Commonly Asked Questions?

What can I do with my degree in Nutrition (Dietetics)?

Several career options are available to those with this degree, including

- **Registered Dietitian (RD).** This career requires that you complete additional training and passing a national registration examination. Registered Dietitians have the broadest career options.
- **Dietetic Technician Registered (DTR).** This work requires passing the national registration examination.
- **Pursue nutrition-related jobs that do not require the RD or DTR credential**

What are some examples of jobs for RDs and Non-RDs?

**Clinical dietitians** assess patients’ nutritional needs, may manage food service department, and provide medical nutrition therapy (MNT) to treat and prevent diseases. Common work settings include hospitals and nursing care facilities. Annual salary range $46,000 to $69,000. (ADA Compensation and Benefits Survey of the Dietetic Profession, 2011).

**Community dietitians** provide nutrition education and counseling to groups and individuals. Typical work settings include state and local health departments, home health agencies, WIC and other grant-funded programs. They often work with special populations such as people with low incomes, elderly, children, and individuals with special needs. Annual salary range: $43,000 to $62,000.

**NON-RD required jobs** involve a variety of management, health, community, education, and industry fields. Some examples include the media (writer, health speaker, food critic), hospital setting (nutrition assistant, dietary aide), counseling (community nutritionist (WIC), wellness coach), community (government-based programs (Cooperative Extension), grant-funded programs), food service management (restaurants, health inspector), sales representative (food company, medical supplies, pharmaceutical company), education (research assistant, grant writer), industry (food stylist, marketing food specialist), government positions (Health and Human Services).
What are examples of specialty certifications for Registered Dietitians?

The Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) currently offers the board-certified specialist designations. Visit www.cdrnet.org for more information.

- Gerontological Nutrition (CSG)
- Sports Dietetics (CSSD)
- Pediatric Nutrition (CSP)
- Renal Nutrition (CSR)
- Oncology Nutrition (CSO)

What if I am unsure if I want to become a Registered Dietitian?

There are a number of career options for those who complete the program and are not certain that they want to become a Registered Dietitian. Job shadowing is a good way to identify career paths you like and those that you do not like. Gaining experiences through volunteer or paid job experiences are important in making you more marketable, which will be valuable in getting a job after graduation. Gaining experience also enables you to make contacts with other professionals already in the work field.

What are examples of certifications that do not require an RD?

- Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES): National Center on Health Education Credentialing
- Certified Personal Trainer: American Council on Exercise, American College of Sports Medicine
- Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC)
- CPR and First Aid: American Red Cross
- Certified Dietary Manage, Certified Food Protection Professional Association of Nutrition and Food Service Professionals (ANFP)

Will I be a Registered Dietitian after finishing my B.S. degree at UNR with a major in Nutrition (Dietetics)?

No. To become an RD you must earn a DPD Verification statement and apply for and be accepted into a dietetic internship. After completing the dietetic internship, you then must pass the Registration Examination for Dietitians.

What is a dietetic internship?

The dietetic internship is a post-baccalaureate program that provides a minimum of 1200 hours of supervised practice in dietetics. The cost of these programs varies but the student can expect to spend the equivalent of up to a year of college on program fees, tuition and living expenses. The training includes rotations in food service management,
clinical, and community nutrition. A dietetic internship must be successfully completed to qualify to take the Registration Examination for dietitians.

Dietetic internships are also accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

What is the national Registration Examination for Dietitians?

This is the final step to becoming a Registered Dietitian (RD). The commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) administers the national examination and credentials dietitians. Only students who have successfully completed both the DPD coursework and the dietetic internship component are eligible to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians.

What is the Dietetic Technician Registered?

Dietetic Technicians (DTR) are food and nutrition professionals that have either completed an accredited DTR program and passed the national Registration Examination for Dietetic Technicians, or have a four-year degree from an accredited DPD (UNR Nutrition (Dietetic) option) program and have passed the national Registration Examination for Dietetic Technicians.

DTRs typically work alongside Registered Dietitians in a variety of settings including hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, and other health care facilities. Other career opportunities for DTRs include food service management and community nutrition programs.

What is the difference between a nutritionist and a Registered Dietitian?

Nutrition professionals who have completed all of the required coursework and successfully passed the Registration Examination for Dietitians may use the legal credential RD. Only professionals who have passed the examination can call themselves RDs. The education and training of professionals calling themselves nutritionists varies widely.
ADDITIONAL STUDENT RESOURCES THAT MAY BE USEFUL

General course curriculum information for can be found in the University Catalogue.

Web site link for the University Catalogue


Information specific to the Nutrition (Dietetic) major curriculum and Accredited DPD program can be found at the Web site for the Bachelor of Science –Dietetics and in the DPD Handbook.

http://www.cabnr.unr.edu/anvs/bs_dietetics.aspx

General information about the dietetic profession, accreditation of programs, and student membership benefits can be found at the Web site for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

www.eatright.org

Contact information for the accreditation of Didactic Programs:

ACEND
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