

Louisiana State University

School of Nutrition & Food Sciences

**Didactic Program in Dietetics
Student Handbook**

2024-2025

Updated August 2024

Meet the Director

Welcome and thank you for your interest in dietetics and the Accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at LSU. Dietetics is a vibrant field with unlimited opportunities in food and nutrition.

At LSU, Erin M. McKinley, PhD, RD, LDN, CLC, CHES, FAND Associate Professor, started as the Director of the DPD in March of 2018. Didactic Programs in Dietetics are one of the educational programs of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to provide students with the foundation knowledge requirements and learning outcomes that will allow them to enter a supervised practice program (also called a dietetic internship) following graduation. Both the knowledge requirements and the bachelor's degree are needed to enter a dietetic internship. In turn, successful completion of the internship is needed before a student can be eligible to sit the CDR exam to become a Registered Dietitian. As of January 1, 2024, one must have a master's degree in addition to the Dietetic Internship to sit for the exam. All students entering the DPD must plan to enter a graduate program after graduating from LSU.

As the DPD Director Dr. McKinley is responsible for the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) program, she maintains a program that meets all accreditation standards and foundation knowledge and competencies. With the other faculty members in the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences, she also advises dietetic students and teaches undergraduate courses. Dr. McKinley teaches a variety of courses and conducts research on survey instrument development regarding breastfeeding and pregnant mothers.

You can contact her directly by email at emckinley1@lsu.edu (the best way to contact her), or by phone at (225)-578-1631, or you can come by her office at 285 Knapp Hall. Knapp Hall is at the corner of Highland and South Stadium. Stop by any time with questions, or concerns, or just to chat.

Thank you for your interest in our program and welcome aboard.

Erin McKinley, PhD, RD, LDN, CLC, MCHES, FAND



Quick Facts—what you need to know right now.

Director: Dr. Erin McKinley is the DPD Director: email: emckinley@lsu.edu. Email is the best mode of contact.

Lindsay Barleycorn (email: lbarleycorn@agcenter.lsu.edu) is the undergraduate coordinator for the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences.

Dr. Georgianna Tuuri (email: gtuuri@agcenter.lsu.edu) is the Director of the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences.

To find the other faculty and more information about the program, go to our website by [clicking this link](#).

Regular advising is important; it is recommended that you get to know your advisor, so introduce yourself—you do not need to wait for class scheduling. Advisors are assigned by last name—see page 31 for the current list of advisors.

You need to average 15-16 hours a semester to be able to graduate in 4 years.

Instructors have office hours for a reason—use them as often as you need to.

Attend class—the non-nutrition classes are as important as the nutrition classes and the classes you take at the beginning of the program count as much as the ones at the end of the program.

Do not ask that pre-requisites be waived...they will not be.

Seek opportunities to distinguish yourself as an engaged student—inside and outside of the classroom.

Join and become actively involved in the Student Nutrition & Dietetics Association.

Research/specific topics/practicum classes are available—why not take advantage of them?

I want to let all students know that the State of Louisiana has a [licensing law for the practice of dietetics](#). At this time, only RDs (RDNs) can obtain a license to practice dietetics in Louisiana. Therefore, students need to refrain from providing nutrition/diet advice to individuals since students violating this law will be referred to the Licensing Board. In addition, since providing such advice is a violation of Louisiana law, this is a violation of the [Code of Student Conduct](#). If you choose to violate this law, under no circumstances should you identify yourself as being an LSU student, since LSU certainly does not condone this behavior. If you have any questions about this, please contact Dr. McKinley.

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Section_1_Introduction/Foundation

1.1 Overview

The Dietetics' Student Handbook has been developed to help students in the Nutritional and Food Sciences Curriculum, Dietetics Concentration, to understand more fully the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) in the College of Agriculture (COA) at the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College (LSU) and the process of becoming a Registered Dietitian. Students should read and become familiar with its content.

1.2 The Mission of the DPD at LSU is to provide a program of excellence that gives students a broad knowledge base combined with specialized skills in human nutrition, food, and food systems management to improve the quality of life for families and individuals in a complex and changing world. The program prepares students for supervised practice leading to eligibility for the CDR credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist. The learning environment is structured to promote self-reliance, critical thinking, problem-solving, intellectual curiosity, community involvement, scholarly pursuits, life-long learning, and professional integrity.

The Mission of the DPD is consistent with those of the College of Agriculture and LSU.

1.3 Goals and Objectives of the DPD

The DPD has two goals that were developed in conjunction with the teaching faculty in Nutritional Sciences at a faculty retreat and were refined at subsequent division meetings. The goals of the DPD are consistent with LSU policies on undergraduate education, including, but not limited to recruitment, retention, and degree requirements.

Goal #1– The learning environment of the DPD is structured to promote self-reliance, critical thinking, problem-solving, intellectual curiosity, community involvement, scholarly pursuits, and life-long learning in its program graduates.

Objectives for Goal #1

Objective 1.1 (ACEND® Required)

At least 80% percent of program students complete program/degree requirements within 6 years (150% of the program length). *Status: 98.8% (2022, 2023, 2024 rolling average)*

Objective 1.2 (ACEND® Required)

The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of the first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%. *Status: 89.7% (2021, 2022, 2023 rolling average)*

Objective 1.3 (ACEND® Required)

50% of program graduates are admitted to a supervised practice program within 12 months of graduation. *Status: 100% (2022, 2023, 2024 rolling average)*

Objective 1.4 (ACEND® Required)

60% of program graduates apply for admission to a supervised practice program before or within 12 months of graduation. *Status: 80.9% (2022, 2023, 2024 rolling average)*

Goal #2 – The DPD will prepare graduates to demonstrate professionalism and professional integrity in the field of dietetics.

Objectives for Goal #2

Objective 2.1 (Program Specific)

One hundred percent of Dietetic Internship Directors surveyed will rate their satisfaction with the required knowledge preparation program graduates receive before entering an internship on average 3.5 or higher (on a 5.0 scale). *Status: 100% (2023)*

Objective 2.2 (Program Specific)

One hundred percent of Dietetic Internship Directors surveyed will rate their satisfaction with the professionalism of program graduates completing an internship on average 3.5 or higher (on a 5.0 scale). *Status: 100% (2023)*

Objective 2.3 (Program Specific)

100% of Dietetic Internship Directors surveyed will rate their satisfaction with the professional integrity of program graduates completing an internship on average 3.5 or higher (on a 5.0 scale). *Status: 100% (2023)*

The program outcomes data for the DPD are available upon request.

Graduate performance: Supervised Practice Application Rate for the program meets ACEND’s national benchmarks for monitoring dietetic education programs. For the past five years, acceptance into Supervised Practice Programs has averaged approximately 100%, which is well above the approximate national average of 80% match rate.

Pass rate of first-time test takers on the registration examination: The Pass Rate for graduates taking the registration exam meets ACEND’s national benchmarks for monitoring dietetic education programs. The pass rate of the testers within one year of the first attempt is 89.7%. These are well above ACEND’s mandated 80%.

1.4 Accreditation Status

The DPD at LSU is accredited by ACEND through 12/31/2027.

ACEND is the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' accrediting agency for education programs preparing students for careers as Registered Dietitians (RD) or dietetic technicians, registered (DTR). ACEND serves the public by establishing and enforcing eligibility requirements and accreditation standards to ensure quality and continued improvement of nutrition and dietetics education programs. Programs meeting those standards are accredited by ACEND. A list of ACEND-approved/accredited programs is available online, and you will see us there! [Click here for the ACEND website.](#)

1.5 ACEND and the 2022 Foundation Knowledge and Competencies

ACEND sets the eligibility requirements, the accreditation standards for didactic programs in dietetics, and the curricula for dietetic education. The complete set of ACEND Accreditation Standards can be found at this link. At this time, the DPD at LSU follows ACEND’s 2022 standards (updated in July 2022).

Domain 1: Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice: integration of scientific information and 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 Nutrition and Dietetics Practice 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 dietetics 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: Demonstrate cultural humility, awareness of personal biases, and an understanding of cultural differences as they contribute to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

KRDN 2.7: Describe contributing factors to health inequity in nutrition and dietetics including structural biases, social inequities, health disparities, and discrimination.

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 nutrition 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 for 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 basic 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/fiscal 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 principles related to food, personnel, and consumers.

KRDN 4.6: Explain the process involved in delivering quality food and nutrition services.

KRDN 4.7: Evaluate data to be used in decision-making for continuous 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 or presenting an elevator pitch).

KRDN 5.4: Practice resolving differences and dealing with conflict.

KRDN 5.5: Promote team involvement and recognize the skills of each team member.

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

The program's curriculum must provide learning activities to attain the breadth and depth of the required curriculum components and core knowledge. Syllabi for courses taught within the academic unit must include these learning activities with the associated KRDNs.

1. Learning activities must prepare students for professional practice with patients/clients with various conditions, including, but not limited to overweight and obesity; endocrine disorders; cancer; malnutrition and cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, and renal diseases.
2. Learning activities must prepare students to implement the Nutrition Care Process with various populations and diverse cultures, including infants, children, adolescents, adults, pregnant/lactating females, and older adults.
3. Learning activities must use a variety of educational approaches necessary for the delivery of curriculum content, to meet learner needs and to facilitate learning objectives.

1.6 *The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics* is the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professions. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is committed to improving the nation's health and advancing the profession of dietetics through research, education, and advocacy. [Click here for the Academy website.](#)

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The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Mission is "*Leading the future of dietetics,*" and its Vision is that "*AND members are the most valued source of food and nutrition services.*" Approximately 75 percent of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' 68,000 members are RDs, and four percent are dietetic technicians, registered DTRs. Other members include consultants, educators, researchers, and students. Half of all Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics members hold advanced academic degrees.

Members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics represent a wide range of practice areas and interests including public health; sports nutrition; medical nutrition therapy; diet counseling, cholesterol reduction, diabetes, heart, and kidney disease; vegetarianism; foodservice management, hospitals, restaurants, long-term care facilities and education systems; education of other health-care professionals and scientific research. As an Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics member, you are automatically a member of your state affiliate--in this case the Welcome to the Louisiana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (LAND). [Click here for the LAND website.](#)

You will be joining the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics since most of our courses require student membership of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Membership gives access to the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, full access to the Evidence Analysis Library, the Nutrition Care Process, and many other members' only benefits through the website.

As a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, you are also eligible to join, for a modest fee, one or more of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Dietetic Practice Groups (DPG). Practice groups are selected based on your interests; for example, the DPD director is a member of the Nutrition and Dietetic Educators and Preceptors Dietetic Practice Group (NDEP) and the Research Practice Group, because they fit her practice field. Students may be more interested in one or more of the others, for example: Sports, Cardiovascular and Wellness Nutrition DPG or the Vegetarian DPG. There are more than twenty-five of these that will match most interests in dietetics practice—but you need to be an Academy member to join! Diverse groups have different services, but newsletters, listservs, continuing education, and networking opportunities are common.

1.7 *The Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics* was updated on June 1, 2018, and is available on the Academy's website. [Click here to download a PDF of the Code.](#)

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and its Commission on Dietetic Registration have adopted a voluntary, enforceable code of ethics. This code, entitled the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics, challenges all members, registered dietitians, and dietetic technicians, registered, to uphold ethical principles. The enforcement process for the Code of Ethics establishes a fair system to deal with complaints about members and credentialed practitioners from peers or the public.

The House of Delegates adopted the first code of ethics in October 1982; enforcement began in 1985. The code applied to members of The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics only. A second code was adopted by the House of Delegates in October 1987 and applied to all members and

the Commission on Dietetic Registration credentialed practitioners. A third revision of the code was adopted by the House of Delegates on October 18, 1998, and enforced as of June 1, 1999, for all members and Commission on Dietetic Registration credentialed practitioners.

The Ethics Committee is responsible for reviewing, promoting, and enforcing the Code. The Committee also educates members, credentialed practitioners, students, and the public about the ethical principles contained in the Code. Support of the Code of Ethics by members and credentialed practitioners is vital to guiding the profession's actions and strengthening its credibility.

Section_2. Academic Regulations, Policies, and Procedures at LSU and Within the DPD

2.1 Undergraduate Admission into LSU

As the Flagship University in the State, the admission policies are rigorous. [Click here for the Undergraduate Admissions website.](#) Undergraduate admission policies, including transfer student admission policies, and student aid are provided in the General Catalog ([click here for the 2024-2025 General Catalog](#)).

2.2 Undergraduate Admission into the College of Agriculture

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) is housed in the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences, which is in the COA. First-year students with a declared major in Nutrition and Food Sciences (Dietetics concentration) who meet the University admissions standard will be admitted directly into the College of Agriculture and can immediately start taking courses in Nutritional Sciences. Students not entering the COA as first-year student can transfer into the College while they are at LSU, if “they have earned a minimum of 30 hours with a 2.00 grade point average (2.20 for education certification programs) on all LSU work and on all college work. In addition, the student must have a "C" or better in MATH 1021 or higher and ENGL 1001 (1004 for international students). Students from another institution must also meet University transfer admission requirements. On the recommendation of the appropriate department head and the Dean of the College, probationary admission may be granted in exceptional cases.” Students interested in becoming Registered Dietitians are advised to enter the COA as soon as possible to graduate on time. [Click here for the College of Agriculture website.](#)

2.3 Undergraduate Admission into the DPD

There are no formal admittance requirements to enter the DPD. Any student in the College of Agriculture or in the Center for the Freshman Year (UCFY) or Center for Advising and Counseling (UCAC) with a declared major in Nutritional Sciences or Pre-Agriculture is automatically eligible for our program and our courses. Transfer students from LSU or other institutions that are eligible to come into the COA can also come directly into the major. [Click here for the UCFY Website.](#) [Click here for the UCAC website.](#)

2.4 Requirements of the DPD

The curriculum for Nutritional Sciences Dietetics is a science-based curriculum that meets the Foundation Knowledge and Competencies promulgated by ACEND. The full curriculum list for dietetics concentration is in Section 4.4 of this manual.

Students must complete the required 120 hours of course credit to receive the bachelor’s degree. All DPD course requirements listed must also be completed to receive a verification statement.

In addition to university requirements, the College of Agriculture has these additional scholastic requirements:

- Students must complete at least one general education English composition course and one general education analytical reasoning course with a “C” or better within the first 30 hours of study.
- Students who fail to earn a 2.00 average in each of two consecutive semesters (or one semester and a summer term) and whose LSU or overall grade point average is below 2.00 will be declared ineligible to continue in the COA for one regular semester.
- Seniors who have completed the first semester of the senior year, are degree candidates and are under scholastic suspension from the University, may be placed on probation for one additional semester at the discretion of the Dean of the COA.

The DPD in the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences requires students to have a grade of C- or higher in all Nutrition and Food Sciences courses and a grade of C- or higher in BIOL 2083 (Biochemistry) and BIOL 2160 (Human Physiology) to graduate. These grade requirements are consistent with other programs within the College of Agriculture and have been approved by the Faculty Senate Admissions, Standards, and Honors Committee and the Faculty Senate Courses and Curriculum Committee.

Although there is no time limit for the completion of the DPD or for the completion of an undergraduate degree at LSU, the curriculum is structured to allow students to graduate within four years and students are encouraged to finish within four years. Many mechanisms are in place to help students complete the program promptly.

The Comprehensive Academic Tracking System (CATS) has been instituted as part of LSU’s academic monitoring system and provides students with an assessment of progress toward degree requirements. There is a recommended path for the first five semesters of each major, including Dietetics. This path is the optimal plan for completing the degree in four years. Each recommended path contains critical requirements, which are specific courses or other performance measurements designated by each department, as mandatory, for progression in that major; these are the requirements that students must reach to meet minimum academic progress (on track) in their chosen major. CATS helps students follow the curriculum promptly and graduate on time.

2.5 Tuition and Fees

Undergraduate tuition and fees (note the most recently available are for 2024-25) are available online through the Office of Budget and Planning and are subject to change. [Click here for the tuition and fees webpage.](#) Tuition and fees vary depending on how many hours a student is enrolled in and whether the student is a Louisiana resident or non-resident. Tuition and fees also vary by year. Required fees are available through the general catalog and vary depending on whether the student is full- or part-time.

2.5.1 Refund of Tuition

- A refund of fees will be made based on the official withdrawal of the student.
- No refunds will be made to anyone who owes the university. Student-initiated resignations will not be completed until all money owed to the university is paid.

- Reductions and increases in fees resulting from student schedule changes will be refunded in accordance with the schedule below.
- All full-time students who become part-time students after the last day to receive a refund will continue to be eligible for all student activity privileges.
- Title IV program fund recipients resigning from the university without completing at least 60 percent of the enrollment period will be required to return all or part of the aid they received to the appropriate programs in the following order: Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans, Perkins Loans, Graduate PLUS Loans. Specific information regarding this refund schedule is available at www.lsu.edu/financialaid.

Refund Schedule

Please see the Refund Schedule in the Academic/Registration Calendar section.

Friday before the first class day, 4:30 p.m.	100%
First three class days	50%
After the third class day	No refund

2.5.2 Refund of Fees

- Refund of the university fee, nonresident fee, student health service fee, academic excellence fee, operational fee, and student technology fee will be made based on the official withdrawal of the student. Refer to the chart below for the schedule for refund of fees. (“Days of classes” are days on which regular classes are held.)
- No refunds will be processed for at least six weeks after registration.
- No refunds will be made to anyone who owes the university. Student-initiated resignations will not be completed until all money owed to the university is paid.
- Field service and transportation fees will be refunded on an individual basis upon recommendation of the department concerned.
- Reductions and increases in fees resulting from student schedule changes will be refunded or charged following the schedule below.
- All full-time students who become part-time students after the last day to receive a refund will continue to be eligible for all student activity privileges.
- Students in good standing at the university, registered in any semester or summer term, who volunteer for military service before the day mid-semester examinations begin, will have the university fee, nonresident fee, student technology fee, and student health service fee refunded. Students in good standing at the university, registered in any semester or summer term, who volunteer for military service after mid-semester examinations begin, will be refunded 50 percent of the university fee, nonresident fee, academic excellence fee, operational fee, student technology fee, and student health service fee.
- Students registered in any semester or summer term, who are called to active duty in the armed forces through the last class day of the semester or summer term, will have 100 percent of the university fee, nonresident fee, academic excellence fee, operational fee, student technology fee, and student health service fee refunded.

1.6 Credit Examinations

LSU provides several opportunities for students to receive credit for previous coursework or previous knowledge. The DPD does not accept previous experience or knowledge for coursework.

2.7 Additional Costs of the DPD

As with all programs at LSU, textbook costs for students can be significant. Although efforts are made by the faculty to limit book purchases to those that are necessary and to use textbooks in more than one class, it is estimated that books cost students over \$500/year. The higher figure is the sum spent by students in their senior year.

The faculty required student membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for all students in all three of the Nutrition concentrations, including Dietetics, except for NFS 1110. This will allow students many member benefits, including access to articles in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and full access to the Evidence Analysis Library and the Nutrition Care Process Section of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics website. You will note when you try to access the Nutrition Care Process Section that this is restricted to members only, as are the on-line Journal and most of the Evidence Analysis Library. Full access to all these amenities is especially important since the knowledge and skill requirements emphasize the science-based nature of dietetics. At \$58/year, student membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is a modest cost with major benefits.

The only other costs associated with the program are the lab coat and hair protection that is required in the food preparation classes NFS 1014 (Food Theory and Skills) and NFS 3119 (Fundamentals of Quantity Food Production) and a (cheap) non-programmable calculator. These costs are minimal (~\$30.00). At this time, there are no laboratory fees associated with any of the other nutrition courses.

2.8 Academic Calendar

The Academic Calendar is established by the University Registrar and is available online. All observed holidays planned school breaks or closures, and concentrated study periods are listed through the summer of 2025. [Click here to access the current academic calendar.](#)

2.9 Other rules and regulations are available online; this includes but is not limited to information a dropping and adding courses, final exams, maximum credit loads, grading systems and grade appeals, and university scholastic requirements. [Click here to view the current academic regulations.](#)

2.10 DPD retention and remediation procedures when student performance does not meet the criteria for progressing in the program.

Policies for disciplinary and termination procedures are consistent with those of LSU. Since there is not a formal admittance into the DPD, termination procedures refer to termination from LSU, not specifically from the DPD. Issues here are either disciplinary or scholastic. Disciplinary issues are discussed first.

2.10.1 Disciplinary: The Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability website provides information for students and faculty that outlines the procedures for violations of the Code of

Student Conduct. [Click here to access the Code of Conduct online.](#) The Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability also explains what constitutes student misconduct. [Click here for the Student Advocacy and Accountability website.](#)

2.10.2 Scholastic: The scholastic requirements to remain in good standing at the University are provided in the General Catalog. These apply to all students except those enrolled as extensions, LSU25+, or “visiting” students.

Students will be counseled on the other academic options available in the School of Nutrition and Food Science if a student feels they cannot continue in the Dietetics concentration due to mediocre performance or a change of heart about the curriculum.

The DPD faculty passionately believe that early and subsequent ongoing discussions of our campus wide, College, and SNFS expectations regarding student conduct and academic performance will result in few, if any, students subjected to disciplinary/termination procedures. Prevention begins with information. All department syllabi address academic misconduct. Each semester, advisors review student grades and offer appropriate counsel. Opportunities for remediation are offered when indicated. Students may be asked to meet with their advisor or course instructor regularly until a situation is resolved. Should all the measures fail, then the DPD adheres to the policies of withdrawal as found in the General Catalog.

2.11 Equal Opportunity

The DPD follows the LSU’s policy on equal opportunity as stated in Policy-Statement 01. In brief, PS-01 is in place “To assure equal opportunity for all qualified persons in admission to, participation in, or employment in the programs and activities which the University operates without regard to race, creed, color, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, or veteran's status.”

2.12 The DPD does not tolerate *sexual harassment*, and the DPD strictly adheres to all policies at LSU outlined in Policy-Statement 95. If you experience sexual harassment, your first action is to notify the administrator of the department in which the individual involved works. For example, if you believe you have a problem associated with sexual harassment with a member of the Nutritional and Food Sciences faculty or Staff, you would contact Dr. Allen Rutherford, email: drutherford@agcenter.lsu.edu, the Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination based on the gender of students and employees of educational institutions that receive federal financial assistance. Per Title IX and other applicable laws, Louisiana State University is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free of discrimination based on sex and sexual misconduct which includes sex discrimination, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and retaliation. LSU prohibits sex discrimination and sexual misconduct. This policy applies to all persons without regard to sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression. **Arlette Henderson is the Campus Deputy Title IX Coordinator and LSU contact (<mailto:ahende3@lsu.edu> or 225-578-6163).** Any student or employee who believes that he or she has been subjected to discrimination, harassment or sexual misconduct or any other violation of this policy has a right to report the

conduct to the Campus Title IX Coordinator or any other responsible party. [Click here for the LSU Office of Title IX website.](#)

Any responsible person who receives actual notice of a complaint under this policy shall promptly notify the Campus Title IX Coordinator, who shall be responsible for notifying the LSU Title IX Coordinator and any campus administrators, who may be involved in the resolution process. Notice of a complaint may or may not come from a formal complaint. Any supervisor, or other responsible party who witnesses or receives a report or complaint, shall notify the Campus Title IX Coordinator.

If you need support services or evidence collected after hours or on the weekend, please contact STAR (Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response) at 225-383-RAPE, The Phone at 225-924-LSU1, or your local police department.

2.13 The DPD adheres to all LSU *Policies for Persons with Disabilities*, Policy-Statement 26.

This policy provides equal opportunity for all qualified persons without regard to disability in the recruitment of, admission to, participation in, treatment in or employment in the programs and activities operated and sponsored by the University pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and other related federal and state law. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is physically located on campus in Johnston Hall and is a unit within the Office of the Dean of Students. [Click here for the ODS website.](#) Services available and documentation that students must provide the ODS is provided for a wide range of conditions including learning disabilities, attention disorders, and physical and psychological disabilities. Programs available for students with disabilities and specific arrangements made for students depend on the exact nature of the disability. Note: Students with special needs must be registered with the Office of Disability Services and notify the course instructor as soon as possible to be eligible for any accommodation in the classroom.

2.14 Confidentiality of Student Records

The DPD adheres to the policies governing access to student records as described in the found on the Office of the University Registrar's homepage, under the [online FERPA link](#), which specifies how a student may examine his or her record and what can and cannot be examined. Most commonly in the DPD applies to letters of recommendation written for students by faculty members for which the student has waived the right to access.

At LSU, every effort is made to protect the privacy of student information. The Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act (FERPA) guides LSU's policy on student privacy. Policy Statement-30 Student Privacy Rights details the LSU policies (Effective date 11/1/96). In brief, PS-30 covers Access to Education Records by Students and Parents of Dependent Students, Access by Parents of Dependent Students, Scope of Student Rights and Procedures for Challenging, Release of Education Records under the Law without the Student's Permission, Release of Education Records under the Law with the Student's Permission, Faculty Responsibility regarding Privacy of Students' Grades, and Final Responsibility for Interpretation of this Policy Statement.

Policy Statement 06.15 (Use of Electronic Mail) details the University's policy on email and clearly outlines student records, education records, and similar information as private. The

faculty has also been notified via a Broadcast email that they are not to use email to send student records unless the files are encrypted.

Policy Statment-113 (Social Security Number Policy) (Effective 7/13/06) also helps assure the privacy of student information. This is the PS that eliminated the use of social security numbers as the primary identifier for all individuals, including students, associated with the university. An LSU identification number (LSUID) is assigned to all students. This LSUID is different from the individual's SSN or other unique demographic information. The LSUID is assigned at the earliest possible point of contact between the student and the University. Grades and other pieces of personal information will not be publicly posted or displayed in a manner where either the LSUID or SSN identifies the individual associated with the information. Any transmission of data containing SSNs by LSU-related individuals over any communication network, including emails, must be transmitted through encrypted mechanisms.

LSU is also covered by the Louisiana Database Security Breach Notification Law, which requires LSU to notify individuals whenever personal data about them has been lost, including losses from the theft of laptops.

2.15 Attendance

LSU's attendance policy is "Students should observe any special attendance regulations stated by their college, school, division, or the instructor. The instructor may report a student's absences and the student may be placed on attendance probation by his or her dean. A student may be dropped from the college by violating the written terms of such probation.

An absence due to illness or other causes beyond a student's control will be excused when the instructor is convinced that the reason for absence is valid. The University's Policy Statement 22 discusses approved trips, activities, and other instances of excused absences.

Instructors will excuse any student who is unable to attend or participate in class or an examination on a religious holiday supported by the student's religious beliefs. It is the student's responsibility to anticipate such conflicts and discuss this with the faculty member well in advance."

2.16 Grievances at LSU

All grievances arising from issues at LSU will be managed via LSU's policies and procedures. These will vary based on the grievance. Student appeals are discussed in Policy Statement 48. Students may file grievances on a wide range of alleged injustices; specific appeal procedures for common problems that relate to students are found below. Many student grievances, other than grade appeals, are managed through the Office of the Dean of Students. [Click here for the Dean of Students webpage.](#)

Note: All policy statements can be viewed online. [Click here for the University Policies webpage.](#)

2.16.1 Grades The procedure for grade appeals is outlined in the General Catalog. Appeals of final grades must be initiated by the student by requesting in writing or attending a meeting with the faculty member who assigned the grade at issue within thirty calendar days after the first day of classes in the next regular semester.

Within the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences, if the situation cannot be resolved with the faculty member or if the faculty member is unavailable, the student should next go to the Director of the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences, Dr. Georgianna Tuuri, email: gtuuri@agcenter.lsu.edu, the Director of the School. If she is unavailable, or the situation is not resolved, the student should go to Dr. Allen Rutherford, the Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture, email: drutherford@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Grade changes, if deemed appropriate, are made using a “Grade Correction Report” which must be signed by the instructor, the Department Head, and the Dean of the College of Agriculture.

2.16.2 Appeal of Academic Ineligibility to Enroll

An undergraduate student dropped from the University because of scholastic deficiency may appeal the ineligibility based on extenuating circumstances. Such appeals must be submitted to the student's dean at least seven calendar days before the beginning of the semester/summer term in which the students wish to enroll. The appeal should be in the form of a letter to the dean, accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstances.

A college committee established for that purpose may be reviewed by the dean or, at the option of the dean, appeals. In the first case, the committee will make a recommendation to the dean. The final authority in the college rests with the dean. If the appeal is approved:

- The student is eligible to enroll at LSU on academic probation for the next semester/term.
- The Dean may set conditions based on the student's situation, which may include specific academic requirements the student must meet. The student will be informed of any conditions in writing; and
- The student's transcript will carry a notation that the student was dropped but reinstated, based on appeal.

If the dean denies the appeal, the student may submit it to the Office of Academic Affairs for review, along with a statement of the reasons why the Office of Academic Affairs should consider the appeal. Final authority rests with the executive vice chancellor and provost.

2.16.3 Sexual Harassment The university has reaffirmed and emphasized its commitment to provide an educational and work environment free from sexual harassment and to provide a means to remedy sexual harassment that students may have experienced. The DPD is also committed to this principle. LSU Policy Statement 95 provides guidance and specific procedures on this grave matter. LSU's Title IX Coordinator is responsible for administering this policy at all University locations. LSU's overall policies on sexual harassment are found in Policy Statement 73.

2.17 Complaints

About the DPD

Students in the DPD who have complaints regarding specific issues relating to the DPD (not including grade disputes/appeals within a DPD class as those procedures are outlined under the

University policies) may first send the complaint to the DPD Director in writing. If the student and DPD Director are unable to resolve the complaint, the complaint will then be forwarded to the Interim Director of the Nutrition and Food Sciences Program (Dr. Allen Rutherford) for resolution. A complaint against the DPD Director must be first brought to the Director of the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences, Dr. Georgianna Tuuri, email: gtuuri@agcenter.lsu.edu. If she is unavailable, or the situation is not resolved, the student should go to Dr. Allen Rutherford, the Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture, email: drutherford@agcenter.lsu.edu. All grievances against faculty and the DPD Director should be worked out within the department/College first. Students are not advised to go to LSU HRM with complaints without consulting with the SNFS Interim Director or LSU SAA first. Any non-academic (non-DPD related) grievances can be submitted through an [online form link](#) sent directly to the LSU Office of Student Advocacy & Accountability.

ACEND

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), formerly known as the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE), will review complaints that only relate to a program's compliance with the current accreditation standards. ACEND is interested in the sustained quality and continued improvement of dietetics education programs but does not intervene on behalf of individuals or function as a court of appeal for individuals in matters of admission, appointment, promotion, or dismissal of faculty, staff, or interns. A copy of the accreditation standards and/or ACEND's policy and procedure for submission of complaints may be obtained by contacting the Education and Accreditation staff at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics at 120 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, Illinois 60606 or by calling 1-800-877-1600 extension 5400. Written complaints should be mailed to the Chair, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics at the above address. The way to file a complaint, along with a complaint investigation form, is available on [the ACEND website link](#).

2.18 *The Office of the Dean of Students* provides "students with opportunities that foster the development of self, respect for others, responsibility to society and the life skills for success." This website provides a host of information on students' "Rights and Responsibilities."

2.19 *Policy on Prior Learning or Learning Outside the Classroom*

2.20 The DPD is bound by the policies of LSU when considering transfer students. The DPD Director is responsible for developing and amending policies on prior learning. Courses taken at other institutions that transfer into LSU as specific courses may apply to the LSU program; however, the DPD reserves the right to review these courses to assess whether the courses meet the appropriate Core Knowledge Requirements.

For courses that do not transfer into LSU as specific courses, students may request evaluation of those courses by the appropriate department, including the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences. To determine whether specific courses taken previously at LSU, or another institution meet the appropriate Core Knowledge Requirements, students should provide a course syllabus, class notes, and the name of the textbook used. The instructor of the comparable course at LSU will make the decision.

Academic credit will not be given for life experiences or work experiences related to nutrition/dietetics/food service management. DPD course requirements will not be waived for prior life or work experience.

2.20 Policy for Utilizing Experiential Learning Sites

Students may be required to complete coursework or lab assignments at an off-campus facility; we call this experiential learning. The course instructor will provide students with two forms to fill out for liability coverage while off campus and while using a personal vehicle to travel to an outside facility. Students are not required to obtain health insurance, insurance for professional liability, or separate travel insurance from the LSU coverage. In professional practice settings, healthcare facilities will provide emergency treatment for students for injury or illness while fulfilling the activities of a healthcare facility, realizing that such emergency medical treatment will be at the expense of the injured individual. We recommend students obtain healthcare coverage by either enrolling on their parent or guardian's insurance, if applicable, or purchase coverage through the LSU's university sponsored insurance plan. The Student Trip Travel Policy is a minimal medical policy for accidents only, providing \$5,000 Medical & Hospital expense indemnity (exclusions apply). In the event of illness (with limited exceptions), the student participant must file through his/her health insurance.

You will complete and return the LSU Certificate of Privately Owned Automobiles Trip Travel Insurance Form and the LSU Request for Trip Travel/Activity Insurance Coverage Form and return these to your course instructor. Incomplete forms may cause a delay in the start dates of the student's time at the experiential learning site.

Please note students doing experiential learning must not be used to replace employees at any assigned facility.

Please refer questions about this policy for utilizing experiential learning sites to Dr. Erin McKinley, Director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics, email: emckinley@agcenter.lsu.edu.

2.21 Verification Statements

Verification statements "verify" that a student has a degree and has completed the 2017 Accreditation Standards for Nutrition and Dietetics Didactic Programs as promulgated by ACEND®. Verification includes a final portfolio check by the DPD Director. Verification statements are issued to all students who complete the dietetics concentration, regardless of whether they intend to enter a supervised practice program the semester preceding their graduation from the program. The DPD Director issues verification statements when she has verified that the student has a bachelor's degree and has met the ACEND® Core Knowledge Requirements; verification statements cannot be issued before graduation day. Since the program director must have written confirmation of graduation from the CoA, the verification statements are usually mailed to the student's permanent mailing address by certified mail, return receipt requested, one to two weeks after graduation. These are not sent to anyone other than the recipient, apart from a DI that requests them to be sent directly to that program. Students who have been accepted into a supervised practice program receive six copies and students who have not been accepted into a supervised practice program receive eleven copies. Students can request, in writing, additional copies of these statements. Graduating

seniors confirm their mailing address, email address, and full legal name two weeks before graduation when they complete the annual Senior Exit Survey conducted by the DPD Director.

Students need a minimum of a bachelor's degree to enter a supervised practice program to receive professional credentials as an RD/RDN; however, if the student has met the ACEND® Core Knowledge Requirements, this degree need not be in Nutrition and Food Science or Dietetics. Students with a degree from another university or in another major who have taken the DPD courses to meet the ACEND® Core Knowledge Requirements must supply copies of their final transcripts to show they have completed the knowledge and skill requirements and their diploma as proof they have a bachelor's degree to obtain a verification statement.

Students with a bachelor's degree from a university outside the United States, but who complete the ACEND® Core Knowledge Requirements at LSU, can receive a verification statement from LSU when certain provisions have been met. ACEND® has policies in place detailing reciprocity agreements or how students can have their degree(s) evaluated to determine whether it is equivalent to a regionally accredited institution in the United States. LSU follows ACEND® policies. LSU has an International Services Office that evaluates degrees from institutions outside the United States. A verification statement will be provided to students when they provide evidence that their degree is the "equivalent of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution in the United States" and they meet the ACEND® Core Knowledge Requirements as evidenced by a final transcript from LSU.

Completion of a Master of Science degree or a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences cannot in and of itself lead to a student obtaining a verification statement. Neither graduate program allows students to obtain the ACEND® Core Knowledge Requirements needed to obtain a verification statement. Graduate students may pursue a verification statement by taking the undergraduate coursework to satisfy the ACEND® Core Knowledge Requirements in addition to their required graduate coursework. Permission to do this should be sought from the Director of the SNFS and from the student's major professor prior to embarking on this pathway.

The DPD Director is the only person who can issue these statements. Paper and electronic records of verification statements are maintained in the DPD Director's office. The paper copies are secured in locked files in the DPD Director's office. The electronic copies are stored on external hard drives, which are also secured in these locked files. These records are to be kept indefinitely and not to be destroyed. Students graduating with another degree from LSU and completing the ACEND® Core Knowledge Requirements will also be issued a verification statement. With the same stipulations above.

There is no recency of education requirement at LSU; however, students are cautioned that supervised practice programs may have such policies. If students are more than 5 years from completion of their bachelor's degree and have not worked in the field of dietetics/nutrition, it is strongly recommended that they repeat specialized coursework before applying for or commencing a DI.

2.22 Student Assessment Methods

The DPD curriculum provides learning activities to attain all the knowledge and learning outcomes as defined by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics. The

curriculum has been designed to build on concepts introduced in lower-division courses and to increase the competence of students as they progress through the curriculum. Students are prepared for competence in the nutrition care process through progressive coursework, utilizing an array of learning methods. Faculty assess student learning through assignments, projects, case studies, and exams. Group projects are also used to develop teamwork and collaboration skills. Regular reports of performance are completed during advising sessions each semester.

Section_3. Services Available to Students at LSU

A wide array of services is available to students at LSU, some are paid through student fees and are paid through other mechanisms. Eligibility for services and current fees are available to students online.

3.1 The Student Health Center maintains a website that details its student services. Important services include medical clinics, immunizations, pharmacy, nutrition counseling, and the mental health clinic with mental health counseling available. Health insurance for students is also available through the Student Health Center. The Health Center also provides victims of sexual assault support and medical services. [Click here for the SHC website.](#)

All faculty in the Division of Human Nutrition and Food are aware of the services provided by the Student Health Center should students need referrals for physical or mental health issues.

3.2 The University Recreation Center (UREC) on campus is available to students. The facility has a wide array of amenities, including weight/fitness/cardio areas, a gymnasium, a climbing gym, racquetball courts, a pool, and saunas. There is also an outdoor field complex with tennis courts, volleyball courts, and softball fields. [Click here for the UREC website.](#)

3.3 The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is physically located on campus in Johnston Hall and is a unit within the Office of the Dean of Students. Services available and documentation that students must provide the ODS is provided for a wide range of conditions including learning disabilities, attention disorders, and physical and psychological disabilities. [Click here for the ODS website.](#)

3.4 Academic Counseling is available to students through several sources. An advantage to being in the College of Agriculture is that students come directly into their senior college and can meet immediately with an advisor. In Nutritional Sciences, all advisors are prepared to refer students, if needed, to other services described; advisors are also prepared to give students career counseling. Students can also meet with Jennie Sparks, email: jsparks2@lsu.edu, in the COA. If students do not enter directly into the COA, they come into the University College. University College is the home to the Center for the Freshman Year, which is a non-degree granting, academic college at LSU. Students are placed in this college and may be given up to two semesters, regardless of full-time or part-time status. Career and other counseling are available through the University Center for Advising and Counseling (UCAC), which students would enter in their sophomore year if they have not already been admitted to the COA. Some testing services are available for students. Testing such as placement is available at orientation. Testing for conditions, such as attention deficit disorders, is not available on campus.

3.5 Entering a large university like LSU can be a daunting experience, especially if you are from a small town or if you are the first in your family to attend college at all. LSU provides a host of programs that will help you get the most of your first year here. The *First Year Experience* is designed to help students understand what is available for them at LSU.

3.6 *The Center for Academic Success* provides a wide array of services, including tests of learning styles to help students succeed at LSU, information on study habits, and tutoring. [Click here for the Center's website.](#) *The Olinde Career Center* (located in the Student Union) is also helpful in advising students, providing interviewing skills, and helping design resumes. [Click here for the Career Center Website.](#)

3.7 *MyLSU* “is a dynamic electronic kiosk that delivers a suite of applications to the students, faculty, and staff of LSU based on their relationship to the University. MyLSU is an individualized Web desktop accessed via a browser and is therefore unconstrained by computing platforms, location, or normal business hours. In addition to standard applications which every account has access to, applications are added to a desktop on an individual basis.”

Through their MyLSU account, students can access email, TigerBytes II, a personal file storage center, and can download software through TigerWare.

3.8 *Agriculture Residential College* “The Ag Residential College (ARC) is open to all first-year students in the College of Agriculture. The residential college focuses on “Ag Leadership,” a recurring theme throughout the 2-year program. By taking several core courses together, students will more quickly form relationships with classmates and professors both inside the classroom and outside. The residence hall will offer opportunities to travel and host several special interest lectures that focus on the diverse needs of today’s ever-changing world. By living in a “mini campus” atmosphere within the larger LSU campus, students will achieve a greater sense of awareness, cultural competence, leadership, and community. [Click here for the ARC website.](#)

Requirements

- Admission to LSU and the College of Agriculture
- A Windows-compatible laptop

Features

- Scholarships for ARC students
- Reserved spaces in courses
- Multimedia classroom within the residence hall
- Meeting space for events
- Monthly seminar series
- Faculty and staff members hold office hours and review sessions inside the residence hall.
- Proximity to the LSU lakes, Recreational Center, and your department’s buildings

Application Procedure

1. Apply to the University.
2. Submit your Residential Life online housing application.
3. List the Agriculture Residential College as your housing preference.

DPD students are encouraged to participate in the ARC.

3.9 Financial Aid

The catalog and the websites for LSU undergraduate admissions provide students with information on Financial Aid. Information on financial aid includes scholarships; the Chancellor's Future Leaders in Research Program; Federal Loan Programs; Grant Programs, including Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and Academic Competitiveness Grants; campus employment; and veteran's benefits. In addition, these sites have information on TOPS (Louisiana's Tuition Opportunity Program for Students). This program provides scholarships equal to college tuition for high school graduates with a 2.5 GPA and 20 ACT composite scores. Since LSU's entry requirements are higher than TOPS standards, every Louisiana first-year student admitted to the University receives a state-funded merit scholarship (TOPS). [Click here for the Financial Aid & Scholarships website.](#)

3.10 How, When, and Where Students Obtain information about LSU

Students are provided with the above information several times in several diverse ways. All the information is available on the LSU website, and students are encouraged to visit the LSU website. There are also mobile apps that can be downloaded to provide information about LSU. First-year student orientation and transfer orientation are required for students entering; these include an overall program and a college-specific program. These orientations provide students with information on "sessions, schedules, and costs," registration, and placement. If you want to get a head start on what to expect, check out the hyperlink on first-year student orientation. Reinforcement is available through the COA orientations and, for incoming first-year students, through AGRI 1001, Introduction to Agriculture. In that course, opportunities, and educational requirements in all fields of agriculture are discussed.

3.11 LSU College of Agriculture Diversity Champions Program The LSU College of Agriculture launched its pilot program for Diversity and Inclusion Champions in January 2021. The initiative was designed to bridge students to faculty and staff within their respective departments and schools. Diversity and Inclusion Champions will serve as a point of contact for students and fellow faculty in the College of Agriculture. The role is intended for faculty members of the LSU AgCenter and College of Agriculture community who are engaged with minority and underrepresented student groups. The champions have hosted coffee chats, guest lectured, and attended College of Agriculture events throughout the spring semester to engage with students. Monica Guient, Assistant Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion, and Opportunity for the LSU AgCenter and College of Agriculture, emphasizes that the college's students are the co-creators of the inclusive space that they envision. These faculty serve as mentors, confidants, and advocates for students in their respective departments. The program is currently on hold and will be announced again soon.

Section_4. Academic Requirements

4.1 The Flagship Agenda is LSU's strategic plan to become a more nationally competitive university by the year 2025. The goal is that no student or faculty member should have to leave Louisiana in search of a better education or opportunity. [Click here for the LSU Strategic Plan 2025 website.](#) The goals of the Flagship Agenda are:

Discovery: Expand discovery through transformative research and creative activities addressing contemporary and enduring issues that shape the way we live in the world.

- Increase nationally recognized research and creative activities.
- Expand interdisciplinary solutions to significant social, environmental, economic, cultural, and educational problems.
- Increase partnerships with industry to develop intellectual property and foster commercial applications.

Learning: Enhance a faculty-led and student-centered learning environment that develops engaged citizens and enlightened leaders.

- Increase the number of students with strong skills in critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and effective communication.
- Produce greater numbers of students who become intellectual and civic leaders.
- Broaden faculty, staff, and student engagement in a rich intellectual and creative campus culture.

Diversity: Strengthen the intellectual environment by broadening the cultural diversity of the LSU community.

- Increase diversity among faculty, staff, and students.
- Increase the number of students who work with or live in diverse communities.
- Expand supportive communities for minority, international, and first-generation students.

Engagement: Promote engagement of faculty, staff, and students in the transformation of communities.

- Increase collaboration with state and local leaders.
- Enhance our commitment to involvement in economic, social, and cultural activities.
- Extend the influence of scholarly expertise to benefit our state, region, and the globe.

4.2 Undergraduate Degree Requirements at LSU

LSU has the responsibility to protect its educational mission and the health and safety of its community and of the property therein, through regulating the use of university facilities and setting standards of scholarship and conduct for its students. Because of its educational mission, the University also has the responsibility to conduct its disciplinary authority in a manner that contributes to the development and education of the student.

In this section of the General Catalog, topics range from “Academic Requirements for Obtaining a Degree” to University Regulations including “Identification Cards,” “Adding or Dropping Classes,” “Academic Credit,” and “Grades.” Students need to maintain a grade point average of 2.0 to graduate.

4.3 Undergraduate Scholastic Requirements in the College of Agriculture

In addition to the university requirements of completion of 120 hours, the College of Agriculture has these additional scholastic requirements:

- Students must complete at least one general education English composition course and one general education analytical reasoning course with a “C” or better within the first 30 hours of study.
- Students who fail to earn a 2.00 average in each of two consecutive semesters (or one semester and a summer term) and whose LSU or overall grade point average is below

2.00 will be declared ineligible to continue in the College of Agriculture for one regular semester.

- Seniors who have completed the first semester of the senior year, are degree candidates and are under scholastic suspension from the University, may be placed on probation for one additional semester at the discretion of the dean of the College of Agriculture.

4.4 The Nutritional Sciences Curriculum (Dietetics Concentration)

Information about the dietetics program is in the General Catalog under the College of Agriculture. This link will take you to the General Catalog where the course number can be expanded for a description of the courses. **Students must earn a grade of “C-” or better in all required NFS courses, as well as BIOL 2160 and 2083.** The curriculum is summarized below. If you entered under an earlier catalog, your courses may be slightly different—please consult that catalog for your course requirements and critical requirements.

CRITICAL REQUIREMENTS

Semester 1: “C-” or better in ENGL 1001; Semester 2: NFS 1110; CHEM 1201; Semester 3: NFS 1014; Semester 4: CHEM 2060; Semester 5: BIOL 2083.

Semester 1

CRITICAL: “C-” or better in ENGL 1001

ENGL 1001 English Composition (3)

BIOL 1201 Biology for Science Majors I (3)

BIOL 1208 Biology Laboratory for Science Majors I (1)

MATH 1023 College Algebra and Trigonometry (5) or MATH 1021 (3) & MATH 1022 (3)

CHEM 1201 General Chemistry I (3)

Total Semester Hours: 15

Semester 2

CRITICAL: NFS 1110; CHEM 1201

CHEM 1202 General Chemistry (3)

CHEM 1212 General Chemistry Laboratory (2)

NFS 1110 Introduction to Nutritional Sciences (3)

PSYC 2000 Introduction to Psychology (3)

NFS 1014 Food Theory and Skills (4)

Total Semester Hours: 15

Semester 3

CRITICAL: NFS 1014

CHEM 2060 Survey of Organic Chemistry (3)

ANTH 1003 Introduction to Cultural and Social Anthropology (3) or

SOCL 2001 Introductory Sociology (3)

NFS 2112 Human Lifecycle Nutrition (3)

BIOL 1011 Microorganisms and Man (3)

BIOL 1012 Microorganisms and Man Laboratory (1)

KIN 2500 Human Anatomy (3)

Total Semester Hours: 16

Semester 4

CRITICAL: CHEM 2060

ENGL 2000 English Composition (3)
NFS 2110 Methods of Nutritional Assessment (3)
BIOL 2160 Human Physiology (3)
EXST 2201 Introduction to Statistical Analysis (4)
NFS 2000 Fundamentals of Food Science (3)
Total Semester Hours: 16

Semester 5

CRITICAL: BIOL 2083.

BIOL 2083 The Elements of Biochemistry (3)
NFS 3110 Nutrition Counseling and Education (3)
NFS 3000 Food Safety (3)
CMST 2060 Public Speaking (3)
NFS 3025 Professionalism in Dietetics (3)
Total Semester Hours: 15

Semester 6

General Education course - Arts (3)
NFS 3114 Food and Culture (3)
NFS 3115 Human Nutrition and Metabolism (3)
NFS 3116 Community Nutrition (3)
MGT 3200 Principles of Management (3)
Total Semester Hours: 15

Semester 7

NFS 3119 Fundamentals of Quantity Food Production (4)
NFS 4111 Nutrition and Disease I (4)
Elective (3)
General Education course - Humanities (3)
Total Semester Hours: 14

Semester 8

NFS 4023 Management in Dietetics (3)
NFS 4110 Capstone in Nutritional Sciences (3)
NFS 4021 Contemporary Topics in Nutrition (1)
NFS 4114 Nutrition and Disease II (4)
General Education course - Humanities – Literature (3)
Total Semester Hours: 14
120 Total Sem. Hrs.

General Education Humanities: three hours chosen from a 2000-level English course on the General Education list and three hours chosen from any course on the General Education Humanities list.

4.5 Meet the DPD Faculty

Lindsay Barleycorn, MS, RD, LDN, CDCES (Instructor & Undergraduate Coordinator) teaching NFS 4111 (Nutrition & Disease I), NFS 4114 (Nutrition & Disease II), NFS1110 (Introduction to Nutritional Sciences), NFS 2112 Lifecycle Nutrition, and NFS 4021 (Contemporary Topics in Nutrition). Ms. Barleycorn is an LSU Dietetics Alum with recent practice experience in oncology, diabetes, and outpatient nutrition.

Shellie Doré, MS, RD, LDN (Senior Instructor) teaches NFS 1110 (Introduction to Nutritional Sciences), 3119 (Fundamentals of Quantity Food Production), and 4023 (Management in Dietetics). Mrs. Doré has a wealth of experience in these courses and is certified to teach Serve-Safe certification, required of all students taking NFS 3119.

Michael J. Keenan, PhD (Professor) teaches or has taught 3115 (Human Nutrition and Metabolism) and 4021 (Contemporary Topics in Nutrition) in the undergraduate program. Dr. Keenan brings a wealth of knowledge based on his research in functional foods, notably resistant starch, and assessment of gene arrays underlying responses to resistant starches. He has obtained several grants and publications for these studies.

Brandi Milioto, MS, RD (Instructor) teaches NFS 2110 (Methods of Nutritional Assessment) and NFS 3110 (Nutrition Counseling and Education). Milioto has professional experience as the coordinator in the WIC clinic in Ascension Parish (county) at the Gonzales Health Unit.

Erin M. McKinley, PhD, RD, LD, CLC, MCHES, FAND (Associate Professor & Director of the DPD and the Graduate Programs) Dr. McKinley teaches NFS 3025 (Professionalism in Dietetics) and NFS 3116 (Community Nutrition). Her research areas include survey instrument development and studying consumer behavior for medicinal plant and mushroom products.

Judith Myhand, MS (Senior Instructor) teaches NFS 1014 (Food Theory and Skills), NFS 2112 (Human Lifecycle Nutrition), and NFS 3114 (Food and Culture) as well as manages our on-site cooking lab in the Human Ecology Building.

Georgianna Tuuri, PhD, RD (Professor & Chair) Dr. Tuuri teaches NFS 4110 (Capstone in Nutritional Sciences) and NFS 4021 (Contemporary Topics in Nutrition). Her principal research interests are in body composition assessment and pediatric obesity. She has researched bone density and improving the intake of fruit and vegetables in elementary school children.

James T.F. Wise, PhD (Assistant Professor) Dr. Wise is our newest faculty member and will be teaching NFS 4021 (Contemporary Topics in Nutrition) and NFS 1110 (Introduction to Nutritional Sciences). His research centers on environmental health and lung cancer.

4.6 Faculty Advisors

Faculty advisors play a key role in helping students navigate our curriculum, as well as providing specific advice on other topics. When students enter LSU as a first-year student or as a transfer student and come into the College of Agriculture, they go through orientation, and they will see Dr. McKinley to help them plan their schedules. After that, students are assigned to specific faculty members for advising. It is recommended that students come in every semester for advising; however, only students with a registration hold are required to see an advisor. If a

student has such a hold, they need to be advised and Dr. Tuuri will lift their registration hold. Advisors are assigned by the first initial of the student's last name.

Faculty Member	Address	Phone and Email	Student assigned: Last name begins with
Brandi Milioto	257 Knapp	578-1537 bmilioto@lsu.edu	A-B Dietetics/ A-K Nutr Premed
Dr. Erin McKinley	285 Knapp	578-1631 emckinley1@lsu.edu	C-I Dietetics
Dr. James Wise	269 Knapp	578-3997 jwise@agcenter.lsu.edu	L-Z Nutr Premed
Lindsay Barleycorn	271 Knapp	578-2598 LBarleycorn@agcenter.lsu.edu	J-L Dietetics
Shellie Dore	205 Knapp	578-3661 sdore@lsu.edu	M-P Dietetics
Dr. Mike Keenan	209 Knapp	578-1708 mkeenan@lsu.edu	R-Z Dietetics
Judy Myhand	219 HUEC	578-1718 jmyhand@agcenter.lsu.edu	All Nutrition, Health & Society

To be advised, you must schedule an appointment with your advisor using the Navigate system. This system houses the information the faculty needs to advise you each semester adequately and correctly. You can schedule appointments with your assigned advisor and the Office of Student Services using the [Navigate](#) app. Please schedule all appointments at least 24 hours in advance.

To view your degree progress, you can also download your degree audit from your MyLSU account. You can also get a printout of your degree audit from the College of Agriculture. To find out when you can register, you can go to the [Schedule Booklet](#) from the Registrar's Office. Scheduling booklets for upcoming semesters are released about 10 days prior to the start of course registration for that semester.

Section_5. The Process of Becoming a Registered Dietitian (RD) or Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)

5.1 What is a Registered Dietitian?

According to the Commission on Dietetic Registration, "Registered Dietitians (RD) or Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDN) are individuals who have:

- Completed the minimum of a Baccalaureate degree granted by a U.S. regionally accredited college or university, or foreign equivalent.
- Met current minimum academic requirements (Didactic Program in Dietetics) as approved by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.
- Completed a supervised practice program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

- Successfully completed the **Registration Examination for Dietitians**.
- Remitted the annual registration fee.
- complied with the Professional Development Portfolio recertification requirements.”

5.2 What can Registered Dietitians Do?

Registered Dietitians are experts in food and nutrition. If you can think of anything related to food, an RD can do it. Some career opportunities are:

- Clinical dietitian in a hospital, long-term care facility, or outpatient clinic
- Public Health or Community Dietitian in any type of health facility
- Consultant dietitian in private practice
- Sports Dietitian
- Cooperative Extension agent
- Research
- Food service managers
- Food companies
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Public policy development
- Education
- National Health Organizations
- Non-Profit Advocacy Groups

More information about careers in dietetics can be found on the [website of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#). Graduates of LSU’s DPD who have completed dietetic internships and passed the registration exam work as dietitians for the US Olympic Team and for the New Orleans Saints, in Corporate Wellness, as renal dietitians, as nutrition support dietitians, in research at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center, in WIC, as clinical dietitians, as weight loss counselors, in private practice, as diabetes educators, in the Cooperative Extension Service, in food service management, and in public health.

The [US Bureau of Labor Statistics website link](#) provides more information on careers in dietetics.

5.3 How much money will you make as an RD?

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median pay is over \$69,680 per year (\$33.50 per hour) and the job outlook shows the profession is growing 7% faster than average (2023 is the most recent year given). Entry-level salaries average about \$35,000-\$50,000, depending on the state, job, the employer, the economy, etc.

However, as with any profession, salaries and fees vary by region of the country, employment settings, scope of responsibility, and supply of RD’s. Salaries increase with years of experience and many RDs, particularly those in management, business, and consulting earn incomes the median.

5.4 How do I get to be a Registered Dietitian?

After completing the DPD at LSU (or at any school), students must apply for and complete successfully a *Dietetic Internship* to be eligible to sit the registration exam. Applying for internships can be confusing and time-consuming; it also comes in the senior year when the

coursework in the DPD is the most challenging. To help students in the application process, the DPD director holds two workshops per year (fall and spring) and the NFS 3025 course is dedicated to this process. This allows students to understand what is important to achieve as an undergraduate before applying for internships. It provides a timeline of what is needed when asking faculty members and others for letters of recommendation, and other general and specific advice. These are geared toward juniors and seniors.

5.5 After successfully completing your supervised practice program, you will be eligible to sit the computer-based *registration examination*. The exam covers all parts of our undergraduate program at LSU, as well as information you will learn in your internship. Remember that this is the current breakdown of the exam, and this may change by the time you take the exam. It is strongly recommended that you take a review course toward the end of your internship or after you complete your internship prior to sitting the registration exam.

5.6 *The Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR)* “is the credentialing agency for the American Dietetic Association [now the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics]. The purpose of the Commission is to serve the public by establishing and enforcing standards for certification and by issuing credentials to individuals who meet these standards. The CDR has sole and independent authority in all matters about certification including but not limited to standard setting, establishment of fees, finances, and administration. CDR offers certification as dietetic technicians, registered (DTR), registered dietitians (RD), board-certified specialists in pediatric nutrition (CSP), board-certified specialists in renal nutrition (CSR), board-certified specialists in gerontological nutrition (CSG) and board-certified specialists in sports dietetics (CSSD).” [Click here for the CDR website.](#)

5.7 *Licensure*

After you pass the exam and become a Registered Dietitian, there is one final thing you must do to be able to practice. Louisiana is one of forty-four states (also included are the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) of the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) that have laws that regulate dietitians or nutritionists through licensure, statutory certification, or registration. As is clearly stated on this website “*Dietetics practitioners are licensed by states to ensure that only qualified, trained professionals provide nutrition services or advice to individuals requiring or seeking nutrition care or information. Only state-licensed dietetics professionals can provide nutrition counseling. Unlicensed practitioners may be subject to prosecution for practicing without a license. States with certification laws limit the use of titles (e.g., dietitian or nutritionist) to persons meeting predetermined requirements; however, persons not certified can still practice. Consumers in these states who are seeking nutrition therapy assistance need to be more cautious and aware of the qualifications of the provider they choose.*”

Louisiana was among the first states to require licensure of registered dietitians (1987). All registered dietitians, regardless of practice venue, must be licensed to practice in this state. The Louisiana Board of Examiners in Dietetics and Nutrition (LBEDN) provides information related to obtaining and maintaining a license, who needs a license, the laws regarding licensure, the rights and responsibilities that come with licensure, the circumstances under which a license can be revoked, and what action that can be taken against violators of the licensing laws in this state. [Click here for the LBEDN website.](#)

If you do not plan to practice in Louisiana, check the state in which you do plan to practice for their licensing laws. The CDR site shown above is a quick link to all states with licensure laws.

5.8 Continuing Education

Lifelong learning is part of the requirement to maintain professional credentials for all healthcare professionals, including registered dietitians. Thus, all registered dietitians are responsible for designing and maintaining a learning plan for a Professional Development Portfolio which helps them fulfill the continuing education requirement of 75 hours over 5 years. Continuing education options and opportunities should be tailored to your career goals. Options include graduate education, research, workshops, meetings, journal articles, lectures, seminars, webinars, advanced certifications, and...well you get the idea. But remember, the continuing education activities you choose must be tailored to YOUR goals as stated in YOUR Professional Development Portfolio. What happens if you do not obtain the full 75 hours in the time limit? To maintain your professional RD credential, you would need to repeat the registration examination.

Section_6. Special Opportunities for Students

6.1 The Student Nutrition & Dietetics Association (SNDA) is a student-run professional organization that introduces students to the program and the profession, helps them network with other students in the major, and provides leadership, advocacy, and community action opportunities. SNDA is registered with the Student Organizations through the Dean of Students Office. This group is open to all students, with special emphasis on dietetics, NHS, and Nutrition Pre-Meds.

Student officers plan and run the meetings and plan activities and volunteer activities for the students. Recent events have included preparing Thanksgiving baskets for low-income individuals, a heart walk to raise awareness and money for heart disease, and much more!

SNDA also provides a speakers' forum on a wide range of topics. Dietitians talk about practice opportunities and challenges, internship directors talk about what they are looking for in interns, and current interns talk about the application procedure and their experiences as an intern. Find SNDA on Facebook and Instagram @sndaatlsu.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Erin McKinley @drerinmckinley

6.2 NFS 3900 Nutrition and Food Science Research (1-3)

Prereq: permission of department. May be taken for a max. of 6 sem. hrs. of credit. Student outlines and executes project and prepares a written report; on problems related to nutrition, dietetics, management, processing, quality control, safety, and nutritional evaluation of foodstuffs. This course is "Open to advanced students of high academic standing by the consent of the director. May be taken for a max. of 6 hrs. of credit. Students are responsible for registering with a faculty member with whom they will select the area of reading and research.

This class allows students to work closely with a faculty member on a research project or to do directed readings on a topic in which they are especially interested. The student's imagination and the faculty available limit options in this course. Students who have taken this course have had the opportunity to publish manuscripts with faculty members and make presentations at national meetings.

Can you give me an example of what students have done in the past? Sara David studied the nutritional and monetary impact of fast food on low socioeconomic status women, and food spending patterns by low-income women who receive or do not receive food stamps or who are food secure or insecure. Her work resulted in two presentations at the Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo (the annual meeting of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics). One fun thing about the abstracts listed below is that the Community Nutrition Class participated in the research project too.

- David S, O'Neil CE, Smith J, Tiller V, Monroe PA. Nutritional and Monetary Impact of Fast Food on Low Socioeconomic Status Women. *Jour Am Diet Assoc* 102 (Suppl 2): A-47, 2002.
- O'Neil CE, David S, Smith J, LSU Community Nutrition Class, Tiller V, Monroe PA. Food Spending Patterns by Low-Income Women Who Receive or do not Receive Food Stamps or who are Food Secure or Insecure. *Jour Am Diet Assoc* 102 (Suppl 2): A-48, 2002.

6.3 NFS 4027 Practicum in Dietetics (1-3)

Prereq: majors only; for students in dietetics concentration only; 60 hrs. in Nutrition and Food Sciences curriculum; overall GPA of 3.2; and permission of instructor. Each hour of credit requires 60 hours of supervised experience. May be taken or repeated, when topics vary, for a max. of 3 hrs. of credit. Supervised professional experience designed to integrate academic learning with dietetics practice.

In this course, students select a registered dietitian with whom they would like to work--any practice arena anywhere. Then, working with the faculty advisor, students outline their own course objectives and describe how they will complete them. We have had students work with a wide range of dietitians, ranging from diabetes educators to community dietitians to renal dietitians. The course is designed to introduce you to dietetic practice in a field in which you are interested.

6.4 Undergraduate Grants through the College of Agriculture

There are several ways that interested students can work with faculty members on research projects (NFS 3900 and the Honors Program), but this is a unique opportunity for students. The College of Agriculture offers the opportunity for students to author a research grant to allow them to complete a research project with a faculty member. These grants provide up to \$1900 for student's research or travel. Students in the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences who have written grants and conducted research have had the opportunity to publish their findings and to present their research at national meetings.

6.5 The Honors Program

Students with outstanding academic potential can find challenges in the Honors College in the form of advanced coursework, lectures, seminars, and independent research. More information about admission into the Honors College can be found in the General Catalog. To receive full College Honors, students must complete all requirements as established by the student's college including at least 32 hours of honors courses including: a minimum of six hours of HNRS coursework; 12 hours at the 3000+ level, following Upper Division Honors departmental requirements, a senior thesis, following thesis guidelines, and a 3.5 GPA in all overall, and at LSU, and honors courses undertaken. [Click here for the Honors College website.](#)

Students not electing to enter the Honors College early in their career at LSU can still have a special experience by coming into the Honors College in their junior year and participating in the Upper Division Honors program. The School of Nutrition and Food Sciences offers this program for outstanding students majoring in Nutritional Sciences. This program requires 12 semester hours of honors courses, including 6 hours of honors option courses and 6 honors thesis hours (HNRS 4000) and is identical to the final work that students seeking full College Honors would complete.

The Honors Student Handbooks give more information on achieving Full College Honors and Upper Division Honors distinction. [Click here for the handbook webpage.](#)

Eligibility: Students completing their sophomore year with a GPA of 3.5 or above on both LSU and overall academic work are eligible for admission to the Upper Division Honors Program in Human Ecology. Students may talk with Dr. O'Neil or Ms. Myhand about the honors program but should apply for admission at or before the beginning of the Junior Year with Mr. Michael Blanding in the Honors College.

Program Requirements:

To achieve Upper Division Honors Distinction in Nutritional Sciences a student must:

1. Maintain a GPA of 3.5
2. Complete at least 6 semester hours of honors option courses in his/her major area from among these courses: NFS 3115 (Human Nutrition and Metabolism), NFS 3119 (Fundamentals of Quantity Food Production); NFS 3116 (Community Nutrition), NFS 4111 (Nutrition and Disease I), NFS 4114 (Nutrition and Disease II); and NFS 4110 (Capstone in Nutrition Sciences).

In these honors option courses, students will enroll in the class as they normally would, but they will do "a little something extra." This would be fit to the course and might involve authoring a paper or presenting a case study to the class.

3. Complete a senior thesis with independent research and reporting under the direction of a School of Nutrition and Food Sciences faculty member. The student will enroll in *HNRS 4000* for *six semester hours* of thesis credit and completion of a thesis project during the senior year. The student will defend the project in an oral examination before a committee of three faculty members including the primary advisor. At least one member of the committee shall be from outside the department.

Recognition: Students completing the requirements above will be recognized at graduation through the designation: *Upper Division Honors in Nutritional Sciences*

6.6 Other Opportunities

6.6.1 *The President's Future Leaders in Research Program* "offers a unique opportunity for students to conduct research early in their college career. Students are partnered with a faculty member in the field of their choice to work side-by-side in a research setting, learning what a career in their chosen field may be like. As a member of the research team, students receive guidance and support to expand their knowledge and skills. Students participating in this program can work up to 20 hours per week to earn up to \$1,550 per year for eight semesters.

Students are paid an hourly wage, and paychecks are sent bi-weekly. [Click here for more information.](#)

LSU Discover provides support for students conducting undergraduate research in the form of travel grants and stipends. Students can present their work at Discover Day, a true day of celebration of undergraduate research and creative activity. [Click here for more information.](#)

6.6.2 *Campus Life* is under the auspices of the Dean of Students and provides a wide array of leadership opportunities within and outside of student organizations. [Click here for more information.](#)

6.6.3 *Through Academic Programs Abroad* students travel worldwide to study for a summer, semester, or academic year. Students earn credit toward LSU degrees and return to LSU to complete their degrees. Study abroad is open to all majors. Through overseas study, students are immersed in foreign languages and cultures, have access to coursework unavailable on the home campus, develop personal independence and global awareness, and enjoy academic and travel opportunities that enrich their general education. Many students find that studying abroad gives them an advantage in the job market and in applying for graduate school. Others discover routes to international careers in business, government, law, and the arts. [Click here for more information.](#)

6.6.4 Although Minors are not required of students within the College of Agriculture, they are available and recommended. Students in the DPD have minored in a wide variety of subjects, including biology, chemistry, business, psychology, sociology, and dance.

6.6.5 *LSU CxC Distinguished Communicator Program* is for self-motivated LSU undergraduates who want to refine their communication skills and excel in their chosen professions. Students who successfully achieve this unique distinction are recognized with a medal at graduation and receive a permanent commendation on their official transcripts, giving them significant leverage in today's job market and other post-graduate pursuits. Upon completion of the program, these students possess the competitive skills and knowledge needed for 21st-century leadership. LSU is one of the only universities in the country recognizing students who excel in communicating within their discipline.

The Dietetics curriculum currently has five communication intensive (C-I) courses, NFS 3025 (Written and Spoken), NFS 3116 (Technology and Visual), NFS 3119 (Written and Spoken), NFS 4023 (Written and Visual) and NFS 4110 (Written and Visual) that help meet some of the requirements of the program. For more information, reach out to Dr. Erin McKinley (emckinley1@lsu.edu) or check out the CxC website. [Click here to learn more about the program.](#)

6.6.6 Clearly, there is no way this Handbook can include all the wonderful opportunities at LSU, so to find out about others, consult the General Catalog.

Section_7. Applying for Supervised Practice (Internship) Programs

After completion of the DPD, students must apply for and complete a supervised practice program or internship to be eligible to sit the registration exam. Applying for internships can be confusing and time-consuming; it also comes in the senior year when the coursework in the

DPD is the most challenging. To help students in the application process, the DPD director holds two workshops per year (fall and spring) **and a guide is available at the workshops and by request from Dr. McKinley. Course lists are also available by request from Dr. McKinley each fall.**

The application guide has explicit instructions for the process and includes the application forms and recommendation forms. It also has a timeline, what is needed when asking faculty members and others for letters of recommendation, and other general and specific advice.

Section_8. Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between a Registered Dietitian and a “nutritionist?”

A Registered Dietitian (RD) or Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) has completed classroom (didactic) and supervised practice experience and passed a rigorous examination. In addition, to maintain their professional credentials, RDs must complete a structured program of continuing education. Many states have licensing laws (*see 5.7 Licensure*); thus, most RDs are also licensed in the state in which they practice. Anyone can call himself or herself a “nutritionist.” There is no certification of any kind required and a person who calls himself or herself a “nutritionist” can have extensive training in nutrition, even including a doctoral degree, or no training at all. When you hear that term, be sure you ask for the person’s full set of qualifications or credentials.

Can I sit the registration examination to become an RD after receiving my BS degree?

No. LSU provides a Didactic Program in Dietetics. As such, students must complete a dietetic internship and a master’s degree before they are eligible to sit this examination. Internships include at least 10 00 hours of supervised practice, and they must be completed at an ACEND-accredited internship program before you can sit the exam. Students can, however, sit the exam to become a dietetic technician, registered (DTR) after completing the DPD. See the [Commission on Dietetic Registration website link](#) for additional information.

How do I get a verification statement?

Verification statements “verify” that a student has a degree and has completed the knowledge and skill requirements of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. These two elements are required to enter a dietetic internship. Verification statements are issued to all students who complete the Nutritional Sciences curriculum and dietetics concentration. The Didactic Program Director issues verification statements when she has verified that the student has a bachelor’s degree, and they cannot be issued before graduation day. Since the program director must have written confirmation from the College of Agriculture, they are mailed to the student’s permanent mailing address about a week after graduation.

Students with a degree from another university or in another major who attend LSU’s program must supply copies of their final transcripts and their diploma as proof that they have a bachelor’s degree.

My degree is in Nutritional Sciences/Pre-medical, can I apply for a dietetic internship?

Yes and no, the pre-medical concentration does not prepare students to directly enter a traditional dietetic internship. Many of the courses in the two concentrations are the same, but

the difference comes in the food, management, and food service classes that students in the dietetics concentration take. Dietetics students also take courses in psychology and economics. Without these courses, and the knowledge and skill elements that they provide, students cannot receive a verification statement to enter an internship program.

There are now accredited Coordinated master's Programs that allow students from any BS/BA background who meet their admissions criteria and have the minimum prerequisite courses (these vary program-to-program, but may include Anatomy, Physiology, and Intro to Nutrition, Chemistry, Microbiology, and Lifecycle Nutrition). These programs are 3-4 years and include the DPD knowledge components, a master's degree, and the internship component in one package. As of July 2023, there are only fifty programs nationwide that are designed in this way. If you have questions about these programs, please see Dr. McKinley.

I am a student in the dietetics concentration; I want to go to medical (or physician assistant or dental or physical therapy or occupational therapy) school. What should I do?

The DPD is geared toward providing the knowledge and competencies needed to become an RD; however, any student can apply for medical school if they have the requirements for any given school. Therefore, the answer depends on how far along in the dietetics program you are. If you are early in the program, it is a simple matter to change to the nutritional sciences/pre-medical concentration. If you are a junior or senior, you can still change into that concentration, but it may be as easy to stay in dietetics and elect to take the courses required by most medical schools: BIOL 1201, 1202, 1208, 1208; CHEM 1201, 1202, 1212, 2261, 2262, 2364; PHYS 2001, 2108, 2002, 2109. Dietetics students are already required to have BIOL 1201, and CHEM 1201, 1202. Dietetics students can always choose to take higher level courses in organic chemistry, for example, CHEM 2261/2262 in place of CHEM 2060 (students must take both courses for them to substitute for CHEM 2060) or in biochemistry, for example, BIOL 4087 in place of BIOL 2083. Please note that these are the course numbers for LSU, *please check with the medical school(s) to which you apply to determine the exact entrance requirements*—for example, most medical schools now require statistics (EXST 2201 at LSU) and psychology (PSYC 2000 at LSU)—dietetics students are required to take both courses. For all other health professionals or allied health professionals, please check with individual programs.

I am a student in the dietetics concentration, but I do not want to be an RD. What *can* I do with my degree?

The DPD is geared to providing the knowledge and competencies needed to become a registered dietitian; however, the program also provides you with a solid foundation in the sciences, especially nutritional sciences; communication skills; critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and leadership skills. Graduates can pursue employment in public health nutrition, pharmaceutical sales, food service management, and public policy or as a health educator. Graduate school may be another option for you. You can also sit the exam to become a Dietetic Technician, Registered.

Graduate School Questions: Do I need to go to graduate school? Does my graduate school training need to be in nutrition? I want to go to graduate school, should I go before or after my internship? Should I go to graduate school at the same time as my internship?

No, you do not need to attend graduate school to practice as an RD—but this will be changing in the future. However, approximately 50% of RD's have a graduate degree. The first-year class of 2019 is the first class that MUST obtain a master's degree to sit for the RD exam. A graduate

degree can open more opportunities more quickly for you than if you did not have a graduate degree.

Your graduate degree does not need to be in nutrition, but that is certainly an option. Consider your academic and career interests and pick a field in which you are interested. For example, if you are most interested in counseling, you might select psychology or counseling; if you like public health, consider a Master of Public Health (MPH); if you like management, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) may be helpful. There are other options too, ranging from Public Policy or Public Administration to Epidemiology, to Kinesiology, to Health Education--opportunities are limited by your interest and your imagination.

Whether you complete a graduate degree before, during, or after your internship is up to you; students from our program have pursued all three options. Consider your family and financial circumstances, along with your career goals before you make this decision.

I failed BIOL 2083 (biochemistry), can I get into NFS 3115 and repeat BIOL 2083 at the same time?

No. We want to maximize your chances of doing well in the program by preparing you through the pre-requisite classes. We have studied the grade distributions of the Human Ecology courses and the required science courses and have looked at the odds that students with specific grades in the science courses will do well in NFS 3115 and NFS 4111/4114. Without doing well in BIOL 2083, the odds are that students will not do well in NFS 3115 or NFS 4111/4114.

It is also important to note that if you fail a required course at LSU, you must repeat that course at LSU. Therefore, if you fail BIOL 2083, you must repeat BIOL 2083 at LSU. Further, students who fail a course twice at LSU may not retake the course without approval from the dean of the student's major college.

I did not do well in biology or chemistry or any course; should I repeat it to bring up by grade point average (GPA)?

There is a lot to consider when answering this question. At LSU, courses can only be repeated if you receive a grade of "D" or "F." LSU now has a grade exclusion policy where courses in which you may have received a D or F can be repeated. [Click here to review the policy.](#) The catalog, linked above, explains this well. Also, note if you fail a required course at LSU, you must repeat it at LSU. FYI – "repeat and delete" does not exist. If you repeat a course, the prior grade will still appear on your transcript, and you need to acknowledge ALL attempts on your applications for Dietetic Internships.

Finally, there are courses within the DPD requirements in which you must receive a grade of "C" or higher--these are all required NFS courses, and BIOL 2083 (biochemistry) and BIOL 2160 (physiology). If you do not receive a "C-" in any of these courses, you must repeat them to graduate.

Can I transfer courses from Junior College?

The answer is maybe. First, you can have no more than 60 hours, or no courses will transfer from a junior college. Second, as with all college transfers, we need to have a corresponding course, otherwise the course(s) will come in as hours only and not as a specific course.

I am not doing well in my courses, where can I go for help?

Your first step is to see the instructor of the course. Instructors want students to do well and are willing to help them succeed. All instructors are required to keep office hours—please use them. Many departments also offer supplemental instruction/tutoring, which is recommended too. The Center for Academic Success is also available to help students; this program was awarded the best learning center in the US and is worth the trip. Finally, private tutors, although expensive, are also available.

I would recommend two other things. The first is to get a study partner or a study group--this is frequently helpful. If you were having trouble in many of your courses, I would recommend that you see your academic advisor to help determine if this is the right major for you.

How important are grades when applying for internships?

Although an internship director looks at an applicant's entire application, including grades, work experience, recommendations, and volunteer activities, grades are usually the first thing that an internship will look at when reviewing potential candidates. Overall grades are, of course, **especially important**; however, grades in the DPD courses--especially nutrition and the sciences, are usually weighted most heavily. Many will not accept students into their programs with a GPA under their stated cut-off; very few are more flexible. Some internships will not accept students with a grade lower than C in a major course or in the sciences. Having these grades does not guarantee that you will be accepted into an internship.

I have worked in a restaurant for 15 years--can I get credit for this?

I am sorry--no. Although some schools give credit for life experiences, LSU does not unless students take a proficiency examination. Moreover, the full DPD course requirements cannot be waived.

I have a non-nutrition-related undergraduate degree; can I become an RD by obtaining a master's degree in Nutrition at LSU?

The MS program at LSU does not prepare students to enter a dietetic internship—students without a verification statement from their undergraduate program need to complete the foundation knowledge and competency requirements promulgated by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for DPDs. Thus, students in the MS program would need to take a substantial number of undergraduate courses to meet this requirement. Students can elect to do this, although it will slow their progress in the graduate program. Three of the undergraduate courses: NFS 4111/4114 (Nutrition and Disease I/II), and NFS 4021 (Contemporary Topics in Nutrition) can be taken for graduate credit if a member of the graduate faculty teaches them.

There are now accredited Coordinated master's Programs that allow students from any BS/BA background who meet their admissions criteria and have the minimum prerequisite courses (these vary program-to-program, but may include Anatomy, Physiology, and Intro to Nutrition, Chemistry, Microbiology, and Lifecycle Nutrition). These programs are 3-4 years and include the DPD knowledge components, a master's degree, and the internship component in one package. As of July 2022, there are over fifty programs nationwide that are designed in this way. If you have questions about these programs, please see Dr. McKinley.

I have a non-nutrition-related undergraduate degree and want to become an RD; do I need to take another degree?

Most students do have an undergraduate degree in nutrition or dietetics, but “no” you do not need one. To enter a dietetic internship, you need a degree in any subject and to meet the knowledge and competency requirements promulgated by ACEND. Many internship directors feel that having a second degree in dietetics does not increase your chances of being admitted into an internship. That said, if you are coming into the DPD with no science background--no biology or chemistry, your estimated time to complete the program is three years, and many students find they have the time to take the two or three extra courses that they would need to complete the bachelor’s degree in Dietetics.

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When and how do I apply for a supervised practice experience (dietetic internship)? Help is available to you through workshops and information posted online. Information included in this packet includes timelines and specific information on how to do this.

I want to transfer into the DPD at LSU, what courses will transfer?

It depends on whether you are transferring from another major at LSU or transferring into LSU from another university. If you are coming in from another major, the courses *per se* that you have taken will come into the College of Agriculture, but they may not match our required courses. To see what you would need for Dietetics before you come into the program, you can format your degree audit for Nutritional Sciences, Dietetics.

If you transfer into the DPD from another university, the College of Agriculture has specific information for you. The DPD or the DPD director has no control over which courses will transfer into LSU or how a course taken at another university will transfer into LSU; for example, you may have taken a public speaking course at another university, but it may not come in as CMST 2060. Once students have been accepted into LSU, they can check with the department, including the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences, to re-evaluate their transfer credit and determine whether the class has an LSU equivalent or could be substituted. For example, a student transferring in from another DPD might have a course called Community Nutrition and they may believe that the course content is like our course. To have the Community Nutrition course substituted, students would need to show that the content of the courses was the same--they could supply a course syllabus and their class notes. If the instructor of our Community Nutrition course agrees, then the request for substitution will go forward from the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences to the Dean’s Office. The Associate Dean, Dr. Rutherford, will make the final decision regarding substitutions—although all substitutions are made in conjunction with the course instructor.

One other thing that you should know about transfer credit is that “courses taken at the lower (1000-2000) level cannot be given upper (3000-4000) level credit.” This may become an issue if you transfer from a junior college.

I have a degree in nutrition from a school that does not have a dietetics program; can you review my transcript and issue a verification statement that would allow me to enter a dietetic internship?

No. To receive a verification statement from LSU, students must take at least 12 hours here, including NFS 4111 and 4114 (Nutrition and Disease I/II).

I am a student at Southern University and want to utilize the Co-Op Agreement to take classes. Can I be issued a verification statement from LSU as an SU student?

No. You are more than welcome to utilize the cooperative agreement between LSU and Southern to take a class you qualify for (i.e., have prerequisite courses complete). Still, LSU cannot grant verification statements to students enrolled at another university. If you are a nutrition student at SU and want a verification statement, you would either transfer to an accredited DPD program (like LSU) or graduate from SU and go back to an accredited DPD to take what is needed to obtain a verification statement.

Is there other information available on applying for internships?

When you take NFS 3025: Professionalism in Dietetics, you will be given everything you need for your applications to DIs. Register for this course, ideally, in the fall of your Junior Year.

If you have any other questions or concerns about the program or LSU, contact me, Dr. McKinley email: emckinley1@lsu.edu as DPD Director; or your assigned advisor; or Ms. Barleycorn, the undergraduate coordinator, email:

lbarleycorn@agcenter.lsu.edu; or Jennie Sparks, the Interim Assistant Dean of student services in the College of Agriculture, email: jsparks2@lsue.edu.

We can give you better advice than your classmates about everything connected to your LSU experience.