

Louisiana State University

School of Nutrition & Food Sciences

**Didactic Program in Dietetics
Student Handbook**

2024-2025

Updated August 2024

Quick Facts—what you need to know right now.

Director: Dr. Erin McKinley is the DPD Director: email: emckinley@lsu.edu. Email is the best mode of contact.

Lindsay Barleycorn (email: lbarleycorn@agcenter.lsu.edu) is the undergraduate coordinator for the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences.

Dr. Georgianna Tuuri (email: gtuuri@agcenter.lsu.edu) is the Director of the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences.

To find the other faculty and more information about the program, go to our website by [clicking this link](#).

Regular advising is important; it is recommended that you get to know your advisor, so introduce yourself—you do not need to wait for class scheduling. Advisors are assigned by last name—see page 31 for the current list of advisors.

You need to average 15-16 hours a semester to be able to graduate in 4 yearsour adv3w 1.235 0 T03 (n)5 @ste

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Section_1_Introduction/Foundation

1.1 Overview

The Dietetics' Student Handbook has been developed to help students in the Nutritional and Food Sciences Curriculum, Dietetics Concentration, to understand more fully the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) in the College of Agriculture (COA) at the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College (LSU) and the process of becoming a Registered Dietitian. Students should read and become familiar with its content.

1.2 The Mission of the DPD at LSU is to provide a program of excellence that gives students a broad knowledge base combined with specialized skills in human nutrition, food, and food systems management to improve the quality of life for families and individuals in a complex and changing world. The program prepares students for supervised practice leading to eligibility for the CDR credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist. The learning environment is structured to promote self-reliance, critical thinking, problem-solving, intellectual curiosity, community involvement, scholarly pursuits, life-long learning, and professional integrity.

The Mission of the DPD is consistent with those of the College of Agriculture and LSU.

1.3 Goals and Objectives of the DPD

The DPD has two goals that were developed in conjunction with the teaching faculty in Nutritional Sciences at a faculty retreat and were refined at subsequent division meetings. The goals of the DPD are consistent with LSU policies on undergraduate education, including, but not limited to recruitment, retention, and degree requirements.

Goal #1– The learning environment of the DPD is structured to promote self-reliance, critical thinking, problem-solving

Goal #2 – The DPD will prepare graduates to demonstrate professionalism and professional integrity in the field of dietetics.

Objectives for Goal #2

Objective 2.1 (Program Specific)

One hundred percent of Dietetic Internship Directors surveyed will rate their satisfaction with the required knowledge preparation program graduates receive before entering an internship on average 3.5 or higher (on a 5.0 scale). *Status: 100% (2023)*

Objective 2.2 (Program Specific)

One hundred percent of Dietetic Internship Directors surveyed will rate their satisfaction with the professionalism of program graduates completing an internship on average 3.5 or higher (on a 5.0 scale). *Status: 100% (2023)*

Objective 2.3 (Program Specific)

100% of Dietetic Internship Directors surveyed will rate their satisfaction with the professional integrity of program graduates completing an internship on average 3.5 or higher (on a 5.0 scale). *Status: 100% (2023)*

The program outcomes data for the DPD are available upon request.

Graduate performance: Supervised Practice Application Rate for the program meets ACEND's national benchmarks for monitoring dietetic education programs. For the past five years, acceptance into Supervised Practice Programs has averaged approximately 100%, which is well above the approximate national average of 80% match rate.

Pass rate of first-time test takers on the registration examination: The Pass Rate for graduates taking the registration exam meets ACEND's national benchmarks for monitoring dietetic education programs. The pass rate of the testers within one year of the first attempt is 89.7%. These are well above ACEND's mandated 80%.

1.4 Accreditation Status

The DPD at LSU is accredited by ACEND through 12/31/2027.

ACEND is the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' accrediting agency for education programs preparing students for careers as Registered Dietitians (RD) or dietetic technicians, registered (DTR). ACEND serves the public by establishing and enforcing eligibility requirements and accreditation standards to ensure quality and continued improvement of nutrition and dietetics education programs. Programs meeting those standards are accredited by ACEND. A list of ACEND-approved/accredited programs is available online, and you will see us there! [Click here for the ACEND website.](#)

1.5 ACEND and the 2022 F

Domain 1: Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice: integration of scientific information and (f)3 (a7s7g)1 (r)2 chnnd

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

KRDN 4.1: Apply management theories to the development of programs or services.

KRDN 4.2: Evaluate a budget/fiscal 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 principles related to food, personnel, and consumers.

KRDN 4.6: Explain the process involved in delivering quality food and nutrition services.

KRDN 4.7: Evaluate data to be used in decision-making for continuous 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.

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 or presenting an elevator pitch).

KRDN 5.4: Practice resolving differences and dealing with conflict.

KRDN 5.5: Promote team involvement and recognize the skills of each team member.

KRDN 5.6: Demonstrate an understanding of the importance and expectations of a professional in mentoring and precepting others.

The program's curriculum must provide learning activities to attain the breadth and depth of

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Mission is "*Leading the future of dietetics,*" and its Vision is that "*AND members are the most valued source of food and nutrition services.*" Approximately 75 percent of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' 68,000 members are RDs, and four percent are dietetic technicians, registered DTRs. Other members include consultants, educators, researchers, and students. Half of all Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics members hold advanced academic degrees.

Members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics represent a wide range of practice areas and interests including public health; sports nutrition; medical nutrition therapy; diet counseling, cholesterol reduction, diabetes, heart, and kidney disease; vegetarianism; foodservice management, hospitals, restaurants, long-term care facilities and education systems; education of other health-care professionals and scientific research. As an Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics member, you are automatically a member of your state affiliate--in this case the Welcome to the Louisiana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (LAND). [Click here for the LAND website.](#)

You will be joining the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics since most of our courses require student membership of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Membership gives access to the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, full access to the Evidence Analysis Library, the Nutrition Care Process, and many other members' only benefits through the website.

As a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, you are also eligible to join, for a modest fee, one or more of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Dietetic Practice Groups (DPG). Practice groups are selected based on your interests; for example, the DPD director is a member of the Nutrition and Dietetic Educators and Preceptors Dietetic Practice Group (NDEP) and the Research Practice Group, because they fit her practice field. Students may be more interested in one or more of the others, for example: Sports, Cardiovascular and Wellness Nutrition DPG or the Vegetarian DPG. There are more than twenty-five of these that will match most interests in dietetics practice—but you need to be an Academy member to join! Diverse groups have different services, but newsletters, listservs, continuing education, and networking opportunities are common.

1.7 *The Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics* was updated on June 1, 2018, and is available on the Academy's website. [Click here to download a PDF of the Code.](#)

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and its Commission on Dietetic Registration have adopted a voluntary, enforceable code of ethics. This code, entitled the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics, challenges all members, registered dietitians, and dietetic technicians, registered, to uphold ethical principles. The enforcement process for the Code of Ethics establishes a fair system to deal with complaints about members and credentialed practitioners

the Commission on Dietetic Registration credentialed practitioners. A third revision of the code was adopted by the House of Delegates on October 18, 1998, and enforced as of June 1, 1999, for all members and Commission on Dietetic Registration credentialed practitioners.

The Ethics Committee is responsible for reviewing, promoting, and enforcing the Code. The Committee also educates members, credentialed practitioners, students, and the public about the ethical principles contained in the Code. Support of the Code of Ethics by members and credentialed practitioners is vital to guiding the profession's actions and strengthening its credibility.

Section_2. Academic Regulations, Policies, and Procedures at LSU and Within the DPD

2.1 Undergraduate Admission into LSU

As the Flagship University in the State, the admission policies are rigorous. [Click here for the Undergraduate Admissions website.](#) Undergraduate admission policies, including transfer student admission policies, and student aid are provided in the General Catalog ([click here for the 2024-2025 General Catalog](#)).

2.2 Undergraduate Admission into the College of Agriculture

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) is housed in the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences, which is in the COA. First-year students with a de(j0sa)-1 (d)]TJ0.001 Tc -0.100 Tw 3.6[(e)-1 ((e)-1 majo)-2 (9 (

In addition to university requirements, the College of Agriculture has these additional scholastic requirements:

Students must complete at least one general education English composition course and one general education analytical reasoning course with a "C" or better within the first 30 hours of study.

Students who fail to earn a 2.00 average in each of two consecutive semesters (or one semester and a summer term) and whose LSU or overall grade point average is below 2.00 will be declared ineligible to continue in the COA for one regular semester.

Seniors who have completed the first semester of the senior year, are degree candidates and are under scholastic suspension from the University, may be placed on probation for one additional semester at the discretion of the Dean of the COA.

The DPD in the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences requires students to have a grade of C- or higher in all Nutrition and Food Sciences courses and a grade of C- or higher in BIOL 2083 (Biochemistry) and BIOL 2160 (Human Physiology) to graduate. These grade requirements are consistent with other programs within the College of Agriculture and have been approved by the Faculty Senate Admissions, Standards, and Honors Committee and the Faculty Senate Courses and Curriculum Committee.

Although there is no time limit for the completion of the DPD or for the completion of an undergraduate degree at LSU, the curriculum is structured to allow students to graduate within four years and students are encouraged to finish within four years. Many mechanisms are in place to help students complete the program promptly.

The Comprehensive Academic Tracking System (CATS) has been instituted as part of LSU's academic monitoring system and provides students with an assessment of progress toward degree requirements. There is a recommended path for the first five semesters of each major, including Dietetics. This path is the optimal plan for completing the degree in four years. Each recommended path contains critical requirements, which are specific courses or other performance measurements designated by each department, as mandatory, for progression in that major; these are the requirements that students must reach to meet minimum academic progress (on track) in their chosen major. CATS helps students follow the curriculum promptly and graduate on time.

2.5 Tuition and Fees

Undergraduate tuition and fees (note the most recently available are for 2024-25) are available online through the Office of Budget and Planning and are subject to change.

Reductions and increases in fees resulting from student schedule changes will be refunded in accordance with the schedule below.

All full-time students who become part-time students after the last day to receive a refund will continue to be eligible for all student activity privileges.

1.6 Credit Examinations

LSU provides several opportunities for students to receive credit for previous

Student Conduct. [Click here to access the Code of Conduct online.](#) The Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability also explains what constitutes student misconduct. [Click here for the Student Advocacy and Accountability website.](#)

2.10.2 Scholastic: The scholastic requirements to remain in good standing at the University are provided in the General Catalog. These apply to all students except those enrolled as extensions, LSU25+, or “visiting” students.

Students will be counseled on the other academic options available in the School of Nutrition and Food Science if a student feels they cannot continue in the Dietetics concentration due to mediocre performance or a change of heart about the curriculum.

The DPD faculty passionately believe that early and subsequent ongoing discussions of our campus wide, College, and SNFS expectations regarding student conduct and academic performance will result in few, if any, students subjected to disciplinary/termination procedures. Prevention begins with information. All department syllabi address academic misconduct. Each semester, advisors review student grades and offer appropriate counsel. Opportunities for remediation are offered when indicated. Students may be asked to meet with their advisor or course instructor regularly until a situation is resolved. Should all the measures fail, then the DPD adheres to the policies of withdrawal as found in the General Catalog.

2.11 Equal Opportunity

The DPD follows the LSU’s policy on equal opportunity as stated in Policy-Statement 01. In brief, PS-01 is in place “To assure equal opportunity for all qualified persons in admission to, participation in, or employment in the programs and activities which the University operates without regard to race, creed, color, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, or veteran's status.”

2.12 The DPD does not tolerate *sexual harassment*, and the DPD strictly adheres to all policies at LSU outlined in Policy-Statement 95. If you experience sexual harassment, your first action is to notify the administrator of the department in which the individual involved works. For example, if you believe you have a problem associated with sexual harassment with a member of the Nutritional and Food Sciences faculty or Staff, you would contact Dr. Allen Rutherford, email: drutherford@aqcenter.lsu.edu, the Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination based on the gender of students and employees of educational institutions that receive federal financial assistance. Per Title IX and other applicable laws,

Louisiana State University is committed to providing a safe and equitable environment for all students and employees. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination based on the gender of students and employees of educational institutions that receive federal financial assistance. Per Title IX and other applicable laws, Louisiana State University is committed to providing a safe and equitable environment for all students and employees.

conduct to the Campus Title IX Coordinator or any other responsible party. [Click here for the LSU Office of Title IX website.](#)

Any responsible person who receives actual notice of a complaint under this policy shall promptly notify the Campus Title IX Coordinator, who shall be responsible for notifying the LSU Title IX Coordinator and any campus administrators, who may be involved in the resolution process. Notice of a complaint may or may not come from a formal complaint. Any supervisor, or other responsible party who witnesses or receives a report or complaint, shall notify the Campus Title IX Coordinator.

If you need support services or evidence collected after hours or on the weekend, please contact STAR (Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response) at 225-383-RAPE, The Phone at 225-924-LSU1, or your local police department.

2.13 The DPD adheres to all LSU *Policies for Persons with Disabilities*, Policy-Statement 26.

This policy provides equal opportunity for all qualified persons without regard to disability in the recruitment of, admission to, participation in, treatment in or employment in the programs and activities operated and sponsored by the University pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and other related federal and state law. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is physically located on campus in Johnston Hall and is a unit within the Office of the Dean of Students. [Click here for the ODS website.](#) Services available and documentation that students must provide the ODS is provided for a wide range of conditions including learning disabilities, attention disorders, and physical and psychological disabilities. Programs available for students with disabilities and specific arrangements made for students depend on the exact nature of the disability. Note: Students with special needs must be registered with the Office of Disability Services and notify the course instructor as soon as possible to be eligible for any accommodation in the classroom.

2.14 Confidentiality of Student Records

The DPD adheres to the policies governing access to student records as described in the found on the Office of the University Registrar's homepage, under the [online FERPA link](#), which specifies how a student may examine his or her record and what can and cannot be examined. Most commonly in the DPD applies to letters of recommendation written for students by faculty members for which the student has waived the right to access.

At LSU, every effort is made to protect the privacy of student information. The Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act (FERPA) guides LSU's policy on student privacy. Policy Statement-30 Student Privacy Rights details the LSU policies (Effective date 11/1/96). In brief, PS-30 covers Access to Education Records by Students and Parents of Dependent Students, Access by Parents of Dependent Students, Scope of Student Rights and Procedures for Challenging, Release of Education Records under the Law without the Student's Permission, Release of Education Records under the Law with the Student's Permission, Faculty Responsibility regarding Privacy of Students' Grades, and Final Responsibility for Interpretation of this Policy Statement.

Policy Statement 06.15 (Use of Electronic Mail) details the University's policy on email and clearly outlines student records, education records, and similar information as private. The

faculty has also been notified via a Broadcast email that they are not to use email to send student records unless the files are encrypted.

Policy Statment-113 (Social Security Number Policy) (Effective 7/13/06) also helps assure the privacy of student information. This is the PS that eliminated the use of social security numbers as the primary identifier for all individuals, including students, associated with the university. An LSU identification number (LSUID) is assigned to all students. This LSUID is different from the

Academic credit will not be given for life experiences or work experiences related to nutrition/dietetics/food service management. DPD course requirements will not be waived for prior life or work experience.

2.20 Policy for Utilizing Experiential Learning Sites

Students may be required to complete coursework or lab assignments at an off-campus facility; we call this experiential learning. The course instructor will provide students with two forms to fill out for liability coverage while off campus and while using a personal vehicle to travel to an outside facility. Students are not required to obtain health insurance, insurance for professional liability, or separate travel insurance from the LSU coverage. In professional practice settings, healthcare facilities will provide emergency treatment for students for injury or illness while fulfilling the activities of a healthcare facility, realizing that such emergency medical treatment will be at the expense of the injured individual. We recommend students obtain healthcare coverage by either enrolling on their parent or guardian's insurance, if applicable, or purchase coverage through the LSU's university sponsored insurance plan. The Student Trip Travel Policy

seniors confirm their mailing address, email address

curriculum has been designed to build on concepts introduced in lower-division courses and to increase the competence of students as they progress through the curriculum. Students are prepared for competence in the nutrition care process through progressive coursework, utilizing an array of learning methods. Faculty assess student learning through assignments, projects, case studies, and exams. Group projects are also used to develop teamwork and collaboration skills. Regular reports of performance are completed during advising sessions each semester.

Section_3. Services Available to Students at LSU

A wide array of services is available to students at LSU, some are paid through student fees and are paid through other mechanisms. Eligibility for services and current fees are available to students online.

3.1 The *Student Health Center* maintains a website that details its student services. Important services include medical clinics, immunizations, pharmacy, nutrition counseling, and the mental health clinic with mental health counseling available. Health insurance for students is also available through the Student Health Center. The Health Center also provides victims of sexual assault support and medical services. [Click here for the SHC website.](#)

All faculty in the Division of Human Nutrition and Food are aware of the services provided by the Student Health Center should students need referrals for physical or mental health issues.

3.2 The *University Recreation Center* (UREC) on campus is available to students. The facility has a wide array of amenities, including weight/fitness/cardio areas, a gymnasium, a climbing gym, racquetball courts, a pool, and saunas. There is also an outdoor field complex with tennis courts, volleyball courts, and softball fields. [Click here for the UREC website.](#)

3.3 The *Office of Disability Services* (ODS) is physically located on campus in Johnston Hall and is a unit within the Office of the Dean of Students. Services available and documentation that students must provide the ODS is provided for a wide range of conditions including learning disabilities, attention disorders, and physical and psychological disabilities. [Click here for the ODS website.](#)

3.4 *Academic Counseling* is available to students through several sources. An advantage to being in the College of Agriculture is that students come directly into their senior college and can meet immediately with an advisor. In Nutritional Sciences, all advisors are prepared to refer students, if needed, to other services described; advisors are also prepared to give students career counseling. Students can also meet with Jennie Sparks, email: jsparks2@lsu.edu, in the COA. If students do not enter directly into the COA, they come into the University College. University College is the home to the Center for the Freshman Year, which is a non-degree granting, academic college at LSU. Students are placed in this college and may be given up to two semesters, regardless of full-time or part-time status. Career and other counseling are available through the University Center for Advising and Counseling (UCAC), which students would enter in their sophomore year if they have not already been admitted to the COA. Some testing services are available for students. Testing such as placement is available at orientation. Testing for conditions, such as attention deficit disorders, is not available on campus.

3.5 Entering a large university like LSU can be a daunting experience, especially if you are from a small town or if you are the first in your family to attend college at all. LSU provides a host of programs that will help you get the most of your first year here. The *First Year Experience* is designed to help students understand what is available for them at LSU.

3.6 *The Center for Academic Success* provides a wide array of services, including tests of learning styles to help students succeed at LSU, information on study habits, and tutoring. [Click here for the Center's website.](#) *The Olinde Career Center* (located in the Student Union) is also helpful in advising students, providing interviewing skills, and helping design resumes. [Click here for the Career Center Website.](#)

3.7 *MyLSU* "is a dynamic electronic kiosk that delivers a suite of applications to the students, faculty, and staff of LSU based on their relationship to the University. MyLSU is an individualized Web desktop accessed via a browser and is therefore unconstrained by computing platforms, location, or normal business hours. In addition to standard applications which every account has access to, applications are added to a desktop on an individual basis."

Through their MyLSU account, students can access email, TigerBytes II, a personal file storage center, and can download software through TigerWare.

3.8 *Agriculture Residential College* "The Ag Residential College (ARC) is open to all first-year students in the College of Agriculture. The residential college focuses on "Ag Leadership," a recurring theme throughout the 2-year program. By taking several core courses together, students will more quickly form relationships with classmates and professors both inside the classroom and outside. The residence hall will offer opportunities to travel and host several special interest lectures that focus on the diverse needs of today's ever-changing world. By living in a "mini campus" atmosphere within the larger LSU campus, students will achieve a greater sense of awareness, cultural competence, leadership, and community. [Click here for the ARC website.](#)

Requirements

- Admission to LSU and the College of Agriculture
- A Windows-compatible laptop

Features

- Scholarships for ARC students
- Reserved spaces in courses
- Multimedia classroom within the residence hall
- Meeting space for events
- Monthly seminar series
- Faculty and staff members hold office hours and review sessions inside the residence hall.
- Proximity to the LSU lakes, Recreational Center, and your department's buildings

Application Procedure

1. Apply to the University.
2. Submit your Residential Life online housing application.
3. List the Agriculture Residential College as your housing preference.

DPD students are encouraged to participate in the ARC.

3.9 Financial Aid

The catalog and the websites for LSU undergraduate admissions provide students with information on Financial Aid. Information on financial aid includes scholarships; the Chancellor's Future Leaders in Research Program; Federal Loan Programs; Grant Programs, including Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and Academic Competitiveness Grants; campus employment; and veteran's benefits. In addition, these sites have information on TOPS (Louisiana's Tuition Opportunity Program for Students). This program provides scholarships equal to college tuition for high school graduates with a 2.5 GPA and 20 ACT composite scores. Since LSU's entry requirements are higher than TOPS standards, every Louisiana first-year student admitted to the University receives a state-funded merit scholarship (TOPS). [Click here for the Financial Aid & Scholarships website.](#)

3.10 How, When, and Where Students Obtain information about LSU

Students are provided with the above information several times in several diverse ways. All the information is available on the LSU website, and students are encouraged to visit the LSU website. There are also mobile apps that can be downloaded to provide information about LSU. First-year student orientation and transfer orientation are required for students entering; these include an overall program and a college-specific program. These orientations provide students with information on "sessions, schedules, and costs," registration, and placement. If you want to get a head start on what to expect, check out the hyperlink on first-year student orientation. Reinforcement is available through the COA orientations and, for incoming first-year students,

Increase nationally recognized research and creative activities.

Expand interdisciplinary solutions to significant social, environmental, economic, cultural, and educational problems.

Increase partnerships with industry to develop intellectual property and foster commercial applications.

Learning: Enhance a faculty-led and student-centered learning environment that develops

2.00 will be declared ineligible to continue in the College of Agriculture for one regular semester.

Seniors who have completed the first semester of the senior year, are degree candidates and are under scholastic suspension from the University, may be placed on probation for one additional semester at the discretion of the dean of the College of Agriculture.

4.4 The Nutritional Sciences Curriculum (Dietetics Concentration)

Semester 4

CRITICAL: CHEM 2060

ENGL 2000 English Composition (3)
NFS 2110 Methods of Nutritional Assessment (3)
BIOL 2160 Human Physiology (3)
EXST 2201 Introduction to Statistical Analysis (4)
NFS 2000 Fundamentals of Food Science (3)
Total Semester Hours: 16

Semester 5

CRITICAL: BIOL 2083.

BIOL 2083 The Elements of Biochemistry (3)
NFS 3110 Nutrition Counseling and Education (3)
NFS 3000 Food Safety (3)
CMST 2060 Public Speaking (3)
NFS 3025 Professionalism in Dietetics (3)
Total Semester Hours: 15

Semester 6

General Education course - Arts (3)
NFS 3114 Food and Culture (3)
NFS 3115 Human Nutrition and Metabolism (3)
NFS 3116 Community Nutrition (3)
MGT 3200 Principles of Management (3)
Total Semester Hours: 15

Semester 7

NFS 3119 Fundamentals of Quantity Food Production (4)
NFS 4111 Nutrition and Disease I (4)
Elective (3)
General Education course - Humanities (3)
Total Semester Hours: 14

Semester 8

NFS 4023 Management in Dietetics (3)
NFS 4110 Capstone in Nutritional Sciences (3)
NFS 4021 Contemporary Topics in Nutrition (1)
NFS 4114 Nutrition and Disease II (4)
General Education course - Humanities – Literature (3)
Total Semester Hours: 14
120 Total Sem. Hrs.

General Education Humanities: three hours chosen from a 2000-level English course on the General Education list and three hours chosen from any course on the General Education Humanities list.

4.5 Meet the DPD Faculty

Lindsay Barleycorn, MS, RD, LDN, CDCES (Instructor & Undergraduate Coordinator) teaching NFS 4111 (Nutrition & Disease I), NFS 4114 (Nutrition & Disease II), NFS1110 (Introduction to Nutritional Sciences), NFS 2112 Lifecycle Nutrition, and NFS 4021 (Contemporary Topics in Nutrition). Ms. Barleycorn is an LSU Dietetics Alum with recent practice experience in oncology, diabetes, and outpatient nutrition.

Shellie Doré, MS, RD, LDN (Senior Instructor) teaches NFS 1110 (Introduction to Nutritional Sciences), 3119 (Fundamentals of Quantity Food Production), and 4023 (Management in Dietetics). Mrs. Doré has a wealth of experience in these courses and is certified to teach Serve-Safe certification, required of all students taking NFS 3119.

Michael J. Keenan, PhD (Professor) teaches or has taught 3115 (Human Nutrition and Metabolism) and 4021 (Contemporary Topics in Nutrition) in the undergraduate program. Dr. Keenan brings a wealth of knowledge based on his research in functional foods, notably resistant starch, and assessment of gene arrays underlying responses to resistant starches. He has obtained several grants and publications for these studies.

Brandi Milioto, MS, RD (Instructor) teaches NFS 2110 (Methods of Nutritional Assessment) and NFS 3110 (Nutrition Counseling and Education). Milioto has professional experience as the coordinator in the WIC clinic in Ascension Parish (county) at the Gonzales Health Unit.

Erin M. McKinley, PhD, RD, LD, CLC, MCHES, FAND (Associate Professor & Director of the DPD and the Graduate Programs) Dr. McKinley teaches NFS 3025 (Professionalism in Dietetics) and NFS 3116 (Community Nutrition). Her research areas include survey instrument development and studying consumer behavior for medicinal plant and mushroom products.

Judith Myhand, MS (Senior Instructor) teaches NFS 1014 (Food Theory and Skills), NFS 2112 (Human Lifecycle Nutrition), and NFS 3114 (Food and Culture) as well as manages our on-site cooking lab in the Human Ecology Building.

Georgianna Tuuri, PhD, RD (Professor & Chair) Dr. Tuuri teaches NFS 4110 (Capstone in Nutritional Sciences) and NFS 4021 (Contemporary Topics in Nutrition). Her principal research interests are in body composition assessment and pediatric obesity. She has researched bone density and improving the intake of fruit and vegetables in elementary school children.

James T.F. Wise, PhD (Assistant Professor) Dr. Wise is our newest faculty member and will be teaching NFS 4021 (Contemporary Topics in Nutrition) and NFS 1110 (Introduction to Nutritional Sciences). His research centers on environmental health and lung cancer.

4.6 Faculty Advisors

Faculty advisors play a key role in helping students navigate our curriculum, as well as providing specific advice on the topics a-f A)1 (s)4 (um(e)-2 (nt a)-1 1 ((ch)u4.51 -2u001 Tw -d pe),-1 (m)-1 w -35.8 (fr)

student has such a hold, they need to be advised and Dr. Tuuri will lift their registration hold. Advisors are assigned by the first initial of the student's last name.

Faculty Member	Address	

Successfully completed the **Registration Examination for Dietitians**.
Remitted the annual registration fee.
complied with the Professional Development Portfolio recertification requirements.”

5.2 What can Registered Dietitians Do?

Registered Dietitians are experts in food and nutrition. If you can think of anything related to food, an RD can do it. Some career opportunities are:

- Clinical dietitian in a hospital, long-term care facility, or outpatient clinic
- Public Health or Community Dietitian in any type of health facility
- Consultant dietitian in private practice
- Sports Dietitian
- Cooperative Extension agent
- Research
- Food service managers
- Food companies
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Public policy development
- Education
- National Health Organizations
- Non-Profit Advocacy Groups

More information about careers in dietetics can be found on the [website of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#). Graduates of LSU's DPD who have completed dietetic internships and passed the registration exam work as dietitians for the US Olympic Team and for the New Orleans Saints, in Corporate Wellness, as renal dietitians, as nutrition support dietitians, in research at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center, in WIC, as clinical dietitians, as weight loss counselors, in private practice, as diabetes educators, in the Cooperative Extension Service, in food service management, and in public health.

The [US Bureau of Labor Statistics website link](#) provides more information on careers in dietetics.

5.3 How much money will you make as an RD?

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median pay is over \$69,680 per year (\$33.50 per hour) and the job outlook shows the profession is growing 7% faster than average (2023 is the most recent year given). Entry-level salaries average about \$35,000-\$50,000, depending on the state, job, the employer, the economy, etc.

However, as with any profession, salaries and fees vary by region of the country, employment settings, scope of responsibility, and supply of RD's. Salaries increase with years of experience and many RDs, particularly those in management, business, and consulting earn incomes the median.

5.4 How do I get to be a Registered Dietitian?

After completing the DPD at LSU (or at any school), students must apply for and complete successfully a *Dietetic Internship* to be eligible to sit the registration exam. Applying for internships can be confusing and time-consuming; it also comes in the senior year when the

Can you give me an example of what students have done in the past? Sara David studied the nutritional and monetary impact of fast food on low socioeconomic status women, and food spending patterns by low-income women who receive or do not receive food stamps or who are food secure or insecure. Her work resulted in two presentations at the Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo (the annual meeting of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics). One fun thing about the abstracts listed below is that the Community Nutrition Class participated in the research project too.

- David S, O'Neil CE, Smith J, Tiller V, Monroe PA. Nutritional and Monetary Impact of Fast Food on Low Socioeconomic Status Women. *Jour Am Diet Assoc* 102 (Suppl 2): A-47, 2002.
- O'Neil CE, David S, Smith J, LSU Community Nutrition Class, Tiller V, Monroe PA. Food Spending Patterns by Low-Income Women Who Receive or do not Receive Food Stamps or who are Food Secure or Insecure. *Jour Am Diet Assoc* 102 (Suppl 2): A-48, 2002.

6.3 NFS 4027 Practicum in Dietetics (1-3)

Prereq: majors only; for students in dietetics concentration only; 60 hrs. in Nutrition and Food Sciences curriculum; overall GPA of 3.2; and permission of instructor. Each hour of credit requires 60 hours of supervised experience. May be taken or repeated, when topics vary, for a max. of 3 hrs. of credit. Supervised professional experience designed to integrate academic learning with dietetics practice.

In this course, students select a registered dietitian with whom they would like to work--any practice arena anywhere. Then, working with the faculty advisor, students outline their own course objectives and describe how they will complete them. We have had students work with a wide range of dietitians, ranging from diabetes educators to community dietitians to renal dietitians. The course is designed to introduce you to dietetic practice in a field in which you are interested.

6.4 Undergraduate Grants through the College of Agriculture

There are several ways that interested students can work with faculty members on research projects (NFS 3900 and the Honors Program), but this is a unique opportunity for students. The College of Agriculture offers the opportunity for students to author a research grant to allow them to complete a research project with a faculty member. These grants provide up to \$1900 for student's research or travel. Students in the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences who have written grants and conducted research have had the opportunity to publish their findings and to present their research at national meetings.

6.5 The Honors Program

Students with outstanding academic potential can find challenges in the Honors College in the form of advanced coursework, lectures, seminars, and independent research. More information about admission into the Honors College can be found in the General Catalog. To receive full College Honors, students must complete all requirements as established by the student's college including at least 32 hours of honors courses including: a minimum of six hours of HNRS coursework; 12 hours at the 3000+ level, following Upper Division Honors departmental requirements, a senior thesis, following thesis guidelines, and a 3.5 GPA in all overall, and at LSU, and honors courses undertaken. [Click here for the Honors College website.](#)

Students are paid an hourly wage, and paychecks are sent bi-weekly. [Click here for more information.](#)

LSU Discover provides support for students conducting undergraduate research in the form of travel grants and stipends. Students can present their work at Discover Day, a true day of celebration of undergraduate research and creative activity. [Click here for more information.](#)

6.6.2 *Campus Life* is under the auspices of the Dean of Students and provides a wide array of leadership opportunities within and outside of student organizations. [Click here for more information.](#)

6.6.3 *Through Academic Programs Abroad* students travel worldwide to study for a summer, semester, or academic year. Students earn credit toward LSU degrees and return to LSU to complete their

DPD is the most challenging. To help students in the application process, the DPD director holds two workshops per year (fall and spring) **and a guide is available at the workshops and by request from Dr. McKinley. Course lists are also available by request from Dr. McKinley each fall.**

The application guide has explicit instructions for the process and includes the application forms and recommendation forms. It also has a timeline, what is needed when asking faculty members and others for letters of recommendation, and other general and specific advice.

Section_8. Frequently Asked Questions

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

A Registered Dietitian (RD) or Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) has completed classroom (didactic) and supervised practice experience and passed a rigorous examination. In addition, to

the difference comes in the food, management, and food service classes that students in the dietetics concentration take. Dietetics students also take courses in psychology and economics. Without these courses, and the knowledge and skill elements that they provide, students cannot receive a verification statement to enter an internship program.

There are now accredited Coordinated master's Programs that allow students from any BS/BA background who meet their admissions criteria and have the minimum prerequisite courses (these vary program-to-program, but may include Anatomy, Physiology, and Intro to Nutrition, Chemistry, Microbiology, and Lifecycle Nutrition). These programs are 3-4 years and include the DPD knowledge components, a master's degree, and the internship component in one package.
As of July 2023

degree can open more opportunities more quickly for you than if you did not have a graduate degree.

Your graduate degree does not need to be in nutrition, but that is certainly an option. Consider your academic and career interests and pick a field in which you are interested. For example, if you are most interested in counseling, you might select psychology or counseling; if you like public health, consider a Master of Public Health (MPH); if you like management, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) may be helpful. There are other options too, ranging from Public Policy or Public Administration to Epidemiology, to Kinesiology, to Health Education-- opportunities are limited by your interest and your imagination.

Whether you complete a graduate degree before, during, or after your internship is up to you; students from our program have pursued all three options. Consider your family and financial circumstances, along with your career goals before you make this decision.

I failed BIOL 2083 (biochemistry), can I get into NFS 3115 and repeat BIOL 2083 at the same time?

No. We want to maximize your chances of doing well in the program by preparing you through the pre-requisite classes. We have studied the grade distributions of the Human Ecology courses and the required science courses and have looked at the odds that students with specific grades in the science courses will do well in NFS 3115 and NFS 4111/4114. Without doing well in BIOL 2083, the odds are that students will not do well in NFS 3115 or weo

I am not doing well in my courses, where can I go for help?

Your first step is to see the instructor of the course

I have a non-nutrition-related undergraduate degree and want to become an RD; do I need to take another degree?

Most students do have an undergraduate degree in nutrition or dietetics, but “no” you do not need one. To enter a dietetic internship, you need a degree in any subject and to meet the knowledge and competency requirements promulgated by ACEND. Many internship directors feel that having a second degree in dietetics does not increase your chances of being admitted into an internship. That said, if you are coming into the DPD with no science background--no biology or chemistry, your estimated time to complete the program is three years, and many students find they have the time to take the two or three extra courses that they would need to complete the bachelor’s degree in Dietetics.

There are now accredited Coordinated master’s Programs that allow students from any BS/BA background who meet their admissions criteria and have the minimum prerequisite courses (these vary program-to-program, but may include Anatomy, Physiology, and Intro to Nutrition, Chemistry, Microbiology, and Statistics).

I have a degree in nutrition from a school that does not have a dietetics program; can you review my transcript and issue a verification statement that would allow me to enter a dietetic internship?

No. To receive a verification statement from LSU, students must take at least 12 hours here, including NFS 4111 and 4114 (Nutrition and Disease I/II).