STUDENT HANDBOOK

Bachelor of Science in Nutrition/Dietetics

Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)

Nutrition/Dietetics Program

Department of Individual, Family, and Community Education

College of Education

University of New Mexico

2010 - 2011
WELCOME to the Nutrition/Dietetics Program of the College of Education at the University of New Mexico. This Handbook is intended to provide information regarding the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) that you may find useful as you pursue your B.S. degree in Nutrition/Dietetics. However, it is not intended to replace advisement by the Nutrition faculty or information in the UNM Catalog or UNM PATHFINDER. Feel free to contact your Nutrition advisor with questions or when in need of advice.

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MISSION STATEMENT OF THE NUTRITION/DIETETICS PROGRAM

The mission of the Nutrition/Dietetics Program at the University of New Mexico is to improve overall quality of life of the citizens of New Mexico by improving nutritional status. We prepare competent nutrition professionals who are able to apply nutrition knowledge and provide nutrition education for all age and cultural groups, for individuals and families, and are able to provide food and nutrition services for institutions and in the community. We conduct research that adds to both basic and applied nutrition knowledge, and prepare students to use and/or conduct research, thereby improving dietetics practice. We are committed to providing service to the multi-cultural population of the state through activities within the profession, the university, and the community. The Nutrition/Dietetics Program provides the environment for students to develop professional attitudes, maturity and an ethical understanding of professional practice.

In addition, the mission of the baccalaureate program is to educate individuals for the profession of dietetics by providing a sound background in foundation knowledge and skills needed in areas of dietetics practice: community, clinical and foodservice management. By maintaining accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE), we assure that graduates are eligible to pursue the additional training required for Registered Dietitian status. Graduates are also prepared to apply for graduate study upon completion of the baccalaureate program.

GOALS OF THE PROGRAM

The primary goal of the Nutrition/Dietetics Program at UNM is to educate individuals for the profession of dietetics by providing a sound academic background in dietetics and its supporting disciplines. The Program strives to provide a balance between the defined areas of dietetics practice: foodservice, clinical and community.

The Specific goals of the B.S. in Nutrition/Dietetics (also called the Didactic Program in Dietetics) at the University of New Mexico are:

1. The Program will prepare graduates competent to enter and complete CADE-accredited supervised practice programs.
   Outcome Measure 1. At least 80% of students will complete all degree requirements within 4 years of being admitted to the Program.
   Outcome Measure 2: At least 60% of DPD graduates will apply to a supervised practice program the academic year they complete the program.
   Outcome Measure 3: Within 12 months of graduation, at least 80% of Program graduates who apply will be accepted into CADE-accredited supervised practice programs.
   Outcome Measure 4: At least 80% of graduates, upon completion of a DI, will pass the RD exam the first time they take the exam.
   Outcome Measure 5: At least 80% of graduates will feel prepared with the knowledge and skills to begin their chosen career path.

2. The Program will prepare students to work effectively with multicultural populations.
Outcome Measure 1. At least 80% of Program graduates will indicate they feel prepared to work with a multicultural population.
Outcome Measure 2. Within 12 months of graduation, at least 80% of employers or supervisors who respond will indicate that graduating students are able to work effectively with multicultural populations.

3. The Program will prepare graduates able to interpret and apply current research findings.
Outcome Measure 1. In the Program Exit Interview at least 80% of Program graduates will indicate they feel prepared to interpret current research findings to enhance nutrition practice.
Outcome Measure 2. Within 12 months of graduation at least 80% of Program graduates will indicate they are able to effectively interpret and apply current research findings to enhance nutrition practice.
Outcome Measure 3. At least 80% of employers or supervisors who respond will indicate that program graduates are able to interpret and apply research effectively.

4. The Program will encourage and prepare graduates for involvement in community service.
Outcome Measure 1. In the Program Exit Interview at least 80% of Program graduates will indicate they feel prepared and recognize the importance of nutrition service and/or health/related service in the community.
Outcome Measure 2. Within 12 months of graduation at least 60% of Program graduates will indicate they are involved in at least one nutrition and/or health-related community service activity.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

The Didactic Program in Dietetics is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) of the American Dietetic Association (ADA) 120 South Riverside Pkway, Chicago, IL 60606-6995. 800-877-1600 ext 5400. cade@eatright.org. Accreditation by CADE/ADA ensures that graduates can apply for Dietetic Internships, which lead to eligibility to earn Registered Dietitian (RD) status.

ADMISSION

All students wishing to major in Nutrition/Dietetics must apply for formal admission to the program. This includes students who already have a bachelor’s degree in another discipline and wish to complete the DPD. Students who are admitted into the program have first priority if class size is limited. Application materials are available through the College of Education Advisement Center in Travelstead Hall. Admission criteria are:
- Minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.00 (including all transfer and UNM credit)
- Completion of the following courses with a grade of B or better: Nutr 244 and Chem 121.
CURRICULUM

The required curriculum for a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition/Dietetics, also known as the Didactic Program in Dietetics or DPD, is attached. The sequence of courses is intended to build basic knowledge and skills through the lower-division (100-200 level) courses and provide increasingly complex knowledge and synthesis through the upper-division (300-400 level) courses.

The DPD curriculum for students who have previously completed a baccalaureate degree in another field is also attached. This post-baccalaureate program is for students who want to become Registered Dietitians (RD) but did not complete a CADE accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics while earning their B.S. degree.

ADVISEMENT

Students admitted to the Nutrition/Dietetics Program MUST see an Academic Advisor before registration each semester. The College of Education places an advisement HOLD on student accounts; this HOLD is removed by the Academic Advisor following advisement. Advisement will help you take courses in correct sequence, keep you informed of any changes, and will help you meet your graduation goals. The Academic Advisor for the Nutrition Program is located in the College of Education Advisement Center in Travelstead Hall. 505-277-3190

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Students are expected to participate in community service related to nutrition. Suggestions for projects will be announced in classes.

EXIT INTERVIEW

During the semester that graduation is anticipated, students will schedule an exit interview with their advisor. During this interview students will complete a program evaluation survey.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must earn a grade of B or better in Nutr 244, Chem 121 and a grade of C (2.0) or better on all other required nutrition courses. CR (credit) grades are not accepted for any required courses unless they are courses specifically carrying only CR/NC grades.

GRADUATION CHECK SHEET FORM

Approximately seven months before graduation, students need to complete a Graduation Check Sheet with their nutrition advisor. The Graduation Check Sheet is available from your Academic
Advisor at the advisement offices of the College of Education. Those offices are located in Hokona Hall on the first floor. The Graduation Check Sheet specifies the remaining classes needed for graduation. Upon completion of The Graduation Check process, the student’s name is placed on the Tentative Graduation List. It is the students’ responsibility to inform their Academic Advisor of any changes in plans for graduation date, or of any changes in coursework taken that is different from courses listed on the Graduation Check Sheet.

ASSESSMENT OF PRIOR LEARNING (COURSEWORK AND/OR EXPERIENTIAL)

The Program Director will review transcripts from previous college coursework at accredited institutions of higher learning to determine course equivalency. Transfer credit accepted by the University of New Mexico that is equivalent to UNM DPD courses will not need to be repeated. If a transfer course is similar but it is difficult to determine equivalency, a student may take the UNM course exams; a grade of at least 70% on all exams will indicate the student does not need to take the UNM course.

Course credit for experiential learning is not granted.

PROGRAM RETENTION AND REMEDIATION

Students who earn a grade lower than a C in any required course must repeat that course. Only grades of C or better will count toward to 128 credit hour degree requirement. Tutoring is available through the UNM Center for Academic Program Support program. DPD program faculty also provide individualized assistance as requested by students during office hours and other times by appointment.

SUSPENSION / TERMINATION

Students who fail to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 will be placed on probation for two semesters. If the GPA remains below 2.0 after the probation period, the student will be suspended for one semester before being allowed to return to UNM. The full policy on academic suspension is described in the UNM catalog.

Students found guilty of academic dishonesty or misrepresentation on University records will be reported to the UNM Dean of Students. Disciplinary action including dismissal from the University is possible.

POST-GRADUATE TRAINING – DIETETIC INTERNSHIP

After completion of the DPD program, students must complete a Dietetic Internship to be eligible to take the Registration Examination to become a Registered Dietitian. Students may apply to the internship(s) of their choice during their senior year. Information on internships is available at the website http://coe.unm.edu/nutrition.

You are encouraged to seek advisement early in your program regarding procedure and deadline for application to internships. Admission to internships is very competitive; a strong academic record (GPA 3.5 or above) and related work experiences improve chances of being admitted. The Nutrition/Dietetics Program at UNM offers an accredited Dietetic Internship.
VERIFICATION AND INTENT TO COMPLETE FORMS

Following completion of all DPD requirements, 5 copies of a Verification of Completion Form are issued to you. This form is required before beginning a Dietetic Internship. If you apply to an internship before completing all DPD requirements, you will need to submit a Declaration of Intent Form. Contact the DPD Director to obtain a completed form.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ISSUING VERIFICATION OF COMPLETION FORMS

In order to receive a Verification of Completion form from the University of New Mexico Nutrition/Dietetics Program you must complete all program requirements and earn at least 12 credits from upper-division nutrition courses at UNM. These are to include:

- Nutr 406  Community Nutrition 3 cr
- Nutr 424  Nutrition in the Life Cycle 3 cr
- Nutr 427  Medical Nutrition Therapy I 3 cr
- Nutr 428  Medical Nutrition Therapy II 3 cr

A student may petition the DPD Director to substitute other upper-division coursework offered at UNM if the courses listed above have been satisfactorily completed at another institution.

VERIFICATION FORMS RE-ISSUE POLICY

Contact the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) Director or the Nutrition/Dietetics Program Office in Simpson Hall 277-4535 if you need additional copies of the Verification Form. These will be re-issued with the actual date of program completion to make it clear when you completed program requirements for DPD Verification.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Undergraduate Student Nutrition Organization is an activity club run by students under the direction of a faculty advisor. The club meets frequently for social and informational purposes. Activities are announced in classes and posted on Bulletin Boards located by faculty offices and near classrooms.

Kappa Omicron Nu is an Honorary Society open to qualified Nutrition/Dietetics students. Invitation to join is issued to students maintaining a Grade Point Average of 3.0 or better.

TRAVEL

The University of New Mexico is neither responsible nor liable for injuries incurred by students traveling to or from campus.
EXPENSES

The following is a list of anticipated average expenses for Nutrition/Dietetics students per year. Check: www.unm.edu/~bursar for up to date costs.

- Tuition: $2,753 (per semester) New Mexico Resident, 12-18 credits
- Fees: $160 (laboratory fees)
- Textbooks: $500 (per semester)
- Lab Attire: $25

STUDENT RIGHTS

The UNM Nutrition/Dietetics Program complies with established university policies regarding protection of student civil rights and institutional equal opportunity programs. We also adhere to UNM policies and procedures that protect all rights of students. These are outlined in the UNM Pathfinder.

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