INTRODUCTION TO DIETETICS FOR NEW & PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

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INTRODUCTION TO DIETETICS
For New & Prospective Students

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Introduction to Dietetics – for New and Prospective Students

WHAT IS DIETETICS?
Dietetics is a health-related career that involves translating the sciences of nutrition and food to promote good health. In short, it’s Nutrition, Food & Health! It is a vital and growing profession with many career possibilities. Dietitians have an aptitude for science, an interest in nutrition and food, and enjoy working with people.

Dietetics is a challenging biological field. In addition to courses in nutritional sciences and food science, you will study microbiology, physiology, chemistry and biochemistry. Dietetics students also study foodservice systems management, business, psychology, statistics and communication.

An interest in food is important because you will help people select and obtain food to nourish their bodies in health and disease. You may also manage the preparation and service of food for groups of people.

Working with people is a major part of the job, usually in a teaching or supervisory role. You may teach individuals or groups how to improve their eating behavior. You may hire and train employees in food production as a food and nutrition manager.

Dietitians and nutritionists plan food and nutrition programs, supervise meal preparation and oversee the serving of meals. They prevent and treat illnesses by promoting healthy eating and recommending dietary modifications. For example, dietitians might teach a patient with high blood pressure how to use less salt when preparing meals, or create a diet reduced in fat and sugar for an overweight patient. They might counsel patients with kidney disease or diabetes on diet and nutrition principles important in treating their disease. They determine methods and develop special formulations to feed patients who are unable to eat (e.g. critically ill and comatose patients, etc.).

Dietitians manage food service systems for institutions such as hospitals and schools, promote sound eating habits through education, and conduct research. Many dietitians specialize, becoming a clinical dietitian, community dietitian, management dietitian, or consultant.

DIETITIAN VS NUTRITIONIST – WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE?
Have you ever wondered what the difference is between a “nutritionist” and a “dietitian”? To put it simply, a “nutritionist” has no concrete definition, while a “dietitian” has credentials to go with the term. Any person working in a health food store or otherwise can call themselves a “nutritionist”. A “Registered Dietitian” (RD), is a credential just like a Registered Nurse (RN) or Medical Doctor (MD). To become a “Registered Dietitian” you must earn the minimum of a
Bachelors Degree in Dietetics, complete an accredited Dietetic Internship, take and pass the RD exam, and complete 75 continuing education credits every 5 years. (See section on “Registered Dietitian – The Professional Credential.)

A “Registered Dietitian” is knowledgeable in the science of nutrition. They learn how to interpret research studies and apply that knowledge to counseling individuals on how to improve their lifestyle and health. He or she is able to review a person’s medical history, current symptoms, medications, supplements, exercise routine, weight, and eating habits and give advice that is safe and effective for them to reach their goals.

A “Nutritionist” may or may not have the credentials of a Registered Dietitian. An RD is the recognized authority on nutrition in the US. Some nutritionists claim they have credentials, but if they are not an RD, their credentials may not be backed by science, education, and experience. The RD credential signifies professional competence. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) is the professional association that establishes the criteria for becoming registered and administers the process. For further information on this association, see: http://www.eatright.org

When hiring employees for work in the nutrition/dietetics field, employers look for the RD credential. In fact, most positions in the nutrition/dietetics field require it. Who would you trust with your health? An RD or Eddie?

JOBS/CAREERS IN DIETETICS AND NUTRITION
You will find dietitians working in a wide variety of employment settings and in a variety of specialties within the field of dietetics. Let’s look at both employment settings and types of specialties.

Employment Settings
1. Hospitals, HMO’s or other health-care facilities – educating patients about nutrition and administering medical nutrition therapy as part of the health-care team. They may also manage the foodservice operations in these settings, as well as in schools, day-care centers and correctional facilities, over-seeing everything from food purchasing and preparation to managing staff.
2. **Corporate wellness and sports nutrition programs** – educating clients about the connection between food, fitness and health. They work in a variety of corporate and business settings, athletic teams, health/recreation clubs and spas.

3. **Food and nutrition-related business and industries** – working in communications, consumer affairs, food labeling public relations, marketing, product development or consulting with chefs in restaurants and culinary schools.

4. **Private practice** – working under contract with health-care or food companies, or in their own business. They may provide services to foodservice or restaurant managers, food vendors and distributors, athletes, nursing home residents, and company employees.

5. **Public health and community settings** – teaching, monitoring and advising the public and helping improve their quality of life through healthy eating habits. They work in public and home health agencies, day care centers, government funded programs (many focus on pregnant women, children, elderly, disabled individuals and underprivileged).

6. **Universities and medical centers** – teaching physician’s assistants, nurses, dietetics students, dentists and others the sophisticated science of foods and nutrition.

7. **Research areas** – in food and pharmaceutical companies, universities and hospitals, directing or conducting experiments to answer critical nutrition questions and find alternative foods or nutrition recommendations for the public.

**Specialties/Areas of Practice**

1. **Clinical Nutrition** – a member of the health care team. They develop and implement nutrition programs; assess patients’ nutritional needs, determine nutritional diagnoses, develop individual nutritional care plans, counsel patients and evaluate clinical therapeutic outcomes. They confer with doctors and other healthcare professionals to coordinate medical and nutritional needs. Some clinical dietitians specialize in managing the weight of overweight patients or in the care of renal, diabetic, or critically ill patients. Clinical dietitians may work in hospitals, nursing care facilities, or outpatient settings.
2. **Community Nutrition** – a member of the community public health team. These dietitians assess nutrition needs of individuals and population groups. They plan and coordinate nutritional aspects of programs aimed at improving health and preventing disease at the community level. Community dietitians may also evaluate individual needs, develop nutritional care plans, and instruct individuals and their families. They provide instruction on grocery shopping and food preparation to the elderly, children, and individuals with special needs. They work in a variety of community settings and clinics, with diverse groups of individuals – where good nutrition can improve the quality of life.

3. **Food Service Management** – a member of the management team. They plan, organize, direct and evaluate food service systems. These dietitians are actively involved in budgeting, employee training, personnel management, and establishing and maintaining policies and standards. They may work in schools, senior centers, healthcare facilities, company cafeterias, prisons, hotels or restaurants.

4. **Business and Industry** – employed to work in a variety of settings, including sales and promotion, employee fitness and wellness programs, marketing/advertising, public relations, product development, food manufacturing, and on the Internet. In these areas, dietitians analyze foods, prepare literature for distribution, or report on issues such as dietary fiber, vitamin supplements, or the nutritional content of recipes. Supermarkets hire dietitians to work in areas of consumer education and food safety. (For example, see [http://www.hyvee.com/company/careers/dietitian_careers.aspx](http://www.hyvee.com/company/careers/dietitian_careers.aspx))

5. **Private Practice/Consultation** – previous experience in dietetic practice is usually needed. These entrepreneurial dietitians provide advice on services in nutritional care and therapeutics, sports nutrition or food service management. They perform nutrition screenings for their clients and offer advice on diet-related concerns such as weight loss and cholesterol reduction, or improving athletic performance through nutrition. These dietitians are generally self-employed or work under contract with healthcare facilities, corporations, etc. Some work for wellness programs, sports teams, supermarkets, and other nutrition-related businesses. They may consult with food service managers, providing expertise in sanitation, safety procedures, menu development, budgeting, and planning.

6. **Education** – plan, implement, and evaluate educational experiences for dietetic, medical, dental, nursing or other allied health students. They are employed by universities and health care facilities. Advanced education is generally required.
7. **Research** – requires advanced preparation in research techniques and often an advanced degree. Typically a research dietitian works closely with other investigators in planning and implementing projects that examine nutrient needs, functions, and interactions in humans or animals. This dietitian may work in a clinical research center in hospitals or academic centers. Research activities may be incorporated into all areas of dietetic practice – clinical nutrition, community and public health nutrition, foodservice management, etc.

In summary, the field of dietetics offers a wide array of job opportunities in a variety of settings. It is a rewarding profession with an encouraging future. The current emphasis on nutrition and health in this country enhances the marketability of the dietitian.

**Note:** a Registered Dietitian (RD) credential is typically required for employment in the medical/health care field and preferred for many other employment opportunities in food and nutrition. (See section on “Registered Dietitian – The Professional Credential”.)

Although most positions in the health and wellness fields require the RD credential, there are opportunities for students who earn their Bachelor’s Degree in Dietetics but do not complete the RD requirements. Positions include Food Service Supervisor or Manager (ex. School Nutrition Programs, College and University Dining Services, etc.); Community Nutritionist (ex. WIC programs); jobs with Food, Health and Pharmaceutical companies (ex. Research/Development, Sales, Marketing, and Consumer Relations); jobs with Food Distribution Companies (ex. Marketing Associates); jobs in Health and Wellness (ex. Athletic Clubs, Corporate Wellness programs, etc.); jobs in the hospitality industry, etc. In addition, graduates of the B.S. Dietetics program are eligible to take the Registration Examination for Dietetic Technicians and obtain the “Dietetic Technician Registered” credential (DTR). (See: [http://www.cdrnet.org/certifications/rddtr/dtrindex.htm](http://www.cdrnet.org/certifications/rddtr/dtrindex.htm) for further information on this process.)

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**“CAREERS IN DIETETICS” VIDEO**

Please view this video by The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for more information on careers:

[http://www.eatright.org/students/careers/videos.aspx](http://www.eatright.org/students/careers/videos.aspx)

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Check out links to video interviews with professionals working in the dietetics and nutrition field at:

[http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu/pphn2/](http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu/pphn2/)
JOB TITLES
Here are some examples of “Job Titles” that have been held by graduates of dietetics programs. Some positions require the RD Credential, some do not.

Cardiovascular Nutritionist or Dietitian
Clinical Dietitian
Communications Specialist
Community Nutritionist
Consumer Advocate
Corporate Dietitian or Corporate Wellness Dietitian
Diabetes Educator
Dietary Coordinator
Dietetic Technician
Director – Wellness Program
Educator
Food Allergy Specialist
Food Behavioralist
Food & Nutrition Strategist
Food Service Director or Food Service Manager
Food Service Systems Manager
Health Communication Specialist or Consultant
Health/Lifestyle Coach
Internship Director
Media Consultant
Nutrition Communications Specialist
Nutrition Consulting Company Owner
Nutrition Counselor
Nutrition Informaticist
Nutritionist or Nutrition Specialist
Nutrition Support Dietitian
Outpatient Dietitian
Pediatric/Neonatal Dietitian
Pharmaceutical Company RD
Private Practice Dietitian
Production Manager
Professor
Public Relations Consultant
Recipe Developer
Renal Nutritionist or Dietitian
Research Coordinator
School Foodservice Director
Speciality Food Company Consultant
Sports and Cardiac Rehab Dietitian
Supermarket/Retail Dietitian
Weight Management Nutritionist or Dietitian
Wellness Coordinator

Chef RD
Clinical Nutrition Manager
Community Health Educator
Consultant Dietitian
Cooperative Extension Educator/Specialist
Corrections Dietitian
Didactic Program Director
Dietary Manager
Director of Nutrition & Food Services
Editor or Editorial Director
Fitness Specialist
Food Bank Nutritionist
Food Marketing Consultant
Food Purchaser
Food Service Supervisor
Food/Nutrition Writer or Author or Journalist
Health Education Specialist or Consultant
Instructor/Lecturer
Marketing Director
Medical Nutrition Therapist
Nutrition Consultant or Nutrition/Health Consultant
Nutrition Coordinator for Head Start Program
Nutrition Educator
Nutritionals Sales Representative
Nutrition Researcher/Scientist
Nutrition Therapist
Patient Services Manager
Personal Chef
Preventive Medicine Nutritionist
Product Developer/Director of Product Development
Professional Speaker
Public Health Nutritionist
Purchasing Manager
Registered Dietitian
Research Assistant
Restaurant Consultant
School Nutrition Specialist
Spokesperson
Sports Nutritionist or Sports/Lifestyle Nutritionist
Territory Sales Manager
Wellness Coach or Wellness Dietitian
WIC Nutritionist/Program Director
SALARIES/JOB OUTLOOK

According to AND’s 2011 Dietetics Compensation and Benefits survey, the median full-time salary for RDs in all positions was ~ $58,000/year; the range was from ~ $40,000 to > $90,000. Variability in salary is based on many factors including education, scope of responsibility, employment setting, region of the country and supply of RDs. Completion of a master’s degree added ~ $5,000/year; earning a PhD added ~ $17,000/year above RDs with only a bachelor’s degree.

Having one or more specialty certifications (see section on Additional Credentials/Graduate Work) was associated with an increased median wage of ~ $5,300/year over those with no certifications. The two credentials associated with the highest median wages are CFPP (Certified Food Protection Professional) at ~ $64,000/year and CSSD (Certified Specialist in Sports Dietetics) at ~ $65,000/year.

Years of dietetics experience is strongly associated with compensation; those with 20 or more years of experience earn a median wage more than $18,700/year above those in the under-5-year bracket.

Supervisory responsibility is strongly associated with wage gains; those reporting direct and/or indirect supervision of 100 or more employees have a median wage more than 50% greater than the typical RD. Those supervising 10 to 49 employees earn about 10% more than the typical RD.

Budget responsibility is also associated with higher wages, with gains increasing as budget size increases. Those responsible for budgets of $1 million or more earn a median wage nearly 50% greater than those with no budget responsibility. One fourth of those managing the biggest budgets earn an annual wage of over $100,000/year.

Wages tend to be highest in the practice areas of food and nutrition management, consultation and business, education and research. Wages tend to be lowest in the areas of clinical nutrition-inpatient and community nutrition.

Regarding wages by employment sector, those who are self-employed earn the highest median wages ($66,600) followed by those employed in government ($60,000). Those working at for-profit or nonprofit institutions earn less at $57,300 and $56,300 respectively.

Specific work settings for which median wages are highest include: pharmaceutical or nutrition products manufacturer, distributor or retailer ($79,000); food or equipment manufacturer, distributor, or retailer ($71,500); contract food management company ($67,000); and government agency or department ($63,000).
RD compensation varies to some degree according to region of the country. RDs on the coasts (in New England, Middle Atlantic, and Pacific states) earn the highest median wages, ranging from about $60,000 - $66,500/year. Lowest median wages are experienced in the South Central, North Central and South Atlantic States, each below $56,000/year.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than half of all jobs for dietitians and nutritionists are in hospitals, nursing care facilities, outpatient care centers, or offices of physicians and other health practitioners. State and local government agencies provide additional jobs—mostly in correctional facilities, health departments, and other public-health-related areas. Some dietitians and nutritionists are employed in special food services, an industry made up of firms providing food services on contract to facilities such as colleges and universities, airlines, correctional facilities, and company cafeterias.

Other jobs are in public and private educational services, community care facilities for the elderly (which includes assisted-living facilities), individual and family services, home healthcare services, and the Federal Government—mostly in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Some dietitians are self-employed, working as consultants to facilities such as hospitals and nursing care facilities or providing dietary counseling to individuals.

**AND’s 2011 Dietetics Compensation and Benefits survey reported work settings for RDs as follows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inpatient (acute care)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulatory/Outpatient Care</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-Term Care, Extended/Assisted Living</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community/Public Health</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College, University, Teaching Hospital</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The breakdown of RDs working in various employment sectors were as follows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Profit</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Profit</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Employed</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Based on the “primary position selected” in the survey, RDs worked in the following practice areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical nutrition – acute care/inpatient</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical nutrition – ambulatory care</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical nutrition – long-term care</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and nutrition management</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation and business</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and research</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highest incidence “positions” among practicing registered dietitians (RDs) were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical dietitian</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical dietitian, specialist-renal</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric/neonatal dietitian</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition support dietitian</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient dietitian, general</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient dietitian, specialist – diabetes</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient dietitian, specialist – renal</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical dietitian, long-term care</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIC* nutritionian</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public health nutritionist</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of food and nutrition services</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical nutrition manager</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*WIC = Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of dietitians is expected to grow by 20% (faster than the average for all occupations) from now through 2020 because of the increased emphasis on disease prevention, a growing and aging population and public interest in nutrition. Employment in hospitals is expected to show little change because of anticipated slow growth and reduced lengths of hospital stay. Faster growth, however, is anticipated in nursing homes, residential care facilities and physician clinics.

Dietitians with specialized training, an advanced degree, or certifications beyond the particular State's minimum requirement will experience the best job opportunities. Those specializing in renal and diabetic nutrition or gerontological nutrition will benefit from the growing number of diabetics and the aging of the population.
Job growth will result from an increasing emphasis on disease prevention through improved dietary habits. The importance of diet in preventing and treating illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease is now well known. A growing and aging population will boost demand for nutritional counseling and treatment in hospitals, residential care facilities, schools, prisons, community health programs, and home healthcare agencies. Public interest in nutrition and increased emphasis on health education and prudent lifestyles also will spur demand, especially in food service management. Also, with increased public awareness of obesity and diabetes, Medicare coverage has been expanded to include medical nutrition therapy for renal and diabetic patients, creating job growth for dietitians and nutritionists specializing in those diseases.

For additional information on job outlook and salaries in the field, read the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook (section for Dietitians and Nutritionists) located at: http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos077.htm This site has information on the Nature of the Work; Training, Other Qualifications, and Advancement; Employment; Job Outlook/Projections; Earnings/Wages; Related Occupations; and Sources of Additional Information.

**REGISTERED DIETITIAN – THE PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL**

As mentioned above, most jobs in dietetics – especially in the health and wellness areas – require the credential of **Registered Dietitian or RD**. The RD is the nationally recognized expert in food and nutrition. The credential tells employers (and the public) that you have met certain standards for knowledge and skills. Most professions (especially health care) certify competency in their members in some way – i.e. Registered Nurses, Registered Pharmacists, Certified Public Accountants, etc. Registered Dietitians (RDs) have met the following criteria to earn the RD credential:

1. **Completed a minimum of a bachelor’s degree** at a U.S. regionally accredited university or college.
2. **Completed coursework that constitutes a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)** as defined by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND).
3. **Completed an ACEND-accredited Dietetic Internship Program** at a health-care facility, college/university, community agency, or a foodservice corporation or combined with undergraduate or graduate studies. Typically, a practice program will run 9 to 12 months in length.
4. **Passed a national examination** administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR).

Further information on the process to become a Registered Dietitian may be found at: http://www.eatright.org/BecomeanRDorDTR/content.aspx?id=8143
**STEP 1 and STEP 2: Academics**
The first two items can be accomplished by completing the B.S. Degree in Dietetics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison which combines the AND’s 2012 Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards for Didactic Programs in Dietetics (DPD), UW-Madison’s general education requirements for a bachelor’s degree, and requirements to complete a bachelor’s degree in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS).

Upon successful completion of the B.S. Degree in Dietetics, a Verification Statement will be issued to the student. This statement indicates that he/she has successfully completed an accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD), has obtained a minimum of a bachelor’s degree and, thus may pursue a Dietetic Internship.

**STEP 3: Dietetic Internship**
Following completion of the B.S. Degree in Dietetics, students must be accepted into and complete a post-baccalaureate Dietetic Internship. These programs require a minimum of 1200 hours of supervised practice and help students gain practical experience in clinical dietetics, community nutrition, foodservice management and many other areas in the field of dietetics.

For a complete list of all dietetic internship programs in the country, see: [http://www.eatright.org/BecomeanRDorDTR/content.aspx?id=8473](http://www.eatright.org/BecomeanRDorDTR/content.aspx?id=8473)

Acceptance into Dietetic Internship programs has become extremely competitive with national acceptance rates around 50%. Acceptance into Dietetic Internships is based upon a number of factors including:

- Overall undergraduate GPA and GPA in science and professional courses (3.3 or above, although a slightly lower GPA may be accepted along with strong work or volunteer experience)
- Dietetics related work and volunteer experience
- Leadership experience
- Letters of recommendation
- Letter of application
- Interview

For further information on availability of Dietetic Internships and how to improve your chances of acceptance, see: [http://www.eatright.org/students/education/internships.aspx](http://www.eatright.org/students/education/internships.aspx)

In addition, as a registered student at UW-Madison, you may obtain access to the following **Dietetics Modules:**

- Looking Ahead – Improving Your Chances of Obtaining a Dietetic Internship
- Dietetic Internship Application Guide
- Interviewing Handbook – Dietetic Internships

*Each “module” includes a Handbook and a power-point presentation with audio. To obtain access to these resources, please send a request with your name and student ID# to: nutrisci@nutrisci.wisc.edu or call 608-262-2727 or stop by the office at Rm. 266 Nutr. Sci. Bldg.*
STEP 4: Registration Examination for Dietitians

After the internship, students must take and pass the national Registration Examination for Dietitians. To maintain a Registered Dietitian status, dietetics professionals must complete at least 75 credit hours in approved continuing education every 5 years. For more information regarding the examination, refer to CDR’s Web site at: www.cdrnet.org

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

In addition to RD credentialing, many states have regulatory laws for dietitians and nutrition practitioners. Frequently these state requirements are met through the same education and training required to become an RD.

There are three levels of state regulation in the field of dietetics and currently 46 states have statutory provisions regarding professional regulation of dietitians and/or nutritionists. The most restrictive of these regulations is 

Licensure which means that the state statutes include an explicitly defined scope of practice, and performance of the profession is illegal without first obtaining a license from the state. Licensing of dietitians and nutritionists assures the public that individuals disseminating nutrition advice have the appropriate education and experience. Licensure laws protect the public from unscrupulous and unqualified individuals who would portray themselves as nutrition experts. It is the goal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to have licensure for dietitians in all 50 states.

The second level is Statutory certification, which limits use of particular titles to persons meeting predetermined requirements, while persons not certified can still practice the occupation or profession. The state of Wisconsin currently has this level, but is working toward licensure.

Registration is the third level and least restrictive form of state regulation. (This type of registration is different from the RD credential obtained through the Commission on Dietetic Registration within AND.) As with certification, unregistered persons are permitted to practice the profession. Typically, exams are not given and enforcement of the registration requirement is minimal.

A summary of laws that regulate dietitians (and the list of states requiring them) can be found at: http://cdrnet.org/state-licensure
ADDITIONAL CREDENTIALS

Undergraduate Certificates
Some departments and programs at UW-Madison offer “certificates” in addition to majors. Normally a certificate is earned by completing a set of approved courses. A certificate is earned separately from, or in addition to, an undergraduate major. A list of Certificates offered on this campus can be found at: http://www.wisc.edu/academics/majors.php

For information about a specific certificate, students should consult with an advisor in the program offering the certificate. A link to each certificate program is included on the web page noted above. Certificate programs that have been popular with dietetics students include: Business (for non-business majors), Entrepreneurship, Gender & Women’s Studies, Global Health, and Specialist in Gerontology.

NEW Capstone Certificate in Clinical Nutrition

The Department of Nutritional Sciences at UW-Madison is pleased to announce a brand new post-graduate program: The Capstone Certificate in Clinical Nutrition. This totally on-line 12 credit program provides graduate-level coursework in Clinical Nutrition. It is designed for:

- New graduates who wish to improve their chances of obtaining a Dietetic Internship!
- B.S. graduates interested in obtaining graduate-level credits which may be used toward a graduate degree!
- Nutrition professionals desiring to obtain advanced-level skills and knowledge in Clinical Nutrition – needed to be competitive in today’s marketplace!

The program can be completed in 1 year – while working or completing a Dietetic Internship – as it offers the convenience and flexibility of an on-line program. Set to begin in January 2014, applications will be accepted starting the Fall 2013 semester!

For more information on this exciting new program, contact Lynette Karls, MS, RD, Program Director, Department of Nutritional Sciences, UW-Madison. Phone: 608-262-5847, Email: karls@nutrisci.wisc.edu, Office: Rm. 274 Nutritional Sciences Building.
Graduate Degrees
Currently, approximately 50% of RDs hold a Masters degree and this number is higher in certain areas of the country such as Washington, DC, New York City, popular east/west coast cities, and cities with large research universities. It is anticipated that by 2024, a master’s degree will be required to become a Registered Dietitian. RDs hold Masters (and Doctorate) degrees in a variety of different disciplines including:

- Business (including MBA)
- Clinical Nutrition Management
- Clinical Practice Doctorate
- Community/Public Health Nutrition (including MPH)
- Counseling and Education
- Dietetics/Nutrition Education
- Exercise Physiology
- Food and Nutrition
- Food Safety
- Food Science
- Food Service System Management
- Health Care Administration
- Health Education
- Health Promotion and Wellness
- Hospitality Management
- Human Resource Management
- Informatics
- International Nutrition
- Marketing
- Medical Nutrition Therapy/Human Nutrition
- Nutrition Biochemistry/Metabolism
- Nutrition Communication
- Nutritional Genomics
- Nutrition Policy
- Nutritional Science
- Psychology
- Sports Nutrition
- Sustainable Food Systems
- Many others . . . . .

As you can see, there are a wide variety of graduate degrees that complement the RD credential!

You will find a list of advanced degree programs on the following website:
http://www.eatright.org/students/education/advanceddegrees.aspx
These advanced degree programs are not accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) and do not meet the requirements for the registration examination for dietitians. This list should be used as a guide only; this is not an all-inclusive list of advanced degree programs in nutrition, dietetics and related areas.

Although a Masters degree is not currently required by AND, one may be preferred or required for certain positions – such as critical care, public health program management, clinical nutrition in tertiary care (research oriented) medical centers, higher level management positions, education, and research. RDs with Masters degrees may be more competitive for jobs and may earn higher salaries.

Some students choose to pursue their Masters degree immediately after they complete their B.S. degree, then apply for Dietetic Internships. This may improve your competitiveness in the internship application process. However, it’s important to know what area of dietetics you wish to pursue before choosing a graduate program. As mentioned above, there are many different graduate degrees that complement the RD credential. There are also several “combined” Dietetic Internship/Masters degree programs in the United States and this may be a good option for students who know the area of dietetics/graduate degree program they wish to pursue. Information on these programs can be found on the program list from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (http://www.eatright.org/CADE/content.aspx?id=10760).

While some students choose to pursue their Masters degree immediately after they complete their B.S. degree or during the internship, it is not necessary to do so. Many dietitians choose to work as an RD for a few years before entering a Masters program and may complete a part-time Master’s degree program while continuing to work.

**Board Certification**

In addition to graduate studies, dietitians may also choose to become “Board Certified” by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) in a number of specialties. These credentials are:

- **Board Certified Specialist in Gerontological Nutrition (CSG)** - granted in recognition of an applicant's documented practice experience and successful completion of an examination in gerontological nutrition.
- **Board Certified Specialist in Sports Dietetics (CSSD)** - granted in recognition of an applicant's documented practice experience and successful completion of an examination in the sports dietetics.
- **Board Certified Specialist in Pediatric Nutrition (CSP)** - granted in recognition of an applicant's documented practice experience and successful completion of an examination in pediatric nutrition.
- **Board Certified Specialist in Renal Nutrition (CSR)** - granted in recognition of an applicant's documented practice experience and successful completion of an examination in renal nutrition.
• **Board Certified Specialist in Oncology Nutrition (CSO)** - granted in recognition of an applicant's documented practice experience and successful completion of an examination in oncology nutrition.

These credentials typically require that the candidate have been a RD for at least 2 years and have from 1500-2000 hours of practice in the area of specialty. For further information on these specialties certified by the Commission on Dietetic Registration, - including criteria for eligibility to sit for the examinations - see: [http://www.cdrnet.org/certifications/board-certified-specialist](http://www.cdrnet.org/certifications/board-certified-specialist)

**Certified Nutrition Support Clinician (CNSC)**
Dietitians practicing in the area of Nutrition Support may obtain the credential “**Certified Nutrition Support Clinician**” (CNSC). CNS Dietitians are those with specialized nutrition support knowledge. Large or teaching hospitals may require the certification for dietitians on the nutrition support team or those functioning in the role of nutrition support dietitian. The program is administered through the American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN). Eligibility for the certification includes the RD credential, and successful completion of the certification exam. It is recommended that candidates have at least 2 years of experience in specialized nutrition support, but it is not required. For further information, see: [http://www.nutritioncare.org/nbnscl](http://www.nutritioncare.org/nbnscl)

**Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE)**
Since 1986, the National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators has offered certification in the field of diabetes education. A “**Certified Diabetes Educator**” (CDE) is a medical/health care professional who possesses comprehensive knowledge of and experience in diabetes management, prediabetes, and diabetes prevention. A CDE educates and supports people affected by diabetes to understand and manage the condition. The CDE credential has become a standard of excellence for the delivery of quality diabetes education. The Certification Process for Diabetes Educators to obtain the credentials "**Certified Diabetes Educator**” (CDE) includes:

1. Professional education (registered nurse, clinical psychologist, occupational therapist, optometrist, pharmacist, physical therapist, physician, physician assistant, podiatrist, exercise specialist/physiologist, or **Registered Dietitian**) OR a minimum of a master's degree in social work
2. Professional practice experience - minimum of two years of professional practice experience in the discipline under which the individual is applying for certification **AND** a minimum of 1,000 hours of diabetes self-management education experience with a minimum of 40$ of those hours (400 hours) accrued in the most recent year preceding application.

For further information on becoming a “**Certified Diabetes Educator**” (CDE), see: [http://www.ncbde.org/](http://www.ncbde.org/)
Board Certified Advanced Diabetes Management (BC – ADM)
The National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators also offers a credential in Advanced Diabetes Management. This credential is available for Registered Nurses, Dietitians, Pharmacists, Physicians and Physician’s Assistants. Eligibility for an RD requires a graduate degree and clinical practice hours in advanced diabetes management. For further information, see: http://www.diabeteseducator.org/ProfessionalResources/Certification/BC-ADM/

Certified Foodservice Management Professional (FMP)
The certified Foodservice Management Professional (FMP) designation is a measure of professional achievement for food service managers. Although not a requirement for employment or necessary for advancement, voluntary certification can provide recognition of professional competence, particularly for managers who acquired their skills largely on the job. The National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation awards the FMP designation to managers who achieve a qualifying score on a written examination, complete a series of courses that cover a range of food service management topics, and meet standards of work experience in the field. For further information, see: http://managefirst.restaurant.org/fmp/

Certified Dietary Manager (CDM), Certified Food Protection Professional (CFPP)
A Certified Dietary Manager (CDM), Certified Food Protection Professional (CFPP) has passed a nationally recognized credentialing exam offered by the Certifying Board for Dietary Managers. The exam is written by content experts, and administered by The American College Testing Program (ACT). The exam covers competency areas which fall under four major headings: Nutrition and Medical Nutrition Therapy, Foodservice Management, Food Safety/Sanitation, and Human Resources Management. The CDM, CFPP credentials indicate that these individuals have the training and experience to competently perform the responsibilities of a dietary manager. For further information, see: http://www.cdmcareer.info/

Certified Foodservice Professional (CFSP)
This North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers offers a certificate for foodservice professionals. To be considered for the Certified Foodservice Professional designation, candidates are required to successfully complete a written examination and provide documented evidence of foodservice activities. For information, see: http://www.mafsi.org

School Foodservice and Nutrition Specialist (SFNS)
The School Foodservice and Nutrition Specialist credential is formal recognition of professional knowledge in school foodservice and nutrition. Individuals with the credential are generally employed as school foodservice directors, who are responsible for menu planning, purchasing, food safety training and financial management of the school lunch program. The program is administered through the School Nutrition Association. For further information, see: http://www.schoolnutrition.org
Certified Clinical Nutritionist (CCN)
The Certified Clinical Nutritionist credential is offered through the International and American Associations of Clinical Nutritionists (IAACN). Certification requires satisfying CORE requirements, credential review approval, completion of the Post Graduate Studies in Clinical Nutrition Program, and a passing score on the written CCN exam. For further information, see: http://www.cncb.org/

Certified Nutrition Specialist (CNS)
The Certified Nutrition Specialist credential is offered by the Certification Board of Nutrition Specialists of the American College of Nutrition. It requires an advanced degree in the field of nutrition (or an allied field), completion of specified coursework, and 1000 hours of postgraduate, supervised experience in nutrition. Information may be found at: http://www.cbns.org/

Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES)
The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. offers a credential as a Certified Health Education Specialist. Eligibility to take the exam is based on academic qualifications demonstrating competency in “Seven Areas of Responsibility” for Health Educators. Please see: http://www.nchec.org/ for additional information.

National Certified Counselor (NCC)
The National Certified Counselor credential is offered by the National Board for Certified Counselors and achieved by successfully completing graduate-level coursework, the National Counselor Exam (NCE), and 3,000 hours of postgraduate counseling, experience, and supervision. See: http://www.nbcc.org/

International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBLC), Registered Lactation Consultant (RLC)
An International Board Certified Lactation Consultant is a health care professional who specializes in the clinical management of breastfeeding. They are certified by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners, Inc. and work in a wide variety of health care settings, including hospitals, pediatric offices, public health clinics, and private practice. Registered Lactation Consultant (RLC) is the official “title” of a consultant who has passed the IBCLE exam. See http://www.iblce.org for further information.

Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ)
The Certified Professional in Health Quality credential recognizes professional and academic achievement by individuals in the field of healthcare quality management. The comprehensive body of knowledge includes quality management, quality improvement, case management, utilization management and risk management at all employment levels and in all healthcare settings. This certification is offered by the Healthcare Quality Certification Board of the National Association for Healthcare Quality. More information may be found at: http://www.nahq.org/certify/content/index.html
Certified in Family and Consumer Sciences (CFCS)
The American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences offers a credential titled “Certified in Family and Consumer Sciences”. This Certification is based on individual mastery of knowledge common and essential to all family and consumer sciences professionals as verified by a minimum of a baccalaureate degree and successful completion of the National Family and Consumer Sciences Examination. For further information, see: http://www.aafcs.org/credentialingCenter/Certification.asp

ACE - Certified Fitness Professionals
The American Council on Exercise (ACE) has four core fitness certification programs, each with a unique population and/or programming as described below:

1. **ACE Personal Trainer Certification (ACE-CPT)** - designed for fitness professionals providing one-on-one or small-group fitness instruction to apparently healthy individuals.
2. **ACE Group Fitness Instructor Certification (ACE-GFI)** - designed for fitness professionals teaching any form of exercise to apparently healthy individuals in a group setting.
3. **ACE Health Coach** – helps change the behaviors that have kept their clients and employees from losing weight, changing the way they eat, incorporating physical activity into their lives, and improving their overall health and well-being; helps people with strategies and systems to change the fitness, nutrition and lifestyle behaviors that may be holding them back.
4. **ACE Advanced Health & Fitness Specialist Certification (ACE-AHFS)** - designed for advanced fitness professionals working with clients in need of preventative and post-rehabilitative fitness programming for cardiovascular, pulmonary, metabolic, and musculoskeletal diseases and disorders, as well as clients in special populations such as older adults, youth, and pre- and post-natal.

In order to earn an ACE certification, candidates must first meet the eligibility requirement for that credential, and then must register for and pass the certification examination. Information regarding ACE certification examinations, including eligibility criteria, registration, format, design, administration, scoring, passing criteria, professional code of conduct, and maintaining an ACE certification can be found at: [http://www.acefitness.org](http://www.acefitness.org)

ACSM – Certifications
The American College of Sports Medicine has several certification programs which include:

1. **ACSM Certified Personal Trainer**
2. **ACSM Certified Health Fitness Specialist**
3. **ACSM Certified Clinical Exercise Specialist**
4. **ACSM Registered Clinical Exercise Physiologist**

For further information on these and other certifications, see: [http://www.acsm.org](http://www.acsm.org)

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EDUCATION/ACADEMIC COURSEWORK

As discussed previously, the requirements to become a Registered Dietitian (RD) are: completion of a Bachelor’s Degree, completion of coursework that constitutes a “Didactic Program in Dietetics” (DPD), completion of a Dietetic Internship and a passing score on the Registration Examination for Dietitians. The first two involve academic coursework.

B.S. Degree vs Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)
If you do not have a bachelor’s degree, you may meet both of these requirements at UW-Madison by completing the B.S. Degree in Dietetics.

The B.S. Degree in Dietetics is composed of 2 elements:
1. Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) courses, and
2. B.S. degree requirements as specified by UW-Madison and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS)

If, however, you already have a Bachelor’s degree (any field), it is not necessary for you to complete the B.S. Degree in Dietetics. However, you must complete the coursework that constitutes our Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) in order to be eligible to apply for a Dietetic Internship.

Let’s look at the courses required to meet each of these elements (DPD and B.S. degree requirements).

Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)
The DPD at UW-Madison provides the required dietetics coursework to meet the Foundation Knowledge and Skill requirements set by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) for the academic component in the education of future dietitians. UW-Madison’s DPD is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of AND. Students who complete the program and obtain a Bachelor’s degree are eligible to apply for Dietetic Internships. (Students completing the B.S. Dietetics degree program at UW-Madison automatically complete the DPD as part of the required coursework.) Specific courses required for the UW-Madison DPD and their role in the program are described in the table on the next page.
# Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at UW-Madison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Role in the Program/Profession</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>UW-Madison Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Much writing (nutrition education materials, reports, letters, etc), public speaking, and teaching required in jobs</td>
<td>Communication course beyond introductory level.</td>
<td>Gen Bus 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Working with people, teaching/motivating clients and employees required in jobs</td>
<td>One introductory psychology course</td>
<td>Psychology 202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Teaching – clients or employees – involved in many jobs</td>
<td>Course on theories in educating adults</td>
<td>Ed Psych 301 OR INTER-HE 427, 428 OR 515 OR Agronomy 379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>Need statistics background to interpret research studies or if performing research</td>
<td>One introductory statistics course</td>
<td>Stats 201, 301, 371 OR Psych 210 OR Soc 360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Foundation for Food Science and Nutritional Sciences</td>
<td>Two semesters of inorganic chemistry and one semester of organic chemistry; inorganic chemistry courses must include labs and first course must require algebra; organic chemistry must be at intermediate level; organic chemistry lab not needed</td>
<td>Inorganic: Chemistry 103 and 104, OR Chemistry 109; Organic – Chemistry 341 OR 343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>Foundation for Food Science and Nutritional Sciences</td>
<td>One semester of biochemistry, intermediate or advanced level</td>
<td>Biomol Chem 314 OR 503 OR Biochem 501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology</td>
<td>Background for Food Science and Nutritional Sciences courses – especially for topics such as food borne illnesses, food safety issues, infectious diseases</td>
<td>Introductory course(s) in microbiology; must include lecture and lab components</td>
<td>Microbiology 101 or 303, AND Microbiology 102 OR 304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoology</td>
<td>Introduction to general biological principles; background for all science courses</td>
<td>Introductory course(s) in zoology; must include lecture and lab components</td>
<td>Zoology 101 and 102, OR Zoology 151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiology</td>
<td>Foundation for Nutritional Sciences courses, study of organ systems and how the body works</td>
<td>Intermediate level course(s) in physiology; must include lecture and lab components</td>
<td>Physiology 335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>Background for foodservice management; many jobs require management of people and businesses</td>
<td>Intermediate courses in general business</td>
<td>Gen Bus 310 and 311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Role in the Program/Profession</td>
<td>Requirement</td>
<td>UW-Madison Courses</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Science</td>
<td>Food Science/Chemistry - chemical, physical and microbiological properties of food</td>
<td>Course in food properties and manipulations; must require chemistry and biology as prerequisites; must include lecture and lab</td>
<td>Food Science 301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foodservice Operations – technical operations in quantity foodservice systems</td>
<td>Must include lecture and lab in foodservice operations</td>
<td>Food Science 437 and Food Science 438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutritional Sciences</td>
<td>Introduction to Profession of Dietetics - jobs/careers, dietetic internships, improving your portfolio, interviewing, writing skills, etc.</td>
<td>Introductory course on profession/jobs/careers in dietetics; must include portfolio and interviewing/writing skills for job/dietetic internship applications</td>
<td>NS 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Human Nutrition – biological basis for nutritional requirements; background for clinical and community nutrition courses</td>
<td>Intermediate level human nutrition course</td>
<td>NS 332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community/Life-Cycle Nutrition – nutrition in life cycle stages; food/nutrition and relationship to selected chronic diseases; community nutrition programs.</td>
<td>Community and life-cycle nutrition class with prerequisites of Human Nutrition and Physiology</td>
<td>NS 431 (must receive grade of C or better in NS 332 and Physiology 335 to enroll in NS 431; strictly enforced)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clinical Nutrition - alterations in nutrition and metabolism that accompany disease states; nutritional care in clinical settings/disease states</td>
<td>Advanced level course in clinical nutrition with prerequisites of nutrition and biochemistry courses</td>
<td>NS 510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biochemical Nutrition - biochemical and physiological fundamentals of nutrition</td>
<td>Advanced biochemical nutrition course; prerequisite - biochemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capstone Courses</td>
<td>Undergraduate Capstone Seminar – evaluating research articles; develop professional oral presentation</td>
<td>Advanced level course – prerequisite of NS 510 or concurrent registration</td>
<td>NS 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Applications in Clinical Nutrition – clinical problem solving and application of the nutritional care process; develops critical thinking, teamwork and communication skills needed by the dietetic intern and dietitian.</td>
<td>Advanced level course requiring application of clinical nutrition to clinical cases and simulations</td>
<td>NS 520</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In summary, the courses in the table above are required to complete the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at UW-Madison. See the “Course Planning Checklist” in the Appendix of this handbook for a list of DPD courses, as well.
**B.S. Degree in Dietetics – Additional UW-MADISON/CALS Requirements**

The DPD coursework has been outlined above. The table below lists additional requirements specified by UW-Madison and CALS to complete a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Dietetics. If you are completing your first Bachelor’s degree, these are the additional courses you need to complete the degree. If you already have a Bachelor’s degree (any field), it is not necessary for you to complete these courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>UW-Madison Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication A</td>
<td>2-3 credits</td>
<td>See * below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication B</td>
<td>2-3 credits</td>
<td>See * below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic Studies</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>See * below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Studies</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>See Curriculum Sheet for specific courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>Math 112 OR by placement exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>6 credits</td>
<td>Humanities courses are designated with an &quot;H&quot;, “L”, or &quot;Z&quot; in the Timetable/Schedule of Classes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The following symbols are used in the UW-Madison course listings to indicate how courses count toward satisfying the communication, and ethnic studies portions of the General Education Requirements.
  a—Communication Part A
  b—Communication Part B
  e—Ethnic Studies

**SPECIAL NOTES:** For the Bachelor of Science Degree, students must complete a minimum of 120 credits with at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA. Students must take their last 30 credits in residence while officially enrolled in CALS. Degree credit will be granted only once for courses that are repeated.

All requirements needed to complete **the B.S. Degree in Dietetics** are summarized on the Dietetics Curriculum Sheet located in the Appendix of this Handbook and found online at: [https://www.cals.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Dietetics.pdf](https://www.cals.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Dietetics.pdf)

**B.S. Degree Programs in the Department of Nutritional Sciences**

Are you wondering what the difference is between the B.S. Degree in Dietetics and the B.S. Degree in Natural Sciences with a major in Nutritional Sciences?

First of all, the terms “degree” and “major” are different. Each UW-Madison school and college has a set of requirements that students must complete to earn a **degree**. Degrees are offered at the bachelor’s, masters, and doctoral level. Within each **degree**, there is a group of courses required to complete a **major**. A specific **degree** program may offer more than one **major**. A specific **major** may be found in more than one **degree** program.

The Department of Nutritional Sciences currently offers 2 degrees at the Bachelor’s level:
- B.S. – Dietetics
- B.S. – Nutritional Sciences
Both degree programs offer one major – Nutritional Sciences. The Bachelor of Sciences Degree (Nutritional Sciences major) is focused on the natural sciences necessary for a solid background in the biological aspects of Nutrition. The program offers study in Zoology, Bacteriology, Genetics, Chemistry, Physics and Math along with Nutrition classes. It includes all of the prerequisite courses required for medical school and provides an excellent foundation for graduate or professional study. With graduate work, this option prepares students for work in research laboratories, clinics or experiment stations. Employment opportunities without graduate or professional study are limited with this degree. It does not provide the coursework needed to obtain the Registered Dietitian credential.

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION – PRE-DIETETICS (PDI CLASSIFICATION)

Information on admission to “Pre-Dietetics” is discussed below for 4 different types of students:

1. Prospective Freshmen – i.e. students considering “Pre-Dietetics” as their course of study when they begin college.

2. “Internal” Transfers – i.e. students already enrolled at UW-Madison who wish to change their current major/degree program to Dietetics.

3. “External” Transfers – i.e. students enrolled at another college/university (other than UW-Madison) who wish to transfer to UW-Madison and pursue Dietetics.

4. 2nd Degree Candidates – i.e. students who already have completed a degree at the bachelor’s level and wish to pursue Dietetics as a career.

Please refer to the section of this handbook that pertains to you!
ADMISSION TO PRE-DIETETICS (PDI) – PROSPECTIVE FRESHMEN

High school students interested in a career in dietetics should pursue a well-rounded and rigorous program with emphasis on science, mathematics, social studies, foreign languages and communication skills (oral and written). Chemistry, biology, and advanced biology are strongly recommended. Admission to the university is competitive and selective. There are minimum course requirements for application; however, most students admitted have completed a significantly larger number of courses in all areas.

Freshmen are admitted with the “Pre-Dietetics” (PDI) classification. For information on admission to UW-Madison see the Office of Admissions website at: http://www.admissions.wisc.edu/

Freshmen receive academic advising when they attend the Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) program. For further information on this program, see: http://www.newstudent.wisc.edu/soar/

NOTE: Admission to UW-Madison and “Pre-Dietetics” (PDI classification) does not guarantee admission to the B.S. Degree in Dietetics program (ADI classification) which has additional admission requirements.

See the section in this handbook titled “Admission Requirements – Dietetics (ADI Classification)” for more details.
ADMISSIONS TO PRE-DIETETICS (PDI) – INTERNAL TRANSFERS

Students currently enrolled at UW-Madison may transfer into the dietetics program as a Pre-Dietetics student (PDI classification) if they have not yet completed the requirements for Dietetics. See the section in this handbook titled “Admission Requirements – Dietetics (ADI Classification)” to learn what these requirements are. Transfer into the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) requires a minimum of 2.000 Cumulative GPA. There are 2 steps in the transfer process.

STEP 1: Attend CALS Workshop for Nutrition and Dietetics Students
The first step in learning more about transferring to CALS and pursuing the dietetics program is to attend a CALS Workshop for Nutrition and Dietetics Students.

Sessions are held Rm. 116 Agricultural Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 3:30 pm during the academic year. Students should reserve a seat ahead of time by calling (608) 262-3003 or by stopping in at Rm. 116 Agricultural Hall. Please arrive to the session 5 minutes early to check-in.

For information about the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, see: http://www.cals.wisc.edu/students/prospectiveStudents/
For further information about admission to CALS, you may call (877) 919-CALS or (608) 262-3003. You may also send an email to undergrads@cals.wisc.edu or write to:

Prospective Students Services  
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences  
116 Agricultural Hall  
1450 Linden Dr.  
Madison, WI 53706.

STEP 2: Academic Advising
Once you have decided to pursue “pre-dietetics”, you will be assigned an official academic advisor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences. This may be done at the workshop or later by contacting the Department of Nutritional Sciences (phone: 608-262-2727, office: Rm. 266 Nutritional Sciences Building).

NOTE: If you are already enrolled in a degree program in CALS, you do NOT need to attend the CALS Workshop for Nutrition and Dietetics Students. You may contact the Department of Nutritional Sciences directly to be assigned an academic advisor. (phone: 608-262-2727, office: Rm. 266 Nutritional Sciences Building.)
BEFORE MEETING WITH YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR

1. Attend CALS Workshop for Nutrition and Dietetics Students.
2. Run a DARS report with “Dietetics” as the Degree Program. For information on DARS, see p. 34 of this handbook, or review the following website: http://registrar.wisc.edu/documents/DARS_Students_Quick_Guide.pdf
3. Email DARS report to advisor or bring it with you to the appointment!
   Bring this with you to the appointment!
5. Review all Dietetics Program information located on the Department of Nutritional Sciences website: http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu
6. Review all information on careers in Dietetics on the AND website: http://www.eatright.org See the “Student Center”.

Be Prepared For Your Advising Session!
Remember to bring a DARS report and the Dietetics Curriculum Sheet!

NOTE: Admission to CALS and “Pre-Dietetics” (PDI Classification) does not guarantee admission to the B.S. Degree in Dietetics program (ADI classification) which has additional admission requirements.

See the section in this handbook titled “Admission Requirements – Dietetics (ADI Classification)” for more details.

Note: Some of the courses required for admission into the Dietetics program (ADI classification) require a PDI Classification for “priority registration” (i.e. Physiology 335). Thus, it is best to transfer into CALS and obtain the PDI classification as soon as you decide to pursue this course of study. Currently enrolled UW-Madison students who are interested in transferring to Dietetics and meet the admission requirements may apply to be admitted to the Dietetics program directly. See “Admission Requirements – Dietetics Program”, p. 33.
ADMISSION TO PRE-DIETETICS (PDI) – EXTERNAL TRANSFERS

A transfer student who is not currently enrolled at UW-Madison may be admitted as a Pre-Dietetics (PDI) student. There are 4 steps in the transfer process that should be followed in sequence.

**STEP 1: Apply for Admission to UW-Madison**
Students wishing to enter UW-Madison with the PDI classification must apply to the University by February 1 for summer and fall sessions and October 1 for spring admission. For information on admission as a transfer student to UW-Madison see the following resources:

- UW-Madison Transfer Admission Expectations:  
  - Includes Minimum Requirements for Application.

- UW-Madison Transfer Student Admission Information:  
  [http://www.admissions.wisc.edu/transfer.php](http://www.admissions.wisc.edu/transfer.php)  
  - Requirements & Expectations  
  - Application Process & Dates  
  - Transfer Credit Information  
  - Transfer Agreements

- UW-Madison Office of Admissions:  
  [http://www.admissions.wisc.edu/](http://www.admissions.wisc.edu/)

- Application for admission to UW-Madison:  
  [http://www.admissions.wisc.edu/applyOnline.php](http://www.admissions.wisc.edu/applyOnline.php)

**NOTE:** Admission to UW-Madison and “Pre-Dietetics” (PDI Classification) does not guarantee admission to the B.S. Degree in Dietetics program (ADI classification) which has additional admission requirements.

See the section in this handbook titled “**Admission Requirements – Dietetics (ADI Classification)**” for more details.

**STEP 2: Obtain “Evaluation of Transfer Credits”**
Upon admission to UW-Madison, the Office of Admissions will send you an “**Evaluation of Transfer Credits**”. It is important to have this document BEFORE you see an academic advisor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences. The Department of Nutritional Sciences and their advisors do not have the authority to evaluate your transcript and determine course equivalency. This can only be completed by the admissions office upon receipt of your application to UW-Madison. It is difficult for advisors to help you plan your course of study without this information. Depending on the school(s) you have attended, equivalencies for your courses may be listed in one of our online transfer equivalency databases. Students
transferring from another UW System school or a Wisconsin Technical College can find freshman- and sophomore-level course equivalencies on the Transfer Information System (TIS) at: http://tis.uwsa.edu/

Students attending an “out-of-state” school should check UW-Madison’s Transfer Equivalency Database (TED) at: http://www.admissions.wisc.edu/transfer/ted/index.php for courses frequently transferred. TED is updated with more courses and colleges as current offerings are evaluated. You may also talk to your advisor at your CURRENT school about how courses may transfer.

STEP 3: Attend SOAR for Transfer Students
Academic advising is provided during SOAR. For further information on this program see: http://www.newstudent.wisc.edu/soar/

STEP 4: Academic Advising
Once you are admitted to UW-Madison as a PDI student, you will be assigned an academic advisor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences who can help you plan your schedule of classes, provide further information on the dietetics program, and determine when you are eligible to apply for admission to the Dietetics program (ADI classification). Before speaking to an advisor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences, be sure you have received an “Evaluation of Transfer Credits” from UW-Madison Admissions Office (as mentioned in Step 2). You may schedule a meeting with an academic advisor by contacting the Department of Nutritional Sciences [phone: (608) 262-2727, office: Rm. 266, Nutritional Sciences Building.].

BEFORE MEETING WITH YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR
1. Attend SOAR for transfer students.
2. Obtain “Evaluation of Transfer Credits”. Bring this with you to the appointment!
3. Run a DARS report with “Dietetics” as the Degree Program. For information on DARS, see p. 34 of this handbook, or review the following website: http://registrar.wisc.edu/documents/DARS_Students_Quick_Guide.pdf
4. Email DARS report to advisor or bring it with you to the appointment!
5. Check off the courses you have completed using the Curriculum Sheet for Dietetics, available at: https://www.cals.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Dietetics.pdf Bring this with you to the appointment!
6. Review all Dietetics Program information located on the Department of Nutritional Sciences website: http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu
7. Review all information on careers in Dietetics on AND website: http://www.eatright.org See the “Student Center”.

Be Prepared For Your Advising Session!
Remember to bring your Evaluation of Transfer Credits, a DARS report, and the Dietetics Curriculum Sheet!
ADMISSION TO PRE-DIETETICS (PDI) – 2ND DEGREE CANDIDATES

Students who have already completed a 4 year college degree (Bachelor’s degree) from UW-Madison or other accredited institutions may, if eligible, pursue the Dietetics Program. These students would need to complete the “Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)”. See the “Course Planning Checklist” located in the Appendix of this Handbook for a list of courses required to complete the DPD at UW-Madison.

Although it is not necessary to actually complete a “2nd degree”, students must apply as a 2nd degree candidate (rather than as a “special student”) to receive registration priority and be eligible for future admission into the Dietetics Program (ADI classification).

Second degree students interested in pursuing dietetics should follow the following 3 steps in sequence.

**STEP 1: Apply for Admission to UW-Madison**

Students who have a bachelor’s degree should apply to UW-Madison as a “2nd Degree Candidate”. For further information on applying for UW-Madison admission as a 2nd Degree student, see: [http://www.admissions.wisc.edu/](http://www.admissions.wisc.edu/)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** In order to be admitted as a 2nd Degree Candidate in the Department of Nutritional Sciences with the PDI Classification, you must have:

1. A minimum cumulative college GPA of ≥ 3.000, and
2. Completed the equivalent of UW-Madison’s Chemistry 103 with a grade of B or better. (Chemistry 103 can be completed as a “special student” at UW-Madison.)

Admission as a 2nd degree candidate is at the discretion of the Department of Nutritional Sciences. The entire application is reviewed. Having the minimum qualifications described above does NOT guarantee admission.

“Second-Degree” students are admitted with the Pre-Dietetics (PDI) classification and may apply for admission to the Dietetics Program (ADI classification) after they have completed admission requirements. Following completion of the DPD, you are eligible to apply to Dietetic Internships.

**NOTE:** Admission to UW-Madison and “Pre-Dietetics” (PDI Classification) does not guarantee admission to the B.S. Degree in Dietetics program (ADI classification) which has additional admission requirements. See the section in this handbook titled “Admission Requirements – Dietetics (ADI Classification)” for more details.
STEP 2: Obtain “Evaluation of Transfer Credits”
Upon admission to UW-Madison, the Office of Admissions will send you an “Evaluation of Transfer Credits”. It is important to have this document BEFORE you see an academic advisor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences. The Department of Nutritional Sciences and their advisors do not have the authority to evaluate your transcript and determine course equivalency. This can only be completed by the admissions office upon receipt of your application to UW-Madison. It is difficult for advisors to help you plan your course of study without this information.

Depending on the school(s) you have attended, equivalencies for your courses may be listed in one of our online transfer equivalency databases. Students transferring from another UW System school or a Wisconsin Technical College can find freshman- and sophomore-level course equivalencies on the Transfer Information System (TIS) at: http://tis.uwsa.edu/

Students attending an “out-of-state” school should check our Transfer Equivalency Database (TED) at: http://www.admissions.wisc.edu/transfer/ted/index.php for courses frequently transferred. TED will continue to be updated with more courses and colleges as current offerings are evaluated. You may also talk to your advisor at your CURRENT school about how courses may transfer.

STEP 3: Academic Advising
Once you are admitted to UW-Madison as a PDI student, you will be assigned an academic advisor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences who can help you plan your schedule of classes and determine when you are eligible to apply for admission to the Dietetics Program (ADI classification). Before speaking to an academic advisor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences, you need to obtain an “Evaluation of Transfer Credits” (as mentioned in Step 2). You may schedule a meeting with an academic advisor by contacting the Department of Nutritional Sciences [phone: (608) 262-2727, office: Rm. 266, Nutritional Sciences Building].

BEFORE MEETING WITH YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR
1. Obtain “Evaluation of Transfer Credits”. Bring this with you to the appointment!
2. Run a DARS report with “Dietetics” as the Degree Program. For information on DARS, see p. 33 of this handbook, or review the following website: http://registrar.wisc.edu/documents/DARS_Students_Quick_Guide.pdf
3. Email DARS report to advisor or bring it with you to the appointment!
4. Check off the courses you have completed using the Course Planning Checklist available in the Appendix of this handbook. Bring this with you to the appointment!
5. Review all Dietetics Program information located on the Department of Nutritional Sciences website: http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu
6. Review all information on careers in Dietetics on AND website: http://www.eatright.org
See the “Student Center”.

Be Prepared For Your Advising Session! Remember to bring your “Evaluation of Transfer Credits”, a DARS report and the Course Planning Checklist!
HOW LONG WILL THIS TAKE ME?
Second degree candidates often want to know how long it will take them to complete the DPD before they apply to UW-Madison. The amount of time it takes students with a degree to complete the DPD varies widely. It can only be determined after you have submitted an application for admission to UW-Madison and receive your “Evaluation of Transfer Credits”.

Past experience has shown, however, that it takes a minimum of 3 years to complete the DPD if you do not have a strong science background; it could take longer. If you have a strong science background (2 semesters of inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, zoology, bacteriology, physiology, etc.), you may be able to complete it in 2-3 years. This is just an estimate and is completely dependent upon how your courses transfer.

Your academic advisor can help you determine this once you are admitted to UW-Madison and have an “Evaluation of Transfer Credits” from UW-Madison Office of Admissions. Your advisor can also determine when you will be ready to apply for admission to the Dietetics Program (ADI Classification).

SHOULD I APPLY TO GRADUATE SCHOOL (INSTEAD OF 2ND DEGREE)?
If you plan to pursue a career as a Registered Dietitian (RD), the 2nd Degree option is usually the best option. Entrance to the graduate program in the Department of Nutritional Sciences is extremely competitive and the program seeks applicants who are interested in research and have a strong science background. (Admitted students usually have an undergraduate degree in nutritional sciences, biochemistry, molecular biology, chemistry, or in one of the biological or medical sciences.) In addition, because of funding issues, graduate students may not be able to complete the courses required for the DPD during their graduate program. For further information on the Graduate Program, please see the departmental website (http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu).
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS – DIETETICS PROGRAM (ADI CLASSIFICATION)

Effective Fall 2009, students interested in the Dietetics program (ADI Classification) must meet the admission requirements specified below.

Dietetics Program Admission Requirements
(From: http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu/Undergrad/dietetics/diet_reqs.html)

• Students must satisfy the admission policies for the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and,
• Have completed the following requirements:
  1. A minimum overall cumulative GPA of ≥ 2.800
  2. A minimum mean GPA of ≥ 2.800 in the following required courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chem 103 and 104, or 109</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoo 101 and 102, or 151</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology 101 or 303</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutritional Sciences 332</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiology 335</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psych 202 or statistics (Psych 210, Soc 360, Stat 201, 301, or 371) or</td>
<td>2-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a communication course (Com A or Com B)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>27-29</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Any Transfer course from another university that will be used to meet the above required courses must be included in the GPA calculation. If the same course is taken more than once, only the grade from the last time the course was taken will be used in the GPA calculation.

**GPA Calculation**
There is a “Dietetics Admission GPA Calculator” located on the following website: http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu/Undergrad/dietetics/diet_gpa.html You may use this to help you assess your GPA in progress.

As an alternative, multiply the number of credits in each course by 4.0 for an A, 3.5 for an AB, 3.0 for a B, 2.5 for a BC, 2.0 for a C, 1.0 for a D, and 0.0 for an F. Add the products for all the courses to find the total number of grade points. Divide the total number of grade points by the total number of credits.
How do I Apply?
After completion of all admission requirements, students must submit the following:

- Completed “Application Form” (available in the Appendix of this Handbook and found at: http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu/Undergrad/dietetcs/DPDapplication.pdf)
- Official copy of UW-Madison transcript
- Evaluation of transfer credits and official copies of transcripts from all transfer institutions (if appropriate)

Once you have completed and signed the application, it will need your academic advisor’s signature. Once you have your advisor’s signature, you may submit the application packet to the Nutritional Sciences Departmental Office, Rm. 266 Nutritional Sciences Building.

When Can I Apply?
Applications must be submitted by June 15 for Fall admission and by January 15 for Spring admission.

PLANNING YOUR COURSE OF STUDY
While advisors can help you plan your course of study, it is important for you to know how to do this, as well.

Freshmen
For freshmen starting in dietetics, planning your course schedule is easy. A suggested “Curriculum Sequence” has been developed for you to follow. This plan has taken the following into consideration: course prerequisites, courses offered each semester, and days/times courses are taught. It provides a logical and progressive curriculum plan. It is strongly recommended that all students follow this. The “Curriculum Sequence” sheet is located in the Appendix of this Handbook and at: https://www.cals.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Dietetics.pdf

The DARS Report
If you have already completed some college courses, you will want to adjust the “Curriculum Sequence”. Before doing this, you need to run a “DARS” Report. DARS is an automated Degree Audit Report System which produces a document called a DARS report (or DARS audit). DARS is intended to enhance the advising process by providing an immediate analysis of how a student is progressing toward completion of a degree. Your DARS report is a record of your progress toward a degree. It shows which requirements have been completed and which requirements still remain to be completed. Because DARS uses the on-line student record, the course data should be up-to-date. For students who are interested in pursuing other majors or degree programs, “what-if” DARS reports can be run to see how these courses might count toward other programs. DARS reports are not “official” reports, however, and mistakes can occur. For further information on DARS, please see: http://registrar.wisc.edu/documents/DARS_Students_Quick_Guide.pdf

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So, your first step in planning your course of study if you have already completed some college coursework is to run a DARS report. Be sure to bring this with you to your first advising session or email it to your advisor before the appointment.

**Factors to Consider When Planning Your Courses**

After reviewing your DARS report, you will know which courses you need to complete. A "Course Planning Checklist" to help you begin planning your course of study has been included in the Appendix of this Handbook. Please complete this checklist next. The results should coincide with your DARS report. Please bring your DARS report and the completed checklist when meeting with your academic advisor.

The next step is to take the list of courses you need to complete and plan them into semesters. A "Course Planning Worksheet" is included in the Appendix of this Handbook to help you with this. The factors to consider when planning your course of study are as follows:

a. Course Prerequisites – A "Course Prerequisite" diagram is located in the Appendix of this handbook to illustrate the prerequisites and how courses build upon each other. Please study this carefully.

b. Semesters when courses are offered (some may be offered only once/year)

c. Days of the week/time of day courses are offered (to prevent conflicts)

d. Semester "load" – you want to plan according to your academic capabilities and be reasonable on the “credit” load and “science” load each semester

Information on course prerequisites, semesters offered, days/times of courses are located in the Undergraduate Catalog [http://pubs.wisc.edu/ug/](http://pubs.wisc.edu/ug/) and/or the Timetable/Schedule of Classes/Course Guide [http://registrar.wisc.edu/schedule_of_classes.htm](http://registrar.wisc.edu/schedule_of_classes.htm). These resources are invaluable in planning out your semesters. Again, please complete this worksheet **before** meeting with your academic advisor. (Although there are occasional changes in days/times that courses are offered from year to year, the timetables posted on the website can be used to plan ahead for most courses.) Also consult the “Suggested Curriculum Sequence” for the B.S. Dietetics degree located in the Appendix of this Handbook.
**Tips When Planning Your Course of Study**

- Review the “Course Prerequisite” diagram located in the Appendix of this handbook. Plan the “Science” courses first!

- The “Chemistry” progression of courses should be: Chem 103, then 104, then 341 or 343, then Biochemistry. Note: Chemistry 103 requires Math 112 (algebra) or “equivalent”.

- Chemistry, Microbiology and Zoology should be taken early in your curriculum, if possible; they are pre-requisites for future courses.

- “Space out” your science classes so you don’t “overload” your schedule.

- It is better to add an extra semester or two to your schedule rather than “cramming” your courses into a few semesters to “graduate on time”; your cumulative GPA is very important when applying to Dietetic Internships; don’t “sacrifice” your GPA to get done sooner!

- Plan your communication courses early in your curriculum, as they will be helpful in most other courses.

- You must receive a grade of “C or better” in NS 332 and Physiology 335 in order to register for NS 431; this is strictly enforced!

- NS 431 is only offered in the spring semester, so plan your schedule accordingly. “When” you take NS 431 frequently determines “when” you will graduate. Following NS 431 in the spring, students usually take NS 631 in the fall semester of that same year; this is followed by NS 520 in the next spring semester. In most cases, students graduate about 1 year after completing NS 431.

- You must complete FS 301 before FS 437/FS 438; this is strictly enforced! PDI students may not enroll in these courses. (You must have the ADI Classification.)

- General Business 310 and General Business 311 are required. General business 310 is only offered in the fall semester. General Business 310 is only offered in the spring semester. It doesn’t matter which course you take first.

- FS 437 (lecture) is only offered in the fall semester and is taken concurrently with FS 438 (lab); if the number of students needing to take FS 438 exceeds the capacity of the lab, FS 438 may be offered in the spring. This is at the discretion of the instructor.

- It is best to take NS 500 before NS 520.

- NS 520 – CAPSTONE COURSE – should be taken during your very last semester here; i.e. the semester you plan to graduate (and NOT before).
Selecting Required Courses When Choices Are Listed

**Inorganic Chemistry** – take Chem 103 and Chem 104 (rather than Chem 109) unless you are a “Chemistry Whiz”.

**Organic Chemistry** – Chem 341 is more of a “survey” course and taught in less depth than Chem 343 (Chem 343 is required of chemistry majors and pre-med majors and is the first semester of a 2 semester sequence); Chem 341 is the “preferred” course for dietetics students (unless you are considering medical or professional school); Chem 341 is only taught in the fall, however.

**Microbiology** – Most dietetics students take Microbiol 101 and 102; Microbiol 303 and 304 are taught at a higher level; you can take either lecture (101 or 303) and match it with either lab (102 or 304); lecture course should be taken before or concurrently with the lab.

**Zoology** – Most dietetics students take Zoology 101 (lecture) and 102 (lab); these courses can be taken together or separately (lecture course should be taken before or concurrently with the lab); Zoology 151 includes lecture and lab and is taught at a slightly higher level.

**Biomolecular Chem 314 or Biochem 501** – Most dietetics students take Biomol Chem 314; it tends to be better preparation for NS 510; it is only offered in the fall and summer semesters. Biochem 501 should be taken by students who plan to go to graduate school; it tends to be a more difficult course and is taken by pre-med and Biochem majors; offered fall, spring and summer.

**Education** – Not all selections are offered each semester, except Ed Psych 301.

**Statistics** – All choices are fairly equivalent; Stats 371 is geared to biology/science majors.

**Ethnic/International Studies** – Anthropology 104 will meet both requirements!

**COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS** – All B.S. Dietetics students must meet the university requirement for Communications A and B, as well as take General business 300 (Professional Communications).

**NOTES:**
- A student may receive credit for only one Comm-A course. Students who take two Comm-A courses will not receive credit for the second course.
- A student may be exempted from the Comm-A requirement by the UW-Placement Exam or AP course.
- Students completing the DPD only do not need to complete the Comm-A and Comm-B requirements, but do have to complete General Business 300 (Professional Communications)
Advanced Placement Program
For Composition and Language Exam or for Literature and Composition Exam:
- AP exam score of 4 or 5 Exempt from UW Comm-A
- AP exam score of 3 Not Exempt from UW Comm-A

For additional information on Advanced Placement credits/courses, see: [http://www.admissions.wisc.edu/APIB.php](http://www.admissions.wisc.edu/APIB.php)

Choosing Elective Courses
The Dietetics Curriculum Sheet includes a list of “Recommended Supporting Courses”. Please refer to this list often. The table below has suggestions for elective courses based on interest in various areas of dietetics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Dietetics</th>
<th>Recommended Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Nutrition</td>
<td>Anatomy 328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gender and Women’s Studies 103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Genetics 466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nursing 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nutritional Sciences 672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pathology 404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pediatrics 746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pharmaceutical Sciences 401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community/Public Health Nutrition</td>
<td>Kinesiology 521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nursing 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nutritional Sciences 350, 540, 621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Population Health Sciences 370, 375, 553, 575, 675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Population Health Sciences 650 (see specific topics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sociology 222, 531, 532, 533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Management</td>
<td>Accounting IS 100, 211, 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Finance 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Management and Human Resources 300, 305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marketing 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Science</td>
<td>Food Science 321, 324, 325, 410, 412, 512, 514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Communication Arts 260, 262, 266, 272, 325, 346, 355, 368, 617, 651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English 315, 317, 318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ILS 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inter HE 427, 428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Journalism 201, 565, 617, 646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Life Sciences Communication 111, 112, 350, 360, 431, 435, 450, 515, 532, 617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling/Education</td>
<td>Counseling Psychology 650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health/Wellness/Fitness</td>
<td>Kinesiology 116, 314, 350, 521, 523</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ADDITONAL INFORMATION

Karen Spector Reading Room/Computer Facilities
The Karen Spector Reading and Conference Room is located in Rm. 230 of the Nutritional Sciences Building, 1415 Linden Dr. It was established through the University of Wisconsin Foundation in memory of Karen Rae Spector. Undergraduate students in the Department of Nutritional Sciences may use this room anytime the building is open.

In May 2000, Jerry and Dianne Spector provided funds for the development and construction of this beautiful room. It is used for study, lectures and meetings in the Nutritional Sciences Department. It is comfortably decorated, warm and friendly in size, with three large windows for light. The room is furnished with a large conference table, task chairs, and easy chairs for lounging and reading. There is a pull-down screen for presentations and bookshelves for research materials. There are also three computers and a printer for student use.

Scholarships
Kitty Clark Cole Scholarship
The Kitty Clark Cole Scholarship - is a full-tuition scholarship for one year. It is the intention of the donor to provide students with the freedom to reduce outside work activities, "thus providing more time to participate in student organizations and the marching band." The donor believes that academic programs are enhanced through extracurricular experiences that develop leadership and team-building. See the DNS website:  
http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu/Undergrad/Scholarships/Scholar_home.html
for information on application procedures and criteria for selection.

Karen Spector Scholarship
The Karen Spector Scholarship - A full time undergraduate student in her/his senior year of the Didactic Program in Dietetics. Qualifications that were attributes of Karen Spector including creativity, imagination, self-initiative and independence. Recipients shall be individuals: who give that extra measure of hard work that makes an impact on others, who make the world a better place because they do a bit more, and who reflect the attitude that one person can make a difference. See the DNS website:  
http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu/Undergrad/Scholarships/Scholar_home.html
for information on application procedures and criteria for selection.

Additional Scholarships
Additional scholarships are available through CALS, the Department of Nutritional Sciences, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, etc. See the DNS website:  
http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu/Undergrad/Scholarships/Scholar_home.html
for further information.
Student Organizations

The Dietetics and Nutrition Club (DNC)
For students to share their ideas and experiences in nutrition and dietetics, to enhance and extend their education in the field, and develop awareness of career opportunities. The DNC maintains a bulletin board near the Linden Drive entrance of the Nutritional Sciences Bldg. Their website is: http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu/Undergrad/student_Orgs.html
Advisor: Makayla Schuchardt, Department of Nutritional Sciences

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)
The AND has as its purpose direction and leadership for quality dietetic practice, education and research and to promote optimal health and improve the nutrition of human beings. Dietetics students are encouraged to join the AND as affiliate members. As a member, students receive the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, published monthly. Other benefits are described in their membership brochure. Further information may be found on the AND Website: http://www.eatright.org/students/join/

The Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (WAND)
Student membership in the national academy results in automatic membership in the state association. Students receive a periodic newsletter and are strongly encouraged to be knowledgeable about association issues and concerns. WAND has an annual spring meeting and students are encouraged to attend. A significant discount on the registration fee for this meeting is given to students. Further information may be obtained from Dietetics Faculty and Staff or their website at: http://www.eatrightwisc.org

CALS Ambassadors
A service, educational, and social organization. Purpose: promote agriculture, life sciences, and natural resources; and have a desire to service the college, improve communication skills and enhance leadership qualities. Members serve as representatives of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, participating in public relations, recruitment activities, and alumni events. Ambassadors are involved in high school visits, telemarketing, preview days, alumni activities, panel presentations, tours of the CALS campus, staffing exhibits, and various conferences.

Verification Statements
All students completing the B.S. degree in Dietetics at UW-Madison will be given a signed “verification statement” which documents completion of the DPD. This document is also provided to 2\textsuperscript{nd} degree students who complete the DPD – whether or not you complete a second degree. This is issued at the time of graduation upon submission of all official college transcripts (including a transcript with the degree posted), and used for Dietetic Internship application/entrance, and when preparing for professional membership or registration.
## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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<td>UW-Madison Admissions Application Form</td>
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<td>Obtaining equivalency for possible summer course to be taken elsewhere</td>
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<td><strong>CAREERS IN NUTRITION AND DIETETICS</strong></td>
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| Careers in Dietetics/Nutrition | AND website: [http://www.eatright.org/students/careers/videos.aspx](http://www.eatright.org/students/careers/videos.aspx)  
<p>| Becoming a Registered Dietitian | <a href="http://www.eatright.org/BecomeanRDorDTR">http://www.eatright.org/BecomeanRDorDTR</a> |
| Registration Examination for Dietitians | <a href="http://www.cdrnet.org">www.cdrnet.org</a> |
| Summary of laws that regulate dietitians; State Licensure agencies | <a href="http://www.cdrnet.org/state-licensure">http://www.cdrnet.org/state-licensure</a> |
| Board Certifications by Commission on Dietetic Registration | <a href="http://www.cdrnet.org/certifications/board-certified-specialist">http://www.cdrnet.org/certifications/board-certified-specialist</a> |
| Certified Nutrition Support Dietitian | <a href="http://www.nutritioncare.org/nbncsc">http://www.nutritioncare.org/nbncsc</a> |
| Certified Diabetes Educator | <a href="http://www.ncbde.org">http://www.ncbde.org</a> |
| Certified Fitness Professionals | <a href="http://www.acefitness.org">http://www.acefitness.org</a> |
| Advanced Degree Programs (list) | <a href="http://www.eatright.org/students/education/advanceddegrees.aspx">http://www.eatright.org/students/education/advanceddegrees.aspx</a> |
| <strong>DIETETICS PROGRAM</strong> | |
| Dietetics Curriculum Sheet, Sample 4-year Plan | <a href="http://www.cals.wisc.edu/academics/curriculum-information/curriculum-sheets">http://www.cals.wisc.edu/academics/curriculum-information/curriculum-sheets</a> |</p>
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<td>Course Descriptions – Required Courses</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu/Undergrad/dietetics/diet_reqcurric.html">http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu/Undergrad/dietetics/diet_reqcurric.html</a></td>
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<td>Course Descriptions – Recommended Supporting Courses</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu/Undergrad/dietetics/diet_suppcurric.html">http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu/Undergrad/dietetics/diet_suppcurric.html</a></td>
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<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>Department of Nutritional Sciences website: <a href="http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu/Undergrad/Scholarships/Scholar_home.html">http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu/Undergrad/Scholarships/Scholar_home.html</a></td>
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<td>UW-Madison website: <a href="http://scholarships.wisc.edu/Scholarships">http://scholarships.wisc.edu/Scholarships</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>AND website: <a href="http://www.eatright.org/Students/content.aspx?id=8133&amp;terms=scholarships">http://www.eatright.org/Students/content.aspx?id=8133&amp;terms=scholarships</a></td>
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<td><strong>DIETETIC INTERNSHIPS</strong></td>
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<td>AND Accredited Dietetic Internships</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eatright.org/BecomeanRDorDTR/content.aspx?id=8473">http://www.eatright.org/BecomeanRDorDTR/content.aspx?id=8473</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>How to improve your chances of obtaining a Dietetic Internship</td>
<td>Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics website: <a href="http://www.eatright.org/students/education/internships.aspx">http://www.eatright.org/students/education/internships.aspx</a></td>
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<td>Application procedures for Dietetic Internships</td>
<td>Dietetic Internship Centralized Application System (DICAS) Website: <a href="http://portal.dicas.org">http://portal.dicas.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>ACTIVITIES &amp; ORGANIZATIONS</strong></td>
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<td>Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eatright.org">http://www.eatright.org</a></td>
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<td>Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (WAND)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eatrightwisc.org">http://www.eatrightwisc.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS RELATED TO NUTRITION AND DIETETICS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.sne.org">http://www.sne.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.nutritioncare.org">http://www.nutritioncare.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Food and Drug Administration</strong></td>
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<td><strong>National Heart Lung Blood Institute</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov">http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov</a></td>
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<td><strong>School Nutrition Association</strong></td>
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<td><strong>US Department of Agriculture</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</strong></td>
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<td><strong>American College of Nutrition</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.americancollegeofnutrition.org">http://www.americancollegeofnutrition.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>American Society for Nutrition</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.nutrition.org">http://www.nutrition.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.faseb.org">http://www.faseb.org</a></td>
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Appendix A – Dietetics Curriculum Sheet

For a copy of the Dietetics Curriculum Sheet, please access the following link on our website:

http://www.cals.wisc.edu/academics/curriculum-information/curriculum-sheets

Appendix B – Dietetics Course Sequence Sheet

For a copy of the Dietetics Course Sequence Sheet, please access the following link on our website:

http://www.cals.wisc.edu/academics/curriculum-information/curriculum-sheets
APPENDIX C
UW-Madison - B.S. Dietetics
Course Prerequisites

= Required prerequisite
--- = Suggested sequence
---- = May be taken concurrently

Microbiology 101/102

Physiology 335

NS 332

Zoology 101/102

NS/FS 200

Math 112

Math 113

OR

Math 114

Chem 103

Chem 104

Chem 341 or 343

Biochem 501 or Biomolecular Chem 314

NS 431

NS 500

Statistics

NS 631

NS 510

FS 437/438

NOTE: NS 431 requires ≥ C in Physiology 335 and NS 332

Math/Science  

Nutritional Sci.  

Food Sci.

If graduate school: Analytical Chem, Bio core, Zool 151, 152
If medical school: Regular Physics
8 sem Chem (343, 344, 345)
2 sem Biochem (575)

Comm A/Comm B courses and Psychology 202 should be taken in the first 2 years; education requirement may be taken at any time. Gen Bus 300 can be taken in the sophomore year. Gen Bus 310 and 311 require junior standing. College and University requirements (economics, ethnic studies, humanities, international studies) may be taken at any time.

Supporting Electives

Community Nutrition
NS 350, 540, 621
Pop/Hlth 370, 575,
stoi c 222, 531, 532

Management
Acct IS 100, 211, 300
Marketing 300
Finance 300
MHR 306, 305

Clinical Nutrition
Pathology 404
Anatomy 328
NS 672
Genetics 406
Plan Sci 401
Pediatrics 746
Nursing 105
Gen & WS 103

Communication/Education
Comm Psych 650
Inter HE 427, 428
LSC 111, 112, 350, 431, 435, 450,
515, 532, 617
Com Arts 260, 262, 266, 272, 325, 346,
355, 368, 617, 651
Journ 201, 565, 617, 646
English 315, 317, 318
# Appendix D – Course Planning Checklist

Name ___________________________  Date __________________

Academic Advisor ___________________  Classification ________

## DPD COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>√ When Completed</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
<th>Semesters Offered</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 103 or 109</td>
<td></td>
<td>Placement above Math 112 or completion of Math 112 or equiv &amp; 1 yr HS chem</td>
<td>I, II, Su</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 104 or 109</td>
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<td>Chem 103 &amp; placement above Math 112 or completion of Math 112 or equiv.</td>
<td>I, II, Su</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 341 or 343</td>
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<td>Chem 104 or 109</td>
<td>341 – I; 343 – I, II, Su</td>
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<td>MICROBIOL 101 or 303</td>
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<td>Chem 103 or 109</td>
<td>I, II, Su</td>
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<tr>
<td>MICROBIOL 102 or 304</td>
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<td>Microbiol 101 or con reg (preferred)</td>
<td>I, II, Su</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZOOLOGY 101 (lecture)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Open to Fr.</td>
<td>I, II, Su</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZOOLOGY 102 (lab)</td>
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<td>Zool 101 or con reg.</td>
<td>I, II, Su</td>
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<tr>
<td>OR ZOOLOGY 151 (includes lecture and lab)</td>
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<td>Open to Fr. HS chem or con reg in coll chem strongly advised.</td>
<td>I, II, Su</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYSIOLOGY 335</td>
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<td>Biol or zool &amp; gen chem</td>
<td>I, II, Su</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCHOLOGY 202</td>
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<td>Open to Fr.</td>
<td>I, II, Su</td>
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<td>STATISTICS (one course required): Stats 201, 301, 371 or Psych 210 or Soc 360</td>
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<td>Stat 201 and 301 – open to Fr; Stat 371 – Math 112 &amp; 113 or Math 114; Psych 210 – Psych 202 Soc 360 – So. st</td>
<td>I, II, Su</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gen Bus 300</td>
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<td>I, II, Su</td>
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<td>Gen Bus 310</td>
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<td>Jr or higher st,</td>
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<td>Gen Bus 311</td>
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<td>Jr or higher st,</td>
<td>II</td>
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### FOOD SCI 301
Declared major in Food Science, Nutritional Sciences (ADI), International Agriculture and Natural Resources) or Biological Systems Engineering; and algebra, 1 sem of general chem, and 1 sem biology, or con reg, I, II

### FOOD SCI 437
Food Sci 301 I

### FOOD SCI 438
Con reg Food Sci 437 I, II

### NUTR SCI 200
PDI Classification I

### NUTR SCI 332
Chem 103; Chem 104 or Biochem 201 or BmolChem 314 I, II

### NUTR SCI 431
Jr st; grade of C or better in Physiol 335 & Nutr Sci 332 II

### NUTR SCI 510
Biochem 501 I, II

### NUTR SCI 500
Nutr Sci 431 and Nutr Sci 510 (or con reg) and Sr st or second sem Jr st in Nutritional Sciences major I, II

### NUTR SCI 631
Nutr Sci 332, 431; Biochem 501 or BmolChem 314 I

### NUTR SCI 520
Nutr Sci 631 & Nutr Sci 500 (or con reg) & Sr in Dietetics major-Didactic Prgm I, II

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS TO COMPLETE B.S. DEGREE - DIETETICS

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<th>Requirement</th>
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<td>Communication A</td>
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<td>2-3 credits – designated with an “a” in the Timetable/Schedule of Classes</td>
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<td>Communication B</td>
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<td>2-3 credits – designated with an “a” in the Timetable/Schedule of Classes</td>
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<td>Ethnic Studies</td>
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<td>3 credits – Ethnic Studies courses are designated with an “e” in the Timetable/Schedule of Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Studies</td>
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<td>3 credits - See Curriculum Sheet for List of Accepted Courses</td>
<td>I, II, Su</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Math 112 and 113 OR Math 114</td>
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<td>I, II, Su</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
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<td>6 credits - Humanities courses are designated with an &quot;H&quot;, “L”, or &quot;Z&quot; in the Timetable/Schedule of Classes</td>
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<td>First-Year Seminar</td>
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<td>Students who transfer into CALS after freshman year and continuing students who move to the B.S. degree should consult with Undergrad Programs &amp; Services (116 Ag Hall) regarding completion of this requirement</td>
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Graduation Requirements:  120 Credits, minimum cumulative GPA 2.000, last 30 credits in residence while officially enrolled in CALS.
Appendix E – Course Planning Worksheet

Name ________________________________ Date ________________

Academic Advisor ________________________________ Classification ________________

Fall Semester – Year ___________        Spring Semester – Year ___________
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Summer – Year ________
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Fall Semester – Year ___________        Spring Semester – Year ___________
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Summer – Year ________
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Course Planning Worksheet (continued)
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Appendix F – Application to the Dietetics Program

For a copy of an application to the Dietetics Program at UW-Madison, please access the following link on our website:

http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu/Undergrad/dietetics/DPDAplication.pdf