San Diego State University

Didactic Program in Dietetics

Student Handbook

2026-2027

For additional information and feedback, please contact:

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Table of Contents

Becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist 3
The SDSU DPD Accreditation Status 8
Steps to Becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist 9
SDSU DPD Mission, Goals, and Objectives 11
Applying to the SDSU DPD 12
- Assessment of prior learning 12
- Requirements for Admissions and Verification Statement 13

Procedures for Handling Student Grievances against Members of the Faculty 14
Filing a Complaint with ACEND 15
SDSU DPD Policies 16
- Nondiscrimination and Equitable Treatment 16
- Protection of Student Privacy of Information 17
- Online Courses 18

Program Costs 19
Links to Other Important Information Related to the DPD 20
- Course descriptions
- University graduation requirements for the bachelor's degree
- University Policies
- Academic Calendar
- Student Health Services
- Counseling and Career Services
- Student Ability Success Center
- Financial Aid and Scholarships
- Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession

DPD Portfolio Requirement 21
Signature Page 33

Becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist

Dietitians help people live healthy and active lives through the transformative power of food and nutrition. Learn about the dietetics profession, career options, pathways to the RDN credential, types of accredited dietetics education programs and more.

Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) are food and nutrition experts with a minimum of a graduate degree from an accredited dietetics program, who completed a supervised practice requirement, passed a national exam and continue professional development throughout their careers. There also are specialty credentials in areas of gerontological nutrition (CSG), sports dietetics (CSSD), pediatric nutrition (CSP), renal nutrition (CSR) and oncology nutrition (CSO). Board-certified specialists are credentialed by the Commission on Dietetic Registration, the credentialing agency for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Career options and specialty areas for dietitians are diverse and flexible. RDNs can:

- perform **medical nutrition therapy** as part of the health care team in hospitals, clinics or other health care facilities.

- manage **foodservice operations** in hospitals, school districts, colleges and universities, long-term care facilities, day-care centers, correctional facilities and more — overseeing everything from **food purchasing and preparation** to **setting menus and managing staff**.

- consult with **food companies**, **foodservice or restaurant managers, food vendors and distributors**, nursing home residents or company employees in corporate wellness programs.

- develop public awareness campaigns in **community and population health settings** to improve peoples' quality of life through healthy eating habits.

- help **athletes, police forces, firefighters and members of the military** understand the connection between food, fitness and **performance in the field**.

- work in **communications, consumer affairs, public relations, marketing or product development** for food and nutrition-related businesses and industries.

- educate **physicians, nurses, dietetics students and other health practitioners** the sophisticated science of nutrition and dietetics in universities and medical centers, .

- conduct **dietetics research** to answer critical nutrition questions and find alternative foods or nutrition recommendations for the public.

Salaries and Job Outlook

According to the *2024 Compensation & Benefits Survey of the Dietetics Profession*, **the median full-time salary of RDNs is $79,000 per year.** As with any profession, salaries and fees vary by region of the country, employment settings, scope of responsibility and supply of RDNs. Salaries increase with experience and **many RDNs — particularly those in business, management, education and research — earn incomes above $100,000**.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of dietitians is projected to grow 7% from 2023-2033, faster than the average for all occupations, because of the increased emphasis on the role of food and nutrition in preventing and treating diseases, a growing and aging population and public interest in nutrition.

How Do I Become an RDN?

To become a registered dietitian nutritionist, you will need to:

1. **Complete a minimum of a master's degree** granted by a college or university accredited by a U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting agency or foreign equivalent, and coursework through an Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics accredited Didactic, Coordinated, Graduate or International program.

2. **Complete required supervised practice/experience** through an ACEND-accredited Dietetic Internship, Coordinated Program, Graduate Program, or an Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway offered through an ACEND-accredited program.

3. **Pass a national examination** administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration. For more information regarding the examination, refer to CDR's website.

4. **Meet requirements to practice in your state.** Many states have regulatory laws (i.e. licensure) for food and nutrition practitioners. All states accept the RDN credential for state licensure purposes.

5. **Stay up-to-date in dietetics through continuing education.** After successfully passing the national exam and earning the credential, RDNs maintain ongoing professional development in order to stay up to date on the latest research, recommendations and best practices.

Dietetics education programs in colleges and universities are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics — or ACEND. As an accrediting agency, ACEND makes sure that students preparing for careers as RDNs are getting the education they need to qualify for taking the national RDN exam.

There are several kinds of accredited dietetics education programs — each offering a different experience and "pathway" to RDN eligibility. Search the ACEND accredited program directory to find an accredited dietetics education program.

Choosing the Right Program

While all ACEND-accredited programs meet the standards and requirements for graduates to become RDNs, the decision about which school or program to attend is personal and should be made based on a variety of factors that are important to you, such as:

- Size of school and program: Would you be more comfortable in a small private school or a large state (public) university?
- Cost: Can you afford a private school or is a state-supported school a better value for you?
- Available financial aid: What resources are available to you?
- Geographic location: Do you prefer a rural or urban setting, residential or commuter school? Several programs also offer distance education.
- Faculty composition and qualifications: Have you visited the website or campus and talked with faculty?
- Degree awarded: Do you want to begin with a bachelor's degree or immediately purse a graduate degree?
- Success of graduates in obtaining internship placement and jobs: How well do graduates do after completing the program?
- Success of graduates in pursuing career goals: What are your career goals and do they match the goals of the program?

Talk with program directors (contact information is in the Accredited Program Directory), discuss the program details and ask to visit. It is sometimes helpful to speak with current students and graduates, or RDNs and NDTRs located in the area near the program for insights that may be helpful in making a decision.

The Application Process

Application requirements and admission processes vary depending by program type. For information on applying to accredited dietetics programs, you must research each specific programs requirements and processes. (The programs' websites are listed in the Accredited Program Directory.)

Financial aid

There are many resources to help students pay for college. You may be able to obtain a grant or scholarship from a corporation, community or civic group, philanthropic or religious organization, or directly from your chosen school or college. Federal grants and low-interest loans may also be available.

- **State and Local Sources of Financial Aid:** Financial assistance is essential for many students enrolled in dietetics education programs. Information about student aid should be sought from the financial aid office or administrator at individual institutions. Additional sources include the state higher education agency and local civic, professional and community organizations or foundations. Detailed information about federal grants and loans administered by the United States Department of Education is available at the Federal Student Aid website.

- **Academy Scholarships:** Progress in the educational and scientific advancement of dietetics inspires friends and members of the profession to make funds available for qualified candidates to receive scholarships through contributions to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation. In addition, some state and local dietetic associations may offer scholarships to prospective students in their area. You should contact these groups directly for more information.

- **International Financial Assistance and Resources Directory**: Made possible through the Wimpfheimer-Guggenheim Fund for International Exchange in Nutrition, Dietetics and Management, this 90-page directory is a reference for U.S. and international students and professionals seeking funding for professional study, work experience or research in their home country or abroad.

Career Changers and International Students

If you are interested in a nutrition career, you can become a RDN or a NDTR — **even if you have a degree in a different area of study**. If you already have a degree from a U.S. institutional-accredited college or university that is recognized by the United States Department of Education, you will need to have your college transcripts evaluated by a director of an accredited dietetics program. Because the policies, procedures and costs for the transcript evaluation may vary from one institution to another, you may want to contact more than one

dietetics program for further information. The program director will evaluate your previous academic preparation and identify the courses that you will need to complete at that school to meet the educational requirements for dietetic registration. It may be possible to complete the required dietetics coursework while enrolled in a graduate program. The dietetics program director can advise you of your options.

If you completed your education and training outside of the United States, or received credentials in another country, **you may be eligible to become credentialed practitioner in the U.S.** Individuals who have completed the education and credentialing requirements in one country may be eligible for another country's credentialing examination if the two countries have entered into a "reciprocity" agreement to allow this. If reciprocity does not apply, you must have your academic degree validated as equivalent to the bachelor's or master's degree conferred by a US regionally-accredited college or university and complete any additional required course work plus an ACEND-accredited supervised practice requirement to establish your eligibility to sit for the exam. It is important to note that all individuals who establish registration eligibility — whether under the provisions of a reciprocity agreement or through the combination of a validated academic degree and supervised practice program — must successfully pass the RDN exam. Visit ACEND to learn more.

The SDSU Didactic Program in Dietetics

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at San Diego State University strives to produce graduates who are going to be competitive in the supervised practice application process, be successful in completion of a supervised practice program, will pass the RD registration exam, and be a dietitian who makes valuable contributions to the profession.

The San Diego State University Didactic Program in Dietetics is Accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND®).

ACEND® was set up independently of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to develop, implement and enforce standards for both undergraduate programs and for dietetic internships.

The San Diego State University DPD curriculum is planned to provide learning activities to attain all the 2022 Accreditation Standards for Nutrition and Dietetics Didactic Programs defined for entering a Dietetic Internship for eligibility for the RDN examination.

A complete document of the standards is available at https://www.eatrightpro.org/-/media/files/eatrightpro/acend/accreditation-standards-fees-and-policies/2022-standards-and-templates/2022-accreditation-standards-for-nutrition-and-dietetics-didactic-programs.pdf?rev=45272b9f23714d98b9fbdd250209e64c&hash=8D77DEE1E678BB400AFEACBC7619998C

For more information about ACEND®:

Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190.
Chicago, IL 60606-6995
Phone: (312) 899-0040 X5400
Fax: (312) 899-4772
E-mail: acend@eatright.org
Website: https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend

The Steps to Becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist

In order to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN), a San Diego State University (SDSU) student must complete the following steps:

- **Complete a minimum of a bachelor's degree** at SDSU or another US regionally accredited university or college.
- **Complete the SDSU Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)** course work, which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND®).
- **Complete a minimum of a master's degree** granted by a college or university accredited by a U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting agency or foreign equivalent.
- **Complete required supervised practice/experience** through an ACEND-accredited Dietetic Internship, Coordinated Program, or Graduate Program.
- **Pass a national examination** administered by CDR. For more information regarding the examination, refer to **CDR's website**.
- **Complete continuing professional educational requirements** to maintain registration.

Although licensure is not required in California, upon graduating and successfully becoming an RDN, if a graduate moves to another state, licensure may be required to practice. For more information about state licensure, refer to CDR's website.

For more information about educational pathways to become an RDN please refer to the ACEND® website.

Verification Statement

Students successfully completing the Didactic Program in Dietetics are eligible to receive a Verification Statement from the DPD Director. The Verification Statement containing the DPD Director's original signature documents that the student has successfully met all of the requirements for a DPD and that students are eligible to enroll in an accredited dietetic internship to complete their education to become a registered dietitian nutritionist.

In order to receive a Verification Statement from the DPD Director, the student must graduate with an overall GPA of at least 3.0, a DPD GPA of at least 3.0 and no grade lower than a C in any DPD course or on any item required for the DPD portfolio. The student must provide San Diego State University with official transcripts from all colleges and universities where they completed coursework that was applied to both the undergraduate degree and the DPD. A final official transcript from SDSU that shows the degree awarded and the date it was awarded must be sent to the DPD Director after graduation before a Verification Statement will be provided to the student. For students applying to dietetic internships using the Dietetic Internship Centralized Application System (DICAS), the DPD Director will submit the Verification Statements online when requested by the applicants.

Declaration of Intent Form

Students who apply to dietetic internships before they complete their DPD requirements will require a Declaration of Intent Form completed by the DPD Director. This form is submitted on DICAS as part of the internship application and lists the coursework the student intends to complete before the start of an internship.

For students applying to dietetic internships using the Dietetic Internship Centralized Application System (DICAS), the DPD Director will submit the Declaration of Intent online when requested by the applicants.

Mission of the SDSU Didactic Program in Dietetics

The mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) of San Diego State University is to provide quality education and training focusing on scientific inquiry, discovery, and application in order to prepare graduates to be successful in careers in foods, nutrition, and dietetics.

SDSU Didactic Program in Dietetics
Program Goals and Objectives

Program Goal 1 - Program graduates will have a strong educational foundation in nutrition/dietetics to perform proficiently in a dietetic supervised practice program in preparation to be a competent entry-level registered dietitian nutritionist.

Objectives

1. At least 80% of students complete program requirements within 3 years (150% of planned program length).
2. At least 50 percent of program graduates apply for admission to a supervised practice program prior to or within 12 months of graduation.
3. Of program graduates who apply to a supervised practice program, at least 60 percent are admitted within 12 months of graduation.
4. 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%.
5. SDSU graduates who enter supervised practice programs will earn an average rating of their knowledge and skills of at least a 3 (Satisfactory) or higher on a 5-point scale by supervised practice program directors who respond to a survey.

Program Goal 2 – Program graduates will advance toward careers in fields related to improvement, maintenance, or rehabilitation of physical health through exercise and/or nutritional practices.

Objectives

1. Within four months of graduation, 80% of graduates who respond to the exit survey will be working in fields related to nutrition and fitness or have been admitted to a supervised practice program or graduate program.

Applying to the DPD at SDSU

Undergraduate students who have been advanced to major status in the Foods and Nutrition degree program and meet the overall GPA criteria of at least 3.0 are eligible to apply to the DPD. Graduate students who have been admitted to the MS Nutritional Sciences program or the Dual MS Nutritional Sciences and Exercise Physiology program, completed the required prerequisite courses (see below), and meet the DPD course GPA criteria of at least 3.0 are eligible to apply to the DPD. Students who have completed the SDSU BS Foods and Nutrition program or who have complete a master's degree may apply to the SDSU DPD and complete the required DPD coursework through SDSU Open University.

If you plan to graduate at the end of Spring semester, the latest deadline for applying to the DPD is June 1 of the prior year. If you plan to graduate at the end of Fall semester, the latest deadline to apply to the DPD is January 1 of that year. This allows the faculty to plan for an adequate number of sections of DPD-only classes. Instructions and the application form are available on the following pages and on the DPD website at: https://ens.sdsu.edu/academics/dpd

The review process may take up to two weeks during the academic year and up to one month over breaks. When the initial evaluation is complete, you will receive a letter stating what additional course work you need to complete for verification. If you wish to discuss the verification evaluation, contact the DPD Director at ens-dpd@sdsu.edu.

Policy for Prior Learning Assessment

Students who wish to request assessment of prior learning for exemption from SDSU DPD courses are required to contact the DPD Director for evaluation. Documentation may include academic transcripts, course descriptions, course syllabi, certificates, position descriptions, projects, and other such materials to sufficiently establish that DPD competencies for a specific course or specific courses have been fully met.

If it is determined that such competencies have been met, a course waiver will be completed as needed in accordance with university policy. Copies of documentation will be retained to substantiate eligibility for issuance of DPD Verification Statement at program completion.

REQUIREMENTS FOR REVIEW OF TRANSCRIPTS &
VERIFICATION OF COMPLETING
THE DIDACTIC PROGRAM IN DIETETICS REQUIREMENTS
AT SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at San Diego State University (SDSU) is currently granted Accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL., 60606-6995, 800/877-1600 Ext 5400

1. An official transcript from each of the colleges/universities you attended must be on file with SDSU. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable for your initial DPD application.

2. A catalog description of ALL coursework or a course syllabus must accompany all transcripts from colleges/universities other than SDSU or California community colleges.

3. Students with degrees from institutions not located in the United States of America must have their transcripts reviewed by one of the Foreign Degree Evaluation Agencies approved by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. An official review document must be obtained before verification review will commence.

4. **A letter grade of "C" or better must be attained in each and every DPD required course and on each item required for the DPD portfolio. No DPD course may be taken for Credit/No Credit. Refer to the SDSU Course Repeat and Course Forgiveness Policies.**

5. A **minimum of eighteen** semester units must be taken in Foods and Nutrition courses from the SDSU DPD before a verification statement will be awarded. Please note that SDSU is the institution verifying and recommending you to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Therefore, we need to feel confident in your academic preparation. This requirement is independent of whether or not you need to take additional courses to meet DPD requirements. Should you feel it unnecessary to take additional courses at SDSU, the Foods and Nutrition faculty recommend that you contact the institution where you earned your previous degrees for a Verification Statement.

6. **An overall GPA of 3.0 and a GPA of at least 3.0 in DPD courses is required.** Your SDSU record must contain official transcripts from all institutions you attended to document that you meet the GPA requirements. **You must have earned a bachelor's degree at SDSU or at another institution before an official Verification Statement will be issued.**

7. Unofficial transcripts will be reviewed at the end of every semester to ensure that DPD students are meeting the GPA and grade requirements. Students not meeting the requirements will be counseled on how to improve their grades in order to maintain DPD eligibility.

8. Students that are not able to meet the DPD requirements will not receive a Verification Statement and will be counseled into alternate educational or career paths.

Procedures for Handling Student Grievances against Members of the Faculty

If you have an issue with a professor, the Student Ombudsman will suggest steps for you to take toward resolving any conflict quickly and informally. Depending on the situation, these steps may feel inappropriate or uncomfortable. If that is the case, do not hesitate to speak with the Student Ombudsman about trying a different route.

Step 1: Talk to the Professor or Instructor of Record

Often conflicts are a result of misunderstandings or miscommunications and can be resolved with a simple conversation. Approach the situation with an open mind and a positive attitude. If the professor is unresponsive or you do not feel satisfied with the results of your efforts, then . . .

Step 2: Talk to the Department Chair

The Department Chair of the particular department in which you are experiencing a conflict can be very helpful. Department Chairs know the professors within their departments well and have a strong understanding of the policies within that department. Additionally, other students may be experiencing problems similar to yours, and it is helpful for the Department Chair to be fully aware of the extent of student concerns. If you are feeling unsatisfied after speaking with the Department Chair, then . . .

Step 3: Talk to the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Each College within San Diego State University has an Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. The Assistant Deans have a broad knowledge of the policies within their respective colleges, and they work specifically to enhance students' college experiences. If you feel the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs is unable to help you to your satisfaction, then...

Step 4: Meet with the Student Ombudsman

The Student Ombudsman will work with you directly to help you figure out your options and the appropriate next steps. The student can return to the Office of the Student Ombudsman as many times as they need in order to feel that their issue has been addressed. This process exists to help students resolve concerns on the most informal level possible – often salvaging student/faculty relationships and saving students' time in the long run.

Additionally, students must exhaust informal levels of redress before filing a formal grievance with the Student Grievance Committee (for more information please see Student Grievance Code and Student Grievance Committee Procedures).

Filing a Complaint with ACEND®

ACEND® has established a process for reviewing complaints against accredited programs in order to fulfill its public responsibility for assuring the quality and integrity of the educational programs that it accredits. Any individual, for example, student, faculty, dietetics practitioner and/or member of the public may submit a complaint against any accredited program to ACEND®. However, the ACEND® board does not intervene on behalf of individuals or act as a court of appeal for individuals in matters of admissions, appointment, promotion or dismissal of faculty or students. It acts only upon a signed allegation that the program may not be in compliance with the Accreditation Standards or policies. The complaint must be signed by the complainant. Anonymous complaints are not considered. For complaint forms and procedures, please visit: https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/public-notices-and-announcements/filing-a-complaint-with-acend

SDSU DPD Policies

Nondiscrimination and Equitable Treatment

In compliance with national, state, and university requirements, the SDSU Didactic Program in Dietetics does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sex, gender, gender identity or expression or sexual orientation.

Protected Status: Genetic Information, Marital Status, Medical Condition, Nationality, Race or Ethnicity (including color or ancestry), Religion or Religious Creed, and Veteran or Military Status

California State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, genetic information, marital status, medical condition, nationality, race or ethnicity (including color and ancestry), religion (or religious creed), and veteran or military status - as these terms are defined in CSU Executive Order 1097 - in its programs and activities, including admission and access. Federal and state laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the California Equity in Higher Education Act, prohibit such discrimination. CSU Executive Order 1097 Revised August 14, 2020, (or any successor policy) is the systemwide procedure for all complaints of discrimination, harassment or retaliation made by students against the CSU, a CSU employee, other CSU students or a third party.

Protected Status: Disability

California State University does not discriminate on the basis of disability (physical and mental) - as this term is defined in CSU Executive Order 1097 - in its programs and activities, including admission and access. Federal and state laws, including sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, prohibit such discrimination. Students should address inquiries concerning San Diego State University's compliance with all relevant disability laws to the director of the Student Ability Success Center, Calpulli Center, Room 3101, San Diego State University, CA 92182, or call 619-594-6473 (TDD: 619-594-2929).

Protected Status: Gender (or sex), Gender Identity (including transgender), Gender Expression and Sexual Orientation

California State University does not discriminate on the basis of gender (or sex), gender (including transgender) identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation - as these terms are defined in CSU policy - in its programs and activities, including admission and access. Federal and state laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, prohibit such discrimination. The California State University is committed to providing equal opportunities to all CSU students in all campus programs, including intercollegiate athletics.

Protection of Privacy of Student Information

DPD student files will be kept in a locked file cabinet in the DPD Director's office and stored on Google Drive, which can only be accessed by the DPD Director using SDSUid login. Students may request access to their personal files from the DPD Director.

The federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1232g) (FERPA) and regulations adopted thereunder (34 C.F.R. 99) set out requirements designed to protect students' privacy in their educational records maintained by the campus. The statute and regulations govern access to certain student records maintained by the campus and the release of such records. FERPA provides that the campus must give students access to most records directly related to the student, and must also provide opportunity for a hearing to challenge the records if the student claims they are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise inappropriate. The right to a hearing under this law does not include any right to challenge the appropriateness of a grade determined by the instructor. FERPA generally requires the campus obtain a student's written consent before releasing personally identifiable data to the student. The campus has adopted a set of policies and procedures governing implementation of FERPA and the regulations. Copies of these policies and procedures may be obtained through the SDSU Office of the Registrar website at http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/registrar/privacy.html.

Among the information included in the campus statement of policies and procedures are: (1) the student records maintained and the information they contain; (2) the campus official responsible for maintaining each record; (3) the location of access lists indicating persons requesting or receiving information from the record; (4) policies for reviewing and expunging records; (5) student access rights to their records; (6) procedure for challenging the content of student records; and (7) the student's right to file a complaint with the Department of Education. The Department of Education has established an office and review board to investigate complaints and adjudicate violations. The designated office is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-5920.

FERPA authorizes the campus to release "directory information" pertaining to students. "Directory information" may include the student's name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status, degrees, honors, and awards received, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution the student attended. The campus may release this "directory information" at any time unless the campus has received prior written objection from the student specifying the information the student requests not be released. Students are given an opportunity to restrict the release of "directory information" about themselves by accessing https://my.sdsu.edu/.

The campus is authorized to provide access to student records to campus officials and employees who have legitimate educational interests in such access. These persons have responsibilities in the campus' academic, administrative or service functions and have reason

for accessing student records associated with their campus or other related academic responsibilities. Student records will be disclosed to the CSU Chancellor's Office in order to conduct research, to analyze trends, or to provide other administrative services. Student records may also be disclosed to other persons or organizations under such conditions (e.g., as part of the accreditation or program evaluation; in response to a court order or subpoena; in connection with financial aid; or to other institutions to which the student is transferring).

Online Courses

Recommended system requirements for online courses via Zoom and Canvas:

An internet connection -broad wired or wireless (4G/LTE)
Speakers and a microphone - built-in or USB plug-in or wireless Bluetooth
A webcam or or HD webcam -built-in or USB plug-in
A microphone headset

Supported Operating Systems

macOS X with macOS 10.9 or later
Windows 10 (Home, Pro or Enterprise)
Windows 8 or 8.1
Windows 7

It is recommended to use a desktop or laptop. Other devices may or may not be compatible and/or have limited functionality.

Students can access Canvas via this link using their SDSUid login. Students must use their SDSUid login in order to submit assignments and take examinations via Canvas. Additional information about Canvas (including student resources) can be found on the Instructional Technology Services (ITS) website. SDSU offers a variety of resources for students; please visit this one-stop link for virtual support. You can also check out technology equipment from the library by completing the application form here. If you have limited access to the SDSU virtual environment because of economic conditions, then please go to the Economic Crisis Response Team website, click the "Click Here to Request Assistance" button, and provide your details in the "Other" category. There are also several computer labs available for student use. Please visit this link for instructions.

Program Costs

Costs for the DPD vary based on residency, units per semester, and other factors.

See the SDSU Bursar's Office for information about tuition and fees.

See information about withdrawals and refunds.

The SDSU Office of Admissions estimates costs of attendance including tuition, fees, and estimated costs for food, housing, books, supplies, transportation and personal expenses.

Additional costs include parking expenses for field trips in FN 409 (~$40), and a lab coat (~$40) and lab fees for FN 205L ($55), FN 302L ($45) and FN 405 ($35).

Student membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (~$60/year) is optional.

See information about financial aid and scholarships.

Additional scholarships are available to students in the School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences, and more information can be found on the ENS website at https://ens.sdsu.edu/student-resources/scholarships/

Links to Other Important Information related to the DPD

For course descriptions of Nutrition classes, university graduation requirements, and university policies, refer to the General Catalog

The DPD follows the schedule set forth in the SDSU Academic Calendar. For the current calendar, refer to the SDSU website at hhttps://registrar.sdsu.edu/calendars/academic_calendars

For information about Student Health Services (SHS), refer to the SHS website at http://shs.sdsu.edu/

For information about career planning and counseling, refer to the SDSU Career Services website.

For information about services and accommodations for students with disabilities, refer to the Student Disability Services website.

For information about tutoring, please visit the SDSU Library website at https://library.sdsu.edu/help-services/tutoring

For more information about the Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession refer to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics website at https://www.eatrightpro.org/practice/code-of-ethics/what-is-the-code-of-ethics

e-Portfolios for Students in the Didactic Program in Dietetics
San Diego State University
School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences

DPD students will be required to complete and submit an e-portfolio in FN 407 and/or FN 409.

1. Your DPD portfolio will allow you to assess your own learning and training needs by having you:

- Think about and plan your future
- Evaluate your progress toward your goals
- Identify learning experiences that will help you reach your goals
- Reflect about what you have learned and what you will apply from your educational, professional and volunteer experiences
- Demonstrate what you know and can do
- Learn to use a progressive tool which will be carried forward from year-to-year to recognize vital pieces of your personal, academic and career development process
- Record ongoing work and accomplishments
- Provide a sense of accomplishment

2. Registered Dietitian Nutritionists and Nutrition and Dietetic Technicians, Registered are required by the Commission on Dietetic Registration to maintain a Professional Development Portfolio (PDP) as part of the recertification requirements. Practitioners are required to complete the PDP once per five-year recertification cycle to maintain their RD or DTR credentials. Your DPD portfolio will help prepare you for this process.

3. Your portfolio will allow the faculty to assess core knowledge as required by ACEND®. By including select projects from your coursework and outside activities, we will be able to measure the effectiveness of the curriculum in preparing students to be dietetic practitioners. The program's curriculum must prepare students with the following 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.

Required Components of Your Student/Professional Portfolio

I. Welcome Page and Menu

II. Brief Biosketch

III. Resume

IV. Professional Goals

V. Professional Experience and Leadership

VI. Honors, Awards, Scholarships, Special Recognitions (optional)

VII. Hobbies or "Special Things About Me"

VIII. Demonstration of Academic Competency Achievement – **should be password protected so that other students do not have access to your work**

A. Include requirements from coursework divided into sections by course

B. Include reflection statement from each course

Putting your Portfolio Together

- Use an online portfolio program of your choice. Many students find that weebly.com, squarespace.com, or wix.com work well.
- Use captions for photos unless explained in corresponding paragraph.
- Pay attention to grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.
- Ensure consistency in font, margins, and tabs.
- Use bullet points and have some white space on each page.
- Make sure it is organized logically and that all the links work.
- All documents should be in pdf format and open in a separate tab.

I. Welcome Page – include a menu to access different sections of the portfolio

The Career Portfolio

Of

[Type your name here]

This portfolio is the work of [Your name]. Please do not copy without permission. Some of the exhibits, work samples, and/or community service samples are the proprietary property of the organization whose name appears on the document. Each has granted permission for this product to be used as a demonstration of my work

II. Biography (Biosketch)

Write this from a third person perspective as though you are being introduced by someone before giving a presentation.

- Often used when you are working with the media or giving presentations
- Short summary of your qualities and qualifications
- Overview of your:
    - Education
    - Work experiences
    - Memberships
    - Community Service Activities
    - Leadership Roles
    - Volunteer Activities
    - Professional Interests
- Optional at the end:
    - Family
    - Hobbies
- Should be interesting to read, pleasant and conversational in tone

Sample biosketch:

Jennifer Jones grew up in San Diego, California. She attended Pacific University on a soccer scholarship and played for two years. Her second year, the team qualified for the NCAA Tournament.

After her sophomore year Pacific University, she transferred to San Francisco State University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication. Realizing that she wanted to practice dietetics, she enrolled in the Master's program at San Diego State University to complete the classes needed to begin an internship and also complete the requirements for a Master's degree in Nutrition. "I am glad I went ahead and completed my Master's because it gave me the opportunity to explore various avenues of dietetics that I do not think I would have been able to experience otherwise."

Her interest in nutrition began while working in a pharmacy and learning the importance of nutrition on many different disease states. She finds working in the nutrition field to be very rewarding and hopes to use her degree in dietetics to be able to educate clients about the values of good nutrition and provide programs to help underserved populations.

In her last semester of graduate school, Jennifer was awarded the 2007 Outstanding Graduate Student of Excellence. She was nominated by several professors in the School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences.

In her spare time, Jennifer enjoys traveling and spending time with her family and friends. Ms. Jones plans to stay in California after her internship and begin working in the field of dietetics.

III. Resume

Use this resume checklist: https://www.allaccessdietetics.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/The-AAD-Resume-Checklist-1.pdf

You can display your resume on the page and/or include a button to download your resume in pdf format.

IV. Professional Goals

- Plan for 2 to 5 years from now.
- Make sure your goals are measurable and specific.
- Write 3 to 5 goals, and explain why they are your goals and how you plan to achieve them.
- Don't make your career goals too personal.

V. Professional Experience and Leadership

- Include both employed and volunteer experience.
- Write about each experience in paragraph form – what you learned, skills you gained, what you can apply.
- Include photos or images to correspond with each experience.

VI. Honors, Awards, Scholarships, Special Recognitions (optional)

- Include a caption for each.
- Include photos or images to correspond with each.

VIII. Hobbies or "Special Things About Me"

- What separates you from others? Showcase your unique talents here!
- Make this creative and include photos. This section is what will make you stand out and be remembered!

VIII. Demonstration of Academic Competency Achievement

Include selected assignments for specified courses listed below.

FN 200: Foods and Nutrition: Overview and Opportunities
_____Professional Organization Reflection
FN 302L: Advanced Nutrition Laboratory
_____Research Study Manuscript
FN 303: Quantity Food Production
_____Food Service System Lecture Project
FN 304: Nutrition Throughout the Lifespan
_____Meal Plan Project
FN 404: Food Systems Management
_____Food Service Business Plan
FN 405: Experimental Food Science and Technology Laboratory
_____Food Product Development Proposal
FN 407: Medical Nutrition Therapy Lab I
_____Meal Planning Project
_____Case Study Presentation
FN 409: Medical Nutrition Therapy Lab II
_____Renal Disease Case Study ADIME Note
FN 510: Community Nutrition
_____Legislative Letter
_____Town Hall Report
_____Harnessing Knowledge Assignment – Health Inequity
FN 511: Nutrition Education and Counseling
_____Interviewing Report
_____Counseling Report
_____Lesson Plan and Handout
_____Lesson Plan Presentation

Possible Items to Include in a Student Portfolio

Community/Club Activities

- Certificate of participation in a program
- Evaluation written by a supervisor or other individual
- Outline of a lesson plan you designed to lead a program or presentation
- Pictures of members participating in an event you helped to plan
- Special note or feedback for your help with a project
- Invitations/program/poster designed for a special event
- Agenda describing items discussed in a committee in which you were involved
- Sketch of a layout used to set-up equipment and facilities for an event
- Record of your sales achieved for fund raising

Classroom/School Experiences

- Examples of assignments with special comments from faculty member
- Examples of works in progress or various stages of a major project
- Actual item created through a class project or a picture of the item
- Report on a topic of special interest
- Outline of a memorable presentation to a class
- Transcripts of grades highlighting those classes you particularly enjoyed
- Certificate of completion of class or assignment or special training
- Letter written to individual you were required to contact for a class assignment
- Pictures or souvenirs from a field trip or study abroad
- Positive evaluation received from faculty member or field placement supervisor
- Summary of a research project you designed
- Abstract of presentation made a professional meeting or research competition

Academic Recognition

- Letter or certificate which recognizes you as a scholarship recipient
- Letter or certificate which designates you as a Dean's List member
- Graduation program highlighting designation as Valedictorian, Salutatorian or special honors
- Summary of scholarly research projects and/or results
- Newspaper article noting recognition of special honors
- Special awards for participation in an event
- Pictures of trophies/ribbons for winning or placing in a competition
- Newspaper clippings of individual or team accomplishments
- Pictures of team or individual participation in an event
- Letters of commendation from coach, advisor, or other individuals associated with athletic or academic achievement

Special Skills

- Examples of handouts, letters, memos, reports, charts, graphs, brochures designed using computer software
- Correspondence written in a foreign language
- Documentation of study abroad
- Evidence of a hobby, craft or topic of special interest, certification of skill level such as CPR, First Aid

Work Related

- Letter of recommendation from present or former employers
- Performance evaluations
- Special recognitions from supervisor of customer for work performed
- Employee of the month award
- Clippings from employee newsletter about you

Other

- Philosophy statements
    - A brief description of your beliefs about yourself and the profession
- Academic plan of study
    - Your plan of study that lists courses you have taken to fulfill your degree
- Your resume and cover letter
- Personal statement/reflective autobiography
- Career summary and goals
- List of awards and honors
- List of conferences, workshops in which you have participated
- List of presentations
- Academic transcripts, degrees, qualifications
- References and contact details for references

Portfolio Assessment Rubric

	Does Not Meet Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Organization and Professionalism The portfolio is organized according to guidelines and appropriate for use in a professional setting. Score ____/25	Lacks organization or does not adhere to guidelines. Appears chaotic. Not reader friendly. Not appropriate for use in a professional setting.	May be somewhat organized or lack complete adherence to guidelines. Somewhat reader friendly. With modification, the portfolio would be appropriate for use in a professional setting	Very well organized and meets all outlined expectations and guidelines. Aesthetically pleasing. Very reader friendly. Appropriate for use in a professional setting.
Written communication skills The portfolio reflects use of appropriate written communication skills. Score____/25	Numerous spelling, grammatical, word choice, sentence structure, capitalization and punctuation errors.	A few spelling, grammatical, word choice, sentence structure, capitalization and punctuation errors.	No evident spelling, grammatical, word choice, sentence structure, capitalization or punctuation errors.
Appropriateness of selected materials The portfolio contains adequate and appropriately selected items in the designated sections Score_____/25	An inadequate number of items or inappropriate items in designated sections.	Barely adequate number and some difficulty associating a few items with designated sections.	Completely adequate number and each item is clearly representative of the designated section.
Assessment The portfolio contains reflective statements that demonstrate critical thinking skills Score _____/25	Ignores or superficially evaluates experiences/does not justify results or explain reasons.	Offers some analyses and evaluations of experiences and some explanation of results and reasons.	Thoughtfully analyzes and evaluates the experiences and thoroughly explains results and reasons.
TOTAL SCORE: _____/100			

Evaluator's Comments:

I_____ certify that I have read th San Diego State University Didactic Program in Dietetics Student Handbook.

Signature_____

Date_____