

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NUTRITION (DIETETICS)

Web Site: <https://twu.edu/nutrition-food-sciences/undergraduate-programs/bs-in-nutrition-dietetics/>

DPD Program Director: Dolores Kearney, MPH, RDN, LD

Phone: 940-898-2641

E-Mail: dkearney1@twu.edu

The Bachelor of Science in Nutrition (Dietetics) is a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD), an accredited program for students who are preparing to become Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs). A Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) is a food and nutrition expert who has met the minimum academic and professional requirements to qualify for the credential "RDN." The majority of RDNs work as clinical dietitians in the treatment and prevention of diseases using medical nutrition therapy. Clinical dietitians work in hospitals, HMOs, private practice, outpatient clinics, or other healthcare facilities. In addition, a large number of RDNs work in the community and public health settings, schools, food service administration positions, government agencies, pharmaceutical companies, and academia and research. A growing number of RDNs work in the food and nutrition industry, in business, journalism, sports nutrition, and corporate wellness programs. The B.S. in Nutrition (Dietetics) DPD program *requires submission of an application*.

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at Texas Woman's University is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) (<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/>) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995, 312-899-0400 extension 5400.

Some RDNs hold additional certifications in specialized areas of practice. These are awarded through the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR), the credentialing agency for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and/or other medical and nutrition organizations, and are recognized within the profession, but are not required. Some of the certifications include pediatric or renal nutrition, sports dietetics, nutrition support, and diabetes education.

In addition to RDN credentialing, many states have regulatory laws for licensing dietitians and nutrition practitioners. Frequently, these state requirements are met through the same education and training required to become an RDN.

Requirements to Become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)

- **Complete a minimum of a bachelor's degree** at a US regionally accredited university or college and coursework accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and complete the requirements for a Verification Statement. Effective January 2024, a Master's degree will be required to be eligible to take the Commission on Dietetic Registration exam.
- **Complete an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program** at a healthcare facility, community agency, or a foodservice corporation, or combined with undergraduate or graduate studies. Typically, a supervised practice program will run six to 12 months in length. The most common supervised practice program is a dietetic internship.

Acceptance into a supervised practice program is a competitive process.

- **Pass a national board examination** administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). For more information regarding the examination, refer to www.cdrnet.org.

Completion of the B.S. in Nutrition (Dietetics) DPD **does not guarantee admission** into a dietetic supervised practice (internship) program.

Admission to supervised practice programs are very competitive; therefore, students are encouraged to apply to a variety of programs to increase their chances of being accepted. Supervised practice programs vary by cost, length, location, specialty, and required application fee.

Verification Statement

Requirements to receive a Verification Statement from the TWU B.S. in Nutrition (Dietetics) DPD in order to be eligible for entry into an ACEND-accredited supervised practice (internship) program are:

- Earn a grade of "B" or higher in: NFS 1301, NFS 1302, NFS 2323, NFS 3033, NFS 3043, NFS 3083, NFS 3713, NFS 2011, and NFS 3722.
- Required "C" or higher in all other DPD-required courses.
- Achieve an overall GPA of 3.25.
- B.S. in Nutrition (Dietetics) DPD students may repeat a DPD-required course only one time.
- Complete a minimum of 24 hours of advanced undergraduate nutrition, food science, and foodservice management courses at TWU.

Note: Requirements for a Verification Statement are different than the requirements for earning a degree at TWU.