses: BSC 2010 and lab, BSC2011 and lab, CHM2045 and lab, CHM2046 and lab, and MAC1147 or a combination of Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry with B grade or higher.
- Preferred but not required: two semester sequence in Organic Chemistry, Introduction to Nutrition course, Statistics course with C+ grades or better.
- All tracking courses must have been completed within ten years of when the applicant is seeking to start the DPD program, otherwise out-of-date courses will need to be retaken.
- All professional courses must have been completed within five years of when the applicant is seeking to start the program.

Contact Information:

Dr. Beth Gankofskie, PhD, RD, UF CALS FSHN Director of the DPD Program

- Mailing address: PO Box 110370, Gainesville, FL 32611
- Email: gankofskie@ufl.edu Phone: 352-273-3471

Student Services Advisors: Herschel Johnson (hdjohnson@ufl.edu) or Jenna Grogan (jgrogan@ufl.edu).

What are the Costs of the DPD Program?

Tuition, books, and other fees are listed on the [UF Admissions Tuition and Fees](#) webpage.

Additional costs for the DPD program may include:

- Lab fees for specific courses (2013)

▪ DIE3310 Community Nutrition	\$10.00
▪ HUN 4445 Nutrition and Disease 1	\$ 2.02
▪ DIE 4246 Medical Nutrition Therapy	\$11.00
▪ DIE 4125 Food Systems Management	\$ 3.17
▪ DIE4125L Food Systems Management Lab	\$46.50
▪ FOS4310L Experimental Foods Lab	\$26.97
▪ FOS3042 Introduction to Food Science	\$ 2.00
▪ BCH3025 Biochemistry	\$ 4.00
- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics [Student Membership](#) (\$58.00 per year) required by fall of senior year or after 60 credits (recommendation is to join at program beginning).
- A subscription to the [Electronic Nutrition Care Process Terminology \(eNCPT\)](#) is required for DIE4245 and DIE4246 (\$35.00).
- Transportation cost for required class assignments
 - Students are required to complete assignments in DIE 4125 and lab, DIE 3310 and DIE4245C, which may take them off campus to Alachua County Schools or local hospitals. Travel costs range from \$10-\$20 for all travel.
- Transportation costs for volunteer or shadowing experiences – costs will vary depending on facility; many experiences are available by walking or bus; additional travel could range from \$20-\$30.

- Application fees and mailing costs for dietetic internship or graduate programs (costs vary depending on the program and number of applications and mailing costs).
 - [DICAS Application Fee](#) (online; \$50.00 for first application, \$25 for each additional)
 - [D&D Digital](#) (Computer Matching): \$55.00
- [ServSafe®](#) Manager book and exam (required in DIE4125L, Food Systems Management Lab) – *ServSafe® Manager with exam sheet*, \$85.00.

What are the Policies and Procedures of the DPD Program?

- **Withdrawal and refund of tuition and fees.** UF has established deadline dates and procedures for withdrawal and refund of tuition and fees. See [UF Fees and Fiscal Information](#).
- **Scheduling and program calendar.** The DPD Program follows the University of Florida academic calendar which is available on the [UF Dates and Deadlines](#).
- **Protection of privacy of information (confidentiality of student records).** The University of Florida, in accordance with the State University System rules, state statutes, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (i.e. the Buckley Amendment) assures the confidentiality of student educational records. However, student educational records may be released without the student’s consent to school officials who have a legitimate educational interest to access the records, and the university may disclose information from a student’s educational records to either individuals or entities permitted under applicable federal and state law. Information on records confidentiality is available in the [UF Undergraduate Catalog](#).
- **Access to personal files.** Students have the right to review their personal educational records for information and to determine accuracy. To review your student files, contact the Office of Student Services (located on the first floor of the Food Science and Human Nutrition Building) during their office hours. Students must show their student ID to review their files. Letters of recommendation or other materials to which the student has waived his/her rights will not be available for review by the student. Additional information, including procedures for challenging content of a student record, can be found at [UF FERPA and Confidentiality of Student Records](#).
- **Access to student support services, including health services, counseling and testing, and financial aid resources.** Student support services are available through the [Division of Student Affairs](#). Health services are provided through the Student Health Care Center, which is located at 1 Fletcher Drive (Building 280). Financial aid resources are available through the [UF Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships](#).
- **Grievance procedures.** The University of Florida defines a grievance as: “dissatisfaction occurring when a student believes that any decision, act, or condition affecting him or her is illegal, unjust, or creates unnecessary hardship. Such grievances may concern, but are not limited to, the following: academic problems (excluding grades, except when there is an allegation of illegal discrimination or where a grade penalty has been imposed without proper authority); mistreatment by any university employee; wrongful assessment of fees, records and registration errors; student employment and discrimination because of race, national origin, sex, marital status, religion, age, or disability.”
 - Student grievance procedures are outlined on the UF website and administered through the Dean of Students Office. If you feel that a grievance has occurred, you are encouraged to follow the steps described [here](#).

- If students have followed the procedures at the University level and still believe that there has not been proper handling of the matter, the student has the right to file a complaint with ACEND, the accrediting agency of the DPD program. The procedures are listed on the [ACEND website](#).
- **Assessment of prior learning.** Prior coursework must be submitted to the [Student Services Office](#) and the DPD Director for review. A prospective student will be notified of courses that will transfer and be provided with a plan of coursework required to complete the UF DPD. The DPD program at the University of Florida does not accept prior work or volunteer experience in lieu of coursework.
- **Formal assessment of student learning, performance, and progress.** Course syllabi for all dietetics courses include the evaluation method used in the specific course. Evaluation methods may include exams, case studies, presentations, individual and team projects, etc. Students receive a letter grade for the course as well as individual grades for assignments and exams. The DPD program has adopted the University +/- system for all DIE courses.
 - Student progress can be measured by accessing the degree audit on ONE.UF and by meeting with FSHN Student Services to determine tracking towards graduation.
- **Recency of Education.** Students must have taken courses no more than 5 years prior for core dietetics (professional) courses like MNT and FSM, and have earned any previous degree no more than 10 years prior in order to be considered for admission to the major and program.
- **DPD retention and remediation procedures when student performance is not meeting the criteria for program progression.** Student progress in the program is determined in several ways. Students must complete the tracking courses (chemistry, biology, and math) with a C+ or higher in order to stay in the major. In addition, the students must achieve a C or better in CHM2210 (Organic Chemistry 1) in order to take CHM2211. If a student does not meet the tracking course requirement or the organic chemistry requirement, he or she has access to the FSHN Student Services Office, Career Resource Center, or the faculty advisor for advice regarding alternative majors.
 - UF graduation requirements are 2.0 GPA; DPD does not have a separate requirement.
- **Disciplinary/termination procedures.** Students are required to follow the University of Florida Student Code of Conduct described at the [UF Dean of Students Office](#).
 - All students must obey the [Student Honor Code](#). On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."* Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action.
- **Graduation and/or DPD completion requirements.** The DPD follows the same graduation requirements as the University. Students must complete the program with a 2.0 GPA to receive a diploma. Other requirements can be found [here](#).
- **Current Verification Statement Policy.** After completion of all courses, program requirements and graduation in good standing, the DPD graduate will be issued six originals of the Verification Statement signed by the DPD Program Director OR an electronic copy that has an authenticated digital signature or a hand-signed copy scanned in color. A copy is also kept as a permanent record in the Office of Student Services if a student requires additional copies.
 - **Requirements to receive a verification statement.** Verification statements will be issued if the graduate meets all of the following conditions:
 - Graduation from University of Florida with a 2.5 GPA or higher
 - Successful completion of all FSHN courses required in the DPD curriculum with a

- C+ or higher
 - Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Student Member in senior year
 - ServSafe® certified
- **Verification statement procedures.** At DPD program completion, all students should contact [Student Services](#) with a permanent mailing and email address. After graduation and verification of degree by the registrar, the student will be issued their verification statement. Verification statements should be kept safe; they are required for dietetic internships.
- **Email/listserv.** All students must have a UF email and be on the dietetics listserv. If you are not receiving emails from the listserv, please contact Herschel Johnson (hdjohnson@ufl.edu) to be added to the list. The listserv is used to provide information to you regarding courses, registration reminders, volunteer opportunities, and FSHN club meetings.
- **Dietetics classes attendance and tardiness.** Attendance is required for all DIE courses. Attendance taken at the beginning of each class. Excused absences will only be granted for:
 - Death in the family as documented by a dated obituary
 - Illness or hospitalization as documented by a physician’s note (related to notes such as “was seen” are not acceptable)
 - Religious holiday as documented by a written statement to the professor before
 - Professional/graduate school interviews with documentation of interview letter arrangements
 - Accident as documented by a copy of the police report
 - Only students with excused absences will be allowed to make up the original work or suitable alternative if an exam or in-class assignment is missed. Absence from class will result in a penalty (as determined by faculty member) unless there is an unavoidable extenuating circumstance (subject to the faculty member’s discretion) that can be documented to the faculty member’s satisfaction.
 - Tardiness is unacceptable in the workplace and is also not appropriate in the classroom. It shows disrespect for the professor, other students in the class, and the course content. Students who are tardy (as the professor of each class) will be penalized according to the policy of that class.
- **Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Membership.** Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics membership commitment to the dietetics profession. As an Academy member, you are eligible for scholarships, opportunities to network with other dietetic students and professionals, may access research in the Evidence Analysis Library, and learn about the profession. As an Academy member, you automatically become a member of the Florida Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (unless you select a different state affiliation on the membership application), and are eligible to join the Gainesville Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (GAND).
 - Note: DPD professional courses require use of resources that are limited to Academy members. All DPD majors must be members of the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) by the Fall semester of their senior year or after 60 credits. Students must submit proof of membership (copy of Academy membership card/certificate) to [Kohrine Hazim](#), the Dietetics Program Coordinator, by September 15th. Student membership is \$58.00. Membership runs from June 1 – May 31.
- **Insurance Requirements.** The program does not provide professional liability, health, or automobile insurance for students. Transportation to and from any off-campus sites are the student's responsibility; UF, CALS, IFAS, FSHN, and the DPD program are not liable if accidents occur.

- **Injury/Illness.** Students who are injured or become ill during the course of performing responsibilities associated with assigned experiential learning should follow the directions specified in the site's policy and procedure manual. If instructions are not addressed in the manual, the student should follow directions from their supervisor. Be aware that charges may be assessed for medical treatment; students are responsible for any medical expenses they incur.
- **Paid Compensation and Employee Replacement.** Students will not receive paid compensation during any experiential learning that may be required by the program. If students perform any experiential learning required by the program, they may not replace regular employees.
- **Post-baccalaureate student policies.** For students completing the DPD program as a post-baccalaureate student, the following policies must be followed in addition to the DPD policies:
 - All dietetics courses (DIE) must be taken at the University of Florida to receive a verification statement.

What are the Characteristics of a Successful Dietetics Student?

<p>A successful dietetics student is a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Critical thinker and problem solver ⇒ Self-starter ⇒ Team player 	<p>...who has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Time management skills ⇒ Strong interpersonal skills ⇒ Stress management skills ⇒ Leadership ability ⇒ Integrity ⇒ Ability to prioritize ⇒ Volunteer and work experience ⇒ Good grades 	<p>...and is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Responsible and mature ⇒ Pro-active ⇒ Goal-oriented ⇒ Adaptable and flexible ⇒ Organized ⇒ Self-disciplined ⇒ Committed to the profession
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Is it Important to get Work/Volunteer Experience in the Dietetics Field?

In order to learn about the field of dietetics and to strengthen your application for a dietetic internship, it is strongly recommended that you work or volunteer in dietetics-related areas. Most internships require additional experience beyond coursework. You can do this during the summer or the school year. You are encouraged to contact local dietitians (or dietitians in your hometown where you will be on weekends or school breaks) and request a volunteer experience. Opportunities for volunteer experiences are also sent via the listserv. You should keep a record of your hours in a log (signed by the supervisor regularly) for your internship application and resume.

Currently, it is recommended you have at least 400 hours of volunteer and/or work experience in a nutrition-related position to be competitive for dietetic internship matching.

Note: The UF DPD Program does not require students to complete work/volunteer experiences to graduate, so no affiliation agreements with experiential sites are required as part of the program policies.

Why Should I Join an FSHN Department Club?

Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN) Club

The [FSHN Club](#) is a student-run organization for students majoring or interested in any of the three majors (Dietetics, Nutritional Sciences, or Food Science) within the FSHN department.

The membership fee is \$25.00 per year (subject to change) and includes an FSHN Club t-shirt.

Many interesting topics related to nutrition and food science are discussed at meetings. Beyond learning information about the field, students also can make new friends and meet the faculty. In addition, presentations given by professionals introduce students to the varied career opportunities in dietetics and other food-related careers. Dietetics-related volunteer and work experiences also are announced at these meetings. Club members also volunteer for local community organizations.

Being an officer or committee chair is an excellent leadership opportunity. We encourage all dietetics students to run for an elected position, serve on Club committees, and/or participate in other Club activities. For more information about the Club, visit the Student Services Office (FSHN Building; 1st floor)

Students Eat Right (SER) Club

The SER Club is a new student-run organization for students interested in advocacy within the nutrition and dietetics field. For more information, contact Dr. Gankofskie (gankofskie@ufl.edu) or Kohrine Hazim (kcunts77@ufl.edu), the club advisors.

What Scholarships are Available to Dietetics Students?

There are scholarship opportunities available for you as a student in the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and the University of Florida. Information about scholarships and financial aid can be found on the [CALs](#) and [FSHN websites](#).

Scholarships are also available through the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) and the Florida Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (FAND) and the Gainesville Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (GAND) for student members of these organizations. For information about these scholarships and eligibility, see the [Academy](#) website, [FAND](#) website, and [GAND](#) website.

Where Do I Go for Advising?

For academic advising, you should schedule an appointment with Herschel Johnson (hdjohnson@ufl.edu) or Jenna Grogan (jgrogan@ufl.edu), the FSHN Student Services Advisors. The advisors will provide assistance in planning a schedule of required courses. For career advising, you should schedule an appointment with your faculty advisor (the name of your faculty advisor will be listed at the top of your Degree Audit in your one.ufl.edu account).

Your faculty advisor will provide information about professional organizations, work and volunteer opportunities, and planning for the future. **You should plan to schedule at least one advising appointment with an advisor each semester, and get to know your faculty advisor as soon as possible, but no later than your junior year.** To schedule any advising appointment, call Student

Services at 352-294-3734, via <https://calendly.com/fshn-advising>, or stop by Student Services in the FSHN building on the ground floor.

If a student does not meet the requirements of the program, he/she has access to the FSHN Student Services Office, Career Resource Center, and/or the faculty advisor for advice regarding alternative majors and career paths that are appropriate to their ability.

Should I Maintain a Portfolio of My DPD Work?

The DPD faculty recommends you maintain a physical or electronic portfolio (a collection) of your junior and senior level accomplishments. A portfolio is a reflection of your knowledge, skills, and accomplishments in the professional phase of the program. It is very useful when applying for dietetic internships, graduate programs, and jobs. Some basic information that should be included is:

- Resume
- Statement of career goals/interests
- Professional and student organization memberships, including leadership roles and examples of involvement (e.g., committee chair, health fair organizer, newsletter articles written)
- Certifications (e.g. ServSafe®, personal training certification, EMT)
- Scholarships, awards
- Volunteer and work experience (can be dietetics or non-dietetics related)
 - Log of hours worked
 - Examples of activities, level of responsibility and any materials created
- Professional memberships (Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Florida Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Gainesville Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Academy Practice groups)
- Leadership roles in professional organizations
- Conferences attended (e.g., IFT, FNCE, FAND Annual Symposium, other)
- Research
 - Thesis research project
 - Paid or volunteer research assistant
- Samples of applicable class work (e.g., brochures developed, special events, nutrition education programs, power point presentations, worksheets)

Remember that the portfolio serves as an example of your professionalism, so make sure it is typed, neat, and organized. If you would like a Dietetics faculty or staff to review your portfolio, reach out to Dr. Gankofskie, the DPD Director, or Kohrine Hazim, the Program Coordinator.

There are many software programs that are available if you choose to do an electronic version, including [Canva](#). UF offers free web space and hosting through your Gatorlink account; it is available until one term after graduation. Examples of other website design software (some are free and some are not) include: [Adobe Dreamweaver](#), [Weebly](#), and [WIX](#). Another option is to develop your portfolio in Word or PowerPoint and then create a PDF version you can take anywhere.

After Receiving My Dietetics Bachelor's Degree From UF, Will I be a Registered Dietitian (RD/RDN)?

No. Completion of a Didactic Program in Dietetics is only the **first** step required to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist.

The **second** step is the completion of an ACEND-accredited dietetic internship program along with a Master's degree (any topic). Eligibility for the dietetic internship includes the completion of the Didactic Program. Receiving an appointment to a dietetic internship is very competitive, and **completion of the UF DPD does not guarantee a dietetic internship**. Students participating in the computer match apply to be selected for a dietetic internship. It has become more critical for dietetic students to plan early for the application process and to use the resources provided by the program such as spring workshop and DIE 4505 Seminar course in order to be competitive applicants.

The **third** and final step to becoming an RDN is successful completion of the National Registration Examination for Dietitians. It is very important to complete this step as soon as possible after finishing your dietetic internship. There are many study guides and programs available to help you prepare for success in this final step.

How Do I Prove I've Completed My B.S. Degree if I'm Applying to a Dietetic Internship Program Before I Graduate?

When you apply to dietetic internship programs, the UF DPD Director will provide you with a "Declaration of Intent to Complete" form. You will complete this form and submit it to FSHN Student Services. The information is verified by Student Services, and then submitted on the DICAS website. It serves as temporary "proof" that you're on your way to completing the undergraduate program. Once you have actually graduated, the Director will provide you with either six original signed copies of the Verification Statement (VS) or an official electronic copy. This VS is your final proof that you completed the DPD, and it will only be issued to you after your graduation is certified by UF.

Where Can I Obtain More Information About Dietetic Internship Programs?

The [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) website provides the most up-to-date information about internship programs. You can access a [listing of each program](#) to find information on cost, length of internship, internship director, and area of specialization. The Academy website also has a direct link to the individual programs' websites which provide detailed information about the programs.

Another resource is the [Applicant Guide to Supervised Practice Experience](#), a valuable tool that describes many of the dietetic internship programs that are available. The Guide provides detailed

information such as the usual number of applications received by individual programs and answers to frequently asked questions. This Guide is available in online format; a copy is available through the student services office and the student services Canvas site.

Do Dietetic Internships Offer Graduate Courses?

Beginning in 2024, students are required to obtain a Master's degree to become a registered dietitian. Currently internships vary from offering no graduate credits to a combined Masters/Dietetic Internship. Students who are interested in graduate programs should research available options. Typically, graduate programs require the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) for admission, so plan to take this exam by summer or early fall of your senior year.

The University of Florida has a Master of Science – Dietetic Internship program. For more information, visit the [FSHN website](#) or contact the Program Coordinator, Kohrine Hazim, at kcounts77@ufl.edu or 352-294-3745.

How Do I Apply for a Dietetic Internship Program?

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics developed an online application process for dietetic internships. The system, Dietetic Internship Centralized Application System ([DICAS](#)), allows applicants to submit all of their application materials online and internships will access the information for DICAS. There is a \$55.00 fee for the first application and \$25.00 for each additional application.

What's this "Computer Matching" Thing?

Most dietetic internship programs participate in computer matching with D&D Digital. The process includes ranking the internships to which you are applying, and then the internship programs rank their applicants. A computer algorithm takes those rankings and "matches" applicants to programs. In April, students learn if they receive a dietetic internship match to one of their programs. As mentioned earlier, the national computer matching result for the past four years has been about 60-70%, which means that 60 to 70% of the students applying for internships received a match and the rest did not. University of Florida DPD match rates are higher, but there is a chance that students graduating from the UF program who may not receive a match.

Computer match information from D & D Digital is available from the Program Director or on the [D&D Digital website](#). There is a \$55.00 fee for computer matching to D&D Digital.

How Much Does a Dietetic Internship Program Cost?

Costs vary widely, so you should check with each program about required expenses. Most accredited dietetic internships associated with regionally accredited university graduate programs qualify for government-sponsored loan programs. You should check the individual internship's website to see if

financial aid is available at a specific dietetic internship. Additionally, numerous scholarship and loan opportunities are available to help pay the costs of the supervised practice experience.

What are the Characteristics of a Successful Applicant for Dietetic Internships?

Being a successful applicant to a dietetic internship starts long before you fill out the application forms. Although programs may have varying selection criteria, applicants who receive a match to supervised practice programs tend to have the following characteristics:

- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher (**although a 3.2 or higher is recommended**)
- A 3.0 GPA or higher in professional courses
- A 3.0 GPA or higher in biological and physical science courses
- Significant paid work or volunteer experience (recommend at least 400 hours in nutrition-related organizations)
- Strong letters of recommendation (you need at least three letters of recommendation)
- Leadership in organizations
- Willingness to relocate
- Clean criminal history (programs require criminal background check)

How Can I Improve My Chances of Being Admitted to a Dietetic Internship Program?

A student has no guarantee of receiving a DI match. The national average match rate is about 60 - 70%. The University of Florida DPD students have higher statistics, but match rates vary from year to year. Internships continue to become more competitive. To increase your chances, you should:

- Investigate programs early to identify their admission criteria.
- Maintain a grade point average over 3.0 (although 3.2 or higher is more competitive).
- Obtain dietetics/nutrition related work or volunteer experience (i.e. hospital or clinical experience; college, camp, hospital, or nursing home foodservice, and community nutrition programs (like WIC, Meals on Wheels, and food banks); many other types of work experiences can also be valuable). Start early and consider ways to get experience in more than one area of practice.
- Seek opportunities to conduct/assist with nutrition/dietetics research.
- Participate in activities that demonstrate leadership (college/university clubs, sports, community service projects, organizations).
- Get to know dietetics faculty members through faculty office hours, FSHN club, or independent study. You will need letters of recommendations from them.
- Apply to more than one program, but not an excessive number. (Successful applicants apply to an average of 3-5 programs).
- Be flexible and willing to relocate. Explore programs outside of Florida!

What is the Timeline for Applying to Dietetic Internships?

Freshman/Sophomore Year

- Maintain good grades – aim for 3.2 or higher.
- Become active in organizations or community activities
- Join the Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN) Club
- Join the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (only students who are Academy members are eligible for scholarships and awards)
- Obtain dietetics-related work or volunteer experience – dietetics faculty recommend an end goal of 600+ hours!
- Join the Gainesville Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (GAND)

Junior Year

- Begin reviewing the [Accredited Programs Directory](#) and the **Applicant's Guide to Supervised Practice**
- Attend the junior orientation for dietetic internship planning, called Dishing Up Dietetics, in Spring semester
- Get to know your faculty advisor and other FSHN faculty members. It is important for faculty to get to know you if you intend to ask them to write a letter of recommendation. (Remember, you need three letters of recommendation for your application)
- Get dietetics-related volunteer or paid work experience – aim for 600+ hours
- Get involved in activities in the FSHN Club – run for office or chair a committee
- Continue membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (**required in senior year or after 60 credits**)
- Continue membership in the Gainesville Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (GAND)
- Maintain good grades – aim for 3.2 or higher

Senior Year

- Take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- Call, email, or write internships for additional information and application
- Maintain good grades – aim for 3.2 or higher
- Get even more involved in the FSHN Club
- Continue membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- Continue involvement with the Gainesville Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (GAND)
- Select 3-6 internships that match your interests and qualifications
- Check deadlines and apply on time – usually mid-February (but can be earlier, so be sure to check the deadlines)
- Appointment match date – April
- If you match in April – Congratulations!!!
- If not, then:
 - See DPD Director ASAP for alternatives
 - Keep trying to match in the second-round match period from April to August (not all programs fill their classes during the first-round match)
 - Continue to get work and volunteer experience, if necessary
 - Apply for internships again for the Fall match (deadline in September) for November appointment date (DI usually begins in January)

How Can I Get Help with the Dietetic Internship Application Process?

In the Spring Semester, seniors in the dietetics major present “Dishin’ Up Dietetics.” It is highly recommended that junior dietetics students attend to learn about dietetic internship planning. The DPD director works in conjunction with graduating DPD seniors to offer this workshop during the spring semester each year.

In addition, as part of the Dietetics Seminar course (DIE4505), guidance is provided in writing personal statements for the application packet. Class attendance is **required**.

What Do I Do if I Don’t Receive a Dietetic Internship Match?

When students submit an application to a Dietetic Internship program, they need to realize that the selection process is very competitive, and even a strong application packet does not guarantee a match to an internship program. The applicant pool is national, and you are in competition with many other students from across the country. If you do not receive an appointment in the match, you should see the Program Director about available internship programs that might have openings. You should also allow your name to be published on the list of applicants who did not match – it can increase your chances of matching even after the computer match is over! It is still possible to obtain an internship in the post-match period, although it does require an additional application process.

If you are still not successful, you should begin to re-evaluate your credentials, identify your strengths and weaknesses (which we all have), and think about ways to better highlight those strengths and improve those weaknesses.

- Evaluate how you can improve your qualifications
- Look at additional Dietetic Internship Programs
- Obtain a job related to nutrition/dietetics
- Reapply

Students who didn’t match should contact the DPD Program Director **immediately** to discuss the situation and plan for future matches. Don’t give up, there are alternatives! Persistent, qualified applicants nearly always find placement.

After Completing a Dietetic Internship Program, What Do I Do Next?

You must apply to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians. Candidates take their exam on a computer at a Pearson VUE testing center. The exam can be scheduled following completion of the registration eligibility application procedure, which will be discussed in your dietetic internship.

The exam is approximately three hours long and includes questions on food and nutrition, nutrition services (community and clinical), education and research, foodservice systems, and management.

Upon passing the exam, and notification by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR), you will be a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). For more information, see the [Pearson VUE Registration Examination for Dietitians Handbook for Candidates](#).

What is State Licensure?

State licensure is required for many RDNs. Each state has different licensure laws and application procedures. Students should check on the individual licensure requirements of the organization they choose to work for and the state in which they [reside](#). The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) program does not license or certify students. The program is part of a pathway that provides students with eligibility to become a registered dietitian nutritionist and potentially obtain state licensure.

Florida has a [licensure requirement](#) for dietitians. In Florida, completion of accredited DPD and dietetic internship programs (with a Master's degree after January 2024) and then passage of the national Registration Examination for Dietitians allows individuals to apply for "licensure by endorsement."

- At the present time, determination has been made that the UF FSHN DPD program's curriculum meets the state educational requirements for licensure in Florida (FL) (after completion of a dietetic internship and passage of the national RDN Examination).
- No determination has been made about whether the UF FSHN DPD program's curriculum meets the state educational requirements for licensure in: AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI, WY, or the US territories. We are currently working to verify and update our list.

What Should I Know About Professional Associations?

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)

<http://www.eatright.org>

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is the nation's largest professional organization for dietitians. Students enrolled in an accredited dietetics program have the opportunity to become a student member of the organization. Benefits of membership include:

- The *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics* (JAND)
- Members-only website, which includes access to the Evidence Analysis Library
- Student Center with information about career planning, student news, and a listserv
- Continuing education programs and materials
- Professional publications
- Member discounts on publications and merchandise
- Annual meeting discounts
- Membership opportunities in dietetics practice groups (DPG)
- Membership in state dietetic organization
- Job announcements
- Scholarship opportunities

The most important advantages to Academy student members are the eligibility for AND-sponsored scholarships, the Journal, networking, and the chance to improve your marketability. Students get all of this for a small annual membership fee – currently \$58. Although you are strongly encouraged to join as a freshman or sophomore, membership isn't required until you are a junior and senior. To be a student member of the Academy, you must complete a membership application and submit the dues payment; available on the [Academy](#) website.

The Florida Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (FAND)www.eatrightflorida.org

The Florida Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is Florida's professional organization for dietitians. Students who are AND student members are automatically members of the FAND (unless a different state affiliation is selected on the membership application).

The Florida Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics hosts an annual symposium every summer, usually in July. This three-day symposium includes national speakers, an extensive exhibit hall, and many opportunities to network with dietetics professionals and other students. You are highly encouraged to attend. FAND offers student stipends for students who are willing to volunteer during the meeting.

The Gainesville Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (GAND)www.eatrightgainesville.org

The Gainesville Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is the local branch of the state and national Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. You are encouraged to join to network with local dietitians and learn about hot nutrition/dietetics topics. This provides great opportunities for networking and mentoring. The student membership fee is \$15.00 per year (subject to change). Some membership advantages include:

- Educational programs
- Networking
- Leadership opportunities (i.e. National Nutrition Month)
- Involvement in community

What are My Options if I'm Not Interested in Becoming an RD/RDN?

A degree from Food Science and Human Nutrition Department with a specialization in Dietetics provides a strong knowledge base in the sciences, and skills in communication, problem solving, and teamwork. Graduates can pursue careers in nutrition education (through WIC), sales (including pharmaceutical, food and equipment sales), product development, foodservice management, and public policy or health fields.

Graduate school is another option to consider after graduation. There are many master's or PhD degree programs in nutrition, health science education, business, exercise and sports science, and communication. You should take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) if interested in graduate school.

DPD Graduates are also eligible to take the national examination to become a [NDTR](#) (nutrition and dietetic technician, registered) without completing the supervised practice experience.

Dietetics Majors Listserv

The FSHN Department maintains a listserv for dietetics majors. Information is regularly sent out regarding current professional information, volunteer or paid work experience opportunities, and reminders about meetings, deadlines, etc. All students in the dietetics curriculum should be subscribed to the listserv. Email the FSHN Student Services Advising office to be added to the listserv.

FSHN Department - Important Contacts

Student Services Office

- Herschel Johnson, Academic Advisor and FSHN Club Advisor
 - 352-294-3701
 - hdjohnson@ufl.edu
- Jenna Grogan, Academic Advisor
 - 352-294-3702
 - jgrogan@ufl.edu

Dietetics Faculty Advisors

- Mrs. Laura Acosta, Dietetics Lecturer and Undergraduate Program Coordinator
 - 352-273-3472
 - ljacosta@ufl.edu
- Dr. Beth Gankofskie, DPD Program Director
 - 352-273-3471
 - gankofskie@ufl.edu

Dietetics Staff

- Mrs. Kohrine Counts Hazim, Dietetics Program Coordinator
 - 352-294-3745
 - kcounts77@ufl.edu

Other Important Contacts

- Dr. Sue Percival, FSHN Department Chair
 - 352-392-1991 ext. 202
 - percival@ufl.edu
- Dr. Jeanette Andrade, MS-DI Director and Assistant Professor
 - 352-294-3975
 - jandrade1@ufl.edu
- For additional FSHN faculty, who may be helpful in obtaining research opportunities or who may teach DPD courses, see the [FSHN Faculty Directory](#).

Resources

[American Academy of Nutritional Sciences](#)

[American Diabetes Association](#)

[Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#)

[American Heart Association](#)

[American Public Health Association](#)

[Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition](#)

[Florida Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#)

[Food and Nutrition Information Center](#)

[FSHN Club \(Facebook\)](#)

[Gators Volunteer](#)

[Graduate Record Examination \(GRE\)](#)

[International Food Information Council](#)

[One.UF](#)

[PubMed/MEDLINE](#)

[Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior](#)

[U.S. Department of Agriculture](#)

[UF Food Science and Human Nutrition Department](#)

[UF DPD Program](#)

[UF IFAS Extension](#)

[UF MS-DI Program](#)

[U.S. Government Nutrition Information](#)

[Purdue OWL Writing Lab – AMA Style](#)

[Liberty University AMA Format Quick Guide](#)

Appendix - Foundation Knowledge and Learning Outcomes for DPDs

*ACEND Accreditation Standards for Didactic Programs in Nutrition and Dietetics
Leading to Supervised Practice, Standards implemented in 2022*

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.
- 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.

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 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 practice.
- KRDN 2.4** Discuss the impact of health care policy and different health care delivery systems on food and nutrition services.
- KRDN 2.5** Identify and describe the work of interprofessional teams and the roles of others with whom the registered dietitian nutritionist collaborates.
- 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 2.0** 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 these interventions.
- KRDN 3.2** Develop an educational session or program/educational strategy for a target population.
- KRDN 3.3** Demonstrate counseling and education methods to facilitate behavior change and enhance wellness for diverse individuals and groups.
- KRDN 3.4** Practice routine health screening assessments, including measuring blood pressure and conducting waived point-of-care laboratory testing (such as blood glucose or cholesterol).

- KRDN 3.5** Describe concepts of nutritional genomics and how they related 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 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.

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 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.