



Dietetics/Undergraduate Student Handbook 2025-2026

Eligibility for the RDN Credentialing Exam

Effective January 1, 2024, the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) requires a minimum of a master's degree to be eligible to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians. Additionally, candidates must complete both didactic coursework and a dietetic internship (DI) through programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

Graduates of the ACEND-accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at Central Michigan University are eligible to apply to an ACEND-accredited dietetic internship upon completion of a master's degree. Alternatively, they may apply to Central Michigan University's ACEND-accredited Future Education Model (FEM) graduate program to fulfill the eligibility requirements to sit for the CDR Registration Examination for Dietitians and become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). For more information, visit the Commission on Dietetic Registration website at www.cdrnet.org.

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www.chp.cmich.edu/dietetics



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A Career in Dietetics

Why major in dietetics at CMU?

Dietetics is the practical application of nutrition in the prevention and treatment of disease. Our dietetics program gives you the skills you need to help others apply the principles of nutrition to their lives. You'll create hands-on programs, events, and community activities that inform others about healthy choices. Our top-notch dietetics program prepares you to become eligible to apply for an ACEND-accredited dietetic internship after completing a graduate degree or to apply to an ACEND-accredited Future Education Model (FEM) graduate program to meet the eligibility requirements to sit for the Commission on Dietetic Registration ([CDR](#)) exam and become a [Registered Dietitian Nutritionist \(RDN\)](#). Additionally, upon completing the Dietetics major, you are eligible to take the [Technician Registered Dietitian Nutritionist \(TRDN\)](#) exam to become a Dietetic Technician, Registered (DTR) or Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered (NDTR).

What is a Registered Dietitian (RD)?

A registered dietitian is a professional with an extensive scientific background in food, nutrition, biochemistry, and physiology. Dietitians interpret and communicate nutritional science to promote healthy practices and help others make informed decisions about food to prevent and treat disease and maintain health. The [RD credential](#) prepares students for careers in clinical nutrition, community nutrition, public health, health and wellness, nutrition education, nutrition counseling, and other related areas. RDs can identify themselves as [Registered Dietitian Nutritionists \(RDN\)](#). This title is optional, and there is no difference between the scope of practice of an RD vs. an RDN. According to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the change is meant to remind the public that, *"All Dietitians are Nutritionists, but not all Nutritionists are Dietitians."*

The [Commission on Dietetics Registration \(CDR\)](#) of the [Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics \(ACEND\)](#) awards registration credentials to those who pass the Registration Exam for Dietitians, which is [administered by Pearson VUE](#). Individuals eligible to sit for the registration examination must have earned a bachelor's degree, completed a master's degree, and successfully finished an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program. The 'nutritionist' may have completed similar course work as the registered dietitian; however, has not passed and may not be qualified to take the Registration Exam for Dietitians. Registered dietitians must complete seventy-five hours of continued education over a five-year period to maintain registration.

Four steps in earning the RD/N credential:

1. Receive a Verification Statement by completing a bachelor's degree from an ACEND-accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) or a Dietetics major
2. *Complete a master's degree
3. Complete a postgraduate ACEND accredited Dietetic Internship.
4. Pass the CDR Registration Examination for Dietitians.

* Effective January 1, 2024, the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) requires a minimum of a master's degree to be eligible to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians.

Additional CDR Certifications (Optional):

- Board Certified Specialist in Gerontological Nutrition (CSG)
- Board Certified Specialist in Sports Dietetics (CSSD)
- Board Certified Specialist in Pediatric Nutrition (CSP)
- Board Certified Specialist in Renal Nutrition (CSR)
- Board Certified Specialist in Oncology Nutrition (CSO)
- Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (FAND)

Additional non-CDR Certifications (Optional):

- Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE)
- Certified Culinarian (CC)
- Certified Lactation Educator (CLE)
- International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC)

The postgraduate [dietetic internship \(DI\)](#) involves a competitive application process. A student is not guaranteed to be accepted into an accredited dietetic internship program. **An applicant with an overall GPA of less than 3.2 and having less than 2000 dietetic work and/or volunteer experience hours at the time of application has a low probability of meeting dietetic internship requirements when applying in the academic year of graduation.** A comprehensive list of accredited internship programs in the United States, which includes a ranking of selection criteria, is available at the Park Library Course Reserves desk. A different comprehensive list of accredited internship programs in the United States is available on the [ACEND website](#). A list of supervised practice programs is available in the *Applicants Guide to Supervised Practice*, which provides all relevant information. Therefore, neither NDEP nor the Academy is responsible for the accuracy of the information provided in this guide.

During their senior year, students who meet the competitive selection criteria are encouraged to apply for admission to an [accredited graduate program](#) or pursue a master's degree of their choice followed by an ACEND-[accredited dietetic internship](#). Dietetic internships typically range in length from eight months to one year. A competitive application generally includes the following:

- A cumulative overall grade point average (GPA) greater than 3.2 (this includes all college courses transferred to Central Michigan University).
- A total of 2,000 hours of dietetics-related work and/or volunteer experience is recommended. The evaluation of work experience as part of the admission criteria varies by the dietetic internship program. **Students are encouraged to identify internships of interest prior to their junior year and investigate the criteria for individual internships. Students can view available research internships through the HYPERLINK "https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs/program-directory" [ACEND website](#).**
- Participation in activities that demonstrate leadership.
- Participation in an event that demonstrates altruism (non-academic).

Licensure

Forty-seven states have laws regulating the practice of dietetics. Licensure of registered dietitians helps ensure that individuals providing nutrition advice possess the necessary education and experience to serve the public safely and effectively. A list of states with licensure requirements is available on the HYPERLINK

"<https://www.cdrnet.org/LicensureMap>" [Commission on Dietetic .Registration website](#).

Licensure for Michigan – Passed and Signed!

On April 30, 2024, Governor Whitmer signed HB 4608 into law. This marks a significant milestone in dietetics as 10 years after the repeal of Michigan's dietetics and nutrition licensing law, the Michigan Legislature passed legislation to protect the safety of Michiganders by licensing dietitian nutritionists and the practice of medical nutrition therapy. This historic move underscores the commitment of Michigan lawmakers to prioritize the health and well-being of its citizens by ensuring that those seeking medical nutrition therapy services receive accurate, evidence-based care from qualified professionals.

Incorporating many principles from the [Academy's Model Practice Act](#), this newly passed legislation ([HB 4608](#)):

- Narrowly licenses the practice of medical nutrition therapy, a service which, if provided by an unqualified practitioner, presents a significant risk of harm.
- Establishes rigorous standards and criteria for individuals seeking to practice as dietitians within the jurisdiction by aligning licensing requirements with the prerequisites for obtaining the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist credential.
- Aligns the scope of practice for licensed dietitians with current RDN scope and standards, helping to ensure Michiganders have access to timely, cost-effective, qualified nutrition care.

This legislation empowers [Michigan's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs](#) (LARA) to oversee and enforce adherence to professional standards and ethics, thereby safeguarding the public against improper nutrition care and unqualified practitioners. By formalizing the licensure process, the Michigan legislature has taken a proactive stance in promoting public health by expanding access to nutrition care and preventing potential harm arising from unqualified individuals practicing medical nutrition therapy.

Stay informed about current developments in Michigan related to licensure for registered dietitians by visiting the HYPERLINK "<https://www.michigan.gov/lara/bureau-list/bpl/health/hp-lic-health-prof/dietitian-nutritionists>" Michigan Government website for Health Professional Licensing.

Employment Opportunities

Employment of dietitians is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations as a result of increasing emphasis on disease prevention through improved dietary habits.

The [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) is projecting that dietitians'/nutritionists' employment [will grow by 7 percent from 2023 to 2033](#), faster than the average for all occupations due to job demand (Bureau

of Labor Statistics. Occupational Outlook Handbook. Dietitians and Nutritionists.

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dietitians-and-nutritionists.htm>). The growing and aging population will boost the demand for meals and nutritional counseling in hospitals, residential care facilities, schools, prisons, community health programs, and home health care agencies. As the focus of future societal and governmental efforts will be toward wellness and health promotion/disease prevention, dietitians will be needed to provide care for patients with various diet-related chronic diseases and advise people on how to improve their overall health. Public interest in nutrition and increased emphasis on health education and prudent lifestyles also will spur demand, especially in management. In addition to employment growth, the need to replace experienced workers who leave the occupation will result in additional job openings. The number of registered dietitian positions in nursing care facilities and state government hospitals is expected to decline as these establishments continue to contract with outside agencies for food and nutrition services. However, employment is expected to increase with contract providers of food and nutrition services, outpatient care centers, and offices of physicians and other health practitioners. With the increased public awareness of obesity and diabetes, Medicare coverage may expand to include medical nutrition therapy for renal and diabetic patients. As a result, dietitians that have specialized training in renal or diabetic diets or have a master's degree should experience excellent employment opportunities.

RD/RDN's can expect to find jobs in the following areas:

- **Management** - oversee food service operations, including large-scale menu planning and food production in settings such as schools, healthcare facilities, correctional institutions, and corporate cafeterias.
- **Sports** – work in corporate wellness programs or athletic programs at the school or professional level by educating individuals on the relationship between nutrition, health, and optimal athletic performance.
- **Public Health** - provide individual and group counseling regarding disease prevention and promoting nutritional practices that improve health.
- **Education** -Teach nutrition, dietetics, and disease prevention at the college or university level (often requires an advanced degree).
- **Consultant** - work under contract with health care facilities or in private practice.
- **Corporate** - work in communications, consumer affairs, public relations, marketing, or product development within a food and nutrition-related company.
- **Research** - work in food and pharmaceutical companies, universities, and hospitals, conducting research experiments to find alternative foods or nutrition recommendations for the public.

[The median annual wage for dietitians and nutritionists was \\$73,850 in May 2024.](#) The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. [The lowest 10 percent earned less than \\$48,830, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \\$101,760.](#)

The Dietetics Program at CMU

Admission to the Central Michigan University (CMU)

Admission to CMU for residents of the United States is processed through CMU's Office of Admissions. Admission requirements can be viewed at admissions.cmich.edu. Prospective students can complete an online application or download a paper application at this site. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions can be contacted by emailing apply@cmich.edu.

Admission for international students is processed through the Office of Global Engagement. The Office of Global Engagement can be contacted by emailing iss@cmich.edu or calling 989-774-4308.

Prospective dietetics students are invited to visit CMU to learn about CMU's Dietetics program. For assistance, the [Office of Admissions](#) is available to arrange a visit, or the current director of the Dietetics program can be contacted directly.

Transfer students are encouraged to contact their assigned Dietetics program advisor a full semester before planning to attend CMU. Transfer students must first be accepted into CMU. Evaluation may require submission of the transferring school's course syllabi and the CMU master syllabi. Their advisor must have transcripts from all colleges/universities attended by the applicant. The program director will then evaluate courses that transferred in as Nutrition and Dietetics (NDS) credit.

Non-degree seeking students (those who already have a bachelor's degree in another major) can complete the Didactic Program of Dietetics (DPD) courses. Non-degree seeking students must meet the program's admission requirements and retention standards as printed in the most current [undergraduate bulletin](#)*. Upon successful completion of the DPD, a Verification Statement will be issued to the student by the program director. Non-degree seeking students with a Verification Statement may apply for admission to an accredited Dietetic Internship (DI) after earning their master's degree.

*Central Michigan University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution. It encourages diversity and provides equal opportunity in education, employment, all its programs, and the use of its facilities. It is committed to protecting the constitutional and statutory civil rights of people connected with the University.

Admission Requirements, Student Performance Monitoring, Retention, and Termination Standards

Admission Requirements to Sign a Dietetics Major

Students must have a minimum 3.0 overall GPA to sign the Dietetics major and enter the Pre-professional Phase.

Admission Requirements to the Professional Phase*

To move forward to the Professional Phase, students apply in the spring semester and, if

accepted, enter the professional phase in the fall semester. Students must achieve an overall GPA of 3.0 or above; including the required DPD coursework, in which students cannot have lower than a 2.0 in any DPD coursework. GPAs will include courses completed at other institutions as well as those completed at CMU.

Selection criteria include:

- Completed Application (found on the “CMU Dietetics Programs” Ultra Blackboard shell).
- 3.0 overall GPA.
- DPD coursework grades, 2.0 or higher, will be calculated into an overall GPA of 3.0.
- Professional recommendations.
- Work, volunteer, and/or extra-curricular experience.
- Autobiographical statement.
- To graduate with a dietetic major and receive a Verification Statement from the Didactic Program in Dietetics, students are not permitted to take any required dietetic courses as credit/no credit.

*CMU provides individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities, and services.

Student Performance Monitoring Policy

Students in the DPD program are assigned to faculty advisors upon acceptance to the program. Faculty members meet with students as needed during the semester. At the first advising session, faculty will discuss the Academy Code of Ethics, academic honesty, professionalism, and ethical behaviors with the advisee. Students can access their files regarding academic progress and course requirements through the CMU online system called “[Degree Progress](#)”. **It is the responsibility of the student to review their degree audit regularly through the CMU online system, “[Degree Progress](#)”.**

If the student has a grade of C- or lower in a DPD course, it is the student's responsibility to inform the course instructor and consult with their advisor about their academic performance to develop a remediation plan prior to course completion.

If a student is accepted into the Professional Phase of the DPD program but earns less than a C grade in a Professional Phase course in the fall semester, the student will not be able to enroll in the following spring semester's Professional Phase courses and thus will not earn a Verification Statement that year. A student must achieve a grade of C and above in all professional phase courses. To earn a Verification Statement, the student must repeat the professional phase course with a grade of C or above in the following year. Transferred Professional Phase courses will **NOT** be accepted for credit towards the DPD Verification Statement.

Professional Phase Requirements Policy:

- Adherence to The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Code of Ethics.
- Maintenance of a 3.0 GPA overall and 3.0 GPA overall in DPD coursework.

Student Retention and Termination Policy

The DPD Director and other NDS faculty guide students through the course selection process (semester planning) and track their progress once accepted into the DPD program. Assigned faculty advisors will counsel students who are not achieving an overall GPA of 3.0 or above in the Professional

Phase of the DPD coursework as required. It is the student's responsibility to review their degree audit regularly through the CMU online system, "[Degree Progress](#)", inform/consult with their advisors about their academic performance, and create a remediation plan for any grade of C- and below. Faculty may advise students to repeat a failing course in the Professional Phase. After course repetition, students who fail to achieve a satisfactory grade of C or higher are counseled to select a non-dietetics career path appropriate to their abilities.

Transfer Courses Policy

Pre-Professional Phase courses can be transferred from other institutions if they meet the CMU transfer course equivalency policy. To determine if a course transfers to CMU, check the Michigan Transfer Network Website (<https://www.mitransfer.org/>), or use the [CMU Transfer Equivalencies Tool](#). **NDS Professional Phase courses must be taken at CMU and are not transferable to CMU for credit towards earning a Verification Statement.**

Accreditation

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), formerly known as the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE), is the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics accrediting agency for education programs preparing students for careers as registered dietitians (RD) or dietetic technicians, registered (DTR). ACEND serves and protects students and the public by assuring the quality and continued improvement of nutrition and dietetics education programs. ACEND is recognized by the United States Department of Education as a Title IV gatekeeper. This recognition affirms that ACEND meets national standards and is a reliable authority on the quality of nutrition and dietetics education programs.

The dietetics major is frequently referred to as the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). The DPD provides the required dietetics coursework leading to a bachelor's degree and a Verification Statement (VS). Graduates of ACEND-accredited DPD programs, which the program director verifies, receive the VS required to apply to dietetic internships or ACEND-accredited Future Education Model (FEM) graduate programs.

Graduates who complete an accredited dietetic internship (with a *graduate degree) or FEM are eligible to sit for the CDR Registration Examination for Dietitians.

The DPD program is currently accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) through June 30, 2030. An accreditation site visit for the DPD and CMU Dietetic Internship (DI) occurred on March 27-29, 2022. The DPD and the Dietetic Internship accreditations were renewed to June 30, 2030.

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

For further information, please contact:

ACEND

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190

Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995

Phone: 312-899-0040 x5400

E-mail: acend@eatright.org

Website: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/>

Commission on Dietetics Registration

Academy of Dietetics and Nutrition

120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190

Chicago, IL 6060-6995

312-899-0400 x5500

E-mail: cdr@eatright.org Website: <https://www.cdrnet.org/>

Program Mission

To prepare competent graduates in dietetics, through an ACEND accredited didactic program in dietetics, who seek to service the dietary needs of patients, individuals, and the community.

Program Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: The graduates will be prepared for careers in dietetics and food related professions and/or advanced studies in health-related disciplines.

- **Objective 1** (Program Completion): "At least 80% of program students complete program/degree requirements within six years (150% of the program length)."
- **Objective 2** (Graduate Performance on Registration Exam): "The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%."

Goal 2: Graduates will be prepared for acceptance into an accredited dietetic supervised practice program, graduate education, and/or entry-level professional positions requiring foods and/or nutrition expertise.

- **Objective 1:** (Graduate Application and Acceptance into Supervised Practice): "At least 60 percent of program graduates apply for admission to a supervised practice program prior to or within 12 months of graduation."

- **Objective 2:** (Graduate Application and Acceptance into Supervised Practice): “Of program graduates who apply to a supervised practice program, at least 50 percent are admitted within 12 months of graduation.”
- **Objective 3:** (Satisfaction with Graduate Performance): “At least 70 percent of program graduates will be rated as 3 and above on a 1-5 scale pertaining to their graduates’ performance for supervised practice, graduate program, or employment in dietetics-related settings, as reported by their supervised practice directors, graduate program directors, or employers.”

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment is defined as the ongoing monitoring of the extent to which students are developing the knowledge, skills, beliefs, and attitudes that are appropriate for graduates of the respective academic programs. The DPD is required by CMU to submit an annual assessment report to assess student learning objectives in a continual evaluation process to ensure student learning objectives are met and achieved. The DPD is engaged in continual evaluation of its program goals, objectives, and the courses within the Dietetics major. Assessment results are reported and discussed to promote the continued improvement of the program and curriculum. Results are published on the NDS [website](#), and comments about assessments are welcome. CMU has an Assessment Council that works with academic departments; for more information about the CMU Assessment Council, please refer to the [CMU Assessment Council’s website](#).

Expenses

Estimated DPD Program Costs 2025-2026 Tuition costs are based on the Fall 2025 Fees (per semester) \$7,011	
Student Service Fee (per semester)	\$225.00
Laboratory Fees	\$ 50.00
Textbooks	\$ 500.00
Parking	\$175.00
CMU-Student Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics	\$15.00
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics-Student Membership	\$58.00
Transportation, Meals and Housing	Varies
*All fees are subject to change	

Information about tuition, fees, and other expenses can be found in the Central Michigan University Undergraduate Bulletin or at [Tuition and Fees](#). All fees, including tuition, are subject to change.

Some courses include specialized equipment and/or laboratory fees. The following NDS courses currently have fees associated with them: NDS 160 & NDS 361. NDS 481 Community Nutrition: Field Work presently requires field experience that consists of volunteer opportunities at various locations within the Mt. Pleasant community. The student is responsible for covering travel expenses and insurance related to this travel. Please refer to the [university bulletin](#) for other injury protection and liability information.

Student Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics (SAND)

SAND is a registered student organization (RSO) at Central Michigan University. SAND is open to all students interested in nutrition and/or majoring in Dietetics. SAND works to promote student visibility, supports networking engagements, and provides professional opportunities to up-and-coming nutrition professionals. Getting involved with SAND is an excellent way for students to build volunteer and leadership experiences for internship applications and future careers. SAND typically meets twice a month and has membership dues of \$15.00. Contact the Nutrition and Dietetics Program with questions at NDS@cmich.edu or +1-989-774-2613.

Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Disciplinary Procedures

The [Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Disciplinary Procedures](#) is available online. Students with a program-related concern should follow the procedure as outlined in 2.1.14 of the Code of Student Rights.

The Nutrition and Dietetics faculty and staff provide clear, consistent, and truthful information to prospective students, enrolled students, and the public at large. The DPD program adheres to the policies and procedures of Central Michigan University. These policies and procedures are listed in the [CMU Undergraduate Bulletin](#). Students are responsible for becoming familiar with CMU's Undergraduate Bulletin. It contains valuable information about student rights, responsibilities, and resources at the University. This information is also accessible through CMU's homepage and portal. Specific references to the following policies and procedures are found in the Undergraduate Bulletin:

- Withdrawal and refund of tuition and fees.
- Expenses, tuition, fees.
- Residency status policy.
- Housing and special fees.
- Admission, orientation, and career services.
- Transfer credit policy.
- Scheduling and program calendar, including vacation and holidays.
- Protection of privacy of information.
- Access to personal files.
- Withdrawals from the University.
- Access to student support services.
- Incomplete grade for illness.
- Disciplinary procedures.
- Grievance procedures.
- Requirements for graduation.
- Degree plans and requirements.

Verification Statement

A [Verification Statement](#) (VS) is an official document generated by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, to provide evidence that a student or intern has completed all the requirements for dietetic education within a given program. At CMU, a [verification statement](#) is awarded to students who successfully complete all the DPD requirements, including the KRDNs (Knowledge for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists) requirements*, and meet the criteria of the Professional Phase, and are cleared for graduation by the CMU Registrar's Office. In addition, the student must submit an official transcript documenting the completion of the bachelor's degree to the DPD Director to be issued the DPD Verification Statement. Possession of a DPD Verification Statement signifies that the student is eligible to continue in the process of earning the RD/RDN credential. The DPD verification statement is required for a student to apply to an ACEND-accredited dietetic internship (DI) program and ACEND-accredited graduate program through a competitive admissions process.

***KRDN credit requires a passing grade of C or above**

Verification Statement Policy:

To graduate with a dietetic major and receive a Verification Statement from the CMU DPD program, students must meet the Professional Phase requirements policy as stated above and have been cleared for graduation by the CMU Registrar's Office. The student must also submit an official transcript documenting the completion of a bachelor's degree to the DPD director before receiving the Verification Statement.

Note: Students are not allowed to take any required dietetic courses as credit/no credit.

2022 DPD KRDN list based on the 2022 Standards for Didactic Programs:

The DPD curriculum does prepare students with the following required core knowledge:

Domain 1. Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice: Integration of scientific information and translation of research into practice.

Knowledge

Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

- KRDN 1.1 Demonstrate how to locate, interpret, evaluate and use professional literature to make ethical, evidence-based practice decisions.
- KRDN 1.2 Select and use appropriate current information technologies to locate and apply evidence-based guidelines and protocols.
- KRDN 1.3 Apply critical thinking skills.

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

Knowledge

Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

- KRDN 2.1 Demonstrate effective and professional oral and written communication and documentation.
- KRDN 2.2 Describe the governance of nutrition and dietetics practice, such as the Scope of Practice for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Nutrition and Dietetics.
- KRDN 2.3 Assess the impact of a public policy position on the nutrition and dietetics profession.
- KRDN 2.4 Discuss the impact of health care policy and different health care delivery systems on food and nutrition services.
- KRDN 2.5 Identify and describe the work of interprofessional teams and the roles of others with whom the registered dietitian nutritionist collaborates.
- KRDN 2.6 Demonstrate cultural humility, awareness of personal biases and an understanding of cultural differences as they contribute to diversity, equity and inclusion.
- KRDN 2.7 Describe contributing factors to health inequity in nutrition and dietetics including structural bias, social inequities, health disparities and discrimination.
- KRDN 2.8 Participate in a nutrition and dietetics professional organization and explain the significant role of the organization.
- KRDN 2.9 Defend a position on issues impacting the nutrition and dietetics profession.

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

Knowledge

Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

- KRDN 3.1 Use the Nutrition Care Process and clinical workflow elements to assess nutritional parameters, diagnose nutrition related problems, determine appropriate nutrition interventions and develop plans to monitor the effectiveness of these interventions.
- KRDN 3.2 Develop an educational session or program/educational strategy for a target population.
- KRDN 3.3 Demonstrate counseling and education methods to facilitate behavior change and enhance wellness for diverse individuals and groups.
- KRDN 3.4 Practice routine health screening assessments, including measuring blood pressure and conducting waived point-of-care laboratory testing (such as blood glucose or cholesterol).
- KRDN 3.5 Describe concepts of nutritional genomics and how they 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.

Knowledge

Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

- KRDN 4.1 Apply management theories to the development of programs or services.
- KRDN 4.2 Evaluate a budget/financial management plan and interpret financial data.
- KRDN 4.3 Demonstrate an understanding of the regulation system related to billing and coding, what services are reimbursable by third party payers, and how reimbursement may be obtained.
- KRDN 4.4 Apply the principles of human resource management to different situations.
- KRDN 4.5 Apply safety and sanitation principles related to food, personnel and consumers.
- KRDN 4.6 Explain the processes involved in delivering quality food and nutrition services.
- KRDN 4.7 Evaluate data to be used in decision-making for continuous quality improvement.

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

Knowledge

Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

- KRDN 5.1 Perform self-assessment that includes awareness in terms of learning and leadership styles and cultural orientation and develop goals for self-improvement.
- KRDN 5.2 Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge and experiences relevant to the position desired and career goals.
- KRDN 5.3 Practice how to self-advocate for opportunities in a variety of settings (such as asking for 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.

Policies and Procedures Specific to the Dietetics Program

- Graduates will be provided with additional copies of the Verification Statement upon request. The reissued Verification Statement will have the month/day/year the individual completed program requirements and the current program director's original signature in blue ink. Regency of academic coursework is at the discretion of a dietetic internship, not the DPD in which an individual graduated. Verification statements for the DPD program do not expire.
- If the course has not already been evaluated to transfer to CMU, the DPD director may evaluate course work transferring in as NDS credit.
- If courses are determined to be a CMU equivalent, then the student must supply the DPD director with the syllabus of the transferring course, and the master course syllabus of the required CMU dietetics course which the student believes is comparable. CMU master syllabi can be accessed through CMU's Central Link. A major modification form will be completed by the DPD director and submitted to the CMU Registrar's Office, defining how the credit will apply to the dietetics program. A copy will also be provided to the student. In the unlikely event that a student progresses through the program without having NDS credit evaluated by the director, the student will be denied a **Declaration of Intent** and/or **Verification Statement** until the above has been completed.
- Coursework from another institution will not be evaluated until an individual has been accepted as a student at CMU.
- In accordance with program accreditation standards, individuals who sign the dietetics major will be signed under the most current undergraduate bulletin.
- A student who returns to the dietetics program after not taking the required dietetics courses for one semester during the academic year will need to change the undergraduate bulletin year in which they are signed to the most current bulletin year. This bulletin change may impact graduation if undergraduate requirements are not met.
- Students are not allowed to take any required dietetic courses as credit/no credit.
- College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and Advanced Placement (AP) Exams taken before admission into the dietetics program will be accepted, and the credits will not be calculated in the overall GPA.

Declaration of Intent / Graduation (Formal) Audit

The "Declaration of Intent" form is a written evaluation of the student's progress toward the dietetic major degree requirements. A copy of the "Declaration of Intent" will need to be completed and submitted to the DPD director when the student applies to the Dietetic Internship Centralized Application System (DICAS) for internships before graduation. The student needs to complete the "Declaration of Intent" form and email it to the DPD director with a printed copy of their official graduation audit from CMU to allow the DPD director to submit it to DICAS.

Administrative Structure

The DPD is part of the School of Rehabilitation and Medical Sciences (SRMS), which is housed within The Herbert H. & Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions (CHP) at Central Michigan University. The CMU [vision, mission, and values](#) are available online.

Required DPD Courses 2025-2026 Undergraduate Bulletin

Dietetics Core (40 hours)

- NDS 160 - Introduction to Food and Culinary Techniques 3(2-2)
- NDS 271 - Food and Culture 3(3-0)
- NDS 361 - Food Science 4(3-2)
- NDS 364 - Food Safety, Sanitation, & Health 3(3-0)
- NDS 367 - Institutional Food Production Laboratory 1(0-2)
- NDS 370 - Nutrition 3(3-0)
- NDS 374WI - Nutrition in the Life Cycle 3(3-0)
- NDS 469 - Foodservice Systems Administration 3(3-0)
- NDS 471 - Medical Nutrition Therapy I 3(3-0)
- NDS 472 - Medical Nutrition Therapy II 3(3-0)
- NDS 473 - Advanced Nutrition 4(4-0)
- NDS 480 - Nutritional Education & Counseling 4(4-0)
- NDS 481 - Community Nutrition: Field Work 3(Spec)

Other Requirements I (5-8 hours)

- CHM 120 - Survey of Chemistry 4(4-0)
- CHM 127 - Introductory Chemistry Laboratory 1(0-2)
- CHM 131 - General Chemistry I 4(3-3)
- CHM 132 - General Chemistry II 4(3-3)

Note: Both CHM 120 and 127 **OR** CHM 131 and 132 must be taken.

Other Requirements II (11 hours)

- BIO 208 - Microbiology 4(3-3)
- CHM 342 - Survey of Organic Chemistry 4(3-3)
- CHM 421 - Introductory Biochemistry for Health Science 3(3-0)

Other Requirements III (4-8 hours)

Select one of the following options:

Option 1 (4 hours)

- BIO 392 - Mammalian Physiology 4(3-3)

Option 2 (8 hours)

- HSC 214 - Human Anatomy 4(3-3)
- HSC 215 - Human Physiology 4(3-2)

Other Requirement IV (3 hours)

Select one of the following:

- HSC 544 - Biostatistics 3(2-1)
- STA 282QR - Introduction to Statistics 3(3-0)

Notes: A student opting to take CHM 345 and CHM 346 instead of CHM 342 must have the equivalent of CHM 132 as a prerequisite. A student with CHM 345 and CHM 346 may elect CHM 521 and CHM 522, instead of CHM 421. Total: 63-70 semester hours.

[Course descriptions are available in the undergraduate bulletin.](#)

Suggested Sequence of Courses Dietetics Major	
Fall Freshman Year BIO 101 (3) General Biology MTH 105 (3) Intermediate Algebra	Spring Freshman Year NDS 370WI (3) Nutrition CHM 120 (4) Survey of Chemistry CHM 127 (1) Introductory Chemistry Laboratory
Fall Sophomore Year: Pre-Professional Phase CHM 342 (4) Survey of Organic Chemistry NDS 160 (3) Intro. To Food & Culinary Techniques NDS 271WI (3) Food and Culture	Spring Sophomore Year: Pre-Professional Phase BIO 208 (4) Microbiology NDS 374 (3) Nutrition in the Life Cycle CHM 421 (3) Intro. Biochemistry for Health Science
Fall Junior Year: Pre-Professional Phase STA 282QR (3) Intro to Statistics* NDS 364 (3) Food Safety, Sanitation, & Health HSC 214 (4) Human Anatomy**	Spring Junior Year: Pre-professional Phase HSC 215 (4) Human Physiology** OR BIO 392 (4) Mammalian Physiology NDS 367 (1) Institutional Food Prod Lab
Fall Senior Year: Professional Phase NDS 473 (4) Advanced Nutrition NDS 471 (3) Medical Nutrition Therapy I NDS 480 (4) Nutritional Education & Counseling NDS 479 (1) Professional Issues in Dietetics (Recommended)	Spring Senior Year: Professional Phase NDS 361 (4) Food Science NDS 472 (3) Medical Nutrition Therapy II NDS 469 (3) Foodservice Systems Administration NDS 481 (3) Community Nutrition: Field Work

*STA 282QR can be replaced with HSC 544.

** HSC 214 & HSC 215 can be replaced by BIO 392.

Note: The fall full-time Professional Phase courses include NDS 471, NDS 473, and NDS 480. **All three classes are offered in the fall semester only and must be taken together.** Not taking all three in the fall semester will delay graduation by one full year. Once admitted into the program, students will be registered for all three courses.

The Professional phase application is due on Wednesday, in the 4th week of February. Download the application from the “CMU Dietetics Program” Ultra Blackboard shell, which is found in the “Professional Phase Application” module.

The Professional phase is also offered part-time. Because the course work builds off each consecutive class, the course timeline in the above schedule cannot be altered. Please talk to your advisor if you would like more information about this option.

Signing a Major in Dietetics

Directions for Signing the Dietetics Major

If you are interested in signing a major in dietetics or want more information about the major and a career as a Registered Dietitian (RD), please contact a dietetics advisor. Faculty advisors are listed on the [dietetics webpage](#).

The earlier you contact an advisor and plan your program course schedule, the easier it will be for you to complete the major. Transfer students are encouraged to contact their assigned dietetics program advisor prior to applying to the DPD program. Students will sign their major under the most current bulletin year, even if a different bulletin is being followed for their other degree requirements.

Initial Advising

Students are required to contact their advisor about signing the dietetics major to learn what they will need for their initial meeting with the program advisor. Academic advisors are assigned alphabetically according to the first letter(s) of the student's last name. To find the name of your advisor, click on the [Academic Advisors](#) link:

<https://www.cmich.edu/academics/colleges/herbert-h-grace-a-dow-college-of-health-professions/departments/school-rehabilitation-medical-sciences/nutrition-and-dietetics/dietetics-advisors>

To find more information about signing a Dietetic Major, please follow this link:

<https://www.cmich.edu/academics/colleges/herbert-h-grace-a-dow-college-of-health-professions/departments/school-rehabilitation-medical-sciences/nutrition-and-dietetics/signing-a-major>

The student's program advisor will discuss the program's policies and procedures and the Code of Ethics during the initial meeting. The advisor will ensure that the student has gained access to the student handbook prior to signing the Dietetics major. The advisor will educate the student about the services available to students and refer them to the correct person or office if special needs are present. CMU offers many services to students to support them in tackling various challenges. These services include, but are not limited to, student disability services, information technology help desk, the writing center, student health services, quiet study rooms, dietetics electronic resources, and a health-professions specialized librarian. Upon signing the major, students are enrolled in the Dietetics Ultra Blackboard (Bb) shell where they can access all of the dietetics resources and meet with their advisors as needed.

Verification Statement (VS) Distribution

Completion of the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) program, as outlined above under the 'VS policy,' satisfies the academic requirements of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for the DPD. This program fulfills part of the course requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree. A graduate completing dietetics major requirements will receive a [Verification Statement \(VS\)](#) and can apply for an accredited dietetic internship and a graduate program. Undergraduates completing the internship application need to include a "Declaration of Intent" as part of the process instead of a VS.

The DPD director is responsible for signing the **Verification Statement** and **Declaration of Intent**. The Declaration of Intent confirms that a student will soon complete the DPD and graduation requirements. The VS confirms that a student has completed the DPD and graduation requirements. Once degrees are posted, students must request a copy of their official transcripts to be sent to the DPD Director.

Follow-Up Advising

As part of an ongoing assessment for program accreditation, signed majors **must** meet with their advisor the semester after their major was signed and every semester following. **It is the responsibility of the student to initiate the meeting with their advisor each semester.** The advisor will discuss the student's academic progress, and if a minimal chance of success in the program is predicted, the advisor will discuss alternative career paths with the student.

Signing a Minor

A minor is not required for dietetics majors electing the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Plan A option.

More information regarding degree requirements can be found in the [undergraduate bulletin](#). A minor is not recommended if it will delay graduation, interfere with obtaining quality dietetics-related work experience, or negatively affect your GPA. A student needing additional credits to meet the 120 hours to graduate from CMU with a B.S. can add a minor to obtain the extra hours. This is more common for transfer students.

Recommended minors for dietetics students include:

Leadership (24 credit hours)	Psychology (21 credit hours)
Entrepreneurship Minor (21-22 credit hours)	Event Management (23 credit hours)
Business Administration Minor (24 credit hours)	Interdisciplinary Science Minor (24 credit hours)
Science Minor (24 credit hours)	Community Health (24 credit hours)

Dietetics majors are not eligible to earn the Nutrition Minor.

Graduation

[Graduation audits](#) are used to inform students of graduation requirements and their progress toward completion. Graduation audits are provided by the **Undergraduate Academic Services Office**, 123 Warriner Hall 989-774-3504. An appointment is required.

There are two types of graduation audits:

1. Pre-graduation (informal) audit

- Arrange for a pre-graduation audit as soon as possible after your major/minor is signed.
- Students will meet “one-on-one” with an advisor from the Office of Undergraduate Academic Services, where they will go over the student’s progress to meeting graduation requirements. These include University Program (U.P.) courses, 300 level courses, competencies, and major/minor course requirements (errors frequently occur in U.P. courses).
- Students will receive exact information about required courses remaining for degree requirements.

2. Graduation (formal) audit

- **This needs to be included in the professional phase application.**
- This is a written evaluation of your progress toward degree requirements. A copy of this evaluation will need to be submitted to the program director to receive a [Declaration of Intent](#) when applying to internships before the B.S. is completed.
- Students should apply early for graduation -- this starts the process for the graduation audit. Applications are processed in the order received for each graduation date. Visit [Degree Progress](#) to submit a graduation application.
- To be assured of receiving a graduation audit, be sure to file an [Undergraduate Application for Graduation](#) according to the following timeline, however late applicants may be able to graduate:
 - - October 1st for spring graduation
 - February 1st for summer graduation
 - April 1st for fall graduation

The application for graduation is submitted through Central Link under My Accounts.

Graduation and/or program completion requirements

A student has 7 years to complete program requirements as published in the bulletin being used. If a student chooses a new bulletin after their initial registration, the student will have 7 years from the year of that bulletin to complete the program. The time frame to complete the program requirements is not necessarily determined by when the student enrolls in the program; the time frame is 7 years from whichever bulletin is being used.

To learn about the maximum amount of time allowed to complete program requirements at the time the student enrolls, visit the CMU Graduation Requirements page at:

<https://cmich.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2024-2025/undergraduate-bulletin/graduation-requirements/summary-of-graduation-requirements/>

The Dietetic Internship

What is a Dietetic Internship?

The Dietetic Internship (DI) is a supervised program of dietetic practice. It is completed after the bachelor's degree (with DPD verification statement) and master's degree has been finished (*or a plan to ensure a graduate degree will be completed immediately following the internship/by end of internship*) has been established and is required prior to becoming a registered dietitian. An accredited internship must have the following components:

- Provide at least 1,000 hours of supervised practice experience that meets accreditation competencies.
- Planned learning activities preparing interns to enter practice as an RD/N.
- Build a curriculum designed to ensure students will be at entry-level competency to practice as a registered dietitian nutritionist.

Acceptance into an Internship is Competitive

More students apply to internship programs than are accepted. Nationally in April 2018, 3,248 of the 4,727 students that applied were accepted. The two most important criteria determining whether you get accepted into an internship are undergraduate G.P.A. and dietetics-related work experience. Please note that an internship may require a background check before placement in a healthcare setting.

Accreditation of a Dietetic Internship

The Dietetic Internship that a graduate completes must be accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). ACEND is the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics accrediting agency for education programs preparing students for careers as registered dietitian nutritionists (RD/RDN) or dietetic technicians, registered (DTR). ACEND serves and protects students and the public by assuring the quality and continued improvement of nutrition and dietetics education programs.

ACEND is recognized by the United States Department of Education as a Title IV gatekeeper. This recognition affirms that ACEND meets national standards and is a reliable authority on the quality of nutrition and dietetics education programs.

List of Accredited Dietetic Internships

There are approximately seven accredited dietetic internships in Michigan and about 350 such programs in the United States. The [ACEND's website](#) contains a list of accredited internships.

Selecting a Dietetic Internship

- Begin investigating potential internships during the junior year of college.
- Visit and read websites of possible internships.
- When contacting an internship program director, be professional in written and oral communication.
- If possible, visit an open house for internships of interest.
- If an open house is not offered, attempt to arrange a visit with the internship program's director.

Applying for the Dietetic Internship

Students apply for an internship through DICAS. This helps applicants obtain placement in the supervised practice program of their choice.

Details about the application, computer matching process, and Find-a-Preceptor Database are available by clicking the link below:

- [ACEND's webpage](#)

Dietetic Internship Application

The ACEND's website provides information regarding the internship process under Accredited Dietetic programs. There are three phases to the application process:

1. Application Phase

- Complete the current CMU NDS Declaration of Intent form. Students receive a Verification Statement upon graduation. The Verification Statement will be used for those applying after graduation.
- Use the ACEND website to select internships of interest.
- Register for "NDS 479 Professional Issues" fall of the senior year (*when offered*)
- Arrange to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) (if required)
- Begin after completion of a master's degree or nearing your last semester
- Obtain current application instructions from selected internships, including whether the internship will participate in the electronic submission of the application.

2. Apply to DICAS: The Dietetics Inclusive Centralized Application Services (DICAS) is a web-based application service that simplifies the dietetics application process by allowing applicants to apply to multiple programs with one application. Visit the DICAS Platform to search for and apply dietetics programs (DI, CP, GP and ISPPs) of interest.

3. Offer Phase: Applicants who receive an admission offer through DICAS are responsible for accepting or rejecting the offer on the appointment date. All graduates meeting the requirements of the dietetics program will receive a Verification Statement following graduation. An original copy needs to be provided to the dietetic internship director prior to beginning supervised practice.

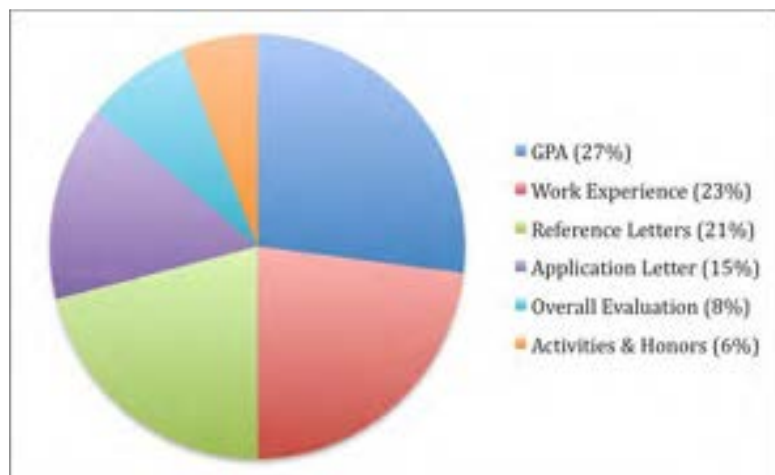
Code of Ethics

As an intern and future dietitian, please familiarize yourself with the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) and the Code of Ethics. When preparing to take the RD exam, all candidates will need to sign the Code of Ethics. Please refer to the statement below from CDR.

All candidates applying to take the registration examinations for dietitians or dietetic technicians must sign the following agreement when establishing eligibility to take the registration examination: "As a registered dietitian or dietetic technician, registered, I agree to abide by the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics (<https://www.cdrnet.org/codeofethics>) and to hold harmless the Commission on Dietetic Registration or other RDs, RDNs, DTRs and NDTRs, and CDR employees for their activities in enforcing them." The Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR), the credentialing agency for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (Academy), does not discriminate against any applicant because of race, creed, religion, color, sex, marital status, national origin, or ancestry.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- An internship may require a background check as part of the application process or after acceptance.
- No college or university can guarantee that a student completing its dietetics program will be accepted into a dietetic internship. Each dietetic internship has varying criteria for admission. It is the student's responsibility to understand the requirements for acceptance into dietetic internships and meet those criteria. The Applicant Evaluation Criteria for the Central Michigan University Dietetic Internship (CMUDI) are listed below:



A competitive applicant will have:

- An overall GPA and DPD GPA greater than 3.2.
- Two and a half years of part-time dietetics-related work experience (2,000 hours).
- Prior student membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.
- Demonstration(s) of leadership.
- Willingness to relocate to another part of the state or country.
- Applications for several internships (5-7).
- Attention to detail when completing the internship application materials.

CMU COVID-19 Policy

Refer to Central Michigan University's Covid-19 Health and Safety Plan that is posted on the website.

<https://www.cmich.edu/news/details/cmu-sources-on-covid-19>

To keep our campus and community as safe as possible, Central Michigan University requires every member of the CMU community to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or participate in weekly COVID-19 testing.

Culinary Nutrition Center COVID Guidelines

- Students are required to self-monitor through CMU's website before coming onto campus.
- When a student enters the lab, they are required to wash their hands in any of the 4 handwashing sinks in the lab and have a clean apron to wear over their clothes; the apron is laundered after each lab and is not shared. There is hand sanitizer available for all students at every station.
- During the first lab, all students are given an explanation and example of the proper handwashing procedure.
- Students are to follow CMU COVID-19 policy about room capacity and social distancing.
- Students are to wear masks and face shields when attending face-to-face labs, where safe distance cannot be obtained.
- After each lab, all equipment is washed and sanitized as well as the stations. The lab is currently using a quaternary sanitizer to wash all equipment and dishes, as well as bleach water to wipe all surfaces down.

For more information please visit: <https://www.cmich.edu/news/details/cmu-sources-on-covid-19>