

Credentialing and Careers in Dietetics

The requirements to become credentialed as a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) involve the following steps:

1. Coursework: Students must complete a degree which meets the ACEND Foundation Knowledge Requirements (KRDNs).
***The Bachelor of Science in Dietetics offered by Kansas State includes coursework that meets these requirements.*
2. Graduate Level Coursework: As of January 1, 2024, the Commission on Dietetics Registration (CDR) requires a minimum of a master's degree to be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become an RDN.
3. Supervised Practice: Students are required to complete a supervised practice experience in an ACEND accredited program. The supervised practice occurs after the didactic coursework and must provide a minimum of 1,000 hours of learning experience.
***The K-State Master of Science Dietetic Internship (MSDI) combines the graduate level academic requirements and the supervised practice requirements into one program.*
4. Credentialing Exam: Once coursework and supervised practice experiences are complete, graduates are eligible to sit for the national Registration Examination for Dietitian Nutritionists. This national examination is administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). Successful completion of this exam allows the individual to use the initials RD or RDN after their name, indicating that they are credentialed as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist.
5. In most states, graduates also must obtain licensure or certification to practice. Professional licensure for dietitians varies by state. For more information about state licensure requirements click [here](#).
*** While state interpretations of statutes may vary, it is ACEND's considered opinion that the program meets the educational requirements for dietetics licensure and certification in all states. However, completing an ACEND-accredited academic program alone does not qualify an individual for licensure or certification as a dietitian in any state. Individuals should review their state's licensing statutes and regulations to understand the specific requirements, including supervised practice and examinations, needed to obtain a dietetics license.*

Registered Dietitians work in various settings including hospitals and other health-care facilities, community/public health programs, nonprofits, food and nutrition-related business and industries, and research. You can learn more about credentialing and career possibilities [here](#).

For more information about educational pathways to become a RDN visit the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#).