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Introduction

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at UNCG provides students with the coursework necessary to apply for a supervised practice program in dietetics. Students successfully completing didactic program requirements at UNCG are issued a DPD verification statement as proof of program completion.

DPD Mission

The mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics is to prepare students for supervised practice leading to eligibility for the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist by applying principles of nutrition, food science, biochemistry, anatomy, physiology, management, behavioral and social sciences to the promotion of optimal health in individuals including treatment and management of chronic illnesses

DPD Goals with Corresponding Objectives*:

DPD Program Goal 1: The program will prepare graduates for acceptance into a supervised practice program, successful completion of the registration exam, and/or acceptance into graduate school.

Program Objectives for Goal 1:

1. 90% of undergraduate DPD students will complete degree requirements within three years (planned program length is 2 years- junior and senior years).
2. 50% of graduates will apply to dietetics supervised practice programs within one year of program completion.
3. 80% of graduates who apply to a dietetics supervised practice program within 12 months of graduation will be accepted.
4. 25% of program graduates who are not enrolled in a supervised practice program will be admitted to a graduate program within 12 months of graduation.
5. 90% of graduates over a five-year period will pass the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within one year following the first attempt.

DPD Program Goal 2: To produce graduates that are able to integrate foundation knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary for competent supervised practice.

Program Objectives for Goal 2:

1. 70% of supervised program directors will rate program graduate’s academic preparation for supervised practice as satisfactory or higher.
2. 70% of program graduates that completed supervised practice programs will rate the preparation they received in the UNCG DPD as satisfactory or higher.
3. 90% of students completing their last month of the UNCG DPD will answer “excellent” or “good” to the survey question regarding the student’s perceived ability to think critically as a result of the DPD program.

* Program outcomes available on request
Accreditation Status

The Didactic Program in Dietetics at UNCG is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND), 120 South Riverside Parkway, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995. 800-877-1600, ext 5400

Educational and professional requirements to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)

1. Complete a minimum of a bachelor’s degree at a U.S. regionally accredited university or college or foreign equivalent, and coursework through an Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) or Coordinated Program in Dietetics (CP). Students will receive 6 original DPD verification statements from DPD director.

2. Complete a minimum of 1200 hours of supervised practice through an ACEND accredited Dietetic Internship (DI), Coordinated Program in Dietetics or an Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway (ISPP) offered through an ACEND accredited program.

3. Pass a national registration examination administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR).

The UNCG Human Nutrition and Dietetics major curriculum is accredited by ACEND as a Didactic Program in Dietetics and enables students to complete the first step towards becoming a Registered Dietitian. As students are completing their final semester of DPD coursework or following completion of the DPD program, students can apply for placement in an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program. Supervised practice programs can be found nation-wide. Following acceptance and successful completion of supervised practice (Step 2), individuals are eligible to apply to sit for the national registration exam administered by CDR. (Step 3).

Supervised Practice

The Nutrition Department purchases the Applicant Guide to Supervised Practice each year as a resource for DPD students. The guide has valuable information such as program requirements, area of concentration, cost, and number of openings. This document is posted in the DPD Canvas org that all students are invited to join. Students will receive information and assistance on preparing and applying for supervised practice in NTR 282 Introduction to Dietetics and NTR 482 Professionalism in Dietetics taught by the DPD Director, Laurie Allen.
Program Admission and Completion Requirements

There are three options for completing the DPD program and obtaining a DPD verification statement through UNCG’s Department of Nutrition:

Option 1: Undergraduate- Students who major in Human Nutrition and Dietetics will receive a DPD verification statement after completing all didactic coursework with a C or better and meeting all graduation requirements. Students must complete requirements for a BS in Nutrition which include 122 semester hours, consisting of at least 36 hours at or above the 300 course level; General Education Requirements, and Major and Related Area Requirements. More information can be found in the 2017-18 Undergraduate Bulletin. Admission for an undergraduate degree in Human Nutrition and Dietetics is through UNCG Admissions. Admission requirements can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin. Length of the DPD program for undergraduates is two years and begins junior year when enrolled in NTR 413 Intermediate Nutrition.

Option 2: Second Degree- If a student has earned a Bachelor’s degree from another regionally accredited university, he/she may earn the DPD verification statement upon completion of the DPD course requirements as a second degree student in the Human Nutrition and Dietetics concentration. Courses from a previous degree can count toward the required the didactic coursework. (See Prior Learning Policy). Students must complete at least 12 credit hours of didactic coursework at UNCG (including NTR 573 Medical Nutrition Therapy and NTR 482 Professionalism in Dietetics) and obtain a C or better in all didactic coursework. Students do not need to meet graduation requirements for their 2nd degree to complete the DPD program and receive a verification statement. Program length is two years (following completion of 100 and 200 level DPD professional courses, 100 level DPD Science courses), but varies depending on how much prior didactic coursework is completed prior to admission.

Admission for a second undergraduate degree is through UNCG admissions.

Option 3: MS/PhD- Students who are completing their MS or PhD in Nutrition at UNCG can complete the DPD course requirements while completing their graduate coursework. Students must obtain a C or better in all undergraduate didactic coursework. Graduate School academic requirements may differ from DPD requirements. See the Department of Nutrition’s Graduate Manual for more information. Students do not need to meet graduation requirements for their Graduate degree to complete the DPD program and receive a verification statement. Program length is two years (following completion of 100 and 200 level DPD professional courses as well as NTR 531 Human and Nutrition Metabolism or other biochemistry course), but varies depending on prior didactic coursework and student’s plan of study.

Admission for master’s or doctoral degrees is through the UNCG Graduate School. Admission requirements can be found in the Graduate Bulletin.
Estimated Program Cost Per Year:

- Estimated tuition and fees for undergraduate and 2nd degree students (12 credit hours):
  In state: $7,250; Out of state: $22,049
- Estimated tuition and fees for Graduate Students (9 credit hours) per year:
  In state: $7,416, Out of state: $21,134
- Housing on campus (double): $4,939 In state and Out of state
- Books $500
- Liability Insurance: 7.50 (charged for NTR 309, NTR 421, NTR 423)
- Uniform and Restaurant Approved Non-skid shoes for Food labs: $75 one time cost
- Student Membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: $58
- Travel: $10

Financial Aid & Scholarships

There are numerous types of financial assistance available on campus. Please contact the UNCG Office of Financial Aid to explore the various types of aid available (e.g. grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study). After you are enrolled as a student in the School of Health and Human Sciences (HHS) you may also be eligible for scholarships within HHS.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) Foundation offers scholarships to encourage eligible students to enter the field of dietetics. According to the AND, scholarships usually go to student AND members enrolled in the junior or senior year of a DPD program and the majority of the scholarships awarded are for $1,000. Scholarships are also available for students in dietetic internships and graduate studies. For more information see the Scholarships section of the AND website at http://eatrightfoundation.org/scholarships-funding/# to find applications and see a list of past recipients.

Program Schedule:

The UNCG Didactic Program in Dietetics follows the same academic calendar as the University. Students that need to miss multiple classes due to illness or emergency should contact their instructor.

Prior Learning Policy:

The Didactic Program Director carefully reviews transcripts for transfer students and post graduate students to evaluate coursework taken prior to entering the UNCG DPD program. Students must provide the DPD director with course syllabi for any nutrition course that they would like to have evaluated that has not automatically transferred in as a DPD course. If student learning objectives for the course evaluated match a UNCG didactic course and the student scored a C or better in the course, then the student will not be required to repeat the course. The UNCG DPD program does not give course credit for prior work or volunteer experience. Students must complete at least 12 hours of didactic coursework at UNCG (including NTR 573 Medical Nutrition Therapy and NTR 482 Professionalism in Dietetics).

DPD Course List:

The DPD course list includes all required courses for completion of the UNCG Didactic Program in Dietetics. These courses will provide students with the foundation knowledge necessary for the next step in their academic journey. These courses and grades will be required on the application for supervised practice.
DPD Course List for Undergraduate Students

**DPD Professional Courses**
- NTR 103 - Introduction to Food Science
- NTR 203 - Quantitative Principles in Nutrition
- NTR 213 - Introductory Nutrition
- NTR 282 - Introduction to Dietetics
- NTR 302 - Nutrition Education and Application Processes
- NTR 309 - Quantity Food Procurement and Production
- NTR 313 - Nutrition throughout the Life Cycle
- NTR 403 - Food Science/Technology
- NTR 413 - Intermediate Nutrition
- NTR 421 - International Nutrition and Cultural Foods
- NTR 423 - Community Nutrition
- NTR 426 - Management Practices in Dietetics
- NTR 482 - Professionalism in Dietetics
- NTR 550 - Nutrition Assessment
- NTR 560 - Advanced Nutrition
- NTR 573 - Medical Nutrition Therapy
- CED 310 - Helping Skills in Counseling
- PSY 121 – General Psychology
- STA 108 – Intro to Statistics
- MAT 115 – College Algebra
- ENG 101 – College Writing

**DPD Science Courses**
- BIO 111 - Principles of Biology & lab
- BIO 271 – Human Anatomy & Lab
- BIO 277 – Human Physiology & lab
- BIO 280 – Microbiology & lab
- CHE 103 - General Descriptive Chemistry I
- CHE 104 - General Descriptive Chemistry II
- CHE 110 - Introductory Chemistry Lab
- CHE 205 – Introductory Organic Chemistry
- CHE 206 – Introductory Organic Chem Lab
- NTR 531 - Nutrition & Human Metabolism

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DPD Course List for Graduate Students

**DPD Professional Courses**
- NTR 103 - Introduction to Food Science
- NTR 203 - Quantitative Principles in Nutrition
- NTR 282 - Introduction to Dietetics
- NTR 309 - Quantity Food Procurement and Production
- NTR 313 - Nutrition throughout the Life Cycle
- NTR 403 - Food Science/Technology
- NTR 421 - International Nutrition and Cultural Foods
- NTR 426 - Management Practices in Dietetics
- NTR 482 - Professionalism in Dietetics
- NTR 550 - Nutrition Assessment
- NTR 560 - Advanced Nutrition
- NTR 573 - Medical Nutrition Therapy
- NTR 607 – Nutrition Education
- CED 610 - Helping Skills in Counseling
- 500-600 level Statistics

**DPD Science Courses**
- BIO 271 – Human Anatomy & Lab
- BIO 277 – Human Physiology & lab
- BIO 280 – Microbiology & lab
- CHE 205 – Introductory Organic Chemistry
- CHE 206 - Introductory Organic Chemistry Lab
- NTR 531 - Nutrition & Human Metabolism
- NTR 625 – Gene Expression & Protein Metabolism
- NTR 626 – Energy, CHO, Lipid Metabolism
- NTR 627 – Antioxidants & Bioactive Food Components
- NTR 628 – Vitamins & Minerals
- NTR 673 – Nutrition Research Methodology
Assessment of Learning

Student learning will be assessed by exams and assignments during and at the end of each course. Much of the content of the upper level courses depends on students’ ability to retain and use information gained in prerequisite courses. Periodically, copies of student work will be saved (with the student’s name removed) to enable the program to document assessment of student learning.

Academic Requirements

Undergraduate and Second Degree Students: Academic Requirements for the UNCG Didactic Program in Dietetics are consistent with the academic requirements for the BS in Nutrition.

GPA: New first year and transfer students are required to have a minimum 2.50 cumulative GPA to be admitted to the DPD program (Nutrition Major; Human Nutrition and Dietetic Concentration). All continuing students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.50 throughout the completion of the DPD program. Students that change their major or concentration during the academic year will be held to the minimum 2.50 GPA requirement. If the GPA drops below 2.50, students will be contacted in writing by the Undergraduate Program Director indicating that they have dropped below the threshold and will have one semester to increase the cumulative GPA to at least 2.50. If this does not happen, the student will be dropped from the Nutrition Major and the DPD program the following semester.

Grades: A student must earn a grade of C (C- is not acceptable) or better in all DPD courses to receive a verification statement. Furthermore, students must earn a C or better in prerequisite courses to enroll in upper-level courses. Students that earn less than C will discuss this with their academic advisor on Nutrition Advising Day. They will be required to sign the Nutrition Policy on Repeating Nutrition Courses Form and this will be placed in their file in the Nutrition department. The Undergraduate Director and/or Didactic Program Director will follow up the following semester with any students that received below a C in any didactic coursework. Students who earn less than a C in the same DPD course twice will be dropped from the program.

Graduate Students: Academic Requirements for the UNCG Didactic Program in Dietetics may differ from requirements from the Graduate School. See the Department of Nutrition’s Graduate Manual for more information.

Grades: Students must obtain a C or better in all DPD courses to receive a verification statement. Students who earn less than a C in the same DPD course twice will be dropped from the program. Graduate students who earn less than a C in a Didactic Program course will be required to sign the Nutrition Policy on Repeating Nutrition Courses Form and this will be placed in their file in the Nutrition Department.
Retention and Remediation:

Academic success is critical to a student’s application for supervised practice. UNCG has resources to assist students should academic difficulties arise.

Starfish is an early support system to ensure student success at UNCG. Flags are raised by instructors to let students know that they may need additional support in the class. Students that receive a Starfish flag will be contacted by the Students First Office for assistance connecting with the appropriate individual or office who can help with concerns. The student’s advisor will also be contacted. Students should not ignore Starfish flags as they provide an early alert that academic concerns exist.

Student Success Center (SSC) offers multiple programs to assist students in achieving academic goals. You must apply for services in order to receive help from the Student Success Center. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as these programs have enrollment deadlines. SSS services include:

➢ Tutoring and Academic Skills Programs (TASP): Tutoring and Academic Skills Programs is an academic support program that challenges students to become independent and successful learners. Services such as tutoring and academic skills instruction help students improve study skills and increase understanding of course content. Tutoring available for 100 and 200 level biology, chemistry, psychology, and nutrition courses.

➢ Supplemental Instruction Program (SIP): a discussion and review forum designed to help students achieve success in a course that has been designated as historically difficult.

➢ Special Support Services (SSS) is a support program designed to maximize academic performance for UNCG students who are first-generation, from modest income backgrounds, or who have a disability and who also demonstrate academic need for services. Services include writing and research instruction, graduate/professional school guidance, financial literacy instruction, and use of a learning lab.

Teaching Assistants (TA): Teaching assistants for nutrition courses can assist with questions regarding assignments and exams. Teaching assistants are available during their office hours in the designated TA room in the Department of Nutrition or by appointment.

DPD Students with a GPA less than 2.5 for one semester and/or a C in multiple DPD courses should consider the possibility that their talents may not be the best fit for the Human Nutrition and Dietetics Major and should discuss progression in the major as well as other career options with their academic advisor.

Students that are unable to meet the academic requirements of the DPD program will be counseled by the DPD director or Undergraduate director to a career path that is better suited to their abilities.

Program Termination

Students that are dropped from the undergraduate or graduate program in the Department of Nutrition for any reason (academic integrity violation, unable to meet academic requirements) will be terminated from the UNCG Didactic Program in Dietetics.
Food Lab Safety

All students will be required to sign and follow the Lab Safety Rules for using the Food Lab. This will be provided to students by the instructor at the start of NTR 403 Food Science and Technology and NTR 309 Quantity Food Procurement and Production.

Experiential Learning

Students completing experiential learning for a course should not be used to replace employees. Students currently complete experiential learning activities in NTR 309 Quantity Food Procurement and Production. Any concerns or complaints from students or experiential sites regarding experiential learning should be addressed with the instructor and if they cannot be resolved will be sent to the department chair, Ron Morrison for appropriate resolution.

Liability and Health Insurance

DPD students are required to purchase professional liability insurance for NTR 309 Quantity Food Procurement and Production, NTR 421 International Nutrition, NTR 423 Community Nutrition. A student fee of $7.50 will be added to the student’s account upon registering for these courses. If students are registered for more than one of these courses per semester, they will only be charged once.

All students enrolled in a degree program at UNCG are required to have health insurance coverage. Student Blue is the health plan for UNCG students. Contact Student Health Services for more information. Students are responsible for any and all medical costs incurred as a result of off campus activities. *If a student is injured or becomes ill during an off campus experience they should seek medical attention and promptly notify their off-campus supervisor as well as their course instructor.*

Transportation

Occasionally students are required to travel to off campus locations for upper level course-related experiences. When this occurs, students are expected to provide their own transportation. The UNCG Department of Nutrition is not responsible to provide transportation to off-campus activities and are not liable for any personal injury, accident, or financial loss suffered by the student while traveling. Students will not be reimbursed by the college or department for traveling expenses related to course or volunteer activities. Anticipated costs for required travel are approximately $10 per year.

Communication

The DPD director will send an invitation to the Didactic Program in Dietetics Organization pages in Canvas to all students completing DPD requirements. Once this invitation is accepted, the student will be able to view program information such as volunteer opportunities, upcoming professional meetings in our community and materials needed for applying to supervised practice. Participation in the DPD org is optional. Students completing program requirements that do not receive an invitation should contact the DPD Director, Laurie Allen at llschro@uncg.edu
Nutrition Related Volunteer or Work Experience

Students are not required to do a set number of volunteer or paid nutrition experience hours as part of the DPD program, but it is highly encouraged that students seek out experiences in the areas of clinical nutrition, community nutrition, and food service management. Most supervised practice programs require previous nutrition related experience for acceptance into their program. Suggestions for volunteer opportunities are located on the DPD Org on Canvas.

UNCG DPD Verification Statement Policy:

Upon completion of all requirements of the DPD program, the DPD Program Director will issue a Verification Statement containing the graduate’s name, date of completion of all program requirements, program name and identification number, program director name, address, date of form preparation, and original signature in an ink color other than black. This Verification Statement is an official document of the Accreditation Council for Education in Dietetics and Nutrition (ACEND) and is required to verify that all requirements for the accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics have been completed.

Each student that completes the DPD program will receive six (6) copies of this DPD Verification Statement for her/his files and use. The Verification Statement can be used as proof of completion of all DPD program requirements when the program graduate is applying for supervised practice, employment, or other professional use that may require verification of completion of a DPD program. Two (2) copies of each program graduate’s DPD Verification Statement will be kept in the permanent files of the program in compliance with ACEND accreditation standards.

Course and Program Withdrawal:

Undergraduate and second degree students who would like to withdraw from the DPD program can change to another major or concentration which will alert the Didactic Program Director that they no longer plan to pursue DPD requirements. Graduate students should inform the DPD director if they no longer plan to pursue DPD requirements. Withdrawal from DPD courses are consistent with the University’s Withdrawal Policies.

https://studentsfirst.uncg.edu/withdrawal-policy/course-withdrawal/

https://studentsfirst.uncg.edu/withdrawal-policy/total-university-withdrawal/

Privacy of Student Information:

UNCG DPD program complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Students have the right to access their student file in the Nutrition Department
DPD Program Grievance Policy

Students in the DPD program who have complaints regarding specific issues relating to the DPD program may first send the complaint in writing to the DPD Director. If the student and DPD Director are unable to resolve the complaint, the complaint will then be forwarded to the Department Chair, Dr. Ron Morrison for appropriate resolution. Submission of complaints directly to ACEND is recommended only after all other options with the program and university have been exhausted.

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) will review complaints that relate to a program’s compliance with the accreditation standards. ACEND is interested in the sustained quality and continued improvement of dietetics education programs but does not intervene on behalf of individuals or act as a court of appeal for individuals in matters of admission, appointment, promotion or dismissal of faculty, staff, or interns. A copy of the accreditation standards and/or ACEND’s policy and procedure for submission of complaints may be obtained by contacting the Education and Accreditation staff at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics at 120 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000, Chicago, Illinois 60606 or by calling 1-800-877-1600 extension 4872. Written complaints should be mailed to the Chair, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics at the above address.

Student Campus Resources

Career Services Center: http://csc.uncg.edu/
Financial Aid Office: https://fia.uncg.edu/
Leonard J Kaplan Center for Wellness https://recwell.uncg.edu/kaplan-center/
Office of Accessibility Resources and Services: https://ods.uncg.edu/
Student Health Services: https://shs.uncg.edu/
Student Success Services: http://success.uncg.edu/index.php
The Counseling Center: https://shs.uncg.edu/cc

UNCG Policies and Procedures

The University of North Carolina Greensboro has established Student Policies and Procedures that guide day-to-day operations. The UNCG Didactic Program in Dietetics follows these procedures which can be found at the following web links:

Student Policy Handbook: http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/
Graduate Bulletin – Posted Policies and Procedures for all graduate students Http://provost.uncg.edu/publications/academic/index.asp
Office of the Provost: Policies, Procedures and Forms https://provost.uncg.edu/policies-procedures-forms/

Program Questions

If you have questions regarding the UNCG Didactic Program in Dietetics, please contact the Didactic Program Director, Laurie Allen, at lhschroe@uncg.edu.