

Didactic Program in Dietetics Assessment Report

Academic Year 2019 - 2020

Executive Summary

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at Utah State University continues to produce graduates who are well-prepared for meaningful and successful careers in the field of nutrition and dietetics and who (collectively) meet the goals and standards outlined below. Our Program is reviewed annually (May - August) and is accredited by ACEND (Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics). ACEND is the accrediting agency for all dietetics programs preparing students to begin careers as RDNs (Registered Dietitian Nutritionists) or DTRs (Dietitian Technicians Registered). As a program, we continue to meet required ACEND accreditation guidelines. ACEND Standards (2017) for DPD Programs can be accessed [HERE](#).

DPD Program Highlights and Statistics:

- 100% of our students complete the DPD Program within 3 years
- > 90% apply for a dietetic internship within 3 years of completing our DPD Program
- > 90% enroll in a dietetic internship within 3 years of completing our DPD Program
- > 85% of our annual graduate survey responders report they are successfully employed in the field of dietetics within 1 year of graduation

RD Registration Exam Statistics (5-Year Average = 2015 - 2019):

- Pass Rate for 2020 Examinees (First or Second Attempt) = 100%
- 5-Year Average Pass Rate on the RD Registration Exam (First Attempt) = 86%
- 5-Year Percentile Rank (based on First Attempt Pass Rate) = 78th Percentile
- 5-Year Percentile Rank (based on First Attempt Mean Score) = 55th Percentile

Data Regarding Graduates from Previous Academic Year (2019) as reported in the 2020 ACEND Annual Report:

- Graduates who were admitted to a supervised practice program (dietetic internship) within 12 months of program completion = 94%
- Graduates not in supervised practice/further education who found a job in dietetics within 12 months of program completion = 0%
- Graduates not in supervised practice/further education who found a job outside dietetics within 12 months of program completion = 0%
- Graduates pursuing further education (not in supervised practice nor employed) = 6%
- Graduates who both found a job within 12 months of program completion and are also pursuing further education = 0%
- Graduates who completed program within 150% of program length (3 years) = 100%
- Graduates who applied for admission to a supervised practice program (dietetic internship) within 12 months of program completion = 94%

Mission Statement

The mission of the DPD Program at Utah State University is to graduate students with a Bachelor of Science degree (or Verification Statement) who are prepared to perform effectively in a Dietetic Internship or ISPP and to ultimately become entry-level registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs).

Program Enrollment

	Fall 2017 *	Spring 2018 **	Fall 2018 *	Spring 2019 **	Fall 2019 *	Spring 2020 **	Fall 2020 *
Dietetics (CPD Program)	23	34	24	36	24	34	24
Dietetics (DPD Program)	35	51	34	47	32	41	19
General Dietetics ***	106	70	104	80	91	70	83
Grand Total	164	155	162	163	147	145	126

* Fall Semester numbers include Senior and Junior students enrolled in Dietetics

** Spring Semester numbers include Senior and Junior students enrolled in Dietetics + Newly Admitted Sophomores

*** General Dietetics numbers represent Sophomore and Freshmen students who have not yet formerly applied to a Dietetics Program

Program Goals, Objectives, and Actual Outcomes

Academic Year	GOAL #1: Prepare graduates for completion of a dietetic internship or ISPP through provision of current knowledge and skill development.					GOAL #2: Prepare graduates for entry-level employment in dietetics or a related field as a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN).
	Objective 1.1 100% will complete program ≤ 3 years (150% program length)	Objective 1.2 90% will apply to internship ≤ 12 months post-graduation	Objective 1.3 75% will enroll in internship ≤ 3 years post-graduation	Objective 1.4 90% will pass RD Registration Exam ≤ 1 year of first attempt **	Objective 1.5 75% will be ranked by DI Directors as "average" or better	Objective 2.1 50% will obtain employment in dietetics or a related field ≤ 1 year of completing dietetic internship.
2015	Met (100%)	Met (100%)	Met (100%)	Met (91%)	Met (78%)	Met (88%)
2016	Met (100%)	Not Met (88%)	Met (88%)	Met (100%)	Met (81%)	Met (86%)
2017	Met (100%)	Met (93%)	Met (93%)	Not Met (82%)	Met (80%)	Met (88%)
2018 *	Met (100%)	Met (93%)	Met (93%)	Not Met (87%)	Met (83%)	Met (88%)
2019 *	Met (100%)	Met (94%)	Met (94%)	Met (100%)	***	***

* This cohort has not been graduate for 3 years. This data will be available later.

** Pass rate is specific to those in the cohort who have taken the exam as of report date.

*** This cohort has not been out of internship for a year. This data will be available later.

DPD Pass Rates on RD Registration Exam

Year (In Sequence from Least Recent to Most Recent)	(A) # of Students Taking RD Exam for the First Time	Students Passing the CDR Exam		Pass Rate Percentages	
		(B) # of Students Passing on First Attempt	(C) # Passing within 1 Year of First Attempt (if available)	(B/A) First Time Pass Rate	(C/A) One-Year Pass Rate (if available)
2009	13	13	13	100%	100%
2010	12	12	12	100%	100%
2011	08	06	08	75%	75%
2012	07	06	06	86%	86%
2013	10	10	10	100%	100%
2014	16	14	14	88%	88%
2015	11	10	10	91%	91%
2016	09	09	09	100%	100%
2017	11	07	09	64%	82%
2018	15	12	13	80%	87%
2019	11	11	11	100%	100%
2020	05	03	02	60%	100%

* Pass rate is specific to those in the cohort who have taken the exam as of report date

Learning Assessment Matrix and DPD Course Map

See <https://ndfs.usu.edu/files/Course%20map%20-%20DPD.pdf>

Program Changes Based on Assessment Data

- Master's Degree Requirement for Future RDNs.** Effective January 1, 2024, the minimum degree requirement for eligibility to take the registration examination for dietitians will change from a bachelor's degree to a graduate degree. All other didactic and supervised practice eligibility requirements will remain the same. The CPD and DPD Programs are in the process of transitioning in an effort to accommodate this change and also implement the 2022 ACEND standards. The CPD Program will transition to a masters-level program and the DPD Program will include at least one or more pathways to a dietetic internship and master's degree. It is anticipated that we will admit our first masters-level cohort in AY 2022.

- Decline in RD Exam Pass Rates. A change in the RD exam format (in 2017) resulted in declining rates for many programs, including USU. Last year (2019), USU invested in two computer programs to help students prepare for the RD exam during the summer after graduation. Professors also reviewed the new exam content to make certain courses reflect current concepts used on the exam.
- Job Preparedness. Recent employer surveys have shown a downward trend for student preparedness for their first job. The stakeholder's survey revealed this was largely in areas of "soft skills" including negotiation and communication. As the CPD and DPD Programs adjust their curriculum, attention is being given on how to better recruit, train, and prepare students for the modern workforce.