



REGISTERED DIETITIAN NUTRITIONISTS

Education and Professional Requirements

- Complete a minimum of a bachelor's degree in Dietetics at a school that has been accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).
- College coursework includes a variety of subjects such as food and nutrition sciences, biochemistry, physiology, microbiology, anatomy, chemistry, food service systems, business, pharmacology, culinary arts, behavioral sciences, and communication.
- Complete 1200 hours of supervised practice through an ACEND accredited Dietetic Internship.
- Pass a national examination administered by the Commission of Dietetic Registration.

Job Outlook

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, employment of dietitians is expected to continue to grow because of the emphasis on disease prevention, a growing and aging population, and increased public interest in nutrition.

Areas of Employment

- Hospitals, clinics or other healthcare facilities, educating patients about nutrition and administering medical nutrition therapy as part of the healthcare team. They may also manage the foodservice operations in the health care settings, as well as in schools, daycare centers or correctional facilities. Dietitians oversee everything from food purchasing and preparation to managing staff.
- Sports nutrition and corporate wellness programs, educating clients about the connection between food, fitness, and health.
- Food and nutrition-related business and industries, working in communications, consumer affairs, public relations, marketing, product development, or consulting with chefs in restaurants and culinary schools.
- Private practice, working under contract with healthcare or food companies, or in their own business.
- Community and public health settings, teaching, monitoring, and advising the public and helping improve quality of life through eating habits.
- Universities and medical centers, teaching physician's assistants, nurses, dietetic students, dentists, and others about the sophisticated science of food and nutrition.
- Research areas in food and pharmaceutical companies, universities, and hospitals directing or conducting experiments to answer critical nutrition questions and find alternative food or nutrition recommendations for the public.

