

Tuskegee University
Department of Food and Nutrition Sciences
Didactic Program in Dietetics
DPD Handbook
2021-2022

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Tuskegee University Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). The DPD is administered through the Department of Food and Nutrition Sciences (FNS) in the College of Agriculture, Environmental and Nutrition Sciences (CAENS). Courses in the curriculum are required so the DPD graduate will have the technical and academic knowledge to successfully compete for placement in a Dietetic Internship program, graduate school or for entry-level jobs. Students who successfully complete the Dietetic Internship will be eligible to take the national registration examination to become a Registered Dietitian (RD). Career opportunity in dietetics includes Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, Clinical Dietitian, Community Dietitian, Food Service Manager, Gerontological Dietitian, Pediatric Dietitian, and Consultant Dietitian, Certified Diabetes Educators, Researchers and more.



DEGREE GRANTED

B.S in Food and Nutrition Sciences with an option in Didactic Program in Dietetics, administered through the Department of Food and Nutrition Sciences (125 credits). In the 3rd and 4th year of the DPD program students enter the Dietetics phase. The curriculum focuses in the first two years on general degree requirements and a basic knowledge in the natural and

social sciences. During the last two years emphasis is on both theory and clinical and/or laboratory

experience necessary for meeting the minimum knowledge, skills and competencies requirements. No student will be verified without completing all the requirements.

ADMISSION & RETENTION

Initial admission is based on the standard admission process at Tuskegee University. Students seeking admission need an official high school transcript, a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.00 and ACT Composite Score of 21, SAT (CR + Math) = 1000.

Phase One: The first two years students complete general education requirements and prerequisites for DPD courses. The liberal and general education requirements are organized so that knowledge and skills are developed sequentially. Thus, the necessary knowledge base is developed for entry into phase two of the program.

Phase Two: To be eligible for entry into phase two of the program, students must have achieved the following:

- Overall grade point average of 3.0
- Minimum grade of “C” or higher in chemistry and biology courses.

Retention: To be retained in the program, students must maintain a 3.0 or higher in professional courses and an overall grade point average of 2.8 (on a four-point scale). Students with minimal chances of success in the program will be counseled into other options or career paths. Within the FNS department, there are other options with other career paths in food and nutrition, i.e., nutritional science or public health nutrition.

Transfer credit for prior learning is awarded based on the program director’s review of the student’s coursework from previous transcripts. For courses in which a student learning outcome is assessed, the student will work with the instructor of the course for which he/she is requesting credit.

The process for this review is as follows:

The student should submit a course syllabus to the Didactic Program in Dietetics director for review. Once the syllabus is reviewed, the instructor of the course will identify the assignment(s) and/or exam required to verify the KRDNs associated with the course. The

student must complete the assignment(s) and/or exams along with submitting an original transcript showing a passing grade of C or higher. The student will be notified of the status of the request by the Didactic Program in Dietetics director.

BECOMING A REGISTERED DIETITIAN (RD OR RDN)

A Registered Dietitian is a professional with extensive scientific background in food, nutrition, biochemistry, and physiology. This knowledge is applied to promoting health, preventing diseases, and providing counseling and education to many conditions and diseases. Registered Dietitians (RD) or Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDN) have completed the required steps required by the Commission on Dietetics Registration (CDR) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). According to our governing body, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, RD or RDN can be used interchangeably because “All Dietitians are Nutritionists, but not all Nutritionists are Dietitians”. A 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. Dietitians are required to be licensed/certified in some states, like Alabama. The 4 required steps for becoming a RD or RDN:

1. Complete Dietetics degree from an accredited Didactic program in Dietetics (B.S in Food and Nutrition Science, Dietetics option)
2. Apply and complete the dietetic internship by Apply and complete the dietetic internship by entering the DICAS match process and D&D digital ranking, or the internship directly.
3. Pass the National Registration Examination for Dietitians. This exam is offered throughout the year at over 200 testing sites throughout the United States to individuals who successfully complete the above steps.

The Registration Examination for Dietetics consists of 4 domains: Principles of Dietetics, Nutrition Care for Individuals and Groups, Management of Food and Nutrition Programs and Services, Foodservice Systems.

<https://www.cdrnet.org/vault/2459/web/files/RDTestSpecs2017.pdf>

After passing the RD exam, students can find employment opportunities in public health settings such as local, state or federal agencies, as well as non-profit agencies, clinical settings, the food and nutrition industry and research organizations.

MISSION

Mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)

The mission of the Tuskegee University Didactic Program in Dietetics (TU DPD) is to prepare graduates for supervised practice leading to eligibility for the CDR credentialing exam to become competent Registered Dietitian Nutritionists. The program emphasizes nutrition, food science, food service systems management, liberal arts studies/general education, and the natural sciences, which allows students to develop problem solving, critical thinking, and core knowledge and leadership skills.

There is congruency among the mission statements of the University, College, and Department program.

[https://www.tuskegee.edu/Content/Uploads/Tuskegee/files/Student%20Affairs/TU-Student-Handbook-2021-2022\(1\).pdf](https://www.tuskegee.edu/Content/Uploads/Tuskegee/files/Student%20Affairs/TU-Student-Handbook-2021-2022(1).pdf)

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Program Goal 1: To provide a nutrition and dietetics program of study necessary to prepare competent DPD graduates by emphasizing and facilitating the application of core food and nutrition knowledge, critical thinking and leadership skills within a 6-year time frame.

Objectives for Goal 1:

1. At least 80% of graduates admitted into the didactic program in dietetics (DPD) will meet degree requirements within 6 years (150% of the program length).
2. At least 80% of DPD graduates will demonstrate mastery of core knowledge by scoring a minimum of 80% on the senior exit examination on the first or second sitting.
3. 70% of graduating DPD graduates will demonstrate the application of didactic knowledge by providing documented evidence of 35 hours of field experience (e.g. work, shadowing, internships, etc.) related to nutrition or dietetics.
4. 70% of enrolled DPD students will demonstrate leadership and communication skills through participation in the publication process of a biannual, departmental newsletter containing information related to nutrition and dietetics.

Goal 2: To prepare DPD graduates to successfully apply, gain acceptance into and complete a dietetic internship (DI).

Objectives:

1. 60% of graduating DPD graduates will apply to dietetic internships prior to or within a 12-month period of graduation

2. 50% of DPD students applying to a dietetic internship will be accepted into a program within 12 months of graduation.
3. The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%.
4. At least 70% of supervised practice program directors that complete the surveys will rate satisfaction with preparation of DPD graduates as an average of 2 or more in the 4 survey areas with 0 = not satisfied to 5 exceeding expectations.

ACCREDITATION

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) option is a Bachelor of Science degree program. Students majoring in the DPD are given verification statement(s) signed by the program director when they have successfully completed the DPD curriculum and requirements, and names appear on the official graduation list. A policy for issuing verification statements has been developed as outlined in the 2017 ACEND Accreditation Standards. Courses in the curriculum are required so the DPD graduate will have the technical and academic knowledge to successfully compete for placement in a Dietetic Internship program. Students who successfully complete the Dietetic Internship will be eligible to take the national registration examination to become a Registered Dietitian (RD).

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND), 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995, (312) 899-0040 ext. 5400, <http://www.eatright.org/ACEND>, reviewed the program on 4/24/2015. The Tuskegee University DPD is an accredited program through June 30, 2022. The application for continued accreditation can take place as from March 2021. Program outcomes data are available upon request.

DPD AND FNS FACULTY

Along with providing education and training, the Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences faculty have completed research in their respective fields. Short summaries of faculty are detailed [here](#). Course requirements and descriptions can be found [here](#):

CURRICULUM

DPD Curriculum balance sheet can be found [here](#).

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The DPD Director advises all DPD students. We require that students meet regularly (monthly or at least twice a semester) with their advisor on matters relating to academic planning and to ensure they are progressing in their plan of study as desired. The academic advisor/DPD Director provides assistance in these areas: planning a schedule of required courses; verifying exemption of prerequisite courses; communicating news of interest or importance to students such as curriculum changes or scholarship opportunities; directing students to DPD and campus resources related to tutoring, counseling, service learning, study abroad, and career services; and clearing students to graduate.

VERIFICATION STATEMENT

A verification statement is issued by the DPD Director upon successful completion of all DPD requirements and graduation from TU DPD. Five copies of the verification statement are mailed to each graduate in June. ACEND requires that all DPD Programs retain an original copy of each student's verification statement indefinitely. The Declaration of Intent is signed by the DPD director prior to application to the Dietetic Internship. This form is completed through DICAS – Dietetic Internship Centralized Application System.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Registered dietitians work in a wide variety of employment settings, including health care, business and industry, community/public health, education, research, government agencies and private practice. Based on the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' fact sheet, below you will find the employment opportunities in dietetics.

Many work environments, particularly those in medical and health-care settings, require that an individual be credentialed as an RD. RDs work in:

- **Hospitals, HMO's 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 operations in these settings, as well as in schools, day-care centers and correctional facilities, over-seeing 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 business and industries**, working in communications, consumer affairs, public relations, marketing, product development or consulting with chefs in restaurants and culinary schools.
- **Private practice**, working under contract with healthcare or food companies, or in their own business. RDs may provide services to foodservice or restaurant managers, food vendors and distributors or athletes, nursing home residents or company employees.

- **Community and public health settings**, teaching, monitoring and advising the public and helping improve their quality of life through healthy eating habits.
- **Universities and medical centers**, teaching physician's assistants, nurses, dietetics students, dentists 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.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Department of Food and Nutrition Sciences (FNS) offers opportunities for scholarships based upon merit. High school students interested in dietetics with a good grade point average (GPA) and Standard Aptitude Test, SAT/ACT, score may qualify for a \$2500 tuition scholarship annually. The College of Agriculture, Environmental, and Nutrition Sciences also provides scholarships through the Tuskegee University Food and Agriculture Scholarship (TUFASB) and the George Washington Carver Scholarship (GWCS).

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, through its many association groups, offers a variety of scholarships and educational stipends to individuals pursuing undergraduate and advanced degrees in dietetics or food and nutrition related areas. General scholarship and educational stipend information from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation, the dietetic practice groups and affiliate (state) and district dietetic associations can be accessed from the respective group's information listed on this site.

<http://www.eatrightpro.org/resources/membership/student-member-center/scholarships-and-financial-aid>

ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

All DPD students are encouraged to join the Academy at a discounted student rate. Membership in the Academy allows students to compete for scholarships and learn more about the profession. For more information on how to become a student member of the Academy <http://www.eatright.org/students/join/>

TU EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

All TU DPD students are required to participate in a summer field experience. The Memorandum of Understanding with the University and facilities discuss the policies and procedures for these experiences. (Appendix)

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY FOOD AND NUTRITION SCIENCES CLUB (TUFANS)

Tuskegee University Food and Nutrition Sciences Department (FNS) has TUFANS which provides students with opportunities to participate in activities within the department and across campus. TUFANS publishes a biannual TUFANS gazette newsletter on the new and exciting things happening in food and nutrition in the department and in research.

STUDENT GRIEVANCES

Tuskegee University provides an open educational environment, rich in values and designed to protect the integrity of teaching and learning. In this spirit, the University encourages all students to first direct their complaints and concerns to the faculty, staff, or administrator specifically involved.

A student has the right to appeal decisions regarding his/her academic performance or academic requirements. Before initiating a petition for appeal, the student should attempt to resolve the problem directly with the instructor(s), person(s) concerned, and/or departmental faculty. To make an appeal, guidelines written in TU Academic Regulation and procedures (TU Student Handbook p 28.) If the student has followed the above guidelines and still believes a resolution is needed, the complaint may be sent to the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

ACEND has the following guidelines: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/public-notice-and-announcements/filing-a-complaint-with-acend>

Address written complaints to: ACEND, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60606-6995 or email ACEND@eatright.org. Note that ACEND does not intervene on behalf of students unless the complaint alleges that the program may not be in compliance with accreditation standards or policies. The complaint must be signed by the student to be valid. ACEND does not accept or consider unsigned complaint forms.

HEALTH INSURANCE

“Tuskegee University Student Health Insurance Plan is provided by Cigna/Summit America Student Health for all registered students. Students are required to enroll in this program, which will be included in their tuition fee bill. Insured students are covered 24 hours per day, on and off campus, at home or abroad, while traveling between home and school and during vacation periods with the exception of international students while in their home country.” Student Handbook page 36.

“Students must call 9411 on campus for ALL MEDICAL EMERGENCIES. Students will be transported to the emergency room by ambulance by EMTs, in case of all serious emergencies. For minor emergencies, students will be transported to the Student Health Center, during office hours”

TRAVEL SAFETY

DPD students follow the travel safety guidelines outlines in the TU student handbook. Requests are made to the Office of the Provost, with justification for the travel. The name and ID number of the student is included, approval is given from the Office of the Provost and the students are required to carry a mandatory University insurance.

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

Information on optional professional liability insurance can be found at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics member benefits link.

<http://www.eatrightpro.org/search/?keyword=professional%20liability%20insurance>

TU NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

Tuskegee University is committed to equal opportunity in employment and education and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, and qualified disabled persons. Additionally, the University does not tolerate Sexual Harassment. The Affirmative Action/EEO Coordinator is located in Kresge Center. This statement can also be found in the 2021-2022 bulletin.

<http://catalog.tuskegee.edu/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ACEND Website

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/dietetic-internship-match-students>

Dietetic Internship Program Directory

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs/dietetic-internships>

RD Exam Prep Course

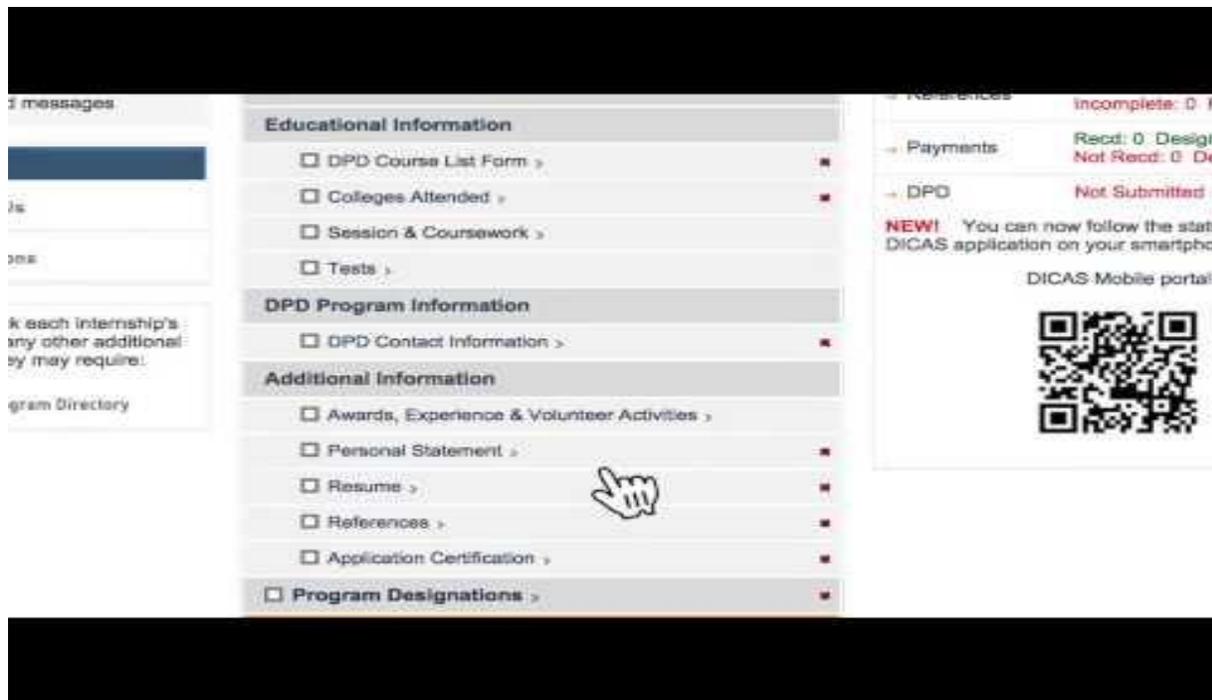
<https://www.eatrightprep.org/rdn-exam>

DICAS Website

<https://portal.dicas.org/>

DICAS Instructional Video

[DICAS Application Overview](#)



D&D Digital Website

<https://www.dndigital.com/ada/index.php>

D&D Digital Instructional Video

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/dietetic-internship-match-students/dnd-instructional-video-applicants>

Suggestions to improve your chances at getting a Dietetic Internship position

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/dietetic-internship-match-students/suggestions-to-improve-your-chances-at-getting-a-dietetic-internship-position>

ISSP Information

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/ispp-for-students>