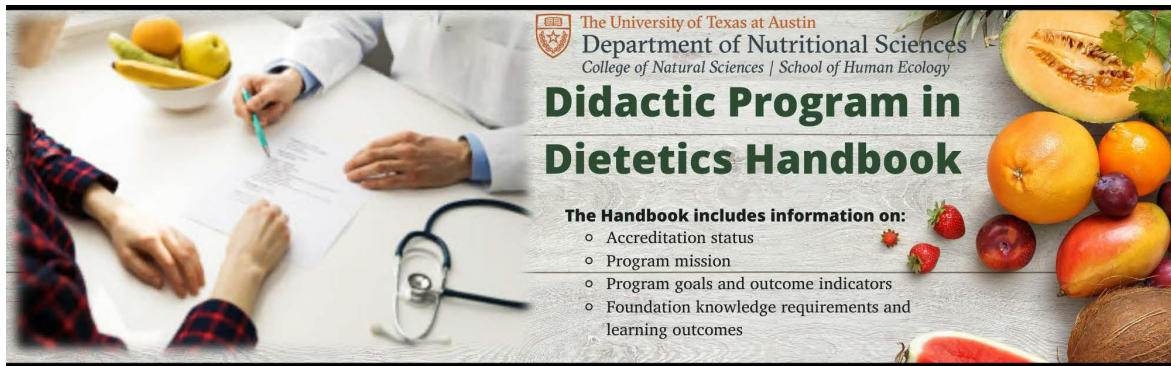




Welcome to the University of Texas Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)!

We're thrilled to have you join a program with a proud legacy of excellence. Since 1979, our DPD has prepared outstanding dietetic professionals who make a difference in communities across the country. As one of the most respected programs in the nation, we provide the essential didactic coursework required to become a registered dietitian. Our program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). Completing the DPD makes you eligible to apply for ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs, an important step toward becoming a credentialed dietitian.

ACEND Contact Information:
 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190
 Chicago, IL 60606-6995
 Phone: 312-899-0040 ext. 5400
 Website: www.eatrightPRO.org/ACEND

This handbook outlines program requirements in addition to the responsibilities listed in the [UT-Austin Undergraduate Catalog](#). We encourage you to take full advantage of the resources available to you, including this handbook, the DPD Canvas site, and the expertise of our faculty and academic advisors. If you have questions, we're here to help.

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Introduction

The University of Texas at Austin's undergraduate Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) provides the academic requirements for eligibility to apply to ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs, which is the next step toward becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN).

Graduates who complete supervised practice and pass the Registration Examination for Dietitians offered by the Commission for Dietetic Registration (CDR) will earn the RDN credential.

Important Update:

In 2012, the degree requirement for the RDN credential was elevated to a master's degree, effective January 1, 2024.

When you graduate with our BS in Dietetics, you can apply to ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs, choosing between:

- Stand-alone supervised practice programs (practice hours only)
- Combined programs (supervised practice + graduate degree)

Program Mission and Goals

The mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics at The University of Texas at Austin is to provide excellent academic preparation for students from all backgrounds for admission to dietetic internships and/or graduate school. This is achieved through:

- Integration of science-oriented education and professional preparation for dietetics practice
- Development of awareness of economic, social, cultural, and psychological influences on behavior
- Promotion and maintenance of nutritional well-being among individuals and groups
- Guidance in critical thinking and evidence-based analysis of current research
- Application of scientific and managerial principles to create and evaluate sound nutritional care

Program Goals and Objectives

Program Goal 1

Graduates will demonstrate the core knowledge, critical thinking skills, and technical expertise needed for acceptance into ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs and/or graduate study.

Objectives:

1. At least 80% of students complete program requirements within three years (150%) of the program length.
2. At least 60% of graduates apply for admission to a supervised practice program prior to or within 12 months of graduation.
3. Of graduates who apply, at least 60% are admitted to a supervised practice program within 12 months of graduation.
4. At least 90% of DPD graduates who apply to a graduate program (alone or combined with supervised practice) upon graduation will be accepted for admission.

Program Goal 2

Graduates will perform competently in a supervised practice program and successfully complete the CDR credentialing exam to become an entry-level registered dietitian.

Objectives:

1. At least 90% of graduates enrolled in supervised practice, responding to a survey, will rate their preparation as “good” or better (score of 3 or higher on a 5-point scale) in five of seven areas.
2. At least 90% of supervised practice program directors, responding to a survey, will rate graduates’ preparation as “good” or better (score of 3 or higher on a 5-point scale).
3. The program’s one-year pass rate on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists will be at least 80%.
4. Graduates’ mean scaled score on the Registration Examination for Dietitians will be above the national mean for the total exam and the nutrition and foodservice management sections.

Annual program outcome data is available upon request

Curriculum and Verification Statement

Curriculum

The DPD program is one of two Dietetics degree options within the Department of Nutritional Sciences. The following link provides the suggested coursework for completing the DPD degree program at The University of Texas at Austin.

<http://www.cns.utexas.edu/degree-checklists>

Verification Statement

Requirements to earn a verification statement are to complete the required curriculum for the DPD degree program and to have successfully demonstrated competence on all the required Knowledge Requirements for Dietetics and Nutrition (KRDN) per the 2022 ACEND Standards.

The verification statement is adjusted, as needed, based on changes that are made to the degree program. Students are required to complete the verification coursework that aligns with their year of selecting the DPD degree option. The current and past DPD course requirements can be found at: <https://cns.utexas.edu/academics/undergraduate-study/all-undergraduate-program>

Knowledge and Learning Requirements in Dietetics and Nutrition (KRDN)

The Didactic Program in Dietetics at The University of Texas at Austin is ACEND accredited and required to track student demonstration of the KRDNs.

Students must complete all DPD courses aligned with a KRDN in residence at UT Austin. This ensures compliance with ACEND accreditation standards and maintains the integrity of the program curriculum.

Purpose of This Policy

1. **Ensure Accreditation Compliance**
ACEND requires that all graduates demonstrate mastery of the Knowledge Requirements for Nutrition and Dietetics (KRDN) through a structured, accredited program.
2. **Maintain Program Integrity**
Completing all required courses within the UT Austin DPD guarantees consistency in academic rigor, assessment, and preparation for supervised practice.

The DPD Program Director tracks individual DPD student progress for successful demonstration of the KRDNs using the Canvas Learning Management System. For each course aligned with a KRDN, the faculty will indicate if a student demonstrates success on a learning activity linked to a KRDN using an outcome success or failure criteria built into a Canvas rubric.

The DPD Program Director will monitor DPD student progress of satisfactory completion of KRDNs at the end of each semester. Students can verify completion of the KRDNs with the DPD Program Director. Satisfactory completion of all designated KRDN outcomes is required to earn a verification statement.

Domain 1: Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice: Integration of scientific information and translation of research into practice.
KRDN 1.1 Demonstrate how to locate, interpret, evaluate and use professional literature to make ethical, evidence-based practice decisions. <i>Aligned with course(s): NTR 332: Community Nutrition, NTR 338W: Issues in Nutrition and Health</i>
KRDN 1.2 Select and use appropriate current information technologies to locate and apply evidence- based guidelines and protocols. <i>Aligned with course(s): NTR 370: Medical Nutrition Therapy I, NTR 371: Medical Nutrition Therapy II</i>
KRDN 1.3 Apply critical thinking skills. <i>Aligned with course(s): NTR 370: Medical Nutrition Therapy I, NTR 371: Medical Nutrition Therapy II</i>

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. <i>Aligned with course(s): NTR 334/234L: Foodservice Systems Management and Lab, NTR 338W: Issues in Nutrition and Health</i> 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. <i>Aligned with course(s): NTR 162: Standards, Ethics, and Credentialing in Dietetic Practice</i> KRDN 2.3 Assess the impact of a public policy position on nutrition and dietetics practice. <i>Aligned with course(s): NTR 332: Community Nutrition, NTR 334/234L: Foodservice Systems Management and Lab</i> KRDN 2.4 Discuss the impact of health care policy and different health care delivery systems on food and nutrition services. <i>Aligned with course(s): NTR 162: Standards, Ethics, and Credentialing in Dietetic Practice, NTR 334/234L: Foodservice Systems Management and Lab</i> KRDN 2.5 Identify and describe the work of interprofessional teams and the roles of others with whom the registered dietitian nutritionist collaborates. <i>Aligned with course(s): NTR 162: Standards, Ethics, and Credentialing in Dietetic Practice, NTR 334/234L: Foodservice Systems Management and Lab</i> KRDN 2.6 Demonstrate cultural humility, awareness of personal biases, and an understanding of cultural differences as they contribute to diversity, equity and inclusion. <i>Aligned with course(s): NTR 330L: Advanced Nutrition Assessment and Counseling, NTR 332: Community Nutrition</i> KRDN 2.7 Describe contributing factors to health inequity in nutrition and dietetics including structural bias, social inequities, health disparities and discrimination. <i>Aligned with course(s): NTR 317L: Intro to Nutrition Assessment and Education, NTR 332: Community Nutrition</i> KRDN 2.8 Participate in a nutrition and dietetics professional organization and explain the significant role of the organization. <i>Aligned with course(s): NTR 162: Standards, Ethics, and Credentialing in Dietetic Practice</i> KRDN 2.9 Defend a position on issues impacting the nutrition and dietetics profession. <i>Aligned with course(s): NTR 307: Introduction to Food Science, NTR 332: Community Nutrition</i>
Domain 3: Clinical and Customer 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. <i>Aligned with course(s): NTR 370: Medical Nutrition Therapy I, NTR 371: Medical Nutrition Therapy II</i> KRDN 3.2 Develop an educational session or program/educational strategy for a

target population.

Aligned with course(s): NTR 317L: Intro to Nutrition Assessment and Education, NTR 334/234L: Foodservice Systems Management and Lab

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

Aligned with course(s): NTR 330L: Advanced Nutrition Assessment and Counseling, NTR 334/234L: Foodservice Systems Management and Lab

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).

Aligned with course(s): NTR 330L: Advanced Nutrition Assessment and Counseling

KRDN 3.5 Describe concepts of nutritional genomics and how they relate to medical nutrition therapy, health and disease.

Aligned with course(s): NTR 370: Medical Nutrition Therapy I

KRDN 3.6 Develop nutritionally sound meals, menus, and meal plans that promote health and disease management and meet client's/patient's needs.

Aligned with course(s): NTR 334/234L: Foodservice Systems Management and Lab

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.

KRDN 4.1 Apply management theories to the development of programs or services.

Aligned with course(s): NTR 334/234L: Foodservice Systems Management and Lab

KRDN 4.2 Evaluate a budget/financial management plan and interpret financial data.

Aligned with course(s): NTR 334/234L: Foodservice Systems Management and Lab

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 oriented.

Aligned with course(s): NTR 162: Standards, Ethics, and Credentialing in Dietetic Practice, NTR 371: Medical Nutrition Therapy II

KRDN 4.4 Apply the principles of human resource management to different situations.

Aligned with course(s): NTR 334/234L: Foodservice Systems Management and Lab

KRDN 4.5 Apply safety and sanitation principles related to food, personnel and consumers.

Aligned with course(s): NTR 307: Introduction to Food Science

KRDN 4.6 Explain the process involved in delivering quality food and nutrition services.

Aligned with course(s): NTR 334/234L: Foodservice Systems Management and Lab

KRDN 4.7 Evaluate data to be used in decision-making for continuous quality improvement.

Aligned with course(s): NTR 334/234L: Foodservice Systems Management and Lab

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 which includes awareness in terms of learning and leadership styles and cultural orientation and develop goals for self-improvement.

Aligned with course(s): NTR 332: Community Nutrition, NTR 334/234L: Foodservice Systems Management and Lab

KRDN 5.2 Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge and experiences relevant to the position desired and career goals.

Aligned with course(s): NTR 162: Standards, Ethics, and Credentialing in Dietetic Practice

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).

Aligned with course(s): NTR 338W: Issues in Nutrition and Health

KRDN 5.4 Practice resolving differences of dealing with conflict.

Aligned with course(s): NTR 317L: Intro to Nutrition Assessment and Education, NTR 334/234L: Foodservice Systems Management and Lab

KRDN 5.5 Promote team involvement and recognize the skills of each member.

Aligned with course(s): NTR 307: Introduction to Food Science, NTR 334/234L: Foodservice Systems Management and Lab

KRDN 5.6 Demonstrate an understanding of the importance and expectations of a professional in mentoring and precepting others.

Aligned with course(s): NTR 162: Standards, Ethics, and Credentialing in Dietetic Practice

Academic Policy

- Prerequisite Grades: Upper-division courses require a “C-” or better in prerequisite courses.
- Course Retake Policy: Students may retake a course with a grade below “C-.” When retaken, UT averages both grades for GPA purposes.
- Scholastic Probation: If a student’s GPA drops below 2.0, they are placed on scholastic probation and must sign a grade contract specifying requirements to continue the next semester.
- Performance Notifications: Professors may send warning notifications to students performing poorly. Advisors can view these in the Advisors Toolkit and discuss strategies for improvement or recommend support resources.
- Further Information, Scholastic Probation and Dismissal Policy:
<https://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/academic-policies-and-procedures/scholastic-probation-and-dismissal/>

Evaluation

- Faculty members determine their own evaluation methods for undergraduate and graduate courses.
- Requirements:
 - Methods must be communicated in writing by the 4th class day of each semester (or 2nd class day of summer term).
 - Departmental faculties ensure adequacy of evaluation methods, subject to administrative review. Coordination is required for courses with multiple sections.
- Final Evaluation:
 - Materials used for evaluation must be collected by the instructor before or at the final exam.
 - The final examination is a common method of evaluation.

Retention and Remediation

- Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 to remain in good academic standing.
- Upper-division courses require a “C-” or better in prerequisites.
- Students may retake courses with grades below “C-”; grades are averaged for GPA.
- Support Services:
 - Academic Programs for Undergraduates:
<https://undergradcollege.utexas.edu/student-success/sanger-learning-center/academic-support>
 - Undergraduate Writing Center: <https://uwc.utexas.edu/>

Termination Policy

- Disciplinary and Termination Procedures: <https://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/student-services/discipline/>

Transfer Students (Includes Non-Degree Seeking Students)

- Transfer credit evaluation is handled by the UT's Transfer Office: <https://admissions.utexas.edu/apply/transfer-students/transfer-credit-resources/>
- You may be able to receive credit for certain courses through testing, information about the process can be found at: <https://testingservices.utexas.edu/credit>
- Academic advisors will review transcripts to determine remaining coursework once you are admitted to UT.
- DPD Curriculum Policy: All students, both degree-seeking and non-degree-seeking, must complete all DPD courses aligned with a KRDN in residence at UT Austin. This ensures compliance with ACEND accreditation standards and maintains the integrity of the program curriculum.
 - The purpose of this policy is to:
 - Ensure Accreditation Compliance: ACEND requires all graduates, and those that earn a verification statement, to demonstrate mastery of the Knowledge Requirements for Nutrition and Dietetics (KRDN) through a structured, accredited program.
 - Maintain Program Integrity: Completing all required courses within the UT Austin DPD guarantees consistency in academic rigor, assessment, and preparation for supervised practice.
- The DPD does not grant academic credit for prior learning experiences, including work experience, internships, or coursework completed outside the program for these KRDN-aligned courses.

DPD Courses Aligned with KRDN

- **NTR 162:** Standards, Ethics, and Credentialing in Dietetic Practice
- **NTR 307:** Introduction to Food Science
- **NTR 317L:** Introduction to Nutrition Assessment and Education
- **NTR 330L:** Advanced Nutrition Assessment and Counseling
- **NTR 332:** Community Nutrition
- **NTR 334 / 234L:** Foodservice Systems Management and Lab
- **NTR 338W:** Issues in Nutrition and Health
- **NTR 370:** Medical Nutrition Therapy I
- **NTR 371:** Medical Nutrition Therapy II

Graduation Requirements

- Degree seeking students must satisfy degree option requirements and all University requirements to graduate.

Program Completion & Verification

To successfully complete the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) and receive a verification statement, students must:

1. Earn a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition (Option 1: Dietetics).
2. Demonstrate competence in all Knowledge Requirements for Nutrition and Dietetics (KRDNs) as outlined by ACEND standards.

There is no official time limit for completing the program; however, students are strongly encouraged to progress in a timely manner to maintain academic continuity and readiness for supervised practice.

Tuition & Fees

- Tuition and Fee Rates: <https://onestop.utexas.edu/managing-costs/cost-tuition-rates/tuition-rates/>
- Withdrawal and Refund Policy: <https://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/academic-policies-and-procedures/withdrawal/>

Student Support Services

- Services for Students with Disabilities: <https://disability.utexas.edu/>
- Health Services: <https://www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu/>
- Additional Mental Health Services: <https://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/student-services/counseling-and-mental-health-center/>
- Testing Services: <https://testingservices.utexas.edu/>
- Financial Aid: <https://finaid.utexas.edu/>

Academic Calendar

The DPD Program follows the academic calendar for the University of Texas at Austin. The academic calendars can be found at: <https://registrar.utexas.edu/calendars>

Didactic Program Policies

The DPD Program adheres to the University policies and procedures for undergraduate academic integrity. The policies and procedures are found in

Chapter 11 of the *Institutional Rule on Student Services and Activities*. Found at: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sa/downloads/InstRulesCh11.pdf>

Grievance Procedures:

The DPD Program as undergraduate curriculum adheres to the University grievance policy. The policy of the University states that course complaints are to be dealt with at the instructor level and if not resolved move to the Department Chair, and on to the Academic Dean if not resolved within the Department. Specific Program complaints are handled by the DPD Program Director.

Student Grievance Procedures are available in the University Catalog at <http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/student-services/student-grievance-procedures/>

UT Policy on Protection from Retaliation for Reporting Suspected Wrongdoing: <https://www.utsystem.edu/sites/policy-library/policies/uts-131-protection-retaliation-reporting-suspected-wrongdoing>

If students have complaints concerning the DPD program and have exhausted all avenues with the program and the University, then the student may submit a complaint directly to ACEND.

120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190
Chicago, IL 60606-6995
312.899.0040 ext. 5400

There are currently no grievances filed to ACEND for this program.

The DPD program adheres to the University privacy and records access policies. These can be found at:

<http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/educational-records/>
and: <http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/educational-records/>

Insurance and Liability:

Insurance requirements, including those for professional liability:

<http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/registration-tuition-and-fees/tuition-and-fees/student-insurance/>

Liability for safety in travel to or from assigned areas:

Students are expected to provide their own transportation to and from sites assigned for course activities as necessary. Travel to off campus sites is minimal and well within the Austin city limits. The University assumes no liability for their safety during this travel.