Bachelor of Science in Dietetics
Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)
2026-2027 Handbook

Kansas State University
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Welcome

Welcome to the Kansas State University (K-State) Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). Our program, with a history of over 100 years, is one of the oldest and most prestigious in the country, providing the required didactic coursework to become a dietitian. In 1996, we became the first ACEND-accredited DPD in the country to offer our program in an online format, extending our well-known campus DPD to those unable to relocate to Kansas. Our online DPD is one of only a few online DPD programs in the United States. Our strong legacy is evident in the fact that our graduates consistently secure admission to supervised practice programs at a rate between 90-100%, well above the national average.

The DPD at K-State is currently granted full accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Students completing the DPD can apply to ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs. This handbook includes information not only about the DPD, but also about the profession of dietetics and application to supervised practice programs. The DPD program requirements outlined in this document are in addition to the student responsibilities outlined in the K-State Undergraduate Catalog.

Students majoring in dietetics at K-State are provided multiple resources supporting student success, including multiple faculty members who are credentialed dietitians. Students are part of our Wildcat family, and we will do everything possible to help them succeed. Student success is our success.

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Links within this document were active at the time of publication (June 2026). Report broken links to the DPD director (ssydney@ksu.edu).

General Information

K-State's ACEND-accredited undergraduate Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) meets the academic requirements necessary to earn a DPD verification statement. A DPD verification statement allows individuals to apply to ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs. Upon completion of ACEND-accredited supervised practice and a master's degree, individuals are eligible to sit for the registration examination for dietitians offered by the Commission for Dietetic Registration (CDR). A passing score on the RD exam earns the registered dietitian (RD) credential.

Equal Opportunity

View K-State's policies on equal opportunity.

Accreditation (University and Program)

The K-State DPD is housed in the School of Health Sciences within the College of Health and Human Sciences (HHS) on the Manhattan campus of Kansas State University (KSU). Kansas State University has been continuously accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools since 1916. K-State participates through the Open Pathway reaffirmation of accreditation process and underwent a comprehensive self-study and site visit in 2021-2022 with HLC reaffirming K-State's accreditation status. The next reaffirmation will take place in 2031-2032.

K-State's DPD is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. ACEND establishes standards for dietitian education programs, requiring programs to pass reaccreditation every seven years. The DPD underwent a successful full review (self-study and site visit) in 2019 and is fully accredited through 2027. Current program accreditation is based on the 2022 accreditation standards for nutrition and dietetics didactic programs. K-State's DPD will undergo reaccreditation during the 2026-2027 academic year, with a site visit scheduled in November 2026.

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The Profession of Dietetics

Public interest in nutrition and wellness is growing rapidly. Consumers are eager for guidance on applying basic nutrition principles to lifestyle management. The registered dietitian (RD) is uniquely qualified to support consumers in distinguishing between nutrition fact and fallacy. The medical profession recognizes RDs as nutrition experts.

As nutrition experts, RDs offer expertise to individuals and groups desiring to maintain, improve, or restore health. These services are provided in various settings and practice areas, including acute care hospitals, university food service, athletic programs, consulting, private practice, sales, and research/development, just to name a few. The broad range of opportunities for practice within the profession provides RDs with maximum flexibility as they move through their professional careers. K-State has produced outstanding dietetics professionals for over 100 years and is one of the country's oldest and most prestigious programs.

Path to Dietetic Registration

The Commission on Dietetics Registration (CDR) administers the national registration examination for earning the RD credential and monitors the continuing education process completed by dietitians for credential maintenance. There are four steps to earning the RD credential.

Complete ACEND Core Knowledge Requirements (KRDNs)

K-State's Bachelor of Science in Dietetics includes coursework that meets the KRDNs. Graduates can earn both a bachelor's degree and a DPD verification statement once all program requirements are met and competency in all KRDNs is verified. The DPD verification statement is required for application to most supervised practice programs.

Complete a Minimum of a Master's Degree

Effective 1/1/2024, students must complete a minimum of a master's degree to be eligible to sit for the RD exam. Beginning in 2027, this degree must be in nutrition, dietetics, public health, or a related field and must meet academic competencies outlined by ACEND. With the implementation of these competencies, bridge modules will be available to provide the academic competencies for those with prior master's degrees or who are pursuing master's degrees in other fields.

Complete and ACEND-Accredited Supervised Practice Program

Some programs offer supervised practice without a degree for students who already hold a master's degree, while other programs provide a combined supervised practice + master's degree. The supervised practice program must be ACEND-accredited and include the ACEND core competency requirements (CRDNs). All supervised practice programs offer hands-on experience in clinical nutrition, community nutrition, and nutrition services management. Details about supervised practice are included later in the handbook.

Pass the National Registration Exam for Dietitians

The final step is passing the national registration exam for dietitians offered CDR. Additional details about the RD exam are located in this handbook on page 31. Passing the RD exam allows the individual to use the credentials RD (registered dietitian) or RDN (registered dietitian nutritionist). We recommend that DPD students keep essential textbooks from their DPD courses and supervised practice programs for use when studying for the exam. RDs must complete 75 hours of continuing education every 5 years to maintain the credential. In most states, dietitians must obtain a license to practice within that state. With the advent of telehealth, dietitians must be licensed in the state where the *client* resides. In 2025, the dietitian licensure compact became effective, offering a cost-effective, uniform solution for licensed dietitians seeking to practice across state lines.

DPD Verification Statement

Verification statements are issued by the DPD director upon completion of the DPD. The verification statement indicates that you have completed an ACEND-accredited DPD and are eligible to apply to ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs. After completing the supervised practice program, you will receive a second verification statement, which is required to sit for the RD exam.

Program requirements for earning a DPD verification statement at K-State include the following:

- Admission to K-State as an undergraduate student majoring in dietetics
- Successful mid-curriculum review for verification statement consideration
    - Details on the mid-curriculum review are found starting on page 28 of this handbook
- Documentation of at least 75 hours of volunteer or work experience in nutrition- or dietetics-related positions
- Completion of the BS in Dietetics (120 credit hours, 71 of which are DPD courses)
    - Overall GPA of 3.0 or higher
    - Grade of "B or better" in DPD professional courses (or transfer equivalent)
        - 46 credit hours
    - Grade of "C or better" in DPD major support courses (or transfer equivalent)
        - 28 credit hours
    - Earn 70% or higher on KRDN learning assessments within DPD professional courses

Upon completing the requirements, you will receive an electronic copy of your DPD verification statement with an authenticated electronic signature. The document will be locked to prevent editing after signing. Verification statements will be emailed within 4-6 weeks of program completion.

If you apply to ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs during your last year of coursework, the DPD director will complete a *Declaration of Intent to Complete Degree*, which is needed during the supervised practice program application process since verification statements will not be issued until 4-6 weeks after graduation.

Once you receive your electronically signed verification statement, you must keep it safe for easy access. An official digital copy of your DPD verification statement will be kept on file permanently by the DPD director and/or dietetics coordinator at K-State.

Application to ACEND-accredited Supervised Practice Programs

Students earning a DPD verification statement from Kansas State are eligible to apply to ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs during their last year of coursework. Supervised practice programs include the required hours of supervised practice and may or may not include a graduate degree. Upon completion of the supervised practice program and a master's degree, individuals will receive a second verification statement from the supervised practice program, indicating that they are eligible to sit for the RD exam.

Several types of supervised practice program exist, but most DPD students apply to a dietetic internship (DI) or an MS-DI (DI combined with a master's).

- **Dietetic Internship (DI):** Offers the required supervised practice hours.
- **Dietetic Internship with a Master's (MSDI):** Offers a master's degree in addition to supervised practice hours.
- **Dietetics Graduate Program (GP):** This program is accredited under a different set of ACEND standards than the DI, MSDI, and MSCP. The GP standards are being piloted as the potential new format for dietetics education. GP programs include a master's degree (or doctorate) and the required supervised practice. GPs that require a DPD verification statement are a great option for DPD graduates. GPs that do not require a DPD verification statement are an option; however, the DPD coursework may not align perfectly with the list of prerequisites required by the GP. Thus, GPs not requiring a DPD verification statement are usually not a good option for DPD graduates unless the program is within driving distance.
- **Master's Coordinated Program (MSCP):** Like GPs, this program offers a master's degree in addition to the supervised practice hours. The transfer of DPD dietetics courses may not align perfectly with the required MS-CP courses; thus, MS-CPs are usually not a good option for DPD graduates unless the program is within driving distance.
- **Individualized Supervised Practice Program (ISPP):** This program offers supervised practice hours to individuals earning or holding a PhD without the need to earn a DPD Verification Statement.

The DPD director will assist you with your application to ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs; however, it is your responsibility to initiate and complete the process. We recommend preparing for these applications early by researching program options and narrowing them down to a short list of programs to which you will apply. Then, you can build a strong resume full of dietetic-related experiences that align with those programs. You can apply to multiple programs and receive multiple offers.

There are over 390 supervised practice programs to choose from, which can be viewed in the ACEND Program Directory. Programs may be distance or on-site, full or part-time. It should be noted that

successful completion of the DPD and receipt of a DPD verification statement does not guarantee acceptance into an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program. It is in your best interest to begin researching supervised practice programs early and take steps to be a strong candidate. The acceptance rate of K-State graduates into supervised practice programs is 98% over the past 8 years.

You may delay your application beyond your last semester of DPD coursework; however, it is best to keep the delay as short as possible. If the delay is extended to multiple years, be aware that some supervised practice programs may require you to retake select courses. Typically, programs prefer that your clinical nutrition courses are "recent", usually defined as taken within last 3-5 years.

ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs utilize the DICAS online application portal, which allows you to create one application to send to multiple programs. The annual application cycle runs from August to the following July. Programs must abide by the two notification/decision windows as described below, which provide applicants the opportunity for a two-week window to choose between multiple offers. Full application details are available on this ACEND wepage.

- Each SP program sets a unique application deadline. Expect deadlines to fall between 2-10 months before the program start date.
- Applicants can apply to multiple programs and receive multiple offers.
- Applicants and programs must abide by the traffic rules (see above link).
- Notification/decision windows:
    - Fall: November 1-15
        - Programs must notify applicants of results on or before November 1
        - Applicants must accept or decline offers on or before November 15
        - Programs using this window likely have a program start date between January-March. Fall start programs may use this window to select priority applicants.
    - Spring: March 1-15
        - Programs must notify applicants of results on or before March 1
        - Applicants must accept or decline offers on or before March 15
        - Programs using this window most likely have a program start date between June-September.

Preparing for Application to Supervised Practice Programs

Most supervised practice programs require an overall GPA of at least 3.0. However, the higher the GPA, the better. Some programs look for the DPD science and professional GPAs to be closer to 3.5. Despite that, remember that GPA is only one criterion from which program selection committees make decisions. For example, some programs value experience over GPA.

Equally as important as GPA is a resume showing dietetics-related experience. This experience can be paid, unpaid, or part of an academic class. Unpaid experience can include volunteer work or shadowing experiences. Whether paid or unpaid, these experiences can be in any major dietetics practice area – community, clinical, food service, or management. Programs look for **strength** of experiences, **length** of

experiences, and **variety** of experiences. Information about how to find dietetic-related experience is posted on the Dietetics Info SharePoint site. Non-dietetic experiences can be valuable if they show transferrable skills, such as management, leadership, patient-contact, medical billing, and customer service skills.

Most programs ask applicants to submit a personal statement that brings their resume to life by explaining the applicant's career goals, strengths, weaknesses, and reason for entering dietetics. Each program may have specific points to be addressed in the personal statement, which will be outlined on the program's webpage.

The application process will require you to have letters of recommendation from several individuals, including faculty members, work supervisors, or mentors. Building rapport with these people is essential so they can write a positive letter that is personalized to you.

Strategies for Building a Short List of Supervised Practice Programs

- **Consider your ability to relocate**. If relocation is not an option, think about how far you are willing to commute, then search for on-site programs within that area. You could consider applying to programs in cities where you have family or friends with whom you could live temporarily.
- **Consider your need for access to financial aid**. Not all programs are eligible for federal financial aid. In that case, you must secure outside funding to cover program fees and living costs. There are a few programs that do not charge tuition/fees, and there are programs that pay a stipend or even a salary. Research is key!
- **Consider your primary area of interest in dietetics practice**. Some programs have an emphasis area, so you may want to look for programs emphasizing your area of interest. All supervised practice programs will prepare you for all dietetics practice areas and the RD exam. This means that practical things such as location, tuition, and program length can lead to your choice of programs over the presence of emphasis areas.
- **Consider the timing of graduation from the DPD compared to the start date of the programs on your short list**. Some programs accept applications once a year, whereas others have multiple application due dates and start dates. Be aware that some programs may have an application deadline that is up to 10 months prior to the program start date.
- Build a spreadsheet of the various program deadlines and information.

General Timeline for Application to Supervised Practice

1. Immediately:
    a. Research supervised practice programs.
    b. Gain dietetics-related experiences, including those non-dietetics experiences with transferrable skills. For each experience, document the name of the position and employer/organization, dates and total hours of the experience, brief description of tasks completed, and connection of experience to skills or characteristics needed in the dietetics profession.

c. Create a well-formatted resume
d. Build rapport with faculty, supervisors, and mentors
e. Join either the Student Dietetics Association or Distance Student Dietetic Association
f. Become a student member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for access to scholarships and networking opportunities with dietitians

2. During your last year of coursework:
3. During your last year of coursework
    a. If you plan to delay or forego supervised practice application, please inform the DPD director, who can provide information on alternative routes.
    b. Create a spreadsheet of application deadlines for all programs you're considering
    c. Decide who you will ask to write letters of recommendation. Reach out well before the application deadline. It is best to give authors a minimum of 4 weeks to write their letter. Provide them with:
        i. Your resume and possibly your personal statement
        ii. Deadlines for each letter requested
        iii. Process to complete each letter (if different from DICAS process)
            1. Within DICAS, the same reference letter can be used for all programs, or the writer can choose to personalize letters for each program.
    d. Begin crafting program-specific personal statements. Check each program's website for specific topics to address in the statement.
    e. Plan to submit applications 1-2 weeks before the deadline. This allows for computer issues and tracking down missing documents.
    f. Each SP application cycle runs for 12 months, from August to July.
        i. DICAS will open for applications in August. Creating an application is **FREE** until you hit submit. Your first application is $50 and each additional program is $25.

Options When Not Accepted into a Supervised Practice Program

If not accepted on your first application, you may try again. There is no limit on how many times you can apply, and eligibility does not expire. If you are not accepted into a program, the DPD director can assist with decision-making. DPD graduates will retain eligibility for application support from the DPD director beyond graduation from K-State.

Earning a DPD verification statement does provide immediate eligibility to sit for the registration exam for dietetic technicians (DTR/NDTR) without completing supervised practice hours. This credential is one of the strategies that could strengthening your application to supervised practice programs in subsequent cycles and may expand employment opportunities. The DPD director will submit evidence to CDR of your eligibility to sit for the DTR/NDTR exam if requested.

Background Checks, Drug Tests, and Vaccination Status

Most supervised practice programs require a background check, drug test, and/or proof of up-to-date vaccinations since students/interns will work in a healthcare environment. Policies will be program-specific.

International Students

International students completing the online DPD must apply for a visa to come to the United States to complete a supervised practice program. This ACEND webpage has more information for international students.

BS in Dietetics (120 credit hours, including 71 DPD credit hours)

The DPD is a collection of courses within the BS in Dietetics that meet ACEND accreditation requirements for a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). Completing the degree requirements earns a BS in Dietetics. For eligibility to earn a DPD verification statement, you will complete a mid-curriculum review for verification statement consideration. Details on the mid-curriculum review process are available in this handbook.

BS in Dietetics

The BS in Dietetics curriculum can be viewed in the Appendix section of this handbook. For course descriptions and course offering frequency, view the current University Catalog. Prerequisites listed in the catalog must be met for eligibility to enroll in a course. Concurrent enrollment in a course and its prerequisite is not allowed unless expressly indicated or with instructor approval. **You should be aware that some courses are offered only once a year.** Because of this, it is important for you to work with your academic advisor to design a long-range plan allowing you to graduate on time. With careful planning, a full-time campus student can complete the degree requirements within four years. For online students, the time varies based on the number of transfer courses accepted and the number of courses taken each semester. For both campus and online students, time to graduation may be extended if you take extra electives, change majors, participate in study abroad opportunities, or retake a class to earn a better grade. Of the 120 credit hours in the BS in Dietetics, **71 credit hours are considered DPD courses.** The program length for the DPD portion of the degree is typically 2 years for full-time campus students (junior & senior year) and 3 years for part-time online students.

Curriculum Plan Year

Degree programs experience changes over time. When you are admitted to K-State and choose dietetics as your major (or change to the dietetics major while enrolled at K-State), you are assigned the curriculum plan in place at that time. You may continue with that plan even if the curriculum changes during your time at K-State; however, you can opt to change to an updated curriculum. The credits you have taken up to that point will be re-evaluated against the revised curriculum. You may need to take additional courses or find that a course you previously took became an elective instead of meeting a requirement. You can talk with your advisor about which curriculum plan year you are on.

If you elect to interrupt your academic program, you may need to meet the program/degree requirements in place when you restart if there was a curriculum change during your absence. Decisions about this situation are made on a case-by-case basis. You are required to meet with your academic advisor each semester before enrollment. If you are an online dietetic student, you can communicate with your academic advisor by Zoom and email.

Nutrition Majors

In addition to the BS in Dietetics, K-State offers degree options in Nutrition and Health (NHLTH); Nutritional Sciences (NUTSC); and Sports Nutrition (SN). These three bachelor's degrees require many of the same nutrition courses; however, none of them meet the academic requirements of ACEND. Thus, if

you want to work towards earning the RD credential, you will need to dual major in your degree of choice plus the BS in Dietetics. At this time, only two of the additional nutrition majors are offered in the online format: Sports Nutrition and Nutrition and Health.

Advisors in the College of Health and Human Sciences will assist you in finding the degree option best aligned with your career goals. Nutritional Sciences is designed as a pre-medicine degree, preparing students to enter a medical school program after graduation. The Nutrition and Health degree and the Sports Nutrition degree prepare students to apply to health programs, such as nursing, or for various careers, including nutrition research, education, health promotion, food/nutrition advocacy, and public health. **If you want to provide individualized nutrition counseling or medical nutrition therapy, work in a clinical setting, or receive health insurance reimbursement as a dietitian, you must choose the BS in Dietetics and complete the steps to become an RD, as the credential is required for those types of positions.**

Although all four of K-State's nutrition degrees focus on nutrition, the required academic rigor varies. The BS in Dietetics requires a B or better in DPD professional courses and a C or better in DPD major support courses. The other three nutrition degrees require a "C or better" in the professional and major support courses.

You may choose to dual (or triple) major, such as majoring in both Dietetics and Sports Nutrition. Completing a dual (or triple) major may extend the time it takes to graduate. If you choose this path, work with your academic advisor to complete the necessary paperwork and ensure you remain on track for graduation. You may be assigned a separate advisor for each of your majors.

Advanced Standing Credit

The DPD abides by the University policy on academic credit for prior learning and advanced credit through scores from Advanced Placement (AP), College Level Examination Program (CLEP), and DANTES Subject Standardized Test (DSST). Additional information is available on this K-State webpage.

Transferring Courses from Other Schools to K-State

The four DPD professional courses listed below must be taken through K-State**, even if equivalent courses have been taken elsewhere.**

- FNDH 400 Human Nutrition (3 credits)
- FNDH 631 Clinical Nutrition 1 (3 credits)
- FNDH 632 Clinical Nutrition 2 (3 credits)
- FNDH 645 Professional Practice and Leadership in Dietetics (3 credits)

The most efficient way to determine if your previous courses will transfer is to use the K-State Transfer Equivalency Tool to verify if your courses have already been evaluated for equivalency. If a course is not listed in the tool, you can submit the course syllabus for review even before you are admitted to K-State. **The syllabus must be from the semester and year that the course was taken or will be taken.**

The K-State instructor of record will evaluate the course for equivalency through a process initiated by the Dean's Office. Upon admission, consult with your academic advisor as soon as possible to facilitate any additional transfer course review.

In addition to being deemed equivalent, transfer work must meet the following criteria to be accepted to fulfill a DPD requirement. Transfer courses not meeting these criteria will not be accepted.

- Grade of B or better on DPD professional course equivalents
- Grade of C or better on DPD major support courses
- Courses that must include a lab
    - Major Support Courses
        - BIOL 198 Principles of Biology
        - KIN 360 Anatomy & Physiology (or BIOL 441 + BIOL 442 or KIN 361 + KIN 362)
        - BIOL 255 General Microbiology
        - CHM 210 Chemistry 1
    - Professional Courses
        - FNDH 313 Science of Food
        - FNDH 442 Management in Dietetics 1

If you are considering taking a required course from another school, it is best to first confirm that the course will be deemed equivalent to a DPD course by checking the Transfer Equivalency Tool and consulting your advisor. You will be required to have an official transcript showing the course grade sent directly to the K-State Office of Admissions.

Limit on transfer credits for students seeking a bachelor's degree at K-State:

- up to 75 credits from an accredited 2-year institution
- at least 30 credits must be completed through K-State
- at least 15 of the last 30 upper-level credits earned must be earned at K-State

Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) Details

Program Philosophy

K-State's DPD is based on the belief that dietitians are uniquely qualified to provide evidence-based nutrition services, as the training includes not only clinical nutrition but also health promotion, food system concepts, and management skills.

We strive to prepare students for employment in today's fast-paced, information-hungry society. We emphasize the importance of quality and service, as the needs and expectations of clients must be the central focus of dietetics practice. Dietitians must engage in ongoing self-evaluation, embark on lifelong learning, and adhere to a personal and professional code of ethics.

Our mission, as seen below, aligns with the missions of Kansas State University, the College of Health and Human Sciences, and the School of Health Sciences.

DPD Mission

The Kansas State University Didactic Program in Dietetics prepares graduates for entry into graduate programs, leading to eligibility for the CDR credentialing exam to become registered dietitian nutritionists (RDN) who can deliver food and nutrition services to the people of Kansas and beyond.

DPD Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Graduates will be prepared for successful application to accredited supervised practice programs, graduate school, or a career in food/nutrition.

- **Objective 1.1**: At least 70% of program graduates apply for admission to a supervised practice program prior to or within 12 months of graduation. [ACEND required wording, program identified target]
- **Objective 1.2**: Of program graduates who apply to a supervised practice program, at least 70% are admitted within 12 months of graduation. [ACEND required wording, program identified target]
- **Objective 1.3:** The acceptance rate of graduates applying to supervised practice programs is at least 85% in each annual application cycle. [program identified wording and target]

Goal 2: Graduates will be prepared with the knowledge and skills necessary for completion of an accredited supervised practice program and/or a career delivering food and nutrition services to the people of Kansas and beyond.

- **Objective 2.1**: At least 80% of students complete program requirements within 3 years for the campus track or 4.5 years for the online track (150% of program length). [ACEND required wording and target; program length begins semester after admission to DPD and ends at graduation]
- **Objective 2.2**: 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%. [ACEND required wording and target]
- **Objective 2.3**: At least 95% of program graduates completing supervised practice will rate satisfaction with the program at 3.0 or higher on a five-point scale. [Program identified wording and target]

- **Objective 2.4**: At least 95% of supervised practice program directors will rate preparedness of K-State DPD graduates at 3.0 or above on a five-point scale. [ACEND required, program identified wording and target]

Student and Program Assessment

Student Assessment (ACEND Core Knowledge Requirements)

To earn a DPD verification statement, you must earn at least a B in required DPD professional courses and at least a C in required DPD major support courses. In addition, you are expected to achieve proficiency in the following ACEND core knowledge requirements (KRDNs).

KRDN proficiency is defined as earning 70% or higher on a learning activity designed to measure student achievement of a particular KRDN. Learning activity formats vary - assignment, quiz, activity – and are spread over multiple DPD professional courses. Courses containing a KRDN learning activity will include a statement in the syllabus alerting you which KRDNs will be measured in the course.

Instructors involved with measuring student achievement of KRDNs monitor individual students and remediate when needed to ensure DPD students are proficient on each KRDN learning activity. Instructors provide the DPD director with data on the KRDN proficiency of individual students.

Domain 1 - Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice: Integration of scientific information and translation of research into practice.

- KRDN 1.1 Demonstrate how to locate, interpret, evaluate and use professional literature to make ethical, evidence-based practice decisions.
- KRDN 1.2 Select and use appropriate current information technologies to locate and apply evidence-based guidelines and protocols.
- KRDN 1.3 Apply critical thinking skills.

Domain 2 - Professional Practice Expectations: Beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviors for the nutrition and dietetics practitioner level of practice.

- KRDN 2.1 Demonstrate effective and professional oral and written communication and documentation.
- KRDN 2.2 Describe the governance of nutrition and dietetics practice, such as the Scope of Practice for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Nutrition and Dietetics.
- KRDN 2.3 Assess the impact of a public policy position on the nutrition and dietetic profession.
- KRDN 2.4 Discuss the impact of health care policy and different health care delivery systems on food and nutrition services.
- KRDN 2.5 Identify and describe the work of interprofessional teams and the roles of others with whom the registered dietitian nutritionist collaborates.
- KRDN 2.6 was removed by ACEND in 2025.
- KRDN 2.7 Describe contributing factors to health inequity in nutrition and dietetics.

- KRDN 2.8 Participate in a nutrition and dietetics professional organization and explain the significant role of the organization.
- KRDN 2.9 Defend a position on issues impacting the nutrition and dietetics profession.

Domain 3 - Clinical and Client Services: Development and delivery of information, products and services to individuals, groups and populations.

- KRDN 3.1 Use the Nutrition Care Process and clinical workflow elements to assess nutritional parameters, diagnose nutrition-related problems, determine appropriate nutrition interventions and develop plans to monitor the effectiveness of these interventions.
- KRDN 3.2 Develop an educational session or program/educational strategy for a target population.
- KRDN 3.3 Demonstrate counseling and education methods to facilitate behavior change and enhance wellness for diverse individuals and groups.
- KRDN 3.4 Practice routine health screening assessments, including measuring blood pressure and conducting waived point-of-care laboratory testing (such as blood glucose or cholesterol).
- KRDN 3.5 Describe concepts of nutritional genomics and how they relate to medical nutrition therapy, health and disease.
- KRDN 3.6 Develop nutritionally sound meals, menus and meal plans that promote health and disease management and meet client's/patient's needs.

Domain 4 - Practice Management and Use of Resources: Strategic application of principles of management and systems in the provision of services to individuals and organizations.

- KRDN 4.1 Apply management theories to the development of programs or services.
- KRDN 4.2 Evaluate a budget/financial management plan and interpret financial data.
- KRDN 4.3 Demonstrate an understanding of the regulation system related to billing and coding, what services are reimbursable by third-party payers, and how reimbursement may be obtained.
- KRDN 4.4 Apply the principles of human resource management to different situations.
- KRDN 4.5 Apply safety and sanitation principles related to food, personnel and consumers.
- KRDN 4.6 Explain the processes involved in delivering quality food and nutrition services.
- KRDN 4.7 Evaluate data to be used in decision-making for continuous quality improvement.

Domain 5 - Leadership and Career Management: Skills, strengths, knowledge and experience relevant to leadership potential and professional growth for the nutrition and dietetics practitioner.

- KRDN 5.1 Perform self-assessment that includes awareness in terms of learning and leadership styles and cultural orientation and develop goals for self-improvement.
- KRDN 5.2 Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge and experiences relevant to the position desired and career goals.
- KRDN 5.3 Practice how to self-advocate for opportunities in a variety of settings (such as asking for needed support, presenting an elevator pitch).
- KRDN 5.4 Practice resolving differences or dealing with conflict.
- KRDN 5.5 Promote team involvement and recognize the skills of each member.

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

Program Assessment Related to ACEND Standards

As an ACEND-accredited program, the achievement of program goals and objectives is continually monitored according to a Program Evaluation Plan (PEP). Program outcomes data are available upon request from the DPD director, Sydney Cochran (ssydney@ksu.edu).

Student Input on DPD Program Quality

There are several ways you can share input that supports continuous quality improvement in K-State's DPD.

- **Course Evaluations (TEVAL)**: You will complete an **anonymous** survey after every KSU course. The questions are about the course design and delivery, and the instructor's performance.
- **Senior Exit Interviews**: You will have the opportunity during the spring semester to provide input on the DPD program through interviews with community members from the field of nutrition and dietetics. Interviewers summarize and **anonymize** responses before providing a written report to the DPD director to inform program improvement.
- **Senior Survey**: You will receive a survey from the K-State Office of Assessment upon graduation asking for feedback about your experience at K-State overall and within your major.
- **Post-Graduation Surveys**: Approximately two years after graduation, you will receive a survey from the DPD director asking for an update on your progress toward earning the RD credential and/or employment in a nutrition-related position. This survey is **not anonymous** and is conducted to gather data required for compliance with ACEND accreditation standards.

Program Assessment Related to University Requirements

The DPD participates in the annual university-wide student learning assessment under the guidance of the College of Health and Human Sciences Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Relevant KRDN learning activities are used for submission of an annual report of student learning to the University Office of Assessment in support of the University's accreditation.

Tuition, Fees, Additional Expenses

The cost of tuition and fees depends on your residency status and program format (campus vs online). A campus student will pay the same tuition whether they take the course online or in person. Up-to-date information about tuition and fees is found on the K-State Office of Student Financial Assistance.

Cost of Books and Materials

Textbooks for your classes are available from the K-State Campus Store or from a variety of online retailers. It isn't easy to estimate the cost of textbooks and course materials, as the amount can vary significantly from one semester to the next. Some courses use online resources only, such an Open Education Resources book, which reduces student cost to just a $10 OER fee instead of requiring

expensive textbooks. An estimate for a full-time student is $300-500 per semester. You are encouraged to shop around for textbooks to obtain them at the lowest price possible.

You are encouraged to save critical dietetics-related textbooks for use during your supervised practice program and when studying for the RD exam after completing your supervised practice program. Check with each professor or contact the DPD director about the value of keeping a particular course textbook in preparation for supervised practice and the RD exam.

Other Costs You May Incur

1. K-State utilizes the Canvas Learning Management System (LMS). This is how you will access course materials, submit assignments, take online exams, and more. It is your responsibility to secure access to the required technology. See below for more information.
    a. Required personal technology
    b. Software available to students
    c. University computer labs
    d. Additional information for online students
2. Some courses have associated costs. These include:
    a. FNDH 442 Management in Dietetics 1 (Dr. Kelly Whitehair, stirtz@ksu.edu)
        i. Requires ServSafe Manager certification
            1. $53 for book, $38 for exam, or $72 for book and exam
        ii. Dr. Whitehair can proctor exams for campus students and assist online students in locating a proctor
        iii. Location of a foodservice operation to complete weekly labs is also required. Dr. Whitehair can provide criteria for choosing and contacting a facility.
    b. FNDH 313 Science of Food
        i. For online students, you will incur costs to purchase food for completion of at-home labs.
        ii. For campus students, the cost is included in your semester campus fee.
    c. FNDH 442, FNDH 450, and FNDH 600
        i. These courses may require you to contact professionals in your area and you may incur costs to travel to those professionals' workplaces. Course instructors may offer alternatives for those having difficulty locating a professional.
3. K-State utilizes HonorLock for online testing integrity. However, you may encounter online proctoring fees if taking classes from other universities.
4. You are encouraged to participate in these **optional** activities:
    a. Join the appropriate student group:
        i. Student Dietetic Association
            1. Contact Dr. Kelly Whitehair (stirtz@ksu.edu)
        ii. Distance Student Dietetic Association
            1. Contact Sydney Cochran (ssydney@ksu.edu)
    b. Join the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics as a student member (currently $58/year)
        i. Student membership is restricted to individuals enrolled in an ACEND-accredited program (which includes K-State's BS in Dietetics)

ii. Includes free membership in a state affiliate of the Academy
iii. The Academy and most affiliate groups offer scholarship opportunities.

c. Attend local and national professional meetings
    i. This is a great way to learn about the profession and network with dietetics professionals. Registration and lodging costs vary.
        1. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' annual Food and Nutrition Conference (FNCE) takes place each October. Early each spring, you can apply to volunteer at FNCE, which can substantially reduce the registration cost. Travel grants are available from the College of Health and Human Sciences.

d. Application to ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs.
    i. Occurs in your final year of coursework and involves application fees, which vary for each program. You must order official transcripts from any college institution you have attended, which can cost between $10-20 per transcript. K-State transcripts are free to enrolled students.

Costs Incurred After Graduating from K-State

On the pathway to earning the RD credential, your next steps after completing K-State's DPD are to complete an ACEND-accredited supervised practice (SP) program and earn a master's degree before being eligible to take the RD exam. The cost for SP programs varies greatly depending on whether they are a stand-alone SP program or if they are combined with a master's degree. The average price of a stand-alone supervised practice program (without a master's) is $10,000; however, lower-cost options are available. Some programs do not have a program fee, and some programs pay you a stipend. Programs that include a master's degree will likely provide access to federal financial aid.

Starting in your first semester with K-State, you should begin researching SP programs to plan wisely for upcoming costs. One of the main tools for researching programs is the ACEND Program Directory. The DPD director is available to answer any questions and provide support as you work on identifying the best SP programs for your situation.
Once you have completed an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program and hold a master's degree, you will be eligible to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians offered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). Currently, exam cost is $200.

After earning the RD credential, most states require a license to practice in the state where you are working. Licensure costs vary by state, ranging from $50-100 annually. If you see clients across state lines, you must be licensed in the state where the client resides. In 2025, the dietetics licensure compact became a reality and will reduce the costs of being licensed in multiple states. Kansas is one of the states currently participating in the compact.

Financial Aid & K-State Scholarships

The Office of Student Financial Assistance oversees federal financial aid and K-State's Scholarship Application. Whether you are a campus or online student, you will have a financial aid advisor assigned to you. You are invited to complete the annual scholarship application through the K-State Scholarship

Network (KSN) by the priority date. In addition to KSN, scholarships specific to online students are available.

Scholarships from Professional Organizations

Scholarships are available from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation (application due dates are typically in Spring). Scholarships are also available from Academy Affiliate organizations and Academy DPGs and MIGs.

K-State Tuition Drop/Refund Policy

The policy is the same for both campus and online students. It is important to consult your advisor as early as possible if you are considering dropping a course, since that may impact your long-range plan and expected graduation date.

Housing Costs

Students can obtain information about on-campus housing from Housing and Dining Services or by calling 785-532-6453 or 1-888-568-5027. Any student taking at least one credit hour is eligible to secure housing on campus.

A-Z Policies and Procedures

Dietetics majors are expected to abide by the all-university regulations as listed in the current catalog.

Academic Calendar

The DPD follows the University Academic Calendar.

Accommodations

At K-State it is important that every student has access to course content and the means to demonstrate course mastery. Students with disabilities may benefit from services, including securing accommodation validation by the Student Access Center. Disabilities can include physical, learning, executive functions, and mental health. You may register at the Student Access Center or contact the center at accesscenter@k-state.edu or 785-532-6441.

Assessment of Prior Learning

The DPD does not evaluate prior work experience to fulfill DPD course requirements.

Assessment of Student Learning

Throughout the DPD, faculty assess student learning through a variety of exams, case studies, projects, presentations, and group activities. Students can view grades for active courses within Canvas and grades for completed courses and cumulative GPAs within KSIS. Learning activities used to measure student achievement of the ACEND Core Knowledge Statements (KRDN) are administered by the faculty teaching specific courses, with the data provided to the DPD director for use in documenting student eligibility for a DPD verification statement. To earn a DPD verification statement, students must earn 70% or higher on all KRDN learning activities, a B or better in DPD professional courses, and a C or better

in DPD major support courses. When a student does not earn 70% or higher on a KRDN learning activity, the course instructor will offer remediation to ensure the student learns the material; however, the original score will remain for calculating the course grade. Scores earned on a KRDN learning activity are not reported on a student's transcript or verification statement. Students are required to meet with their academic advisors each semester, which allows advisors to monitor and discuss student achievement of DPD grade requirements. Advisors will assist students who are struggling to find the best pathway forward.

DPD Handbook

This handbook is available to the public on program webpages and to dietetics majors on the Dietetics Info SharePoint site. Students are formally alerted to the presence of the handbook during orientation and upon approval to continue to upper-level professional courses through the mid-curriculum review process. The handbook is updated annually before the fall semester.

Dress Code

There is no specific dress code for campus or online students participating in class lectures or labs; however, dietetic students are encouraged to dress professionally when participating in experiential learning activities for a course, attending a professional meeting, or participating in any volunteer or shadowing experiences. The Career Center offers guidance on appropriate business attire and offers free professional attire through the Career Closet.

Dropping a Course

Details about dropping a course can be found on the Division of Academic Success and Student Affairs website.

Experiential Learning Opportunities

Experiential learning opportunities include items such as shadowing of dietitians, service-learning activities, and observation. Although ACEND does not require experiential learning, these activities are essential to many K-State DPD professional courses. Affiliation agreements (legal documents) are not needed for ELO experiences since the student chooses the facility, and the University is limited to faculty setting the learning objectives for the course and grading activity-based assignments.

Grievance Procedures

The DPD follows K-State's student grievance procedures as outlined in the current University Handbook. When the complaint is about a particular course and/or instructor, students should start by communicating with that instructor directly. For complaints or concerns about the DPD, students should start by communicating with the DPD director, listed below. If unable to resolve an issue with the instructor or DPD director, students can proceed to the dietetics program chair before proceeding to the Assistant Director of the School of Health Sciences.

- **DPD Director**
  Sydney Cochran | 785.532.0169 | ssydney@ksu.edu
- **Dietetics Program Chair**
  Dr. Kelly Whitehair | 785.532.5576 | stirtz@ksu.edu

- **Assistant Director, School of Health Sciences**
  Dr. Brian Lindshield | 785.532.5508 | blindsh@ksu.edu

If students have a concern that the DPD is not in compliance with accreditation standards or policies, they can file a complaint with the Accrediting Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). ACEND does not intervene on behalf of the individual filing the complaint or act as a court of appeal for individuals in matters of admissions, appointment, promotion or dismissal of faculty or students**. ACEND acts only upon a signed allegation that the DPD program may not be in compliance with the accreditation standards or policies**. Anonymous complaints are not considered.

Health

Campus students are not required to have proof of health insurance before admission to the university. However, they must show proof of up-to-date MMR vaccination, meningococcal vaccination, and TB screening. Online students are not required to show proof of immunizations nor proof of health insurance for admission. Enrolled students are encouraged to take advantage of the Student Success Resources Canvas course, which includes a Health and Safety module.

Honor System and Student Code of Conduct

DPD students must abide by K-State's Honor and Integrity System and Student Code of Conduct. These policies are also posted in the current University Undergraduate Catalog. In addition, dietetics students are asked to follow the Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession and the Pledge of Civility. These documents are explored in several DPD professional courses. Students are educated on the importance of following the code to maintain the RD credential and licensure.

Retention, Remediation, and Termination Procedures

To help retain students in the program, dietetics students must meet with their academic advisor each semester. Advisors guide students in finding the course sequence that best supports high academic achievement. Meeting with students each semester allows advisors to monitor students' academic achievement. Advisors will highlight strategies for success in maintaining strong academic performance in preparation for the DPD mid-curriculum review and application to supervised practice programs during or beyond their last year at K-State. Details on the mid-curriculum review process can be found later in this handbook.

Below are the graduation criteria for earning the BS in Dietetics.

- Earned B or better in DPD professional courses
- Earned C or better in DPD major support courses
- K-State cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher (3.0 or higher to obtain DPD verification statement)

Students who are struggling to meet any criteria are identified through the required advisor visits and interaction with faculty who measure and remediate KRDN achievement. Advisors and faculty can guide students to tutoring and academic assistance services available to both campus and online students.

Students are encouraged to self-initiate communication with faculty, advisors, or the DPD director if they find themselves struggling to meet criteria.

Remediation for KRDN proficiency is conducted by the instructor of the course in which the KRDN proficiency is measured. Students choosing not to participate in remediation will be unable to earn a DPD verification statement. For a student not meeting proficiency in one or more KRDNs, advisors and/or the DPD director may direct the student to consider application to an ACEND-accredited Graduate Program (GP), as most GPs do not require a DPD verification statement for admission. More details about documenting KRDN proficiency is located under *Assessment of Student Learning* in the A-Z Policy & Procedure section of the handbook.

For students unable to meet the grade requirements for the BS in Dietetics, advisors may discuss the possibility of pursuing the BS in Nutrition and Health, which has a "C or better" grade requirement for all required courses.

Student Records

The DPD abides by the University's regulations regarding student records. The DPD director and dietetics coordinator maintain student files, which may include the student's DPD verification statement, mid-curriculum review application materials, copies of transfer transcripts, program-related correspondence, student-signed documents required for program administration (such as the transcript release form), copies of unofficial and official KSU transcripts, and original copies of digitally signed DPD verification statements. Students may view the contents of their file at any time, except those items for which the right to view has been waived by the student (such as with some faculty letters of recommendation). Signed and dated DPD verification statements will be maintained on file indefinitely per ACEND policy.

Withdrawals from Courses and/or the University

Information about withdrawals can be found through the Office of the Registrar.

Student Support Services List

K-State Online	Helpful information for online students	785.532.1521 online@ksu.edu
Academic Achievement Center	Tutoring, academic coaching, supplemental instruction	785.532.6492 achievement@ksu.edu
Advanced Standing Credit	Advanced Placement (AP); College Level Examination Program (CLEP); DANTES Subject Standardized Test (DSST); International Baccalaureate (IB); and Military credit evaluations	785.532.1521 apply@ksu.edu
Career Center	Resume critiques, interview prep, job searches	785.532.6506 careercenter@ksu.edu
College of HHS Student Service	Awards, professional mentoring program, clubs and organizations, advising and academic resources	785.532.5500 hhs@ksu.edu
IT Help Desk	All things tech support	785.532.7722 800.865.6143
K-State First	A variety of opportunities to help freshmen transition to college life on campus	785-532-1501 kstatefirst@ksu.edu
K-State Libraries	Resources, databases, interlibrary loan, Ask a Librarian, research guides	785.532.3014 libhelp@k-state.edu
K-State Writing Center	One-to-one consultations about writing projects	785.532.6716 english@ksu.edu
Military Affiliated Resource Center	Support with questions regarding VA benefits and tuition assistance for military-connected students.	785.395.8387 military@ksu.edu
Student Support & Accountability	Promotes student success in the classroom and life. Helps students dealing with a crisis affecting learning.	785.532.6432 studentsupport@ksu.edu
Registrar's Office	Student records, transcripts, and academic calendars	785.532.3552 registrar@ksu.edu
Student Access Center	Partners with students, faculty, and staff to create accessible environments and provide academic and housing accommodations.	785-532-6441 accesscenter@ksu.edu

Admission to Dietetics Major and DPD Program Progression

The Bachelor of Science in Dietetics is offered in two formats – online and on campus.

Campus Undergraduate Students

1. Apply to K-State as a degree-seeking undergraduate student, declaring dietetics as your major.
2. Upon notification of your admission by the Office of Admissions, the College of Health and Human Sciences Dean's Office will assign you an academic advisor.
3. Your dietetics academic advisor will give you access to the Dietetics Info SharePoint site, which connects you to vital information related to the dietetics pathway at K-State.
4. Midway through your long-range plan, you will apply for Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) mid-curriculum review. Your application must be approved to be eligible for a DPD verification statement. More information regarding mid-curriculum review is found on page 26.

Online Undergraduate Students

1. Apply through K-State Online as a degree-seeking undergraduate student, declaring dietetic as your major. **Hard Deadlines**: June 1 for fall start, Nov 1 for spring start, April 1 for summer start
2. Upon notification of your admission by the Office of Admissions, the College of Health and Human Sciences' Dean's Office will assign you an academic advisor.
3. Your dietetics academic advisor will grant you access to the Dietetics Info SharePoint site, which connects you to vital information related to the dietetics pathway at K-State.
4. Midway through your long-range plan, you will apply for Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) mid-curriculum review. Your application must be approved to be eligible for a DPD verification statement. More information regarding mid-curriculum review is found on page 26.

DPD Mid-Curriculum Review

Most students pursuing K-State's BS in Dietetics are working towards becoming a registered dietitian (RD). As explained earlier in the handbook, the eligibility requirements for taking the RD exam are to hold a master's degree and complete ACEND-accredited coursework and supervised practice. K-State's BS in Dietetics meets ACEND-accredited coursework requirements for a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). During the last year of coursework, students apply to ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs (stand-alone or combined with a master's degree). A DPD verification statement is required to apply to most ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs.

Midway through the dietetics curriculum, you will apply for DPD mid-curriculum review. This process has three purposes:

- Encourage you to take steps to gain dietetics-related experiences
- Prepare you for the supervised practice application process
- Enable K-State's DPD to stay within its ACEND-accredited maximum number of 115 DPD students

Upon approval of your application, you are eligible to earn a DPD verification statement upon graduation from K-State, assuming all other program requirements are met. The mid-curriculum review acceptance rate is between 90-100%. Students whose applications are denied are eligible to apply again, however there is a limit of two total application attempts. Students are encouraged to prepare for this review process by maintaining a high GPA and gaining experience relevant to dietetics. Gaining these experiences will make you a strong candidate when applying to ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs.

Eligibility Criteria for Mid-Curriculum Review

- Completion of or current enrollment in FNDH 400
- Earned B or better in completed DPD professional courses
- Earned C or better in completed DPD major support courses
- Documentation of at least 75 hours of paid/volunteer experience in dietetics-related positions
    - Starting for spring 2028 applicants; 50 hours required starting for fall 2027 applicants
- Overall GPA of 3.0 or higher (includes all collegiate courses from all institutions)

*Waivers of the 3.0 GPA eligibility criteria are approved on a case-by-case basis after submitting a consideration letter and meeting one-on-one with the DPD director.

Criteria for Earning a DPD Verification Statement

- Pass mid-curriculum review process
- Obtain documented proficiency in all KRDNs
- Continuous enrollment in a minimum of 6 credit hours of DPD coursework and steady progress toward the verification statement
- Maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Earn B or better in required DPD professional courses
- Earn C or better in required DPD major support courses
- Earn the BS in Dietetics

Criteria for Earning a BS in Dietetics

- Complete the required courses (120 credit hours)
- Earn B or better in required DPD professional courses
- Earn C or better in required DPD major support courses

Mid-Curriculum Review Process

1. Your academic advisor will note in your long-range plan when to complete this process.
2. Mid-curriculum review info sessions are held by the DPD director each semester for those preparing to apply. It is recommended to attend at least one semester ahead of your application.
3. Mid-curriculum review materials will be submitted through the Dietetics Info SharePoint page.
4. Submit all requested materials in the mid-curriculum review portal by the deadline (September 25 in fall semesters and February 25 in spring semesters):
    a. Application form
    b. GPA calculator spreadsheet
    c. Completion of DPD handbook quiz with score of 80% or greater
    d. Resume and career center resume review sign-off
    e. Cover letter
    f. 2-3 minute video personal statement outlining interests in the field of dietetics
5. Results of the process are sent to applicants by email within 1-2 weeks, with a link to schedule an individual meeting with the DPD director for feedback on materials and guidance on preparation for supervised practice applications.

If your application is not accepted, you have two options:

- Reapply in a future application cycle (2 attempts max). Talk with the DPD director about strategies for strengthening the chance of acceptance.
- Change your major to one of the other nutrition bachelor's degrees, allowing you to graduate on time as planned. Your academic advisor can help you make this decision. You can continue the dietetics pathway by applying to ACEND-accredited Graduate Programs (GP) that do not require a DPD verification statement. A list of GPs can be viewed in the ACEND-accredited Program Directory.

Final Steps to Program Completion

Once your mid-curriculum review is approved, you are officially counted as a DPD student. The time you spend in the DPD varies. Most campus students apply in the spring of their junior year and complete the program one year later. For online students, your length of time in the DPD will depend on how many courses you take each semester and how many transfer credits were applied for DPD-required courses. Read on for details about the final steps for program completion.

Once in the DPD:

1. Continue to research supervised practice programs. It is recommended to apply to multiple programs to improve likelihood of receiving an offer.

2. Complete the remaining requirements for the degree (see page 29) and verification statement (see page 28).
3. Plan to attend any supervised practice application prep sessions offered by the DPD director.
4. Apply to ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs in final year of coursework. See steps outlined on pages 8-11 of this handbook.
5. In your final semester of coursework (not counting summer):
    a. Apply for graduation in KSIS.
        i. Your academic advisor can assist you with this process. **Summer session graduates should apply during the spring semester.** Summer graduates can participate in either the spring or fall graduation ceremony.
    b. Download and save any items you want to retain after graduation
    c. Complete DPD exit paperwork
        i. **This paperwork is needed to process your DPD verification statement**
        ii. Dietetics coordinator, Karla Girard, will grant access to the DPD exit paperwork. Items needed include:
            1. Completed DPD graduate information form
            2. Copy of government-issued photo ID matching your student profile
            3. Signed permission to release official transcript
6. After graduation
    a. DPD verification statements are issued within 1 week after your degree posts in KSIS.
    b. If you are starting a supervised practice program that begins within six weeks of graduation, you may need to request a letter from the DPD director to provide to your program prior to verification statements being issued.
    c. If not accepted to a supervised practice program, there is no limit to the number of times you can apply and we will be available to assist you.
        i. Consider taking the NDTR exam
    d. Stay in contact with KSU. It is vital that we can contact you over the next two years. As part of our ACEND accreditation, we collect data on the career progress of our graduates. We also love to hear how you're doing!
7. Final steps to earning the RDN credential after graduating with the BS in Dietetics:
    a. Complete an ACEND-accredited dietetic supervised practice program
    b. Complete a master's degree
    c. Take the RD exam

As a graduate of the Didactic Program in Dietetics at Kansas State University, you will always be part of the Wildcat Family. Please stay in contact with us, checking in to let us know of your challenges and accomplishments. You are a role model and inspiration to the next generation of DPD students at KSU!

Registration Examination for Dietitians Information

To earn the RD credential, you must pass the Registration Examination for Dietitians offered by the Commission on Dietetics Registration (CDR).

To be eligible to take the RD exam, you must have:

- a master's degree (effective 1/1/2024)
- completed ACEND-accredited didactic coursework (included in K-State's BS in Dietetics)
- completed ACEND-accredited supervised practice program (DI, MS-DI, GP, MS-CP)

The RD exam is administered by computer at a Pearson VUE test center. There are over 250 test centers nationwide. Currently, the cost for the exam is $200. CDR has set a lifetime limit of 8 attempts to pass the RD exam. Plan for a 3-hour window to complete the 120-145 question exam, which utilizes computer-adaptive-testing (CAT).

- RDN exam information

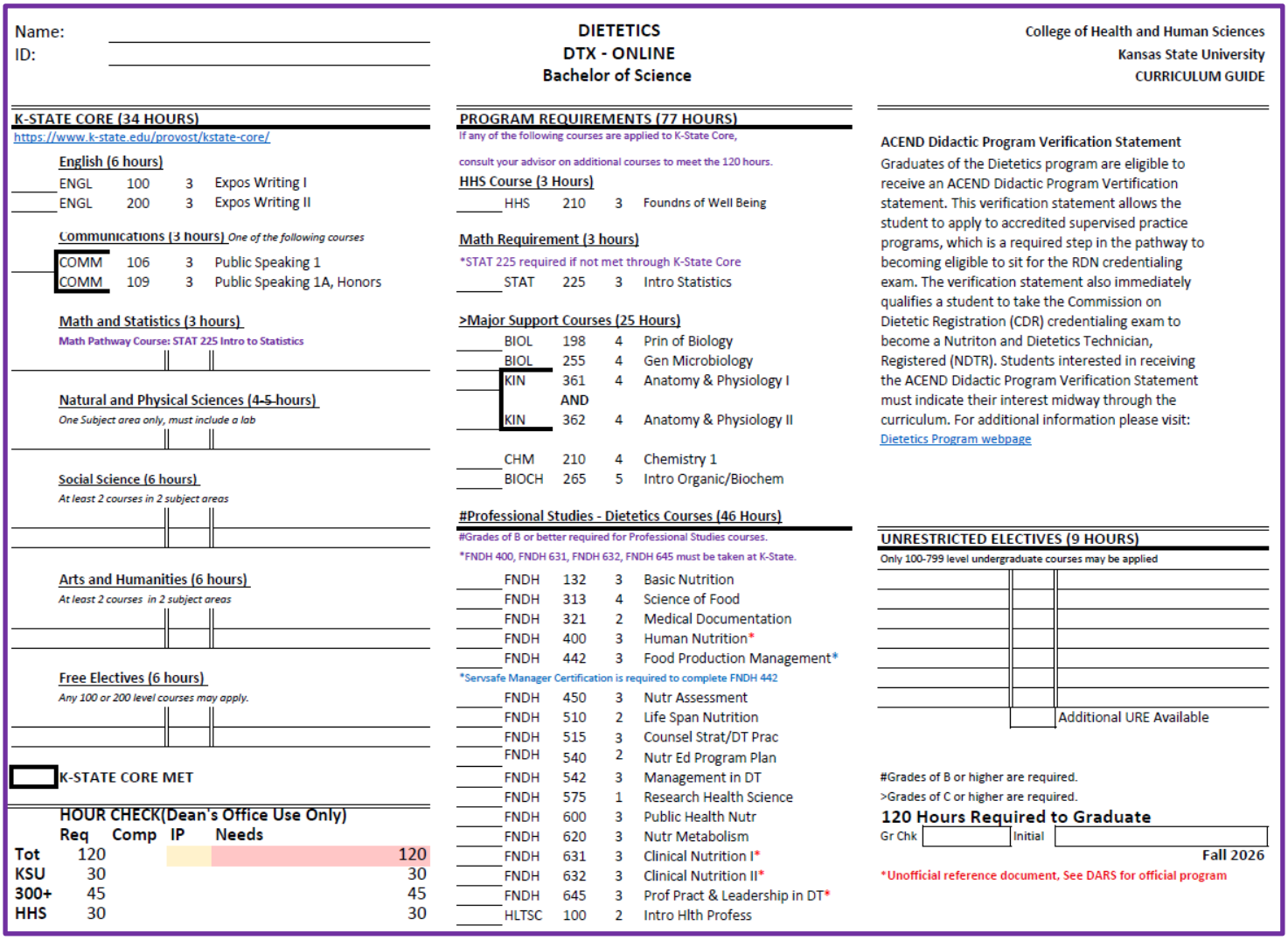
DPD students are encouraged to keep textbooks required in DPD courses for use during supervised practice and exam preparations. Many supervised practice programs provide interns/students with RD exam preparation materials or workshops. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics offers an interactive, online study tool ($229 for 3-month subscription). Many other commercial study guides and seminars are available.

Appendix

These documents are specific to students starting the dietetics major in the 2026-2027 academic year. Students who joined before that will have different documents specific to their start date, which can be obtained from their academic advisor.

Page 34: BS in Dietetics Curriculum
Page 35: BS in Dietetics Typical Course Sequence

BS in Dietetics Curriculum (2026-2027)
See your academic advisor for the curriculum from the year you began dietetics.



Name: _____
ID: _____

DIETETICS
DTX - ONLINE
Bachelor of Science

College of Health and Human Sciences
Kansas State University
CURRICULUM GUIDE

K-STATE CORE (34 HOURS)
https://www.k-state.edu/provost/kstate-core/

English (6 hours)

	ENGL	100	3	Expos Writing I
	ENGL	200	3	Expos Writing II

Communications (3 hours) *One of the following courses*

	COMM	106	3	Public Speaking 1
	COMM	109	3	Public Speaking 1A, Honors

Math and Statistics (3 hours)
Math Pathway Course: STAT 225 Intro to Statistics

Natural and Physical Sciences (4-5 hours)
One Subject area only, must include a lab

Social Science (6 hours)
At least 2 courses in 2 subject areas

Arts and Humanities (6 hours)
At least 2 courses in 2 subject areas

Free Electives (6 hours)
Any 100 or 200 level courses may apply.

☐ K-STATE CORE MET

HOUR CHECK(Dean's Office Use Only)

	Req	Comp	IP	Needs
Tot	120			120
KSU	30			30
300+	45			45
HHS	30			30

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (77 HOURS)
If any of the following courses are applied to K-State Core,
consult your advisor on additional courses to meet the 120 hours.

HHS Course (3 Hours)

	HHS	210	3	Foundns of Well Being

Math Requirement (3 hours)
*STAT 225 required if not met through K-State Core

	STAT	225	3	Intro Statistics

>Major Support Courses (25 Hours)

	BIOL	198	4	Prin of Biology
	BIOL	255	4	Gen Microbiology
	KIN	361	4	Anatomy & Physiology I
	AND			
	KIN	362	4	Anatomy & Physiology II
	CHM	210	4	Chemistry 1
	BIOCH	265	5	Intro Organic/Biochem

#Professional Studies - Dietetics Courses (46 Hours)
#Grades of B or better required for Professional Studies courses.
*FNDH 400, FNDH 631, FNDH 632, FNDH 645 must be taken at K-State.

	FNDH	132	3	Basic Nutrition
	FNDH	313	4	Science of Food
	FNDH	321	2	Medical Documentation
	FNDH	400	3	Human Nutrition*
	FNDH	442	3	Food Production Management*

*Servsafe Manager Certification is required to complete FNDH 442

	FNDH	450	3	Nutr Assessment
	FNDH	510	2	Life Span Nutrition
	FNDH	515	3	Counsel Strat/DT Prac
	FNDH	540	2	Nutr Ed Program Plan
	FNDH	542	3	Management in DT
	FNDH	575	1	Research Health Science
	FNDH	600	3	Public Health Nutr
	FNDH	620	3	Nutr Metabolism
	FNDH	631	3	Clinical Nutrition I*
	FNDH	632	3	Clinical Nutrition II*
	FNDH	645	3	Prof Pract & Leadership in DT*
	HLTSC	100	2	Intro Hlth Profess

ACEND Didactic Program Verification Statement
Graduates of the Dietetics program are eligible to receive an ACEND Didactic Program Verification statement. This verification statement allows the student to apply to accredited supervised practice programs, which is a required step in the pathway to becoming eligible to sit for the RDN credentialing exam. The verification statement also immediately qualifies a student to take the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) credentialing exam to become a Nutriton and Dietetics Technician, Registered (NDTR). Students interested in receiving the ACEND Didactic Program Verification Statement must indicate their interest midway through the curriculum. For additional information please visit:
Dietetics Program webpage

UNRESTRICTED ELECTIVES (9 HOURS)
Only 100-799 level undergraduate courses may be applied

☐ Additional URE Available

#Grades of B or higher are required.
>Grades of C or higher are required.

120 Hours Required to Graduate
Gr Chk _____ Initial _____

Fall 2026

*Unofficial reference document, See DARS for official program

Typical Course Sequence for BS in Dietetics Student - CAMPUS
See your academic advisor for the curriculum from the year you began dietetics.
[Available online here](#).

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DIETETICS

DIETETICS

Sample course sequence guide

1

Fall	Spring
Basic Nutrition	Communications Course
Introduction to Health Science Professions	Arts & Humanities Course
Expository Writing I	Unrestricted Elective Course
Chemistry I	Social & Behavioral Science Course
Math & Statistics Course	Free Elective Course (100- or 200-level)
15 hours	*15 hours*

2

Fall	Spring
Principles of Biology	Human Body I & II OR Anatomy & Physiology
Foundations of Well-being	Science of Food
Social & Behavioral Science Course	Unrestricted Elective Course
Free Elective Course (100- or 200-level)	
Unrestricted Elective Course	
16 hours	*15 hours*

3

Fall	Spring
Expository Writing II	Nutritional Assessment
Food Production Management	Research in Health Sciences
General Microbiology	Human Nutrition
Medical Terminology	Nutrition Education & Program Planning
Unrestricted Elective Course	Introduction to Organic Chemistry & Biochemistry
Arts & Humanities Course	
15 hours	*14 hours*

4

Fall	Spring
Public Health Nutrition	Life Span Nutrition
Nutrient Metabolism	Clinical Nutrition II
Clinical Nutrition I	Counseling Strategies in Dietetic Practice
Management in Dietetics	Professional Practice and Leadership in Dietetics
Unrestricted Elective Course	Unrestricted Elective Course
Unrestricted Elective Course	
16 hours	*14 hours*

120 hours are required for degree completion. The Dietetics program requires a "B" or higher in professional studies and a "C" or higher in science courses.
*Servsafe certification must be earned before enrolling in this course.