



DIDACTIC PROGRAM IN DIETETICS BS DIETETICS

Student Handbook

2019-2020

University of Northern Colorado

College of Natural & Health Sciences

Department of Nutrition and Dietetics

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UNIVERSITY OF
**NORTHERN
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Table of Contents

Welcome	4
Program Mission, Goals, and Outcomes	5
Mission of the University	5
Mission of the College of Natural and Health Sciences	5
Mission of the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics	5
Mission of the Dietetics Program.....	6
Philosophy and Description of the Program	6
Program Goals and Objectives	7
Knowledge Requirements and Learning Outcomes.....	7
Path to Dietetic Registration	10
Verification Statement	10
Individualized Supervised Practice Pathways (ISPP)	11
Dietetic Technician, Registered (DTR) Option.....	12
Admission and Application Process	13
University Admission.....	13
Program Admission	13
Application Form for Admission Instructions	13
Transfer Student Admission and Transfer Credit.....	14
University Policies.....	15
Program Policies	16
Academic Advising.....	16
Dress Code Expectations	16
Experiential Learning.....	18
Student Performance Portfolios	19
Graduation Application	19
DPD Senior Assessment Exam.....	20
Senior Exit Survey.....	20
Alumni Survey	20
Assessment of Student Learning.....	20
Retention and Remediation	21
Program Costs and Expenses	21
Curriculum	23
4-Year Plan	23

Plan of Study Worksheet.....	23
Elective Recommendations.....	23
Scholarships.....	24
Dietetics Program Undergraduate Scholarships.....	24
Other Scholarships	25
Dietetic Associations.....	26
The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.....	26
Student Nutrition and Dietetics Association (SNDA)	26
Dietetic Internship Application Information	28
Request for a Letter of Recommendation Form	28
Tips for Internship Application.....	29
UNC Dietetic Internship	30
UNC Master of Science with Dietetic Internship	31
Career Opportunities	32
UNC Career Services.....	32
Employment for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDN).....	32
Faculty and Staff	36
Frequently Asked Questions.....	37

Welcome

Congratulations on selecting a major in Dietetics at the University of Northern Colorado. By declaring your major in dietetics you are enrolled in the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). The DPD at the University of Northern Colorado is currently accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide answers to your questions about the major and the profession. Additionally, it informs you of program requirements and your responsibilities as a student in the program. It should assist you in planning your course schedule and in preparing yourself for graduation and your post-graduation goals. Please keep this handbook and refer to it during your matriculation through UNC. You are responsible for all University and Program regulations specified in the UNC Catalog for the year you enter the Dietetics Program and those guidelines that are reviewed in this handbook.

We invite you to consult with any of the dietetics faculty if you have questions related to reaching your professional goals.

Katie Kage, PhD, RDN
Program Director
Didactic Program in Dietetics

Program Mission, Goals, and Outcomes

The Didactic Program in Dietetics is delivered by the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics within the College of Natural and Health Sciences.

Mission of the University

The [University of Northern Colorado](#) shall be a comprehensive baccalaureate and specialized graduate research university with selective admission standards. The University shall offer a comprehensive array of baccalaureate programs and master's and doctoral degrees primarily in the field of education. The University of Northern Colorado has statewide authority to offer graduate programs for the preparation of educational personnel. Further information regarding the University of Northern Colorado's vision, values, purposes and goals can be found at the [Office of the President](#) website.

Mission of the College of Natural and Health Sciences

The [College of Natural and Health Sciences](#) at the University of Northern Colorado serves the people of Colorado and the nation through the advancement and dissemination of fundamental knowledge, by providing high-quality undergraduate and graduate instruction, and by applying knowledge to solve problems in areas of natural and health sciences and related areas of education. To achieve this mission, the College supports:

1. Foundational undergraduate education, academic degrees and professional preparation in natural, health, human and mathematical sciences to prepare students to understand and use these disciplines in their lives and careers in the 21st Century.
2. Focused graduate programs in natural and health sciences and related areas of education, preparing teachers, college professors, researchers, and other professionals.
3. Basic and applied research in all areas of the natural and health sciences represented in the college, including externally supported activities and both undergraduate and graduate research experiences.
4. K-12 teacher preparation in disciplines represented in the college.
5. Outreach and service programs supporting K-12 teachers and students, health and service professionals, schools, health care organizations, business, and government agencies.

Mission of the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics

The mission of the [Department of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) is to provide strong curriculum and educational opportunities that prepare confident life-long learners in disciplines of food, nutrition and dietetics. The Department fosters diverse leaders through on-campus and online offerings and community engagement to broaden perspectives of program graduates, promote evidence-based practice and collaboration across disciplines and cultures.

Mission of the Dietetics Program

The mission of the [Didactic Program in Dietetics](#) at the University of Northern Colorado is to prepare students to professionally address the changing needs of society and industry in food, nutrition, and dietetic fields. Through the provision of didactic and experiential education, the program is designed for graduates to attain knowledge and skill competencies defined by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Congruent with the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics' mission, instructional quality and service are emphasized throughout the curriculum.

Philosophy and Description of the Program

The major focus of the [Bachelor of Science degree program in Dietetics](#) is in the field of health. It is a useful and practical area of study for students interested in health maintenance and rehabilitation through the science of nutrition. Physiological, biological, and behavioral sciences provide the foundation for a wide range of studies applicable to community, clinical, private practice, and management aspects of nutrition in health care.

Students in the Didactic Program in Dietetics develop human relationship skills and expertise in addressing nutritional needs for human growth and development throughout the life cycle. Upon completion of the prescribed course of study, students are qualified for entry-level careers in community, clinical, consultative dietetics, and food service management positions in business, health care, and industry. At the senior level, a student may apply for a ACEND-accredited dietetic internship. After completion of the internship the student is eligible to take the registration exam to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist.

The Didactic Program in Dietetics at the University of Northern Colorado is accredited by the [Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics](#) (ACEND) of the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#).

Details regarding the [process for submission of written complaints to ACEND](#) related to program noncompliance with ACEND accreditation standards is available under the Public Notices section on the ACEND website.

Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)
120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190
Chicago, IL 60606-6995
800-877-1600, ext. 5400

Program Goals and Objectives

The Dietetics Program has two broad goals with expected objectives for each goal. These objectives are measured on a regular basis for the purpose of maintaining quality and making improvements as needed.

Goal 1. The program will prepare graduates for supervised practice programs, graduate education, and employment in foods and nutrition related positions as registered dietitian nutritionists and support students' timely program completion.

- Objective 1a. The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%.
- Objective 1b. 70% of program graduates apply for admission to a supervised practice program prior to or within 12 months of graduation.
- Objective 1c. 60% of program graduates are admitted to a supervised practice program within 12 months of graduation.
- Objective 1d. At least 80% of survey responses from employers of graduates regarding their satisfaction with the graduate's preparedness to apply knowledge and skills will be 3 or greater on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being excellent.
- Objective 1e. At least 80% of survey responses from supervised practice program directors regarding satisfaction of the intern's preparedness for supervised practice will be 3 or greater on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being excellent.
- Objective 1f. At least 80% of program students complete program/degree requirements within 3 years (150% of program length).

Goal 2. The program will promote service and professionalism through volunteering, leadership and research.

- Objective 2a. At least 60% of graduates will be active members of professional association, hold leadership position, or conduct research.

Program Outcome Data is available upon request.

Knowledge Requirements and Learning Outcomes

It is expected that students will have obtained competence for each of the following ACEND-specified knowledge requirements and learning outcomes.

Domain 1: Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice: integration of scientific information and 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: Use 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 professional dietitian 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 Nutrition and Dietetics Practice and the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Nutrition and Dietetics; and describe interprofessional relationships in various practice settings.

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 in the delivery of food and nutrition services.

KRDN 2.6: Demonstrate an understanding of cultural competence/sensitivity.

KRDN 2.7: Demonstrate identification with the nutrition and dietetics profession through activities such as participation in professional organizations and defending a position on issues impacting the nutrition and dietetics profession.

KRDN 2.8: Demonstrate an understanding of the importance and expectations of a professional in mentoring and precepting others.

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 to make decisions, identify nutrition-related problems and determine and evaluate nutrition 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 for and enhance wellness for diverse individuals and groups.

KRDN 3.4: Explain the processes involved in delivering quality food and nutrition services.

KRDN 3.5: Describe basic concepts of nutritional genomics.

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 and interpret financial data.

KRDN 4.3: Describe 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: Describe safety principles related to food, personnel and consumers.

KRDN 4.6: Analyze data for assessment and evaluate data to be used in decision-making for continuous quality improvement.

Path to Dietetic Registration

As previously stated the BS Dietetics degree at UNC is accredited as a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) by the [Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics](#) (ACEND) of the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#). Completion of the BS Dietetics degree or program is the first step on the pathway to becoming a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) or dietetic technician, registered (DTR). The pathway consists of completing an ACEND-approved DPD academic program, earning a bachelor's degree, obtaining a Verification Statement of program completion, completing a dietetic internship, and successfully completing the registration examination. The steps of this pathway must be completed in this order. Dietetic registration is recognized by many states as eligibility for licensure.

Pathway to Dietetic Registration for those who have already earned a bachelor's degree:

If you already have a bachelor's degree, you will need to have your college transcripts evaluated by a dietetics faculty member at the University of Northern Colorado. You will need to apply for admission to the Dietetics Program, meet the admission criteria and take additional coursework to meet the requirements of UNC's DPD. A minimum of three upper division core dietetics courses in UNC's DPD are required to obtain a Verification Statement of program completion. Courses taken before fall semester 2009 will be reviewed. Upon completion you are eligible to apply for an ACEND-accredited dietetic internship. ***Academic credit is not awarded for prior experience or learning.***

Verification Statement

Purpose:

Verification statements are issued upon completion of requirements for the DPD and again for completion of supervised-practice experience such as an accredited dietetic internship. Issuance of Verification Statement of Program Completion ensures that requirements have been met for Academy membership or [Commission on Dietetic Registration](#) (CDR) eligibility to take registration exams or apply for certifications. At various times in preparing for professional membership or registration, an individual will be asked to supply verification of both academic and supervised practice qualifications. **Therefore, it is the responsibility of the individual to obtain the appropriate quantity of Verification Statements and to safeguard them until the time they are to be used in various application processes.**

Distribution:

The DPD Director will issue the Verification Statement once all program requirements have been completed and the Office of the Registrar has cleared you for graduation. Program requirements for earning a Verification Statement include:

- Completion of a bachelor's degree
- Completion of the DPD course requirements
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 at the time of graduation or program completion
- Earning grades of C or better in all DPD required courses or transfer equivalents
- Completion of the program assessment exam

- There is not a specific maximum amount of time limit to complete the program requirements; however, it is expected that the bachelor's degree and therefore, DPD requirements will be completed within 4 years.

For students who have previously completed a baccalaureate degree, a Verification Statement will be issued upon completion of UNC Program requirements. If Dietetics curricula have been completed prior to the DPD curriculum at UNC or from another university, the DPD coordinator will evaluate each request on an individual basis. A *minimum* of three core dietetics courses at the 300 level or above taken through UNC's DPD in addition to meeting or exceeding the minimum criteria listed above are required to be issued a Verification Statement from UNC. Completion of an Assessment Exam administered during the senior year may be required prior to receiving your Verification Statement.

Each student will receive at least six copies of their Verification Statement, all of which must have an ORIGINAL signature of the Program Director (Coordinator). You may need these statements:

- to include in your permanent file
- to submit with The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Membership application
- to submit with application(s) for Dietetic Internships
- to submit with application for state licensure/certification
- to submit with application for CDR practice certifications

When applying for dietetic internships, membership to the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) or licensure/certification, the Verification Statement is submitted by the individual as part of the complete application packet.

If you are a senior applying for internships a [Declaration of Intent to Complete Didactic Program in Dietetics](#) and/or ACEND-approved minimum academic requirements form must be completed by the DPD Director. This form is used in lieu of the Verification Statement until you graduate and/or complete the DPD.

It should be noted that successful completion of the Didactic Program in Dietetics with the receipt of a Verification Statement does not guarantee acceptance into a dietetic internship. Currently, there are an inadequate number of internship positions to meet the needs of all qualified dietetics graduates. If an internship is not secured upon the first application, there are several options:

- Apply for second round dietetic internship positions
- Apply for an Individual Supervised Practice Program (ISPP)
- Apply for dietetic internships on the next matching date
- Take the DTR exam and obtain a job for additional dietetic work experience

Individualized Supervised Practice Pathways (ISPP)

If an internship is not secured upon the first application, graduates may apply again. An unsuccessful application to an internship makes a graduate eligible to apply to Individualized Supervised Practice Pathways (ISPP). An ISPP is an ACEND-accredited alternative to a dietetic internship providing the

same eligibility to take the RDN Exam upon successful completion. A list of programs offering ISPPs can be found on the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) website.

Dietetic Technician, Registered (DTR) Option

Graduates of DPD programs are eligible to take the Dietetic Technician, Registered Exam (DTRE). The route to becoming a DTR following completion of a DPD is called Pathway III and is described below.

Pathway III:

- Completion of a Baccalaureate degree granted by a US regionally accredited college/university, or foreign equivalent, and completion of an [Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics](#) (ACEND) Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD).

UNC students meet these criteria when they graduate with a degree in Dietetics. This is an option if you do not plan to complete a dietetic internship and become a Registered Dietitian. There are positions for those with DTR certification in long-term care, food service, clinical dietetics, and WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) programs. Those with DTR certification often work under the direction of a Registered Dietitian. If you plan to pursue a career in nutrition without becoming a RDN, DTR certification may give you a competitive edge for these positions.

Instructions for applying to take the DTR exam:

Once you have graduated, you may apply to take the DTR exam. Please contact the Program Director for specific instructions on how to apply to take the DTR Exam through the Commission on Dietetic Registration.

Admission and Application Process

University Admission

Admissions to the University is based upon academic criteria including secondary school academic record, rank in class, standardized test scores (ACT or SAT) and the academic record from all previous colleges the student may have attended. For further information regarding admission policies to the [University and Freshman Admission](#), [Transfer Student Admission](#), and [International Education Admission](#); please visit their respective websites or the current [UNC Catalog](#).

Program Admission

The Dietetics Program has a program admission policy separate and in addition to that of the University admission requirements. Students should apply to the Dietetics Program at the end of the sophomore year. Until admission to the program is confirmed by the student's advisor, students will have the major status of 'Dietetics-Seeking'. Once the student has been accepted for admission to the program the major status changes to 'Dietetics' and the student becomes eligible for earning a Verification Statement upon successful completion of program requirements (see Verification Statement above). **Students who complete the course work without meeting all of the requirements for the Verification Statement will earn a BS Dietetics degree without the Verification Statement and will, therefore NOT be eligible to apply for dietetic internships to continue on the path to dietetic registration.**

The [program admission requirements and application form for the Didactic Program in Dietetics](#) is available on the [BS Dietetics](#) website. Meeting the criteria for admission to the program enhances the probability that students will be qualified to obtain a dietetic internship on their path to becoming registered dietitian nutritionists. For students who do not desire dietetic registration, the [BS Nutrition](#) degree is an appropriate option.

Application Form for Admission Instructions

To ensure that graduates are best prepared for successful application to dietetic internships, the [BS Dietetics degree program](#) at UNC uses an application process separate from the University application. The [Instructions and Application Form for the Didactic Program in Dietetics \(DPD\)](#) should be submitted the semester prior to the junior year; however, this may be different for new transfer students. Students who wish to apply must meet with their academic advisor prior to application. Students may declare the Dietetics major upon entrance to the University; however, they will not be considered accepted into the Program and eligible to earn a degree in Dietetics until they have applied to the Program and been accepted. The minimum criteria for admission are an overall GPA of 3.0 or greater; and completion of BIO 110, BIO 245, CHEM 111 & CHEM 111L, FND 210, FND 245 (or FND 250 with a grade of A or B), PSY 120 and STAT 150 with grades of C or better.

Transfer Student Admission and Transfer Credit

To be eligible to transfer, students must be in good academic standing at the college or university most recently attended. Refer to the [Admission, Undergraduate Section](#) in the current [University of Northern Colorado Catalog](#) for more information.

Admission requirements to UNC as a transfer student are based upon the number of credit hours of collegiate work the students has attempted and the cumulative GPA from all schools attended. Students who have completed less than 12 semester hours (18 quarter hours) of college work must submit an official transcript and ACT/SAT test scores. The admission decision will then be based on freshman admission requirements.

Applicants who have completed at least 12 semester hours at other institutions are considered transfer students. Transfer admission is based upon the number of transferable credit hours of collegiate work the student has attempted and the cumulative GPA from all schools attended.

A candidate for transfer admission to UNC will have at least a 2.4 cumulative GPA from all schools attended. Students with a cumulative GPA below 2.4 will be considered on an individual basis.

A maximum of 90 semester or 135 quarter hours of academic credit may be accepted from regionally accredited institutions. Only courses with grades of C- or better are transferrable to UNC. Note that courses for the major need to have grades of C or better.

Transcripts from other colleges and universities attended must be submitted to the UNC Admissions Office for evaluation of transferable credit. The Admissions Office evaluates the transcript for credits to be accepted toward Liberal Arts Core (LAC) requirements at UNC and faculty in the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics evaluate the transcripts for acceptance of courses to be credited toward the completion of Dietetics Program requirements. Science courses acceptable for transfer credit for the Dietetics Program **must have a lab** included with the exception of Organic Chemistry for which a lab is not required.

The Office of Admissions maintains Colorado Community College Transfer Guides. The guides are available via the [Undergraduate Admissions Transfer Guides](#) website.

University Policies

All University policies apply to the Dietetics Program; however, the following policies are specified by [ACEND](#) to assure students are properly informed.

- A. The [University of Northern Colorado](#) is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer that is committed to a culturally diverse staff, faculty and student body. The University will not engage in unlawful discrimination in employment or educational services against any person because of race, religion, gender, age, national origin, disability or veteran status. It is the University's policy to prohibit discrimination in employment or educational services on the basis of sexual orientation or political affiliation.
- B. For information regarding withdrawal and refund of tuition and fees refer to the [Student Policies and Procedures](#) section of the [UNC Catalog](#).
- C. The university calendar may be accessed via the [Office of the Registrar](#) website under the [Calendar](#) link and is also available in the current [UNC Catalog](#).
- D. Student privacy rights are published in the current [UNC Catalog](#) under [Family Education Rights and Privacy Act](#).
- E. Students may have access to their personal files through Ursa and upon request of their advisor at the Program level.
- F. The process for [academic appeals](#) is described in the [UNC Catalog](#) under Undergraduate Information and Policies, Student Policies and Procedures. If a student grievance cannot be resolved with the instructor first, then it may be taken to the Program Director, the Department Chair, and/or the Dean of Students in this order. Additional helpful information regarding academic freedom and rights and responsibilities of students, the course repeat policy, access to health services, retention and remediation processes, and termination, is described in the [UNC Catalog](#) under [Undergraduate Information and Policies](#).
- G. The [UNC Student Code of Conduct](#) includes information regarding disciplinary and termination policies.
- H. Other services available to students are located in the [UNC Catalog](#) under [Student Resources](#) and can also be found at online at the [Office of Academic Support and Advising](#) website, the [Student Health Center](#) website, and the [UNC Counseling Center](#) website.

Program Policies

Academic Advising

It is University policy that each student is entitled to academic advising. Advising expedites course selection and helps the student create a personal academic program suited to his or her needs and the University's graduation requirements.

Academic planning is best achieved when a student works with a qualified advisor. Students who declare majors are assigned advisors in their programs. However, a student may elect to see any Dietetics faculty member for advising. Each advisor has access to a complete summary of a student's academic records, which are updated each semester, and each student has access to their own records. Information provided by the [Office of the Registrar](#) and information from advising sessions with student equips the advisor to help with a variety of academic issues, procedures, and opportunities.

All Dietetics and Dietetics-Seeking majors are **required** to make full use of the advising system including, but not limited to, meeting with an advisor before registration each semester. Appointments for advising are required for all students enrolled in the Dietetics Program.

New majors (both Dietetics-Seeking and enrolled Dietetics) and transfer students are **required** to attend an orientation meeting during fall semester. All Dietetics majors are encouraged to attend.

Dress Code Expectations

As a student in the UNC Dietetics program, you will have the opportunity to have observation hours during your clinical, community and foodservice courses. Along with observation hours, you will also be giving presentations and attending professional meetings. As you participate in these activities, you are representing yourself and UNC. The following are our guidelines for a professional dress code.

Professional Dress Code for Presentations:

The dress code has been established so that students will represent a demeanor that is consistent with professional standards for presentations at conferences and workshops. A "dress code" always includes unwritten rules of cleanliness, good grooming, good taste and appropriateness.

Women:

- Dress code is business casual. Clothing should be clean, pressed, modest professional dress, blouse, skirt or slacks. Undergarments should be worn.
- Tops/blouse/dress – Must have sleeves and fit modestly. Tops should not fit tightly, be made of a sheer material and should not reveal cleavage, midriff or back. No low cut or see through tops are allowed.
- Dress and skirt length – No shorter than 2 inches above the knee.
- Shoes – Comfortable shoes in good condition that are low heeled and closed toed.

- Hair – Needs to be combed daily and arranged neatly.

Men:

- Dress code is business casual. Clothing should be clean and pressed collared shirt, plain slacks, and dark shoes. Jeans (denim or corduroy), shorts, and t-shirts are not acceptable.
- Shoes – Comfortable shoes in good condition. Tennis or sport shoes are not acceptable.
- Hair – Needs to be combed daily and arranged neatly.

Professional Dress Code for Shadowing Assignments:

The dress code has been established based on guidelines from local agencies so that students will conform to the sanitary requirements of foodservice and health care and will always present a positive image to those in affiliated institutions. A "dress code" always includes unwritten rules of cleanliness, good grooming, good taste and appropriateness. Students should adhere to the dress code in facilities and while attending trainings, community events or functions. Students should follow the dress code of the facility in which they are assigned, therefore please contact the supervisor or go to the facility website for additional information.

General guidelines include:

- Jewelry – Rings limited to wedding rings/bands one ring per hand; watch; plain, post-type (no dangling) earrings.
- Body Piercing – Ear piercing is allowed. Jewelry associated with facial or body piercing is not allowed.
- Tattoos – Any visible tattoos must be covered.
- Hair – Needs to be combed daily and arranged neatly. Hair must be completely covered by a hair net or surgical cap when in food production areas. Non-porous plastic or metal hair ornaments are permissible. Natural occurring hair colors are appropriate. Green, yellow, orange, blue hair is not permitted.
- Exposed undergarments such as boxers, thongs, bra straps and exposed midriff, back and cleavage are not permitted
- Miscellaneous – Gum chewing is not allowed, excessive make up and perfume should not be used.

Women:

- Dress code is business casual. Clothing should be clean, pressed, modest professional dress, blouse, skirt or slacks. Undergarments should be worn.
- Tops/blouse/dress – Must have sleeves and fit modestly. Tops should not fit tightly, be made of a sheer material and should not reveal cleavage, midriff or back. No low cut or see through tops are allowed.
- Dress and skirt length – No shorter than 2 inches above the knee.
- Shoes – Comfortable shoes in good condition that provide support and protection. Shoes are to be low heeled and closed toed.

Men:

- Dress code is business casual. Clothing should be clean and pressed collared shirt, plain slacks, and dark shoes. Jeans (denim or corduroy), shorts, and t-shirts are not acceptable.
- Shoes – Comfortable shoes in good condition that provide support and protection. Shoes are to be clean and polished. Tennis or sport shoes are not acceptable.

Experiential Learning

For experiential learning, students are required to locate their own sites for the following courses: FND 320-Nutrition Applications in Foodservice, FND 431-Medical Nutrition Intervention, FND 452-Community Nutrition, and FND 446-Foodservice Systems Management. Specific requirements for finding the sites, activities required and items assessed is available to each student from the instructor teaching the course. Faculty members will offer assistance to students on finding sites as appropriate. An affiliation agreement is not required as the experiential learning experiences are for 10 hours or less. If a site requires an affiliation agreement, the student will need to find another site to complete his/her experience.

Important items related to experiential learning include:

- During experiential learning activities, insurance and/or health requirements by a site are the responsibility of the student and may include health or professional liability insurance, drug testing, and/or criminal background checks.
- As part of the experiential learning requirement, students will travel to and from learning sites. Students will be asked to complete a [Release and Indemnification form](#) as a requirement for each course where experiential learning is a component.
- Worker's Compensation insurance is in place for enrolled students and covers injuries or illness while in a facility for experiential learning. When students are injured while at an experiential learning site, it must be reported to the instructor immediately. The student must then complete and submit an [Injury/Illness Report form](#) to the UNC Office of Human Resources within four days of the occurrence. If the injury is life or limb threatening, the student should seek immediate medical attention at the nearest emergency room.
- Sites which provide experiential learning opportunities for students are not to use students to replace employees.
- Students are not paid compensation for experiential learning activities.
- The program does not grant credit, experiential learning hours or direct assessment for students' prior learning.
- Complaints related to experiential learning from a student or practitioner should initially be directed to the instructor of the course for which the experiential learning is a part of. The program will maintain a record of complaints and the associated resolution for a period of seven years. If the concern is not resolved, details regarding the process for submission of written complaints to ACEND related to program noncompliance with ACEND accreditation standards is available under the Public Notices section on the [ACEND](#) website.

Student Performance Portfolios

A requirement of the Dietetics Program is to complete a Student Performance Portfolio or an approved equivalent. A portfolio is helpful to build and enhance your resume when applying for supervised practice programs and employment, it provides a cohesive record of your performance progress and areas of recognition, and it is a means of self-assessment of your progress through UNC's [Didactic Program in Dietetics](#). The Student Performance Portfolios may also be used by dietetic faculty as a means of assessing the quality and effectiveness of the Dietetics Program. Finally, your Portfolio will be completed in FND 410 Professional Development Seminar and is a required assignment for the course.

You should begin building your Portfolio as soon as you decide to pursue completion of the [Didactic Program in Dietetics](#). This is an independent project and no one will be monitoring your progress until you take FND 410. It is your responsibility and a requirement of the Dietetics Program.

Organizing your Portfolio:

You may choose to use an expandable folder or a set of file folders but make sure you maintain electronic files of all of your work. The portfolio will ultimately be converted to an electronic format. Make sure the system you begin with is one you can add to and update over the years. The key is that it is organized and kept some place where it won't be lost. Assignments required in the portfolio should be added as electronic files and grades or scores for each assignment must be included. Backup copies should be kept.

Portfolio Contents:

No two portfolios will be identical. There are materials that are required for inclusion, there are materials that are recommended, and materials you may add to represent your personal experiences. Additional materials will be added to your portfolio in FND 410.

You want to include your best work in your portfolio. Other materials you may want to include in your portfolio are evidence of volunteer service, evidence of leadership, awards or certificates related to career development, records of honors or scholarships.

Graduation Application

As stated by the University of Northern Colorado Catalog, undergraduate students should [apply for graduation](#) after you have registered for your final semester. To apply for graduation, complete the online Undergraduate Graduation Application form by clicking this [link](#). Once you have completed the application, please make sure to select the submit button located in the bottom left hand corner of the form. A \$50.00 graduation application fee will be charged one time per degree and is applied to your student account.

The Office of the Registrar will respond to your Bear email to confirm your intent to graduate. In addition, you and your advisor will receive a detailed email within 5 to 10 business days showing any outstanding graduation requirements. All course adjustments must be submitted to the Office of the

Registrar no later than 10 weeks after the start of the term in which you plan to graduate. Refer to Student Policies and Procedures in the [UNC Undergraduate Catalog](#) for more information.

Because a few FND prefixed courses are offered only fall semester or only spring semester, it is HIGHLY recommended students use Degree Works via Important Links under the Student Tab in [Ursa](#) to generate an academic audit **one full academic year prior** to planned graduation. This allows the student to plan courses for registration to make up any deficits. It is the student's responsibility to contact their academic advisor and the [Office of the Registrar](#) to resolve any perceived inconsistencies in the Degree Evaluation.

DPD Senior Assessment Exam

Though the DPD Senior Assessment Exam is not a University requirement, it is a requirement of the [Didactic Program in Dietetics](#) as well as a valuable tool used by the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics to evaluate the degree program. All dietetics students are required to take the Assessment Exam at the end of their senior year, just prior to graduation. The exam is a compilation of test items covering information from all the FND required courses. Your score is kept confidential and does not affect your GPA or graduation status. **Verification Statements will not be issued until the Assessment Exam has been completed.**

Senior Exit Survey

The [Senior Exit Survey](#) is completed online during your final semester before graduation. This is a requirement for completing the program and receiving your Verification Statement. **Your Verification Statement will be mailed to the address you provide in the Senior Exit Survey.** Instruction for completion of the survey will be emailed approximately six weeks before the end of your graduation term.

Alumni Survey

A final requirement of the Program is to complete the online Dietetics Program Alumni Survey via e-mail request to program graduates one year following graduation. It is also extremely helpful for on-going program improvement and accreditation for students to provide employer or internship director contact information. Providing authorization to contact your employer and/or your internship director on the Dietetics Program Alumni Survey indicates permission for us to send them a link to complete the Dietetics Program Employer/Program Director Survey. All information is kept confidential and anonymous.

Assessment of Student Learning

Students are kept informed of their progress in each class by accessing the Grade Center on [Canvas](#). Grades are administered for each course and recorded on the student's transcript which is available on Ursa. Throughout the program students are encouraged to discuss their progress and goals with their

advisor at advising sessions required each semester. Upon application to the program at the end of the sophomore year and in the senior year with the Assessment Exam students have the ability to self-assess their preparedness for continuing in the program and readiness for a dietetic internship.

Retention and Remediation

It is a goal of the program to retain all students until successful completion or graduation. In the event that a student falls short of the academic requirements to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater and/or earning grades of C or better in each DPD required course, they will be advised accordingly by their academic advisor. This advisement may take the form of repeating courses using the grade replacement policy, changing to the [BS Nutrition](#) degree program, or continuing in the [BS Dietetics](#) degree program with the knowledge that a Verification Statement will not be awarded unless the minimal requirements are met by the time of graduation. Advisement may also include suggestions for remedial work with the Writing Center, the Tutoring Center, or independent study as appropriate.

Program Costs and Expenses

Please refer to the current [UNC Undergraduate Catalog](#) under the section of [Financial Aid, Rates and Student Fees](#) for current university costs and expenses.

Dietetics Program Course Fees:

- FND 310L – Introduction to Foods Laboratory - \$65
- FND 320L – Nutrition Applications in Foodservice Laboratory - \$30
- FND 430L – Nutrition Assessment and Intervention Laboratory - \$30
- FND 446L – Foodservice Systems Management Laboratory - \$30

Additional Dietetics Program Expenses:

Transportation expenses should be expected for attendance at professional meetings and for experiential learning in the following courses:

- FND 320 – Nutrition Applications in Foodservice
- FND 431 – Medical Nutrition Intervention Lab
- FND 410 – Professional Development Seminar
- FND 446 – Foodservice Systems Management
- FND 452 – Community Nutrition

Experiential learning could include costs for professional liability insurance (\$30-50), drug testing (\$35-50) and/or criminal background checks (\$50-100), if required by learning sites. Students may also need to update their immunization records, available at no charge through the [UNC Student Health Center](#). Note: UNC requires all undergraduate students enrolled for 9 credits or more to be enrolled in the UNC Student Health Insurance Plan. This requirement can be waived if proof of comparable personal health insurance is provided.

Individual course materials, i.e. presentation posters (\$5-40), textbooks and educational software (\$400-600 per semester), and copying costs (\$0-50 per semester) should be expected.

Membership Fees recommended for the program include:

The [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) (\$50 student rate per year)

The [Northern Colorado Dietetic Association](#) (\$15 student rate per year)

The [Student Nutrition and Dietetics Association](#) (\$10 per year)

On occasion an online option for the lab portion of FND 310 is available. If the online version is selected, the student is responsible for the cost of food needed to complete lab experiments. Additional related costs include equipment, appliances, utensils, and a digital camera necessary for completing the labs

Curriculum

4-Year Plan

The [BS Dietetics Degree Worksheet](#) provides a suggested four year schedule to complete course requirements.

Plan of Study Worksheet

Faculty utilize the [Plan of Study Worksheet](#) to advise students who are pursuing a BS Dietetics degree.

Elective Recommendations

BIO 210 Cell Biology (3)

Pre-req: BIO 110 Principles of Biology (4) AND

CHEM 111 Principles of Chemistry I (4) & CHEM 111L Principles of Chemistry I Lab (1)

Co-req: CHEM 112 Principles of Chemistry II (4) & CHEM 112L Principles of Chemistry II Lab (1) OR

CHEM 231 Principles of Organic Chemistry (3) OR

CHEM 281 Fundamentals of Biochem (3) & CHEM 281L Fundamentals of Biochem Lab (1)

BIO 220 Genetics (4)

Pre-req: BIO 110 Principles of Biology (4) AND

BIO 210 Cell Biology (3)

BIO 320 Introduction to Medical Genetics (3)

Pre-req: BIO 220 Genetics (4)

BIO 325 Introduction to Cancer Biology (3)

Pre-req: BIO 100 Exploring Biology (3) & BIO 105 Exploring Biology Lab (1) OR

BIO 110 Principles of Biology (4)

BIO 381 Principles of Immunology (3)

Pre-req: BIO 220 Genetics (4)

BIO 425 Molecular Genetics (3)

Pre-req: BIO 220 Genetics (4)

FND 420 Maternal and Child Nutrition (3)

Pre-req: FND 252 Nutrition in the Life Cycle (3)

FND 455 Nutrition for Fitness and Athletic Performance (3)

Pre-req: FND 245 Introduction to Nutrition (3) or FND 250 Principles of Nutrition (3)

HUSR 205 Introduction to Human Services (3)

HUSR 208 Perspectives on Aging and Later Life (3)

HUSR 209 Foundations of Health Promotion/Health Education (3)

HUSR 299 Community Health Systems (3)

HUSR 405 Health Communications and the Media (3)

Students are encouraged to discuss other elective options with their faculty advisor.

Scholarships

Dietetics Program Undergraduate Scholarships

The following scholarships are available on an annual basis for students with a declared major in Dietetics, this includes Dietetics-Seeking and Dietetics status. Some scholarships are only available to juniors and seniors for which students would need to be accepted into the program.

Florence Fish Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is available to full time, female students in the Dietetics Program. Awards will be made to undergraduates who have at least 30 semester hours at the University of Northern Colorado and a minimum GPA of 3.0. The amount of the scholarship will be determined by the number of qualified applicants. Value \$500-\$750.

Mildred Gueck Scholarship

This scholarship is available to full time students in the Dietetics Program. Awards will be made to undergraduates who have at least 30 semester hours at the University of Northern Colorado and a minimum GPA of 3.0. The number of qualified applicants will determine the amount of the scholarship. Value \$500-\$750.

Home Economics in Homemaking of Weld County Scholarship

The purpose of the scholarship is to promote the development of leadership for a student attending University of Northern Colorado for use toward the completion of a degree in Dietetics or Nutrition. The qualifications for the award are based on an academic record of 3.0 GPA or higher, leadership ability, professional organization affiliation, be from Weld County, and financial need. Must be a junior or senior at the time of the award. Value varies.

Rhoda M. Karr Scholarship

This scholarship provides support for graduates of the Roaring Forks RE-1 School District (Roaring Forks High School, Glenwood Springs High School, or Basalt High School) who are declared Dietetics majors at University of Northern Colorado. To be eligible, students must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. For incoming freshmen, GPA during the senior year of high school may be used to meet eligibility criteria. Value \$500 minimum.

Carol P. Davis Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is available to junior and senior Dietetics majors who are currently employed by a University of Northern Colorado Residence Life Dining Services operation. Students must have at least 200 hours in Dining Services and a minimum GPA of 3.0. Value \$300 minimum.

Vinnie Scalia Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is available to undergraduate and graduate students with a GPA of 3.0 or greater who are majoring in nursing, human rehabilitation, dietetics, audiology, gerontology or recreation.

Please visit the [UNC Office of Financial Aid](#) for a complete listing of all undergraduate scholarships available. Access to the Universal Scholarship Application is available via [Ursa](#) under the Financial tab.

Other Scholarships

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

- Dietetic Internship Scholarship
- Baccalaureate or Coordinated Program Scholarship

[The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) Scholarship applications and information are available each October and November and are posted on the Dietetics Bulletin Board. You may also contact the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for information about the scholarships offered.

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995
Telephone: 800-877-1600
<http://www.eatright.org>

Dietetic Associations

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) is the largest professional organization of food and nutrition professionals. Founded in 1917, the Academy is a powerful advocate on behalf of the dietetics profession, serving the public through the promotion of optimal nutrition, health, and well-being. More than 70,000 members in the United States and abroad help shape food choices and improve the nutrition status of the public.

Members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics represent a diverse mix of professional interests, experiences, and involvement. They work in settings ranging from health care facilities and universities to businesses and government or community agencies to private practice.

Becoming a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics:

Students interested in pursuing a career in dietetics are encouraged to become a student member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics during their junior and/or senior years. Membership applications are available from Dietetics faculty and the Dietetics Bulletin Board on the second floor of Gunter or online at the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) website. The membership year is June 1 - May 31 and dues are not prorated if you elect to become a member after June 1. Currently the dues for associate (student) membership are \$50 per year.

Becoming a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics automatically makes you a member of an affiliate association. Most UNC students choose the [Colorado Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) as their affiliate however any state association may be selected. The Colorado Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics has similar goals and mission as the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics with a focus on serving Coloradoans and dietetic professionals in Colorado. One must be a member of the Colorado Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to become a member of a regional association in Colorado. Many UNC students elect to become members of the [Northern Colorado Dietetic Association](#), which covers most of Larimer and Weld counties. Student membership dues for the Northern Colorado Dietetic Association are currently \$15 per year. Membership in professional associations is an indication of your commitment and interest in the profession. They offer many opportunities for volunteerism and obtaining valuable experience. Attending association meetings is an excellent means of networking and finding out more about the practice of dietetics. Educational sessions are a part of each meeting and discounts on publications are available to members along with other benefits.

Student Nutrition and Dietetics Association (SNDA)

What is SNDA?

SNDA ([Student Nutrition and Dietetics Association](#)) is an organization of students at UNC that promotes the field of dietetics to the student body and community. This organization is open to all registered UNC students who are interested in the study of dietetics and nutrition, including Dietetics majors, Nutrition majors and Nutrition minors. A fee for the membership is required.

Purpose:

Provide a framework for meaningful student involvement in nutritional activities and dietetics to the student body and community.

Objectives:

- Provide nutrition information and promote sound nutrition practices among the community and peers.
- Provide opportunities for members to participate in volunteer activities and to become familiar with the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#).

Benefits of SNDA membership include:

- Opportunity to volunteer for dietetics-related activities that demonstrates leadership. Volunteering could make the difference when applying to internship programs.
- Opportunity to develop skills and knowledge outside of the classroom through various activities including a tutor program, nutritional analysis, etc.
- An excellent opportunity for practicing leadership skills.

Elected Offices Include:

President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Publicist, Historian, and Northern Colorado Dietetic Association (NCDA) Representative.

Notice of SNDA meetings and information on becoming a member is posted on the Dietetics Bulletin Board outside of Gunter 2340.

Dietetic Internship Application Information

The application process for dietetic internships is introduced during orientation held each fall semester. Further information is provided during advising sessions with your academic advisor as you progress through the program. In-depth information is covered in FND 410 Professional Development Seminar where application materials are completed as a student assignment. Beginning with the Fall 2010 application the application process went to an online centralized system. However, not all programs are utilizing this system and these programs require paper application packets. For most programs the application deadlines are in either September or February each year, a few programs accept applications at both times of the year.

A good place to begin looking for information about dietetic internships is the *For Students* tab on the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) website. You will find a general description of supervised practice programs (dietetic internships) and a list of all programs accredited by ACEND.

For information on the application process, consult the [Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics](#) website and click on Computer Matching. Information is available on the centralized application system ([DICAS](#)), the applicant's responsibilities, tips to prepare for DI application, a calendar of deadlines, and an overview of what to expect.

Another part of the application process is applying to [D&D Digital](#) to enroll in the computer match system. Application to D&D Digital must be completed at the same time as the internship applications are submitted. There are separate application fees for D&D Digital, the centralized application, and in some cases for specific programs.

Internship programs typically have a committee to select interns for admission. The internship program director submits results of the program's selection process to D&D Digital. Notification of your match/no match to a program will come from D&D Digital approximately 2 months after the application submission deadline.

Dietetic internships provide a minimum of 1200 hours of experience (about one year in length). Some programs offer stipends while others charge tuition. Internships have concentrations to provide more experience in specific areas of dietetics. They may be affiliated with universities, hospitals, health departments or other health/food service organizations.

Request for a Letter of Recommendation Form

A part of the dietetic internship application is letters of recommendations. When requesting a recommendation from a UNC Dietetics faculty member, the [Request for a Letter of Recommendation Form](#) must be used. The applicant should complete one form for each person they are asking to write a letter. A copy of the latest transcript from [Ursa](#) should be attached to the form.

Tips for Internship Application

The following questions were collected to assist students preparing to apply for dietetic internships. Some internship programs interview applicants and there is no better way to success than to be prepared. These questions may also help with writing letters of application that are required as a part of internship applications.

Sample Interview Questions from Internship Directors:

“The information I have been looking for in the interview is:

1. How professional and clearly they can communicate
2. Their understanding and commitment to the profession and our internship
3. Clarification of the level of experience they have (i.e. did they observe things or actually perform them, which I found difficult to tell from some applications)
4. Their ability to accept constructive feedback and ability to grow from it
5. Their ability to utilize resources versus requiring “hand-holding.”

Possible questions:

1. How did you become interested in the field of dietetics?
2. What is your current area of interest?
3. Why would you like to do your internship at the specific program you have selected?
(PROBE: Is there some unique quality or skill you will bring to us?)
4. How will you add value to our institution as an intern?
5. What are your expectations of the internship?
6. What is the future of the dietetic profession?
7. Briefly summarize your work experience and/or volunteer activities, and tell us how these experiences have helped you prepare for an internship?
8. Which professional organizations do you currently participate in and what benefits have you received from this involvement?
9. Tell us about a time when you had to deal with an extremely difficult or unhappy customer, patient or coworker. How did you deal with the situation & what was the outcome? Would you do anything differently next time?
10. Have you ever worked in an ethnically diverse setting? If so, please tell us what that experience was like for you.
11. Summarize yourself in 3 words, with one word describing a strength, a weakness, and the third is up to you.
12. How has your "weakness", _____, impaired your ability to achieve a goal? (if necessary, PROBE with: What goals have you made with regard to overcoming your weakness? & What steps have you taken to achieve these goals?)
13. What steps have you taken to improve upon your "weakness?"
14. What is the most difficult thing you've ever done or your greatest challenge in your life (not work related)? What/how did you overcome it & tell us what you learned from it?
15. We have all had an experience either professionally or personally where we did not live up to the expectations of another. Describe a situation in which this may have happened to you including your reaction and how you were affected by this experience.

16. The internship will require a large commitment of time, energy and financial resources over a 12 month period. Do you anticipate any problems achieving this level of commitment?
17. Please describe any patient or client contact you have had in a nutrition related setting. Please describe the setting and tell us, what was the most enjoyable aspect? What was the least enjoyable or most challenging aspect?
18. In the internship you will be required to remember information that you learned as an undergraduate. If you don't remember something please explain to us what you would do about it?
19. What course did you enjoy the most during your undergraduate program? Why?
20. If we were to ask your work supervisors to describe you, what would they say?
21. If we were to ask your co-workers or classmates to describe you, what would they say?
22. The DI/Master's program requires that you handle multiple projects and assignments. Give an example which illustrates your ability to deal with such situations.
23. What project or work from your undergraduate program are you most proud of? Least proud of?
24. Why should we choose you for this program? Are you aware that you cannot work while in the Dietetic Internship Program? Have you made plans for this?
25. You receive a consult for diet education for a client. The client arrives and is not interested in making any dietary changes. How would you handle this situation?
26. You are not personally interested in a particular DI rotation. How will you motivate yourself to complete the requirements of the rotation?
27. What course did you enjoy the least during your undergraduate program? Why?
28. Why did you choose to apply to the DI/Master's program at _____?
29. How have your extracurricular activities influenced your development as a person?
30. What are your short term and long term career goals?
31. What influenced your choice of dietetics as a profession?
32. What do you see as the future for the profession of dietetics?
33. As an RDN, how do you see yourself improving the community in which you practice?
34. How do you go about researching new information for school or work?
35. How do you handle stress in your life?
36. What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?
37. What is your favorite professional journal? Why?

UNC Dietetic Internship

UNC offers a [Dietetic Internship](#) through the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, which provides distance-format guidance. This allows the student to complete the internship in communities of their choice. The UNC Dietetic Internship is accredited by the [Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics](#) of the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#).

The UNC Dietetic Internship is an innovative alternative to the usual structure of most supervised practice programs of study. This internship is one of only a handful across the country that offers these unique benefits.

You decide where you will intern. The applicant selects the facility(ies) of his/her choice in which to complete practicum experiences. Once you are accepted into the UNC Dietetic Internship and have completed two online graduate courses providing four graduate credits during the first two weeks of June, followed by a mandatory three-day orientation on the UNC campus, you can begin your program no matter where you reside.

You participate in designing your program. Designed to prepare entry-level dietitians, the UNC Dietetic Internship allows you to choose a concentration area within your overall practice experience. The UNC internship has the choices of Nutrition Education and Counseling and Management in Dietetics for its two concentration areas; interns make their choice at the time of application to the program.

If you have questions about the [UNC Dietetic Internship](#) and/or application process, email [Amy Baird](#) or contact her by telephone at 970-351-1769.

UNC Master of Science with Dietetic Internship

UNC also offers a combined [Master of Science in Dietetics with Dietetic Internship](#), a three-year, online program designed to prepare students for successful completion of the Registered Dietitian Examination as well as for entry-level practice. This dietetic internship component of this program is accredited by the [Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics](#) of the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#).

The curriculum of 55 credits supports the development of skills related to being a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and provides hands-on learning opportunities in supervised practice settings. You will complete online graduate level coursework in the first two years of the program, followed by internship rotations in the communities of your choice in the third year. The internship component allows you to choose one of two concentration areas, Nutrition Education and Counseling or Management in Dietetics, within your overall practice experience.

Gaining your M.S. in Dietetics will prepare you for career opportunities that require a graduate degree. Through your coursework, you will develop critical thinking and leadership skills that will support your future work and development as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist.

If you have questions about the [UNC Master of Science in Dietetics with Dietetic Internship](#), email [Janice Riegel](#) or contact her by telephone at 970-351-2755.

Career Opportunities

UNC Career Services

The [UNC Career Services](#) staff can help you find your career direction by helping you: Identify, Explore, Prepare, and Connect. You can receive assistance in three ways at The Career Services Center:

Self-Help Services. Come into the Career Resources Library and Computer Lab to research careers, occupations, job listings, and to take computerized assessments. You can learn more about our services via the [UNC Career Services](#) website.

Workshops. Attend workshops which are offered one night a week, during the Fall and Spring semesters, to receive current information about career preparation, internships, resume writing, and job search skills.

Career Counseling Services. Get individualized assistance by scheduling an appointment with a career counselor at [UNC Career Services](#).

Employment for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDN)

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

Many work environments, particularly those in medical and health care settings, require that an individual have the RDN credential.

RDN's work in:

- Hospitals, HMOs, or other health care facilities, educating patients about nutrition and administering medical nutrition therapy as part of the health care team. They may also manage the foodservice organizations in these settings, as well as in schools, day-care centers, and correctional facilities, overseeing everything from food purchasing and preparation to managing staff.
- Sports nutrition and corporate wellness programs, educating clients about the connection between food, fitness, and health.
- Food and nutrition-related businesses and industries, working in communications, consumer affairs, public relations, marketing, or product development.
- Private practice, working under contract with health care or food companies, or in their own business. RDNs may provide services to foodservice or restaurant managers, food vendors, and distributors, athletes, nursing home residents, or company employees.
- Community and public health settings, teaching and advising the public to help improve their quality of life through healthy eating habits.
- Universities and medical centers, teaching physicians, nurses, dietetics students, and others the sophisticated science of foods and nutrition.

- Research areas in food and pharmaceutical companies, universities, and hospitals, directing or conducting experiments to answer critical nutrition questions and find alternative foods or nutrition recommendations for the public.

What you can do with this degree:

EMPLOYMENT AREAS	POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS	TIPS TO PREPARE
Clinical		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Nutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals • Health centers and clinics • Home health providers • Health maintenance organizations (HMOs) • Nursing homes • Residential care centers • Exercise and fitness centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer in hospitals or nursing homes to gain experience working with patients/elderly • Need Registered Dietitian credential • Several years of experience and possibly graduate degree required for specialty such as pediatrics, gerontology, sports, critical care, etc.
Community and Public Health Nutrition		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Program Planning • Administration • Counseling • Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public and home health agencies • Social service agencies • Community centers • Federal, state and local government • Daycare centers • Health and recreation clubs • Health maintenance organizations (HMOs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain extensive clinical experience first • Master’s degree generally required • Background in public health a benefit • Learn government application procedures • Develop presentation and public speaking skills
Food Service Management		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Menu Planning • Budgeting • Purchasing • Food Preparation • Personnel Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals • Schools • Colleges and universities • Cafeterias • Prisons • Camps • Restaurants • Hotels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain work experience in any large-scale food service operation such as campus cafeterias • Take business courses and develop computer skills • Seek supervisory roles to gain experience

EMPLOYMENT AREAS	POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS	TIPS TO PREPARE
Federal Government		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Dietetics • Nutrition Education and Teaching • Administration • Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Army • Navy • Air Force • NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) • US Public Health Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indian Health Service - Food and Drug Administration - St. Elizabeth's Hospital - National Center for Disease Control - Bureau of Health Care and Delivery - National Institutes of Health • US Department of Agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WIC (Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children) • Veterans Administration Hospitals • Peace Corps and VISTA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn federal government application procedures • Earn Master's degree for advancement in research or administration • Pursue internships in government agencies
Consulting		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet Counseling • Education and Programming • Sports Nutrition • Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private practice • Physicians' offices • Weight loss clinics • Nursing homes • Health clubs and spas • Restaurants • Catering services • Food manufacturers • Health-related magazines • Newspapers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain experience and expertise in a specialty • Sense a need in community and fill it • Entrepreneurial spirit required! • May work in several areas • Develop excellent written and verbal communication skills • Work with athletes or have experience as an athlete • Double major in counseling or exercise science • Become certified with ACSM

Faculty and Staff

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What jobs are available for dietetic majors who do not pursue a dietetic internship?

A. Your baccalaureate degree from UNC will benefit you whenever you apply for employment. In addition, there are several professional opportunities for graduates in food and nutrition areas that do not require dietetic registration. Many of these positions require working under the direction of a registered dietitian nutritionist and they may be in areas of management, counseling, or nutrition screening. For example, WIC educator positions typically do not require dietetic registration. Many food service management, marketing, or culinary positions do not require dietetic registration; however, a degree in dietetics is extremely helpful. Pursuing research in foods and/or nutrition often requires an advanced degree; however, laboratory experience is attainable with a baccalaureate degree. Your degree in dietetics and business courses prepares you for marketing positions with pharmaceutical companies. Another option for those not pursuing a dietetic internship is to obtain Dietetic Technician Registration (DTR), following completion of the Didactic Program in Dietetics. Information about the [Dietetic Technician, Registered \(DTR\) Option](#) is located in the Path to Dietetic Registration section of this handbook. The DTR status opens job opportunities as a food service manager, diet aide, or dietetic technician in several institutions. It is also a positive achievement toward application for dietetic internships in the future.

Q. If I already have a bachelor's degree in a field other than dietetics, can I apply for a dietetics internship?

A. If you already possess a bachelor's degree and it not an [ACEND](#)-approved DPD you need only complete the UNC courses required for the Dietetics Program to be eligible to apply for a dietetic internship and receive a Verification Statement. You will need advisement from the Dietetics faculty for possible transfer credit. Equivalency or credit for FND courses may be provided only if taken within the last 10 years.

Q. What memberships should I join early in my college career?

A. You will most likely want to join the [Student Nutrition and Dietetics Association](#) (SNDA), which is an excellent way to meet other students in your major and learn more about the profession. Through SNDA, there are several ways to develop your leadership skills and to obtain valuable experience. More information on who to contact about SNDA is posted on the Dietetics Bulletin Board. Honorary societies on campus such as Mortar Board will also enhance your college experience and leadership skills.

Q. Where is the Dietetics Bulletin Board?

A. The Dietetics Bulletin Board is an important means of communication among dietetic majors and faculty. It is located in the back hallway in Gunter 2280, which is on the second floor of Gunter Hall. Make it a habit to check it out on a monthly basis. Items such as volunteer or employment

opportunities, orientation meetings for new majors, group advising sessions, and [Student Nutrition and Dietetics Association](#) news are posted.

Q. How do I volunteer and make contacts in dietetics?

A. It is up to you to take advantage of opportunities and to know how to manage your time when taking on extra activities. As described above, the [Student Nutrition and Dietetics Association](#) is a good place to start. March is [National Nutrition Month](#) and public education projects during this month always require volunteer help. The local dietetic association seeks student volunteers for committee work and for special projects. For practical experience you may want to apply at [North Colorado Medical Center](#), long term care facilities in your home town or around the [City of Greeley](#), [Weld County School District Food Service](#), the [Weld County Food Bank](#), the [Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment](#), or health clubs. Any experience working with people, health care, or food service is valuable. Be creative!

You are also encouraged to 'Like' the UNC Department of Nutrition and Dietetics [Facebook](#) page where information and opportunities for Dietetics students are shared.

Q. Do I need to keep my textbooks?

A. You are not required to keep your textbooks; however, if you plan to pursue a career in food, nutrition, or dietetics you may want to keep texts from your FND prefixed courses. They are often helpful references in the future.

Q. How do international students apply for dietetic internships?

A. If you have a degree or have taken courses from outside the U.S. you will need to have your transcripts evaluated by a foreign transcripts evaluation service to determine if your degree/courses are equivalent to those from UNC. The Didactic Program in Dietetics Coordinator must review your transcripts to determine if there are courses that may transfer for credit to meet DPD program requirements. If a student has completed the equivalent of a dietetics degree from a foreign university, UNC DPD courses will still be required in order to receive a verification statement from our program.

Q. How do I apply for a dietetic internship?

A. If dietetic registration is your goal, you should begin preparing early to make yourself a good candidate for selection to an internship. In general, GPA, evidence of leadership, good communication skills, practical experience, and positive reference letters are required for obtaining an internship. Types of internships and the application process are discussed in FND 410 Professional Development, which should be taken during the fall semester of your senior year. Approximately ½ of students who apply will receive an internship and UNC graduates compete well. Currently, there are 4 dietetic internship programs in Colorado, however, we encourage students who are able, to apply for programs out-of-state in addition to the Colorado programs.

Only seniors and graduates of the DPD may apply. There are two application deadlines each year - February and September. Students graduating in Summer or Fall may apply for the September date while those graduating in spring may apply for the February deadline while you are still a senior. The Applicants Guide to Supervised Practice Programs that is updated annually in October is a directory of almost all dietetic internships with helpful information about each program. This guide is available in a binder in the hall of Gunter 2280. This information is also available online at www.eatright.org.

While completing the application(s) you will find letters of reference are required. If you are requesting a letter from UNC Dietetics Faculty, you will need to complete a [Request for a Letter Recommendation Form](#) and present it at the time you are asking a letter.

Q. How do I request reference letters to apply for jobs or internships?

A. Faculty members are not required to write reference letters for each student; however, it is their goal to support your career development and pursuit of further education. It is suggested protocol to inquire of each potential reference if he/she will write a letter of recommendation rather than assuming so. Be prepared to give the person(s) writing your letter(s) a copy of the [Request for a Letter of Recommendation Form](#). It is extremely helpful for the reference to have detailed information about you and your goals to write an effective letter.