

DIETETICS PROGRAM

Program Mission

The Mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) is to prepare students for supervised practice leading to eligibility for the CDR credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist. The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) is committed to transmit knowledge and skills at the undergraduate level that are needed for competent dietetics practice to improve the quality of life in diverse communities.

Program Description

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at San Jose State University provides the curriculum to prepare students (B.S. or M.S.) to meet the requirements to become a Registered Dietitian (RD).

What is a Registered Dietitian?

A Registered Dietitian (RD) is a professional who has completed the course work as well as internship requirements established by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), the credentialing agency for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and who is able to:

- ◆ Make decisions about nutrition care for people of all ages;
- ◆ Interpret the latest scientific findings into easy to understand nutritional information;
- ◆ Plan menus and direct the service of meals.

How to become a RD?

1. Complete a B.S. or B.A. degree.
2. Satisfy coursework requirements of the AND via Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD).
 - ◆ Please contact the DPD Director Dr. Giselle Pignotti for a transcript evaluation (408-924-3108).
3. Complete an Accredited Dietetic Internship (DI).
 - ◆ Internal Internship: The Nutrition, Food Science & Packaging Department at SJSU offers internships to their own degree students. Please contact Dr. Mauldin (408-924-3109) for more information.
 - ◆ External Internship: Please contact Dr. Giselle Pignotti for more information.
4. Pass the RD exam.

Dietetics Course Requirements

- ◆ Nutritional Science
- ◆ Food Science
- ◆ Medical Nutrition Therapy
- ◆ Foodservice Management
- ◆ Community Nutrition
- ◆ Nutrition Education
- ◆ Chemistry & Biochemistry
- ◆ Physiology & Microbiology
- ◆ Statistics

Program Goals:

Goal #1: The program will prepare graduates to be competent for entry into supervised practice or other post-graduate programs through quality educational offerings.

- ◆ *Objective 1:* The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration

exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%.

- ◆ *Objective 2:* Fifty percent (50%) of program graduates will apply for admission to a supervised practice program prior to or within 12 months of graduation.
- ◆ *Objective 3:* Forty percent (40%) of program graduates are admitted to a supervised practice program within 12 months of graduation.
- ◆ *Objective 4:* Supervised practice program directors will rate their overall satisfaction with the graduate's preparation for supervised practice as at least 3.0 on a 5.0 scale for at least 70% of the graduates.
- ◆ *Objective 5:* At least 80% of program students complete program/degree requirements within three years (150% of the program length).
- ◆ *Objective 6:* 80% of graduates will receive a rating of satisfactory or above in the academic preparation and overall performance evaluation by the field experience supervisors.

Goal #2: The program will prepare graduates to be multi-culturally competent through experiential learning experiences and contribute to improving the quality of life in diverse communities.

- ◆ *Objective 1:* At least 50% of graduates who complete the requirements of the dietetics program indicate they can work effectively with culturally diverse populations in a variety of settings.
- ◆ *Objective 2:* At least 50% of graduates will have participated in a global experience through educational offerings to gain intercultural perspective.

Employment Opportunities

The employment outlook for dietitians is excellent. The U.S. Labor Bureau projects a 10 to 20% increase in the need for dietitians through the year 2010. Dietitians may work in a variety of positions or for a variety of employers.

Health Care

- ◆ Clinical Dietitian
- ◆ Nutritional Services Administrator
- ◆ Nutrition Support Dietitian
- ◆ Specialized Health Educator (e.g. Renal, Diabetes)

Schools and Universities

- ◆ Foodservice Administrator
- ◆ University/College Educator
- ◆ Research Dietitian

Business and Industry

- ◆ Food Editor/Journalist
- ◆ Consumer Nutrition Specialist
- ◆ Public Relations Specialist
- ◆ Corporate Health Specialist
- ◆ Food & Nutrition Researcher
- ◆ Food Marketing Specialist
- ◆ Food & Nutrition Advertising Specialist
- ◆ Pharmaceutical Sales Representative
- ◆ Food Sales Representative
- ◆ Equipment Sales Representative

Public Health Agencies

- ◆ Community Nutrition Programs
- ◆ Senior Nutrition Programs
- ◆ Child Care Nutrition Programs

Government Agencies

- ◆ Food & Drug Administration
- ◆ Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Food Program
- ◆ Public Health Departments
- ◆ State Department of Education

Other Areas

- ◆ Peace Corps Representative
- ◆ Sports Nutritionist
- ◆ Private Practice Dietitian

Contact Information

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AND FITNESS
HAVE BECOME A WAY
OF LIFE. CONSIDER
A CAREER IN...**

DIETETICS

San Jose State University's B.S. Degree in Nutritional Science with a Concentration in Dietetics is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995
Ph. 312-899-0040 ext.5400
<http://www.eatrightPRO.org/ACEND>