Overview

• Why RD or RDN?
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• Educational and professional requirements
• Pathways to becoming a RD
• How OHSU fits into the pathway
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Why RD or RDN?

Registered Dietitian (RD) or Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)

- Regulated credential with international recognition
- Supervised practice experience
- Continuing education to maintain credential
- Trained in dietary treatment of many diseases, as well as food science and nutrition
- Required credential in many clinical settings and for insurance reimbursement

Nutritionist

- Non-regulated, sometimes self-appointed title
- Training and knowledge can vary wildly
- “All RDs are nutritionists but not all nutritionists are RDs”
Employment Opportunities for RDs

- Work settings
  - Hospitals and clinics
  - Community organizations and public health agencies
  - Sports nutrition and corporate wellness
  - Business and industry
  - Universities and medical centers
  - Private practice
  - Research
Salaries

- Median total compensation of all RDs in 2013: $61,000 per year
- Compensation increases with years of experience, supervisory and budget responsibility, and within certain practice areas
  - 10th percentile: $43,000 per year
  - 90th percentile: $92,700 per year

Job Outlook

- From 2012-2022, projected percent change in employment is 21% (faster than average)
  - Average growth for all occupations is 11%
- Reasons:
  - Increasing rates of diseases associated with obesity, such as kidney disease and diabetes
  - Emphasis on diet in disease prevention
  - Growing aging population needs services in nursing homes and home healthcare

www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dietitians-and-nutritionists.htm#tab-1
Educational and Professional Requirements

1. Bachelor’s degree or higher
2. Didactic Program in Dietetics or Coordinated Program in Dietetics
3. 1,200 hours of supervised practice through a Dietetic Internship or Coordinated Program
4. National examination administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration
Requirement #1

- Completed a minimum of a bachelor’s degree at a U.S. regionally accredited college or university, or foreign equivalent
  - Degree can be in any subject
  - Degree does not have to be in nutrition or dietetics
Requirement #2

- Completed course work through an Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics or Coordinated Program in Dietetics.

- Dietetics students study a variety of subjects:
  - Food and Nutrition Sciences
  - Chemistry and Biochemistry
  - Anatomy and Physiology
  - Microbiology
  - Pharmacology
  - Behavioral social sciences
  - Business
  - Communication
  - Counseling
  - Foodservice Systems
  - Culinary Arts
Requirement #3

• Completed 1,200 hours of supervised practice through an ACEND accredited Dietetic Internship or Coordinated Program
  – OHSU offers two options that meet this requirement
    • Dietetic Internship Certificate Program
    • Combined Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition / Dietetic Internship
Requirement #4

- Passed a national examination administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration
  - Upon completion of a Dietetic Internship or Coordinated Program in Dietetics, including ≥1,200 hours supervised practice, student is eligible to sit for the registration exam
Educational and Professional Requirements

1. Bachelor’s degree or higher
2. Didactic Program in Dietetics or Coordinated Program in Dietetics
3. 1,200 hours of supervised practice through a Dietetic Internship or Coordinated Program
4. National examination administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration
Pathway to Becoming a RD

1. Holds a bachelor's or master's degree in another field
   - Contact the Director of an ACEND-accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) or Coordinated Program (CP) to evaluate previous degree, coursework, and transferable credits (if any).

2. Enroll in an ACEND-accredited DPD program.
   - Complete DPD Program and obtain a Verification Statement and optional second bachelor's or master's degree.
   - Apply to an ACEND-accredited Dietetic Internship for supervised practice experience.*
   - Complete a DI Program or combined MS/DI at OHSU and receive a Verification Statement.

3. Enroll in an ACEND-accredited CP program.
   - Complete CP Program and obtain a Verification Statement and second bachelor's or master's degree. (Includes supervised practice experience.)

4. Apply for registration eligibility with CDR through DI or CP program director.

5. RD Exam

6. State licensure or certification, if applicable

*Note: acceptance into an internship is extremely competitive and not guaranteed.
Advising Interested Students

• If a student already has a bachelor’s degree that is not in dietetics, he/she should:
  – Have college transcripts evaluated by the director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics or Coordinated Program he/she wishes to attend
  – Director will review previous academic preparation and identify courses needed
  – Depending upon the program, courses may be taken while enrolled in a graduate degree, bachelor’s degree, or as a post-baccalaureate
Finding Accredited Programs

• ACEND’s website
  – Click “Accredited Education Programs”
  – Search by state for:
    • Coordinated Programs in Dietetics
    • Didactic Programs in Dietetics
    • Dietetic Internships
  – Programs in Oregon:
    • 1 Didactic Program in Dietetics at Oregon State University
    • No Coordinated Programs
Programs at OHSU

• For students who have already completed requirements #1 and #2
• We offer two options:
  – Dietetic Internship Certificate Program
  – Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition / Dietetic Internship
• Prospective student information at: www.ohsu.edu/gphn
QUESTIONS?

OHSU Graduate Programs in Human Nutrition
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