

Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) Student Handbook 2026-2027

Prairie View A&M University
College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
Dept of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology

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Welcome to the Bachelor of Science in Dietetics Undergraduate Program!

Congratulations on being accepted to Prairie View A&M University! The College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources offers a B.S. in Dietetics degree with an option to complete the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) and earn a Verification Statement. Earning a Verification Statement is the first step to becoming a dietetic professional. This handbook provides specific information to students who are interested in joining and/or are part of the DPD.

Students planning to complete the DPD must follow the admission requirements. Additionally, all DPD students must acknowledge receipt of this handbook by signing the appropriate handbook acknowledgement form (found in Appendix A). By signing, the student indicates they have read the content and will abide by the policies and procedures outlined in the handbook. Signed copies will be kept in program director's files. The DPD Handbook and program website are reviewed annually and updated as needed to ensure information remains current, accurate, and consistent.

For more information on the DPD program, please contact:

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DPD Program Director

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Disclaimer

The information in this handbook is subject to change without prior notice by PVAMU and the department. Please note this handbook is not a contract, expressed or implied, between PVAMU and any student, applicant, or faculty member. For further information, students should consult the DPD Program Director, the PVAMU Undergraduate Catalog, and information available on the College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources website.

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Overview

The Bachelor of Science in Dietetics degree includes an ACEND-accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) that prepares students for careers in nutrition and dietetics, including pathways leading to the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) and Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered (NDTR) credentials.

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at Prairie View A&M University is accredited by the **Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)**, the credentialing agency for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995, Tel: 800-877-1600, ext. 5400, ACEND@eatright.org, <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend>.

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at Prairie View A&M University was established in 1947, with the first students graduating in 1951. The curriculum was developed with a generalist emphasis and is designed for students pursuing careers in dietetics, human nutrition, and food systems management within the health services industry. The program emphasizes the development of foundational knowledge and entry-level competencies that enable graduates to apply scientific principles of nutrition and food to health promotion, disease prevention and management, and effective food service operations. Graduates are prepared for a variety of career pathways, including supervised practice programs, graduate education, and entry-level positions in clinical, community, and food service settings. Career opportunities include roles in dietetics practice, nutrition education, extension, and management across healthcare, food service, education, business, and government sectors. The DPD Program is designed to meet the foundation knowledge, skills, and competencies required by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Graduates of the program who receive a Verification Statement from the program director may begin to pursue credentialing pathways for their chosen career.

Philosophy and Mission of the DPD Program

The program is grounded in the development of knowledge and competencies required to enter ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs, successfully complete graduate nutrition and related programs, and pursue entry-level positions in nutrition and dietetics. Emphasis is placed on lifelong learning, professional growth, problem solving, critical thinking, communication skills, and decision-making. Graduates are equipped to apply their professional preparation and potential to improve the health of individuals and families throughout the life cycle and to meet the evolving needs of Texas and the nation.

The mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at Prairie View A&M University is to provide quality dietetic education that prepares students for professional practice in nutrition and dietetics, while fostering academic and professional development.

Didactic Program Goals and Objectives

Goal #1: Prepare competent graduates for entry into supervised practice.

- Objective 1: 80% of program graduates apply for admission to a supervised practice program prior to or within 12 months of graduation.
- Objective 2: Of program graduates who apply to a supervised practice program, at least 80% are admitted within 12 months of graduation.
- Objective 3: 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 Registered Dietitian Nutritionists is at least 80%.
- Objective 4: Over a five-year period, 80% of the supervised practice program directors who respond to our survey will rate the preparation of PVAMU graduates for dietetic internships as satisfactory or above.
- Objective 5: At least 80% of students will rate the quality of academic training received in major course requirements as satisfactory or better.

Goal #2: Add to the cadre of historically under-represented individuals who are successful professionals in their field of study.

- Objective 1: At least 80% of students complete program requirements within 3 years (150% of planned program length).
- Objective 2: Within 18 months of graduation, 50% of students not applying to dietetic internships who respond to our survey will be accepted into postgraduate programs.

Outcome Data: DPD outcome data is available on request.

ACEND Accreditation Complaint Procedure

Any complaints related to ACEND accreditation of Prairie View A&M University's DPD Program and/or specific concerns regarding the DPD curriculum should be submitted in writing to Dr. Beverly Copeland, Associate Professor of Nutrition & Dietetics, at bmccopeland@pvamu.edu within thirty (30) days.

If a complaint cannot be satisfactorily resolved through the DPD program and university processes, any individual, including students, faculty, dietetics practitioners, or members of the public, may submit a written complaint directly to the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). Complaint procedures and forms are available at <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/public-notices-and-announcements/filing-a-complaint-with-acend>. ACEND complaints must be submitted using the official complaint form, signed by the complainant, and emailed to ACENDReports@eatright.org or mailed to ACEND, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995. Anonymous or incomplete complaints will not be considered by ACEND.

For complaints not related to accreditation, students should follow the [Prairie View A&M University Grievance Procedure](#). Records of complaints and their resolutions are maintained by the program for a minimum of seven (7) years.

Career Pathways for DPD Graduates

Who is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist?

Registered Dietitian Nutritionists are food and nutrition experts who have met the Commission on Dietetic Registration's (CDR) criteria to earn the RDN credential. Registered Dietitian Nutritionists work in a wide variety of employment settings, including health care working in the treatment and prevention of diseases using medical nutrition therapy, business and industry, community/public health, education, research, schools, food service management, academia, sports nutrition, government agencies, and private practice. For additional information about registered dietitians, refer to the [Scope of Practice documents](#), [Academy Definition of Terms](#), and www.cdrnet.org.

The Requirements

A Registered Dietitian (RD) or Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) is an individual who has successfully completed all the following:

- An Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) accredited program, such as the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD), that meets identified knowledge and competency requirements and results in a B.S. degree and a Verification Statement.
- An ACEND-accredited supervised practice program, such as a Dietetic Internship (DI)/Supervised Practice Experience Program (SPE), that meets identified knowledge and competency requirements.
- A master's degree.
- Passage of the national board examination administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) to become an RDN/RD. For more information regarding the examination, refer to www.cdrnet.org.

Note: Registered Dietitian (RD) and Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) are interchangeable. RDN will be used throughout the remainder of the handbook.

The RDN credential represents national licensure. State licensure requirements for dietitians vary by state. Students are responsible for complying with the requirements of the state in which they plan to practice. In Texas, licensure is administered through the [Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation](#) (TDLR), and only licensed individuals may use the titles "Licensed Dietitian (LD)" or "Provisionally Licensed Dietitian (PLD)."

For more information on state licensure, visit <https://www.cdrnet.org/LicensureMap>.

ACEND Master's Degree Requirements

Effective January 1, 2024, the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) requires a minimum of a master's degree to be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN).

Registered Dietitian Nutritionist vs Nutritionist

Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) are credentialed practitioners. A credential is a professional qualification—like MD for doctors or physicians—that lets the public know the practitioner is a trained expert. In nutrition and dietetics, the credential for trained experts is RDN or RD. "Registered dietitian nutritionist" is a

legally protected title. Only practitioners who have completed specific educational requirements, passed a national exam, and continued learning through ongoing education can use these titles and credentials.

However, there is no specific, standardized meaning for “nutritionist.” Anyone can call themselves a nutritionist. There is no established or equivalent accreditation process like the RDN education pathway that results in one claiming/having the title of nutritionist.

Who is a Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered?

Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered (NDTR/DTR) often work in partnerships with RDNs. They screen, evaluate, and educate patients, manage and prevent diseases such as diabetes, and monitor patients’ and clients’ progress. NDTRs work in hospitals and clinics, extended care facilities, schools, prisons, restaurants, food companies, public health agencies, and government programs. Find more information here: [Become an NDTR](#).

The Requirements

A Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered (NDTR) is an individual who has successfully completed all the following:

- ACEND-accredited education program, such as the DPD program, that relies on research and science, meets identified knowledge and competency requirements, and results in a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree and a Verification Statement; and
- Passage of the national NDTR exam of competence administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR), the regulatory board for professional licensing and certification.

Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered vs Nutritionist

Like Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs), Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered are credentialed practitioners, and their credentials show they are trained experts. “Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered” is a legally protected title. Only practitioners who have completed specific educational requirements, passed a national exam, and continued learning through ongoing education can use these titles and credentials.

Verification Statement

A Verification Statement is the official document issued by the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) confirming that a student has successfully completed all ACEND-accredited coursework requirements. This document is required to apply to supervised practice programs (Dietetic Internships) and other pathways leading to RDN or NDTR credentialing.

The DPD Director will verify completion of all program requirements and issue a Verification Statement to students who satisfy program requirements.

Eligibility Requirements for a Verification Statement

Verification Statements are issued upon certification of completion of all degree requirements by the Registrar's Office. Students are eligible for a Verification Statement after meeting **all** of the following requirements:

- Successful completion of all coursework required for the B.S. in Dietetics degree and DPD Program
- Earning a bachelor's degree
- Earning a grade of "C" or better in DPD Professional (HUNF) courses, DPD Professional (non-HUNF) courses, and DPD Science courses
- Achieving a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. GPAs will not be rounded.
- Successful completion of all core KRDNs
- Completion of a final transcript review and meeting with the DPD Director

Issuance of Verification Statements

Verification Statements are issued after degree conferral and certification of completion by the Registrar's Office.

- The date of the student's graduation will be recorded on the Verification Statement.
- Verification Statements will be issued within two (2) weeks of the degree conferral.

Eligibility and Admission Requirements for the DPD

Admission to Prairie View A&M University, enrollment in the B.S. in Dietetics degree program, or declaration of the Registered Dietitian (RD/RDN) concentration do not guarantee admission to the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD), eligibility for a Verification Statement, or issuance of a Verification Statement. Admission to the DPD does not guarantee issuance of a Verification Statement. To be eligible for a Verification Statement, students must complete all DPD requirements, satisfy all KRDN assessment requirements, meet program progression requirements, and fulfill graduation requirements. Students seeking admission to the DPD and intending to pursue a Verification Statement must complete the requirements listed below:

1. Complete the following courses with a “C” or better.
 - HUNF 1322 Nutrition and Wellness
 - HUNF 1130 Introduction to Dietetics
 - HUNF 2353 Intermediate Nutrition
 - HUNF 2363 Food Service Systems
 - HUNF 2365 Food Principles and Meal Management
 - HUNF 2366 Food Systems Management
 - CHEM 1303 General Inorganic Chemistry I
 - CHEM 1304 General Inorganic Chemistry II
 - Successfully meet all assigned KRDN standards in designated courses. Please contact the DPD Director for more information regarding KRDN requirements and assessment courses.
 - Courses not listed above are not considered in determining eligibility for admission to the DPD. However, students must meet all Verification Statement requirements, including earning a grade of “C” or better in all DPD-required courses listed in the *Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) Course Grade Requirements* section, before a Verification Statement can be issued. Students who earn a grade below a “C” in a DPD-required course must repeat the course and earn a grade of “C” or better to meet Verification Statement requirements.
2. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. GPAs will not be rounded.
3. Complete at least sixty (60) hours of college credit.
4. Fill out and submit the DPD Application for Admission.
 - a. [DPD Application - Docusign](#)
5. Fill out and submit the DPD Handbook Acknowledgement.
 - a. [DPD Handbook Acknowledgement - Docusign](#)

Admission decisions are made by the DPD Director following review of the student’s academic record, eligibility requirements, and application materials.

Transfer Students

Students who transfer from another PVAMU major or another university are eligible to apply for the DPD program. However, the eligibility requirements for admission are the same as those stated above. Students who

attended another college prior to enrolling at PVAMU may be eligible to transfer coursework into the DPD program. Courses that are not Texas Common Courses (TCCNS) may be considered for transfer equivalency by submitting official transcripts and course syllabi. Transfer equivalency evaluations will be completed by the DPD Director in consultation with the Registrar's Office and/or Office of Admissions.

However, all Knowledge Requirements for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (KRDNs) must be verified through the Prairie View A&M University DPD Program. Because KRDN achievement must be documented and assessed in accordance with ACEND and program requirements, transfer coursework alone does not guarantee satisfaction of KRDN requirements. Students may be required to complete additional coursework, assignments, assessments, or repeat a DPD course to demonstrate attainment of required KRDNs. The DPD Director will determine whether additional documentation, assessments, coursework, or other requirements are necessary to verify attainment of KRDN competencies. Therefore, completion of coursework at another institution does not guarantee that DPD requirements or KRDN requirements have been met. For any questions about this process, please contact the DPD Director.

Postgraduate Students

Students who have already earned a bachelor's degree and wish to complete the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) requirements for a Verification Statement must first apply for admission to Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and submit all required official documents. Admission to PVAMU does not automatically constitute admission to the DPD Program and Verification Statement pathway.

After admission to PVAMU, post-baccalaureate students should contact the DPD Director and provide their PVAMU student identification number. The DPD Director will conduct a DPD curriculum evaluation to determine eligibility for the Verification Statement pathway, identify any remaining DPD requirements, and identify what additional coursework, assignments, assessments, or other requirements may be necessary to qualify for a Verification Statement. Additional documentation may be requested as part of the evaluation process. The DPD Director's review is not an official university transfer credit evaluation and does not alter official transcripts, transfer credit determinations, or other academic records maintained by the university.

Students who already hold a bachelor's degree or a more advanced degree may elect to complete only the DPD requirements necessary to earn a Verification Statement. Earning a Verification Statement may qualify students to apply to a supervised practice program (dietetic internship) or to take the Nutrition and Dietetic Technician, Registered (NDTR) examination; however, students must also meet all eligibility requirements established by the supervised practice program, the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR), and any other applicable credentialing or regulatory bodies.

All Knowledge Requirements for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (KRDNs) must be verified through the Prairie View A&M University DPD Program. Because KRDN achievement must be documented and assessed in accordance with ACEND and program requirements, transfer coursework alone does not guarantee satisfaction of KRDN requirements. Students may be required to complete additional coursework, assignments, assessments, or repeat a DPD course to demonstrate attainment of required KRDNs. The DPD Director will determine whether additional documentation, assessments, coursework, or other requirements are necessary to verify attainment of KRDN competencies. Therefore, coursework completed as part of a previous degree and/or

at another institution will be reviewed during the DPD curriculum evaluation but does not guarantee satisfaction of DPD or KRDN requirements.

This pathway does not lead to a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics from PVAMU. Post-baccalaureate students who wish to earn an additional bachelor's degree must satisfy all university, college, and degree requirements applicable to that program.

A Verification Statement will only be issued after the DPD Director has verified that all DPD and KRDN requirements have been successfully completed and documented in accordance with the requirements outlined in this handbook (see page 10).

Deadline for Transcript Evaluation Requests:

- June 15 - Transcript Evaluation Requests for entrance to Fall semesters
- Oct. 15 - Transcript Evaluation Requests for entrance to Spring semesters

This process does not guarantee availability of classes or acceptance into the DPD program.

International University Degree Students

International students who have completed coursework outside of the United States should review ACEND guidance on degree equivalency: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/program-directors/program-directors-faqs/accepting-international-students-into-an-acend-accredited-program>. If you fall into this category and intend to pursue the DPD program, please contact the DPD Director prior to applying to PVAMU.

Curriculum and Degree Requirements

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at Prairie View A&M University requires completion of a prescribed sequence of science and professional courses designed to meet ACEND-accredited competencies. Students are expected to follow the recommended course sequence and satisfy all prerequisite requirements as outlined in this section.

Academic Standards and Progression Requirements

To progress in and complete the DPD track, students must meet the following academic standards:

- Complete all coursework required for the B.S. in Dietetics degree and the DPD Program.
- Follow the prescribed course sequence and prerequisite structure
- Earn a minimum grade of “C” or better in DPD Professional (HUNF), DPD Professional (non-HUNF), and DPD Science courses
- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. GPAs will not be rounded.
- Meet all program and university degree requirements for graduation

Detailed course requirements, prerequisite information, and the suggested degree sequence are provided in the tables below. If you have any questions about the information, please do not hesitate to contact the DPD Director.

Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) Course Grade Requirements

<u>DPD Science Courses</u>	<u>DPD Professional Courses</u>
All DPD Students Must Make a “C” or Better	All DPD Students Must Make a “C” or Better in the HUNF Courses Below
CHEM 1303 General Inorganic Chemistry I ¹	HUNF 1130 Introduction to Dietetics ¹
CHEM 1304 General Inorganic Chemistry II ¹	HUNF 1322 Nutrition & Wellness ¹
BIOL 1307 General Microbiology	HUNF 2353 Intermediate Nutrition ¹
CHEM 2303 General Organic Chemistry I	HUNF 2363 Food Service Systems ¹
BIOL 2401 Human Anatomy & Physiology I	HUNF 2365 Food Prin. & Meal Management ¹
BIOL 2402 Human Anatomy & Physiology II	HUNF 2366 Food Systems Management ¹
	HUNF 3360 Nutritional Biochemistry
	HUNF 3361 Lifecycle Nutrition
	HUNF 3363 Advanced Nutrition
	HUNF 3364 Food and Culture
<u>DPD Professional Courses</u>	HUNF 3365 Nutrition & Disease
All DPD Students Must Make a “C” or Better	HUNF 3367 Nutritional Assessment
COMM 1311 Fund of Speech Communication	HUNF 4330 Human Nutrition & Food Practicum
COMP 1300 Digital Communication	HUNF 4347 Nutrition Counseling
ECON 1301 Fundamentals of Economics	HUNF 4360 Physiochemical Aspects of Foods
MATH 1314 College Algebra	HUNF 4361 Research in Nutrition
MATH 1342 Elementary Statistics	HUNF 4366 Medical Nutrition Therapy I
MGMT 1301 Introduction to Business	HUNF 4367 Medical Nutrition Therapy II
PSYC 2301 General Psychology OR SOCG 1301 General Sociology	HUNF 4369 Community Nutrition

¹Must be completed prior to applying to the DPD program

*Please note: Students must earn a grade of “C” or better in all DPD Science Courses and DPD Professional (HUNF and non-HUNF) Courses listed in this table. Courses not listed in this table are not subject to the DPD minimum grade requirement but remain subject to university degree requirements.

DPD Program Suggested Degree Sequence 2026-2027

FRESHMAN YEAR			
Fall Semester Courses		Spring Semester Courses	
Fall Semester Hours		Spring Semester Hours	
ENGL 1301 Freshman Composition I	3	ENGL 1302 Freshman Composition II	3
HIST 1301 U.S. to 1876	3	HIST 1302 The U.S. 1876 to Present	3
HUNF 1322 Nutrition and Wellness	3	BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I	4
CHEM 1303 General Inorganic Chemistry I ¹	3	MATH 1314 College Algebra	3
COMM 1311 Fund of Speech Communication	3	HUNF 1130 Introduction to Dietetics ¹	1
		MGMT 1301 Introduction to Business ¹	3
Total Hours	15	Total Hours	17
SOPHOMORE YEAR			
Fall Semester Hours		Spring Semester Hours	
CHEM 1304 General Inorganic Chemistry II ¹	3	POSC 2305 American Government	3
HUNF 2353 Intermediate Nutrition (*HUNF 1322) ¹	3	POSC 2306 Texas Government	3
HUNF 2363 Food Service Systems ¹	3	CHEM 2303 General Organic Chemistry I	3
BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II	4	HUNF 2366 Food Systems Management (*HUNF 2363) ¹	3
HUNF 2365 Food Principles and Meal Management (*HUNF 1322) ¹	3	PSYC 2301 General Psychology or SOCG 1301 General Sociology	3
Total Hours	16	Total Hours	15
JUNIOR			
Fall Semester Hours		Spring Semester Hours	
HUNF 3361 Lifecycle Nutrition (*HUNF 1322)	3	Elective - Language, Philosophy, and Culture	3
Biol 1307 General Microbiology	3	COMP 1300 Digital Communication	3
ECON 1301 Fundamentals of Economics	3	HUNF 3360 Nutritional Biochemistry (*HUNF 2353)	3
HUNF 3364 Food and Culture	3	HUNF 3367 Nutritional Assessment (*HUNF 2353, & HUNF 3361)	3
MATH 1342 Elementary Statistics	3	HUNF 3365 Nutrition and Disease (*HUNF 2353)	3
Total Hours	15	Total Hours	15
SENIOR			
Fall Semester Hours		Spring Semester Hours	
HUNF 4330 Human Nutrition and Food Practicum (†See footnote for prerequisites)	3	HUNF 4367 Medical Nutrition Therapy II (*HUNF 4366)	3
HUNF 4360 Physiochemical Aspects of Food	3	HUNF 4361 Research in Nutrition (*MATH 1342)	3
HUNF 4366 Medical Nutrition Therapy I (*HUNF 3361, HUNF 3365, HUNF 3367)	3	HUNF 4369 Community Nutrition and Health (*HUNF 3361)	3
Elective - Creative Arts	3	HUNF 4347 Nutrition Counseling (*HUNF 4366)	3
HUNF 3363 Advanced Nutrition (*HUNF 2353, HUNF 3360 (or CHEM 4033))	3		
Total Hours	15	Total Hours	12
TOTAL			120

* Courses listed in parentheses are prerequisites that must be completed prior to enrollment in the preceding course.

¹ Courses must be completed prior to admission into the DPD program

† The prerequisites for HUNF 4330 (Practicum) are:

HUNF 2353, HUNF 2363, HUNF 2365, HUNF 2366, HUNF 3361, HUNF 3365, and HUNF 3367

Please Note: This suggested degree sequence is for those who want to apply for the DPD program by their junior year (≥60 credit hours). Specific courses must be completed prior to being eligible for the DPD program. For guidance, please contact the DPD Director before registering for courses.

B.S. in Dietetics Program Degree Plan ([PVAMU Course Catalog](#))

Course and Number	SH	Substitute Course	Trans	Res	Grade	Gr/Pt	Semester/Yr
Core Curriculum (43 SCH)							
ENGL 1301 Freshman Composition I	3						
ENGL 1302 Freshman Composition II	3						
HIST 1301 U.S. to 1876	3						
HIST 1302 The U.S. 1876 to Present	3						
MATH 1314 College Algebra	3						
BIOL 2401 Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4						
CHEM 1303 General Inorganic Chemistry I	3						
ECON 1301 Fundamentals of Economics	3						
PSYC 2301 General Psychology OR SOCG 1301 General Sociology	3						
POSC 2305 American Government	3						
POSC 2306 Texas Government	3						
COMP 1300 Digital Communication	3						
Language, Philosophy and Culture	3						
Creative Arts	3						
Human Nutrition & Food Requirements (46 SCH)							
HUNF 1130 Introduction to Dietetics	1						
HUNF 1322 Nutrition & Wellness	3						
HUNF 2353 Intermediate Nutrition	3						
HUNF 2363 Food Service Systems	3						
HUNF 2365 Food Prin. & Meal Management	3						
HUNF 2366 Food Systems Management	3						
HUNF 3360 Nutritional Biochemistry	3						
HUNF 3361 Lifecycle Nutrition	3						
HUNF 3363 Advanced Nutrition	3						
HUNF 3364 Food and Culture	3						
HUNF 3365 Nutrition & Disease	3						
HUNF 3367 Nutritional Assessment	3						
HUNF 4330 Human Nutrition & Food Practicum	3						
HUNF 4360 Physiochemical Aspects of Foods	3						
HUNF 4361 Research in Nutrition	3						
HUNF 4369 Community Nutrition	3						
Support Area Requirements (12 SCH)							
MATH 1342 Elementary Statistics	3						
MGMT 1301 Introduction to Business	3						
COMM 1311 Fund of Speech Communication	3						
BIOL 1307 General Microbiology	3						
Concentration Area Requirements (19 SCH)							
BIOL 2402 Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4						
CHEM 1304 General Inorganic Chemistry II	3						
CHEM 2303 General Organic Chemistry I	3						
HUNF 4347 Nutrition Counseling	3						
HUNF 4366 Medical Nutrition Therapy I	3						
HUNF 4367 Medical Nutrition Therapy II	3						
Total Semester Hours	120	Hours Needed For Completion of Degree Plan					
Student's Hours							

Degree Plan Breakdown: This degree plan satisfies the requirements for a Verification Statement and provides eligibility to apply to an ACEND-accredited Dietetic Internship or take the national NDTR exam, if all applicable requirements are met. The B.S. in Dietetics is designed to be completed by full-time students in four (4) academic years, with a maximum completion time of six (6) academic years. **Following admission to the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at junior year (≥60 credit hours), students are expected to complete DPD requirements within three (3) academic years (150% of DPD program length).**

Knowledge for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (KRDN)

The KRDNs are the core competencies all DPD students must achieve. The curriculum is designed to meet all ACEND core KRDN competencies through designated courses, each with an identified assessment method. Students who do not meet a KRDN must complete remediation as directed by the course instructor. All KRDN competencies must be successfully attained to receive a Verification Statement from the Prairie View A&M University DPD Program.

A Verification Statement confirms that a student has met all DPD program requirements, including KRDN competencies, coursework, grade standards, and eligibility criteria. The Verification Statement is required to sit for the RDN and NDTR exam and to apply to a supervised practice (Dietetic Internship) program.

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.

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

KRDN 1.3 Apply critical thinking skills.

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

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

KRDN 2.2 Describe the governance of nutrition and dietetics practice, such as the Scope of Practice for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Nutrition and Dietetics.

KRDN 2.3 Assess the impact of a public policy position on 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 2.7 Describe contributing factors to health inequity in nutrition and dietetics.

KRDN 2.8 Participate in a nutrition and dietetics professional organization and explain the significant role of the organization.

KRDN 2.9 Defend a position on issues impacting the nutrition and dietetics profession.

Domain 3: Clinical and Client Services: Development and delivery of information, products and services to individuals, groups, and populations.

KRDN 3.1 Use the Nutrition Care Process and clinical workflow elements to assess nutritional parameters, diagnose nutrition related problems, determine appropriate nutrition interventions, and develop plans to monitor the effectiveness of these interventions.

KRDN 3.2 Develop 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 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 relate to medical nutrition therapy, health, and disease.

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

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

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

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

KRDN 4.3 Demonstrate an understanding of the regulation system related to billing and coding, what services are reimbursable by third party payers, and how reimbursement may be obtained.

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

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

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

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

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

KRDN 5.1 Perform self-assessment that includes awareness in terms of learning and leadership styles and develop goals for self-improvement.

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

KRDN 5.3 Practice how to self-advocate for opportunities in a variety of settings (such as asking for needed support, presenting an elevator pitch).

KRDN 5.4 Practice resolving differences or dealing with conflict.

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

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

DPD Program Policies and Procedures

The policies of the Prairie View A&M University Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) are designed to promote an inclusive and supportive environment, ensure equitable treatment of all students, and support their success in achieving academic and professional goals.

Beneficial Links and Assistance

- Access to Personal Files: <https://www.pvamu.edu/pvplace/>
- Access to Academic Records After Graduation: [PVAMU Registrar's Office](#)
- Academic Calendar: <https://www.pvamu.edu/registrar/academic-calendars/>
 - The DPD Program follows the Prairie View A&M University academic calendar. Program schedules, registration periods, university holidays, and academic breaks are established by the university and published annually through the Registrar's Office.
- Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) homepage: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend>
- Career Services: <https://careerservices.pvamu.edu/>
- Center for Writing and Public Discourse (CWPD): <https://www.pvamu.edu/student-success/sass/about-center-for-writing-and-public-discourse/>
- Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR): <http://www.cdrnet.org>
- Course Catalogs: <https://catalog.pvamu.edu/>
- Department of Academic Success: <https://www.pvamu.edu/student-success/sass/> (Additional student support resources are described in Appendix B.)
- Human Nutrition and Food Homepage: <https://www.pvamu.edu/cafnr/homepage2/academics/human-nutrition/>
- Office of Admissions: <https://www.pvamu.edu/admissions/>
- Office of Registrar: <https://www.pvamu.edu/registrar/>
- Scholarships: <https://www.pvamu.edu/faid/types-of-aid/scholarships/>
- Student Financial Aid: <https://www.pvamu.edu/faid/>
- Student Leave of Absence: There is no formal leave of absence for undergraduate students. Please speak with the [Office of Admissions](#) or the [Registrar's Office](#) if needed.
- Student Withdrawal and Refund of Tuition and Fees Procedures: <https://www.pvamu.edu/registrar/general-registration-information/withdrawal-from-the-university/>
- The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (The Academy) homepage: <http://www.eatrightpro.org/>
- University Homepage: <https://www.pvamu.edu/>

DPD Probation and Remediation Policies

The probation statuses described below are DPD program-specific actions and are separate from any academic probation, suspension, disciplinary action, or academic standing determination imposed by Prairie View A&M University. All DPD probation decisions, requirements, timelines, and outcomes will be documented and communicated to the student in writing.

DPD Academic Integrity Policy

Panther Code of Honor: All members of the Prairie View A&M University community should conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for a community of scholars. All students are expected to follow all laws and regulations while maintaining absolute integrity and a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work and personal interaction.

PVAMU Honor Affirmation Statement: “I will abstain from dishonesty in all scholastic work.”

Reporting and Required Action

If academic misconduct occurs in a HUNF course by a DPD student, the course instructor must report the incident to the DPD Director within two (2) weeks of its occurrence. The student must meet with the DPD Director and adhere to the following conditions:

- **Probationary Status:** Due to a violation of the PVAMU and DPD Academic Integrity Policy in a HUNF course, the student will be placed on **DPD Academic Integrity Probation**. This status will remain in effect until a final determination is made by the DPD Director regarding their standing in the program.
- **Conditional Continuation:** While on DPD Academic Integrity Probation, the student may continue DPD coursework. However, continued participation in the DPD program is **not guaranteed**.
- **Return to Good Standing:** Return to good standing in the DPD program may be considered following review by the DPD Director, contingent upon:
 - Meeting all applicable DPD requirements
 - Satisfactory compliance with all terms of the DPD Probation Contract
- **Required Reflective Statement:** The student must submit a one-page personal reflection to the DPD Director (without the use of AI or unauthorized assistance), which includes:
 - Acknowledgment of the academic integrity violation
 - Reflection on the impact of academic dishonesty on self, peers, and the institution
 - Explanation of lessons learned and changes in perspective
 - Specific actions that will be taken to ensure future adherence to academic integrity standards

DPD Academic Integrity Probation Process

Because the nature and severity of academic misconduct incidents may vary, the duration of DPD Academic Integrity Probation is determined on a case-by-case basis. However, all students placed on DPD Academic Integrity Probation will follow the process outlined below:

1. **Incident Reported:** The instructor reports the academic misconduct incident to the DPD Director within two (2) weeks of its occurrence.
2. **Initial Meeting:** The student meets with the DPD Director to review the violation, probation requirements, expectations for continued participation in the DPD program, and any required corrective actions. A DPD Probation Contract will be completed during this meeting.
3. **Probation Period:** The student remains on DPD Academic Integrity Probation while completing all required conditions, including submission of the reflective statement and compliance with any additional requirements established by the DPD Director.

4. Review of Progress: At the conclusion of the semester, or sooner if specified by the DPD Director, the student's academic performance, conduct, and compliance with probation requirements will be reviewed.
5. Final Determination: Based on the review, the student may:
 - Be returned to good standing in the DPD program;
 - Remain on DPD Academic Integrity Probation with additional requirements; or
 - Be dismissed from the DPD program in accordance with DPD policies.

DPD Academic Progression, Probation, and Dismissal

Students are expected to follow the prescribed course sequence and meet all prerequisite, grade, KRDN competency requirements, and GPA requirements as outlined in the *Curriculum and Degree Requirements* section.

Student performance is regularly monitored by the DPD Director at the beginning of the semester, middle of the semester, and end the semester through review of course grades, cumulative GPA, completion of KRDN competencies, advising records, academic integrity reports, and faculty feedback. Students receive regular feedback regarding their academic performance through course assignments, examinations, university grade reporting systems, advising meetings, and communication with course instructors and the DPD Director. Students experiencing significant academic difficulty who demonstrate a low likelihood of successfully completing DPD requirements may be advised regarding alternative academic pathways, majors, or career options that better align with their academic performance, interests, and goals.

Conditions for DPD Academic Probation and/or Remediation

Students who fail to meet DPD program requirements may be subject to remediation, DPD Academic Probation, a DPD Probation Contract, or a combination of these actions, depending on the nature of the deficiency. Program requirements include:

- Failure to meet core KRDN competency requirements
- Failure to meet minimum grade requirements in courses required for the B.S. in Dietetics degree and DPD Program
- Falling below the required 3.0 cumulative GPA. GPAs will not be rounded.

KRDN competency deficiencies are addressed through remediation. DPD grade and GPA deficiencies are addressed through DPD Academic Probation and a DPD Probation Contract, as described below.

Remediation and Probation Procedures

KRDN Competency Remediation

Core KRDN competencies and associated assessment criteria are defined in each course syllabus. Students who do not meet the established benchmark for a KRDN-assessed activity must complete remediation. Remediation is administered by the course instructor. Within seven (7) days of the graded assignment being returned to the student, a remediation plan must be established between the student and instructor.

- Failure to successfully meet KRDN competency requirements following remediation will result in dismissal from the Prairie View A&M DPD Program and ineligibility to receive a Verification Statement unless the student is subsequently readmitted and successfully satisfies all program

requirements.

- **NOTE: Grades earned on the first attempts of each assignment, not grades earned during remediation, will be used in determining the course grade.**

DPD Grade or GPA Probation

Students who do not meet DPD grade and/or GPA requirements will be placed on DPD Academic Probation and required to complete a DPD Probation Contract.

- GPA Requirement: Students will have one (1) semester to raise their cumulative GPA to 3.0 or higher. GPAs will not be rounded.
- Course Grade Requirement: Students must retake the course at the next available offering and earn a minimum grade of “C” in the course. This requirement applies to all courses required for the B.S. in Dietetics degree and the DPD Program, including DPD Professional (HUNF and non-HUNF) courses and DPD Science courses.
 - **Independent Study:** Requests to complete a HUNF course that includes KRDN assessment through an independent study arrangement must receive prior written approval from the DPD Director only and are considered on a case-by-case basis. Approval is not guaranteed and is dependent upon course content, KRDN assessment requirements, faculty availability, and the student’s academic circumstances.

Grounds for Dismissal

Students who fail to successfully complete DPD probation and/or remediation requirements may be dismissed from the DPD program and be ineligible to receive a Verification Statement for any of the following:

- Failure to satisfy the requirements of a DPD Probation Contract
- Failure to achieve the required GPA within one semester
- Failure to achieve a grade of “C” or better in a course required for the B.S. in Dietetics degree and DPD Program after retaking the course
- Failure to meet KRDN competency requirements following remediation(s)
- Academic dishonesty or professional misconduct
- Violation of university policies resulting in disciplinary action

Readmission Eligibility

Students dismissed from the DPD program for any of the reasons above may be considered for readmission if they meet all the following:

- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. GPAs will not be rounded.
- Grade of “C” or better in DPD Professional (HUNF) courses, DPD Professional (non-HUNF) courses, and DPD Science courses
- Successfully meeting the KRDN competency requirement(s) in the necessary course(s)

Out-of-Course Sequence Requests for DPD

Students must complete a **Request to Take a Course Out of Sequence** form to be considered for enrollment in a course outside of the prescribed DPD course sequence. The completed form must be submitted to the DPD Director and approved **before** enrolling in the requested course. The form can be found in Appendix A of this handbook and must be submitted through Docusign.

Requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and approval is **not guaranteed**. Approval is based on factors including, but not limited to, the student's academic performance, prerequisite completion, course availability, progression toward degree completion, and other documented circumstances.

Example: Circumstances that may prompt a student to submit a request include, but are not limited to, scheduling conflicts, limited course availability, transfer credit evaluations, failure to meet a course grade requirement, or other situations that may affect progression through the program. Submission of a request **does not guarantee approval**. All requests are evaluated individually by the DPD Director in accordance with DPD program requirements.

Program Completion Requirements

- All undergraduate DPD students must meet the requirements for a baccalaureate degree.
- Undergraduate DPD students must meet **all** grade requirements, ACEND core KRDN competencies, and graduate with a B.S. degree to receive a Verification Statement of completion from the Prairie View A&M University DPD Program.
- Postgraduate DPD students must meet **all** grade requirements, ACEND core KRDN competencies, and successfully complete all DPD program course requirements to receive a Verification Statement of completion from the Prairie View A&M University DPD Program.
- All DPD students are expected to successfully complete all DPD program requirements three (3) years from the date they officially enter the DPD program (150% of program completion).

Verification Statement Requirement

A Verification Statement from an accredited DPD program is required to apply for admission to a supervised practice program (dietetic internship). Some Coordinated Programs and Graduate Programs do require a Verification Statement, but not all do. It is up to the student to verify the program's admission criteria.

Program Completion Disclaimer

Successful completion of the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) does not guarantee admission to an accredited supervised practice program (e.g., Dietetic Internship), graduate program, or other post-baccalaureate educational opportunities. Admission to these programs is competitive and determined by the individual program's selection criteria. Students can strengthen the competitiveness of their applications through academic achievement, strong science and overall GPAs, leadership involvement, relevant work and volunteer experiences, professional engagement, positive recommendation letters, research or service activities, and demonstrated commitment to the dietetics profession. While these factors may enhance an application, meeting eligibility requirements or possessing these qualifications does not guarantee admission.

DPD Instruction and Experiential Learning Policies

- The PVAMU DPD Program is delivered through in-person instruction and does not offer distance education coursework.
- Experiential learning (e.g., work experience, prior training) is not accepted as a substitute for required DPD coursework. All required courses and competencies must be completed through approved academic coursework.

Nondiscrimination and Grievance Policies

PVAMU'S DPD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity in its programs and activities.

- FERPA: Student educational records and personally identifiable information are maintained and protected in accordance with FERPA and applicable university policies.
<https://www.pvamu.edu/registrar/general-registration-information/student-records-information/>
- Student Complaint or Grievance Procedures:
<https://www.pvamu.edu/disabilityservices/procedures/grievance-procedure/>
- Title IX: <https://www.pvamu.edu/titleix/>

Student Records and Privacy

The DPD program maintains student records in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and applicable Prairie View A&M University policies. Student records and personally identifiable information are treated as confidential and are accessible only to authorized university personnel with a legitimate educational interest.

Students may request access to review materials maintained in their DPD program file by submitting a written request to the DPD Director. Access will be provided in accordance with applicable university policies and FERPA regulations. DPD forms and program documents submitted electronically are maintained using approved university systems and secure document management practices.

Tuition, Fees, and Cost of Attendance—Undergraduate

Estimated cost of attendance for the 26-27 Academic Year: <https://www.pvamu.edu/faid/resources/cost-of-attendance/>

- Resident Full Time (15+ hours/semester): \$20,706 (Home), \$31,291 (On-Campus), \$28,020 (Off-Campus)
- Non-Resident Full Time (15+ hours/semester): \$36,281 (Home), \$46,865 (On-Campus), \$43,595 (Off-Campus)
- Calculate your cost: <https://www.pvamu.edu/fmsv/treasury-services/>

Compensation

No compensation is provided to DPD students as part of the program.

Concerns related to DPD Program Policies and Procedures should be addressed in writing to the DPD Director, Miah Nelson-McLaughlin, at monelsonmclaughlin@pvamu.edu

Dietetic Internship (DI)/Supervised Practice Experience (SPE) Programs

Overview

Completion of an accredited Dietetic Internship (DI), which will transition to the term Supervised Practice Experience (SPE) program beginning in August 2027, is one of the requirements for eligibility to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN).

Completion of DPD requirements and receipt of a Verification Statement are necessary steps in preparing to apply to supervised practice programs. While these qualify students to apply to supervised practice programs, they do not guarantee admission. Students are responsible for meeting the admission requirements of each program to which they apply.

Dietetic Internship programs vary in length, location, area of emphasis, admission requirements, and cost. Most programs can be completed in approximately 6–12 months, while graduate degree programs that integrate supervised practice typically require 12–24 months to complete.

Admission Requirements

Admission to Dietetic Internship programs is competitive. Students are strongly encouraged to review the admission requirements of each program well in advance of applying and to consider applying to multiple programs to maximize their opportunities for acceptance.

Admission requirements vary among programs. Many programs require a minimum cumulative and DPD GPA of 3.0 (not rounded), while some maintain higher standards or additional prerequisites, such as minimum science GPA requirements. Many programs provide information regarding minimum admission requirements and the academic profile of previously accepted applicants on their program websites.

Students are responsible for reviewing the most current admission requirements on program websites prior to applying. Information about accredited supervised practice programs is available through the [ACEND Accredited Dietetics Program Directory](#).

Application Process

Supervised practice programs utilize the Dietetics Inclusive Centralized Application Service (DICAS) as part of the application process. Students are responsible for reviewing the application procedures, deadlines, and requirements for each program to which they apply. Application fees may apply through DICAS and individual programs, and additional costs may be associated with transcript submission or graduate school applications when required.

Application procedures may vary among programs and are subject to change. Students should consult individual program websites and DICAS for the most current application information.

Program Costs and Financial Considerations

The cost of supervised practice programs varies widely among institutions. Some programs charge tuition, while others assess program-specific fees. Most programs are unpaid; however, many programs offer stipends, scholarships, or other forms of financial support. In addition to program tuition or fees, students should budget for expenses that may include:

- Application fees (e.g., DICAS, graduate school application fees, and transcript requests)
- Transportation and travel
- Housing and living expenses
- Professional liability insurance
- Background checks and drug screenings
- Medical clearances and immunizations
- Textbooks, lab coats, and other required supplies

Costs may also be influenced by the geographic location of the program and the need to travel to multiple supervised practice sites.

Selecting a Supervised Practice Program

Students should carefully evaluate supervised practice programs based on factors such as:

- Admission requirements (e.g., GPA, letters of recommendation, work or volunteer experience, personal statements, interviews, and graduate degree admission requirements)
- Program cost and financial aid opportunities
- Geographic location
- Program length and format
- Areas of emphasis or specialization
- Graduate degree options (if applicable)
- Program outcomes and graduate success

Students are encouraged to review program websites and attend informational sessions or open houses when available to determine which programs best align with their professional goals.

Financial Aid and Employment

Financial aid opportunities vary among programs and institutions. Depending on the program, students may be eligible for federal financial aid, scholarships, graduate assistantships, tuition waivers, or other funding sources. Because supervised practice programs require a significant time commitment, outside employment may be limited or prohibited. Students are encouraged to carefully consider the financial and scheduling demands of a program before accepting an admission offer.

Note: Information regarding supervised practice programs, including admission requirements, costs, financial aid opportunities, and program policies, is subject to change. Students should consult individual program websites for the most current information.

Registration Examination for RDN Specifications

(January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2031)

The Registered Dietitian Examination evaluates the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for minimally competent performance as a newly credentialed practitioner (RD or RDN).

Domain I. Fundamentals of Dietetics Practice (23%)

- A. Management and Leadership
- B. Marketing and Public Relations
- C. Research Applications
- D. Professional Practice

Domain II. Community and Public Health Nutrition (22%)

- A. Community Nutrition Guidelines and Policies
- B. Community Needs Assessment
- C. Community Nutrition Programs and Services for Individuals and Groups

Domain III. Human Nutrition and Medical Nutrition Therapy (44%)

- A. Fundamentals and Human Nutrition and Physiology
- B. Screening and Assessment
- C. Diagnosis
- D. Planning and Intervention
- E. Monitoring and Evaluation

Domain IV. Food Science and Food Systems (15%)

- A. Food Science
- B. Menu Development
- C. Flow of Food and Procurement to Service

CDR CODE OF ETHICS

Effective Date: June 1, 2018

Preamble

When providing services the nutrition and dietetics practitioner adheres to the core values of customer focus, integrity, innovation, social responsibility, and diversity. Science-based decisions, derived from the best available research and evidence, are the underpinnings of ethical conduct and practice. This Code applies to nutrition and dietetics practitioners who act in a wide variety of capacities, provides general principles and specific ethical standards for situations frequently encountered in daily practice. The primary goal is the protection of the individuals, groups, organizations, communities, or populations with whom the practitioner works and interacts.

The nutrition and dietetics practitioner supports and promotes high standards of professional practice, accepting the obligation to protect clients, the public and the profession; upholds the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (Academy) and its credentialing agency the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession; and shall report perceived violations of the Code through established processes. The Academy/CDR Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession establishes the principles and ethical standards that underlie the nutrition and dietetics practitioner's roles and conduct. All individuals to whom the Code applies are referred to as "nutrition and dietetics practitioners". By accepting membership in the Academy and/or accepting and maintaining CDR credentials, all nutrition and dietetics practitioners agree to abide by the Code.

Principles and Standards

1. Competence and professional development in practice (Non-maleficence)

Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:

- a. Practice using an evidence-based approach within areas of competence, continuously develop and enhance expertise, and recognize limitations.
- b. Demonstrate in depth scientific knowledge of food, human nutrition and behavior.
- c. Assess the validity and applicability of scientific evidence without personal bias.
- d. Interpret, apply, participate in and/or generate research to enhance practice, innovation, and discovery.
- e. Make evidence-based practice decisions, taking into account the unique values and circumstances of the patient/client and community, in combination with the practitioner's expertise and judgment.
- f. Recognize and exercise professional judgment within the limits of individual qualifications and collaborate with others, seek counsel, and make referrals as appropriate.
- g. Act in a caring and respectful manner, mindful of individual differences, cultural, and ethnic diversity.
- h. Practice within the limits of their scope and collaborate with the inter-professional team.

2. Integrity in personal and organizational behaviors and practices (Autonomy)

Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:

- a. Disclose any conflicts of interest, including any financial interests in products or services that are recommended. Refrain from accepting gifts or services which potentially influence or which may give the appearance of influencing professional judgment.
- b. Comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including obtaining/maintaining a state license or certification if engaged in practice governed by nutrition and dietetics statutes.
- c. Maintain and appropriately use credentials.
- d. Respect intellectual property rights, including citation and recognition of the ideas and work of others, regardless of the medium (e.g. written, oral, electronic).
- e. Provide accurate and truthful information in all communications.
- f. Report inappropriate behavior or treatment of a patient/client by another nutrition and dietetics practitioner or other professionals.

- g. Document, code and bill to most accurately reflect the character and extent of delivered services.
- h. Respect patient/client's autonomy. Safeguard patient/client confidentiality according to current regulations and laws.
- i. Implement appropriate measures to protect personal health information using appropriate techniques (e.g., encryption).

3. Professionalism (Beneficence)

Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:

- a. Participate in and contribute to decisions that affect the well-being of patients/clients.
- b. Respect the values, rights, knowledge, and skills of colleagues and other professionals.
- c. Demonstrate respect, constructive dialogue, civility and professionalism in all communications, including social media.
- d. Refrain from communicating false, fraudulent, deceptive, misleading, disparaging or unfair statements or claims.
- e. Uphold professional boundaries and refrain from romantic relationships with any patients/clients, surrogates, supervisees, or students.
- f. Refrain from verbal/physical/emotional/sexual harassment.
- g. Provide objective evaluations of performance for employees, coworkers, and students and candidates for employment, professional association memberships, awards, or scholarships, making all reasonable efforts to avoid bias in the professional evaluation of others.
- h. Communicate at an appropriate level to promote health literacy.
- i. Contribute to the advancement and competence of others, including colleagues, students, and the public.

4. Social responsibility for local, regional, national, global nutrition and well-being (Justice)

Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:

- a. Collaborate with others to reduce health disparities and protect human rights.
- b. Promote fairness and objectivity with fair and equitable treatment.
- c. Contribute time and expertise to activities that promote respect, integrity, and competence of the profession.
- d. Promote the unique role of nutrition and dietetics practitioners.
- e. Engage in service that benefits the community and to enhance the public's trust in the profession.
- f. Seek leadership opportunities in professional, community, and service organizations to enhance health and nutritional status while protecting the public.

Glossary of Terms

Autonomy: ensures a patient, client, or professional has the capacity and self-determination to engage in individual decision-making specific to personal health or practice.¹

Beneficence: encompasses taking positive steps to benefit others, which includes balancing benefit and risk.¹

Competence: a principle of professional practice, identifying the ability of the provider to administer safe and reliable services on a consistent basis.²

Conflict(s) of Interest(s): defined as a personal or financial interest or a duty to another party which may prevent a person from acting in the best interests of the intended beneficiary, including simultaneous membership on boards with potentially conflicting interests related to the profession, members or the public.²

Customer: any client, patient, resident, participant, student, consumer, individual/person, group, population, or organization to which the nutrition and dietetics practitioner provides service.³

Diversity: "The Academy values and respects the diverse viewpoints and individual differences of all people. The Academy's mission and vision are most effectively realized through the promotion of a diverse membership that reflects cultural, ethnic, gender, racial, religious, sexual orientation, socioeconomic, geographical, political, educational, experiential and philosophical characteristics of the public it services. The Academy actively identifies and offers opportunities to individuals with varied skills, talents, abilities, ideas, disabilities, backgrounds and practice expertise."⁴

Evidence-based Practice: Evidence-based practice is an approach to health care wherein health practitioners use the best evidence possible, i.e., the most appropriate information available, to make decisions for individuals, groups and populations. Evidence-based practice values, enhances and builds on clinical expertise, knowledge of disease

mechanisms, and pathophysiology. It involves complex and conscientious decision-making based not only on the available evidence but also on client characteristics, situations, and preferences. It recognizes that health care is individualized and ever changing and involves uncertainties and probabilities. Evidence-based practice incorporates successful strategies that improve client outcomes and are derived from various sources of evidence including research, national guidelines, policies, consensus statements, systematic analysis of clinical experience, quality improvement data, specialized knowledge and skills of experts.²

Justice (social justice): supports fair, equitable, and appropriate treatment for individuals¹ and fair allocation of resources.

Non-Maleficence: is the intent to not inflict harm.¹

References

1. Fornari A. Approaches to ethical decision-making. *J Acad Nutr Diet.* 2015;115(1):119-121.
2. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Definition of Terms List. June, 2017 (Approved by Definition of Terms Workgroup Quality Management Committee May 16, 2017). Accessed October 11, 2017.
3. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: Revised 2017 Standards of Practice in Nutrition Care and Standards of Professional Performance for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists. *J Acad Nutr Diet.* 2018; 118: 132-140.
4. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics “Diversity Philosophy Statement” (adopted by the House of Delegates and Board of Directors in 1995).

APPENDIX A: DPD Forms and Submission Links

The forms listed below support DPD program policies, procedures, and administrative requirements. Students are responsible for completing and submitting all required forms by established deadlines.

DPD Application for Admission

Students seeking admission to the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) must complete and submit the DPD Application for Admission. Admission to the DPD is selective and requires satisfaction of all eligibility requirements outlined in the DPD Handbook.

Docusign Link: [DPD Program Application Link - Docusign](#)

QR Link:



DPD Handbook Acknowledgment Form

Submission of a signed DPD Handbook Acknowledgment Form is required as part of the DPD application process. The form verifies that the student has reviewed and understands the program's policies, procedures, requirements, and expectations.

Docusign Link: [DPD Handbook Acknowledgement Link - Docusign](#)

QR Link:



Request to Take a Course Out of Sequence

Students requesting permission to enroll in a DPD course out of the prescribed course sequence must complete and submit this form. Requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Submission of a request does not authorize enrollment in a course out of sequence until approval has been granted by the DPD Director.

Docusign Link: [Request to Take a Course Out of Sequence - Docusign](#)

QR Link:



APPENDIX B: PVAMU STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AND UNIVERSITY RULES AND PROCEDURES

Student Support and Success: <https://www.pvamu.edu/student-success/>

John B. Coleman Library

The library and its partners have as their mission to provide resources and instructional material in support of the evolving curriculum, as a partner in Prairie View A&M University's mission of teaching, research, and service and to support the University's core values of access and quality, diversity, leadership, relevance, and social responsibility through emphasis on ten key areas of service. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to further the educational goals of students and faculty. <https://www.pvamu.edu/library/> Phone: 936-261-1500

The Learning Curve (Center for Academic Support)

The Learning Curve offers Tutoring via peer tutoring. The services include workshops (i.e., Save My Semester, Recalculate Your Route), seminars (i.e., Tools You Can Use: TI-84), group review sessions (i.e., College Algebra Topic Reviews, GRE Preparation), group study opportunities (i.e., TSIA, HESI, Study Break, Exam Cram), and test-taking strategies (How to take Notes, Study Buddy, 5 Day Study Guide). The Learning Curve is a nationally certified tutoring program through the National Tutoring Association. The peer tutors are trained and certified by the coordinator each semester. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 207F. Phone: 936-261-1561

The Office of the Dean of Students

The Office of the Dean of Students offers support for issues and concerns of any nature that impact a student's academic, social, and emotional development. We provide a variety of student support services, opportunities for leadership experience along with engaging programming and specialized resources. We strive to support students and families during times of crisis and assist faculty with student concerns. Developing the whole student and removing barriers to student success is our passion. We are dedicated to encouraging student responsibility, integrity, and professionalism so students can reach their full potential.

The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS)

The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS) is designed to help Prairie View students in their second year and beyond navigate towards graduation by providing the following services: Academic Advisement, Targeted Tutorials for Personalized Learning, Campus-Wide Referrals, and Academic & Social Workshops. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 306. Phone: 936-261-1040

Writing Center

The Writing Center provides student consultants on all aspects of the writing process and a variety of writing assignments. Writing Center consultations assist students in such areas as prewriting, brainstorming, audience awareness, organization, research, and citation. Students taking on-line courses or courses at the Northwest Houston Center or College of Nursing may consult remotely or by email. Location: Hilliard Hall Rm. 121. Phone: 936-261-3724.

Student Counseling Services

The Student Counseling Services unit offers a range of services and programs to assist students in maximizing their potential for success: short-term individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as crisis intervention, outreach, consultation, and referral services. The staff is licensed by the State of Texas and assists students who are dealing with academic skills concerns, situational crises, adjustment problems, and emotional difficulties. Information shared with the staff is treated confidentially and in accordance with Texas State Law. Location: Owens-Franklin Health Center Rm. 226. Phone: 936-261-3564

Testing

The Department of Testing administers College Board CLEP examinations, the HESI A2 for pre-nursing majors, LSAT for law school applicants and MPRE for second-year law students, the Experiential Learning Portfolio option, the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment, which determines college readiness in the state, and exam proctoring, among other service such as SAT and ACT for high school students. Location: Delco Rm. 141. Phone: 936-261-4286

Office of Diagnostic Testing and Disability Services

As a federally mandated educational support unit, the Office of Disability Services serves as the repository for confidential disability files for faculty, staff, and students. For people with a disability, the Office develops individualized ADA letters of request for accommodations. Other services include learning style inventories, awareness workshops, accessibility pathways, webinars, computer laboratory with adapted hard and software, adapted furniture, proctoring of non-standardized test administrations, ASL interpreters, ALDs, digital recorders, livescribe, Kurtzweil, and a comprehensive referral network across campus and the broader community. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 317. Phone: 936-261-3585

Veteran Affairs

Veterans Services works with student veterans, current military and military dependents to support their transition to the college environment and continued persistence to graduation. The Office coordinates and certifies benefits for both the G.I. Bill and the Texas Hazlewood Act. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 323. Phone: 936-261-3563

Office for Student Engagement

The Office for Student Engagement delivers comprehensive programs and services designed to meet the co-curricular needs of students. The Office implements inclusive and accessible programs and services that enhance student development through exposure to and participation in diverse and relevant social, cultural, intellectual, recreational, community service, leadership development and campus governance. Location: Memorial Student Center Rm. 221. Phone: 936-261-1340

Career Services

Career Services supports students through professional development, career readiness, and placement and employment assistance. The Office provides one-on-one career coaching, interview preparation, resume and letter writing, and career exploration workshops and seminars. Services are provided for students at the Northwest Houston Center and College of Nursing in the Medical Center twice a month or on a requested basis. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 217. Phone: 936-261-3570