

# ANNUAL ASSESSMENT REPORT DIDACTIC PROGRAM IN DIETETICS (DPD)

Academic Year: 2021 - 2022

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## AN OVERVIEW

**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 pass the national registration examination for dietitians and become registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs). Our mission is also in alignment with the [mission statement of the Nutrition, Dietetics, and Food Sciences Department](#) at USU.

**Program Description:** The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD Program) at Utah State University is designed to foster the development of our students' knowledge, skills, and abilities in a variety of settings. We continue to produce graduates who are well-prepared for meaningful internship experiences and successful careers in the field of nutrition and dietetics and who (collectively) meet the goals and standards outlined in this report. USU faculty maintain knowledge of current dietetics practice by staying involved in their areas of expertise via professional membership in state and national organizations, continuing education, and participation in dietetics education networking groups.

**Accreditation:** The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD Program) at Utah State University Dietetic is accredited by the [Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics](#) (ACEND®). ACEND is the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' accrediting agency for education programs preparing students for careers as registered dietitian nutritionists (RDN) or nutrition and dietetic technicians, registered (NDTR). ACEND serves and protects students and the public by assuring the quality and continued improvement of nutrition and dietetics education programs.

ACEND Accreditation Standards serve as the basis for each education program's evaluation. The 2017 ACEND Standards for DPD Programs can be accessed [HERE](#). The 2022 ACEND Standards will go into effect in June 2022 and can be accessed [HERE](#). A program undergoing accreditation assesses its strengths and challenges based on ACEND's standards and describes its plans for improvement in a Self-Study Report. The report is reviewed by a team of peer reviewers that includes an educator and a practitioner. An ACEND Board member and a staff member assist the team in its review. The team also visits the program to participate in a series of focused interviews, meetings, observations, and tours. These activities provide information to validate the content of the Self-Study Report and further evaluate the program. The team writes its own report to document its findings and to objectively address key areas of ACEND's standards based on evidence provided by the program and gathered by the team. The ACEND Board of Directors reviews the team's and uses it to arrive at a final accreditation decision.

The DPD Program at USU was initially accredited 22 years ago (April 1999) and has remained in good standing ever since. Accreditation site visits occur every 7 years. The last accreditation cycles for the Coordinated (CPD) and Didactic (DPD) Dietetics Programs at Utah State were completed in [January 2016](#). Both programs were approved and are listed in ACEND's [Accredited Programs Directory](#) online. The full accreditation report and additional program outcome data may be obtained by contacting a Program Director ([rebecca.charlton@usu.edu](mailto:rebecca.charlton@usu.edu) or [maryann.schneider@usu.edu](mailto:maryann.schneider@usu.edu)). Relevant sections are summarized in this report. The next accreditation site visit is scheduled for 2023.

### Updates to Program Goals and Objectives:

ACEND standards are updated every five years. Standards were updated in 2022 and changes were made to the required objectives for accredited programs. Objective outcomes will be provided for the 2017 ACEND standard objectives in this report. The changes to the objectives will also be summarized and future reports will gather data based on updated objectives.

## OUTCOMES & RESULTS

### Program Goals & Objectives (2017 ACEND Standards):

<b>Program Goal #1:</b> Prepare DPD graduates for completion of a dietetic internship or ISPP through provision of current knowledge and skill development.	<b>Program Goal #2:</b> Prepare graduates for entry-level employment in dietetics or a related field as a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objective 1.1:</b> 100% of students admitted to the DPD Program will complete it <math>\leq</math> 3 years (150% of program length)</li> <li>• <b>Objective 1.2:</b> 90% of DPD graduates will apply to internship <math>\leq</math> 12 months post-graduation</li> <li>• <b>Objective 1.3:</b> 75% of DPD graduates will enroll in internship <math>\leq</math> 3 years post-graduation</li> <li>• <b>Objective 1.4:</b> 90% of DPD graduates will pass RD Registration Exam <math>\leq</math> 1 year of first attempt</li> <li>• <b>Objective 1.5:</b> 75% of DPD graduates will be ranked by Distance Internship (DI) Directors as “average” or better</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objective 2.1:</b> 50% of our DPD graduates will obtain employment in dietetics or a related field <math>\leq</math> 1 year of completing a dietetic internship.</li> </ul>

### Actual Measurable Outcomes (2017 ACEND Standards)

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 $\leq$ 3 years (150% of program length)	Objective 1.2 90% will apply to internship $\leq$ 12 mo post-graduation	Objective 1.3 75% will enroll in internship $\leq$ 3 years post-graduation	Objective 1.4 90% will pass RD Registration Exam $\leq$ 1 yr 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 $\leq$ 1 year of completing dietetic internship.
2018	Met (100%)	Met (93%)	Met (93%)	Not Met (87%)	Met (83%)	Met (88%)
2019	Met (100%)	Met (94%)	Met (94%)	Met (100%)	Met (100%)	Met (86%)
2020 *	Met (100%)	Met (91%)	Met (91%)	Met (100%)	***	***
2021*	Met (100%)	Not Met (77%)	Met (77%)	Met (100%)	***	***
2022*	Met (100%)	Met (100%)	Met (100%)	Met (95%)	***	***

FYI: The Pass rate for Objective 1.4 is specific to those in the cohort who have taken the exam as of report date.

\* This cohort has not been graduated for 3 years. Missing data will be available later.

\*\*\* This cohort has not been out of internship for a year. This data will be available later in a slightly different format due to the change in objective with 2022 update.

### Pass Rates for DPD Graduates on RD Registration Examination:

Year (In Sequence from Least Recent to Most Recent)	(A) # of Students Taking RD Exam	Students Passing the CDR Exam	Pass Rate Percentages
		(C) # Passing within 1 Year of First Attempt	(C/A) One-Year Pass Rate
2017	11	09	82%
2018	15	13	87%
2019	11	11	100%

2020	11	11	100%
2021	11	11	100%
2022	20	19	95%

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

**RD Registration Exam Statistics (5-Year Average = 2018 - 2022):**

- Pass Rate for 2022 Examinees (First or Second Attempt) = 80%
- 5-Year Average Pass Rate on the RD Registration Exam (First Attempt) = 74.63%
- 5-Year Percentile Rank (based on First Attempt Pass Rate) = 68<sup>th</sup> Percentile
- 5-Year Percentile Rank (based on First Attempt Mean Score) = 66<sup>th</sup> Percentile
- Institution Total Score is Above National Score (by Year): 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022

**Data Regarding Previous Graduates (2021 Academic Year) as reported in the 2022 ACEND Annual Report:**

- Graduates who applied for admission to a supervised practice program (dietetic internship) within 12 months of program completion = 9
- Graduates who were admitted to a supervised practice program (dietetic internship) within 12 months of program completion = 9
- 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) = 0
- Graduates who both found a job within 12 months of program completion and are also pursuing further education = 1
- Graduates who completed program within 150% of program length (3 years) = 100%

**2022 ACEND STANDARDS UPDATES**

Adjustments to the goals and objectives for the DPD were made in 2022 to align with the ACEND 2022 updated standards. The following goals and objectives are in place and data will be gathered beginning in 2023:

**Goal 1:** Program graduates will be well prepared for entry into an accredited supervised practice program.

- At least 80% of students complete program requirements within 3 years (150% of planned program length).
- At least 70% of program graduates apply for admission to a supervised practice program prior to or within 12 months of graduation.
- Of program graduates who apply to a supervised practice program, at least 70% are admitted within 12 months of graduation.

**Goal 2:** Program graduates will utilize knowledge and skills gained in the USU DPD to succeed in their supervised practice program and careers.

- The program’s one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%.
- At least 70% of DPD graduates will be rated as ‘meets expectations’ or ‘exceeds expectations’ by Supervised Practice Program Directors, employers, or graduate program directors on surveys sent one year post graduation.
- At least 70% of DPD graduates will report feeling ‘well prepared’ or ‘very well prepared’ for their supervised practice program and/or career as a result of their experience in the DPD on 1-year alumni surveys.

## **FEEDBACK**

### Academic

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.

Annual evaluation and adjustment of curriculum ensures regular inclusion of innovative teaching methods, materials, and delivery.

### **Program Assessment Plan:**

The assessment plan involves the following steps:

1. April: Current student focus groups allow for unstructured student feedback
2. April: Surveys sent: Graduate survey, 1-year alumni survey, supervised practice program director survey
3. May: Required knowledge components (KRDNs) assessed and table updated
4. May: Graduate outcomes reviewed (graduation statistics, job attainment, graduate school admissions)
5. May: Curriculum meeting with dietetics faculty for course adjustments
6. November: RDN exam pass rates reports received from Commission on Dietetics Registration
7. November: Alumni and current student surveys compiled for data analysis
8. December: Results presented to dietetics faculty for response and program planning
9. December: Assessment report prepared for ACEND and NDFS