



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SCIENCE,
NUTRITION AND HEALTH PROMOTION

Undergraduate Student Handbook
Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)

Mississippi State University
Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion Department
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Purpose of Handbook

The Undergraduate DPD Student Handbook was developed to provide clear, consistent, and accurate information to prospective students and students enrolled in Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion's food and nutrition concentration who hope to complete the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). Much of the information contained in this handbook was obtained from the current Bulletin of Mississippi State University. The Bulletin is published by the MSU Registrar's Office. The Bulletin provides students, prospective students, and other interested persons with information concerning admissions, costs, course requirements, degrees, regulations, and other pertinent information. No contractual relationships, however, can be established between students and the University based upon the information contained in the Bulletin. The University reserves the right to delete, substitute for, change, or supplement any statement in the Bulletin without prior notice. The Bulletin is available free of charge from the Registrar's Office and can be accessed in its entirety online at

<http://www.catalog.msstate.edu/undergraduate/>

Welcome

Welcome to the Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion. The food and nutrition concentration of the food science, nutrition, and health promotion major contains the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). The curriculum of the food and nutrition concentration meets accreditation standards established by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). The MSU DPD prepares students for acceptance into dietetic supervised practice programs, as well as graduate or professional programs. Students who pursue a dietetic supervised practice program are training to become registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs). RDNs can work in a variety of settings, including clinical, community, food and nutrition industry, sports, and foodservice management, to name a few. Graduates of the food and nutrition concentration who become DPD students and earn a verification statement can apply for supervised practice programs and dietetic internships accredited by ACEND. Completion of one of these post-baccalaureate programs, in addition to a graduate degree, provides the requirements necessary to sit for the National Registration Examination for Dietitians and earn the RD/RDN credential.

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at Mississippi State University is administered by the Department of Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion. The Bachelor of Science degree in Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion (FSNHP) with a concentration in Food and Nutrition is conferred upon completion of a FSNHP core, specialized coursework, and courses from supporting disciplines. The Bachelor of Science degree in Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion is a four-year degree in which students can earn eligibility to be considered part of the DPD program in the final two years of the curriculum. The food and nutrition concentration DPD program meets the Standards of Education and Core Knowledge for the RDN as established by ACEND of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND).

Accreditation Status

The food and nutrition concentration in the food science, nutrition and health promotion major is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (formerly the American Dietetic Association (ADA) as a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). **Program outcomes data are available upon request.** Written requests can be sent to Mandy Conrad, MSU Didactic Program in Dietetics Director, at agc8@msstate.edu. You may contact

ACEND for additional information about accreditation and MSU's accreditation status:

Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995
Website: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend>
Phone: (800) 877-1600, ext. 5400
Email: acend@eatright.org



Program Overview

Program History

Mississippi State University was founded as a land-grant college in 1878, and as such, is dedicated to learning, research and service. The College of Agriculture, established in 1903, was renamed the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in 1996. MSU has prepared students for careers in the dietetics profession since 1969. The DPD at MSU was approved by the Commission on Accreditation/Approval for Dietetics Education (CAADE) in 1992.

DPD Mission Statement

The mission of Mississippi State University's Didactic Program in Dietetics is to prepare graduates for supervised practice programs leading to eligibility for the Commission on Dietetics Registration credentialing exam to become registered dietitian nutritionist who think critically, problem solve, and become inclusive leaders, improving the nutrition, health, and well-being of all sectors of the diverse population in Mississippi, the nation and global community through evidence-based, innovative learning strategies.

MSU DPD Goals and Objectives

DPD Goal 1: Program graduates will be prepared for acceptance into supervised practice, graduate or professional programs.

DPD Objectives for Goal 1:

- At least 80% of students complete program requirements within 3 years (150% of the program length).
- At least 55% 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 80 percent are admitted within 12 months of graduation.
- At least 80% of program graduates who do not apply for supervised practice are accepted to a graduate or professional program, as reported in a senior exit survey.

DPD Goal 2: Program graduates will demonstrate the knowledge, technical, critical-thinking, and problem-solving skills necessary to become competent, entry-level dietitians or health-related professionals.

DPD Objectives for Goal 2:

- 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%.
- When surveyed, at least 80 percent of Supervised Practice Directors who respond will “agree” or “strongly agree” that they are satisfied with the program graduate’s preparation for supervised practice.
- At least 80% of program graduates in graduate or professional programs report that they are in good standing in their program in the post-graduate alumni survey.
- When surveyed, at least 80% of program graduates who respond will “agree” or “strongly agree” that the Mississippi State DPD helped them develop knowledge, technical, critical-thinking, and problem-solving skills necessary to perform successfully in a supervised practice, graduate, or professional program.

Information to the Public

Effective January 1, 2024, the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) will require a minimum of a master's degree to be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN). In addition, CDR requires that individuals complete coursework and supervised practice in program(s) accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). Graduates who successfully complete the ACEND-accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at Mississippi State University are eligible to apply to an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program. In most states, graduates also must obtain licensure or certification to practice. It is ACEND’s considered opinion that this program is designed to and does meet all state dietetics licensure and certification laws as some states may interpret their statutes differently. More information about state licensure and certification is available at this link: [State Licensure](#).

Food and Nutrition Concentration/DPD Curriculum



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND LIFE SCIENCES

Department of Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion

Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion - Food & Nutrition Concentration (124 Hours)

Freshman Year

Fall Semester (16 hours)			Spring Semester (16 hours)		
EN 1103	English Composition I	3	EN 1113	English Composition II	3
MA 1313	College Algebra**	3		Fine Arts*	3
CH 1213	Chemistry I	3	CH 1223	Chemistry II	3
CH 1211	Invest to Chem I (lab)	1	CH 1221	Invest to Chem II (lab)	1
FNH 2293	Indiv & Family Nutrition	3		Humanities*	3
_____	Humanities*	3	PSY 1013	Gen Psychology	3

*Choose from General Education core

** With a Math ACT sub-score of 24 or higher, MA 1313 does not need to be taken and the credits can be met with an elective.

Sophomore Year

Fall Semester (16 hours)			Spring Semester (15 hours)		
BIO 1134	Biology I	4	*CH 2503	<i>Elem Organic Chemistry</i>	3
MA/ST 2113	Intro to Statistics	3	*CH 2501	<i>Elem Organic Chem Lab</i>	1
SO 1003	Intro to Sociology	3	CO 1003	Fund of Public Speak	3
FNH 2203	<i>Science of Food Prep (F)</i>	3	KI 2603	Medical Terminology	3
_____	Free Elective	3	BIO 3304	General Microbiology	4
			FNH 2201	<i>Ntr& Dietetics Career Planning (S)</i>	1

Junior Year

Fall Semester (16 hours)			Spring Semester (15 hours)		
BCH 4013	Principles of Biochemistry	3	FNH 3111	<i>FSNHP Seminar (S)</i>	1
*BIO 3004	<i>Human Anatomy(F)</i>	4	BIO 3014	Human Physiology	4
FNH 3283	<i>The Foodservice System (F)</i>	3	FNH 3723	<i>Community Nutrition (S)</i>	3
FNH 4013	<i>Nutrition Assessment (F)</i>	3	FNH 4284	<i>Quantity Food Prod & Serv (S)</i>	4
MGT 3113	Principles of Management	3	FNH 4123	<i>Medical Nutrition Therapy I (S)</i>	3

Senior Year

Fall Semester (15 hours)			Spring Semester (15 hours)		
FNH 4323	Professional Skills for Nutr/Diet (F)	3	FNH 4243	<i>Food Comp & Reaction (S)</i>	3
FNH 4253	<i>Macronutrients (F)</i>	3	FNH 4293	<i>Micronutrients (S)</i>	3
FNH 4363	<i>Research Mth in Fd & Ntr (F)</i>	3	FNH 4353	<i>Nutrition/Life Cycle (S)</i>	3
FNH 4233	<i>Medical Nutrition Therapy II (F)</i>	3	MGT 3513	Intro Human Res Mgt	3
FNH 4373	<i>NTR Ed & Counsel Skill</i>	3	_____	Free Elective	3

Courses printed in italics are taught only in the Fall or Spring semester, as listed.

**CH 2503/2501& BIO 3004 are typically also offered in the Summer.*

To enter the Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics (DPD), students must have a 3.0 GPA and must have completed the following courses with a grade of "C" or better: CH 1213/1211, 1223/1221, 2503/2501; BIO 1134; FNH 2293; & ST 2113. DPD applications can be found on the FSNHP webpage and in the Food and Nutrition Student Hub.

In order for the student to receive a Letter of Intent and/or a Verification Statement from the MSU Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics (DPD) student must have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA and a grade of "C" or better in all of the required DPD courses.

Updated 09/05/2023

Course Descriptions

For MSU students, course descriptions can be found in the Master Schedule link in the MyState Banner system. A link to each course description for the DPD program can be found in the food and nutrition concentration section of the [Undergraduate Catalog](#).

Each course code is a link which reveals the course description and prerequisite details.

Academic Advising

Individualized academic advising is provided to all students in the food and nutrition concentration and students are strongly encouraged to meet with their advisor each semester. Students are assigned an advisor upon entry into the food and nutrition concentration and can find the name of their advisor in their MyState Banner page. Students will receive an email from their advisor each semester with instructions for making a pre-registration advising appointment. Once the individual becomes a DPD student, they will remain with their previously assigned academic advisor since each nutrition advisor works with the DPD and is familiar with DPD curriculum and expectations. Most upper-level FNH courses are offered only once per year during the semester listed on the DPD Curriculum plan (page 7) and most upper-level courses have pre-requisites requirements. The program is sequenced to allow full-time students to complete the DPD (Junior and Senior year coursework) in two years. It is imperative that students stay on track throughout their undergraduate academic career in order to graduate in a timely manner.

Computer Requirements

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) requires all entering freshman and transfer students to own or lease a personal computer which meets minimum specifications set forth by CALs. This College-wide requirement is a proactive measure to ensure students will develop the needed computer skills necessary for success in agriculture and life science professions. Students may be eligible for financial aid for the purchase of a computer. Instructions and specifications are available on the CALs website at <https://servicedesk.msstate.edu/TDClient/45/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=1195>

Canvas

Canvas by Instructure is a learning management system used by MSU to provide interactive, online access to courses for instructors and students. Face-to-face courses have an online Canvas course where students can access course materials, submit assignments, and view grades. All food science, nutrition and health promotion majors with a concentration in food and nutrition are automatically allowed access to a Canvas informational course called "Food and Nutrition Student Hub". The Hub provides links to commonly requested information and forms, useful resources for advising and for the dietetic internship application process. The Hub is utilized to send out announcements of interest specific to food and nutrition students. As long as a student is enrolled in food and nutrition, they will see the Food and Nutrition Student Hub listed along with their classes in Canvas each semester.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees are assessed on a per credit hour basis and are determined by The Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL), the governing board of the University. Tuition and fees are subject to change without notice. Information regarding [tuition and required fees](#) can be found in the current Bulletin of Mississippi State University. Because these costs are subject to change, students are encouraged to access the [Student Financial Aid website](#) for further information and updates.

Students who withdraw from an individual course should be mindful of dates to submit withdrawal requests. Information regarding refunds to tuition and fees can be found on the [website of the Controller and Treasurer](#). Deadlines related to fees can be found on the official [MSU Academic Calendar](#).

Optional fees associated with encouraged activity in this program include memberships to the Student Dietetics Association (\$30/year) and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (student membership \$58/year).

Academic Calendar

The MSU DPD adheres to the University calendar. All [University calendars](#) are accessible online.

Graduation Requirements for a Bachelors of Science in FSNHP

To complete a baccalaureate degree at Mississippi State University, a student must:

- 1) satisfactorily complete the degree curriculum requirements,
- (2) make an overall C average (2.00 GPA) on all hours scheduled and rescheduled at all institutions attended, including Mississippi State University,
- (3) make a C average (2.00 GPA) on all hours scheduled and rescheduled at Mississippi State University,
- (4) complete from Mississippi State University no less than 25 percent of his/her degree program in junior and senior subjects (courses numbered 3000 through 5000) approved by the dean of the college or school in which he or she is enrolled, and
- (5) complete at least the last 25 percent of semester credit hours of course work taken to fulfill degree requirements from Mississippi State University. (Any exception to the 25 percent requirement must be approved in writing by the student's dean prior to taking course work at another institution.) Any course in the student's degree program that carries academic credit from Mississippi State University will fulfill these requirements. Hours earned at an approved exchange institution will count toward the 25 percent requirement.
- (6) Not more than 25 percent of any curriculum may be earned by Advanced Placement (AP) course, advanced standing examinations, College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Cambridge International, evaluated military service credits, tutorial, and extension courses. Evaluated military training courses granted academic credit are classified as MSU (institutional) academic pass/fail credit with a grade of S and annotated as "ACE Guide Military Credit." Military training courses include all branches of the United States Armed Services, except the United States Air Force. The Air Force provides a Community College of the Air Force transcript and credit is entered as transfer courses.
- (7) Not more than 20 percent of any curriculum may be earned through correspondence courses. Correspondence courses must be approved by the dean before being taken by students in residence. USAFI credits are classified as correspondence work.
- (8) No more than 12 hours of Directed Individual Study (DIS) may be used to complete degree requirements. The creation of DIS courses must be approved in advance by the department head.

(9) Prior job/ work experience alone cannot count as academic credit at MSU.

*Note: Graduation requirements alone do not fulfill the requirements of the Didactic Program in Dietetics and verification statement criteria.

DPD Completion Requirements and Verification Statements

Students that meet DPD requirements will receive a verification statement after successful completion of the Bachelor of Science degree in FSNHP with a concentration in food and nutrition. Verification statements are issued once the Office of the Registrar officially clears each student to be awarded their degree (usually 2-4 weeks after graduation). The university strives to support students in completing DPD program requirements for the 2-year DPD (Junior/Senior years) in no more than three academic years, which is 150% of planned program length. The maximum amount of time allowed for completing program requirements at the time a student enrolls is five years. Extensions can be granted on an individualized basis beyond five year after review and approval by the nutrition faculty.

The DPD Director will mail signed verification statements to the address provided by students on a senior exit survey sent prior to graduation. A digitally signed verification statement can be emailed upon request. For graduates who will complete a supervised practice program, an original, signed verification statement will be requested by the respective program. A verification statement will also be required to sit for the RDN registration exam, state licensure and to establish membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Graduates should file the verification statement for prolonged safe keeping. A signed copy of each graduates' verification statement will remain with the program's records.

Declaration of Intent

A Declaration of Intent can be completed by the DPD director for students who are applying to supervised practice prior to receiving the official verification statement document.

Graduate Students DPD Verification Statement Requirements

Graduate students seeking the RDN credential can enroll in courses at MSU to meet the MSU DPD requirements. Upon successful completion of all courses listed below (minimum grade of "C"), students will be issued a verification statement indicating successful completion of DPD requirements and eligibility to apply for supervised practice programs/dietetic internship. Students must then complete a master's degree (in any area of study) and supervised practice/dietetic internship before they can sit for the RDN registration exam.

DPD Verification Statement Course Requirements	
DPD Professional Courses	
FNH 2203 Science of Food Prep	FNH 4253 Macronutrients
FNH 2293 Individual and Family Nutrition	FNH 4284 Quantity Food Prod and Service
FNH 3111 FSNHP Seminar	FNH 4293 Micronutrients
FNH 4363 Research Methods in Food and Nutrition	FNH 4353 Nutrition Throughout the Lifecycle
FNH 3283 Food Service Systems	ST 2113 Introduction to Statistics
FNH 4323 Professional Skills for Nutrition and Dietetics	MGT 3113 Principles of Management
FNH 3723 Community Nutrition	MGT 3513 Intro to Human Resource Management
FNH 4013 Nutrition Assessment	FNH 4373 Nutrition Education and Counseling Skills
FNH 4123 Medical Nutrition Therapy I	PSY 1013 General Psychology
FNH 4233 Medical Nutrition Therapy II	SO 1003 Intro to Sociology
FNH 4243 Food Comp & Reaction	
DPD Science Courses	
CH 1213 Chemistry I CH 1211 Investigations to Chem I	BIO 3014 Human Physiology
CH 1223 Chemistry II CH 1221 Investigations to Chem II	BIO 3304 Gen Microbiology
CH 2503 Elementary Organic Chem CH 2501 Elementary Organic Chem Lab	BIO 3004 Human Anatomy
BCH 4013 Principles of BCH	

*Courses in bold have a known graduate level option or equivalent.

Application and Admission

Undergraduates admitted to Mississippi State University can select the food and nutrition concentration of the FSNHP major as a freshman or later in their academic career. Students within this major concentration have the opportunity to complete a DPD eligibility form in their junior or senior year and become official students of the DPD program. Students who do not meet DPD eligibility (due to grades lower than "C" or GPA lower than 3.0) must determine a realistic plan to meet the requirements. Students who do not meet DPD eligibility requirements will not receive a verification statement and cannot apply for dietetic internships. Alternate academic paths and career options should be considered. These students should talk to their academic advisor about the feasibility of improving grades and GPA.

Application and Admission to MSU

Admission requirements are established by the University and the Board of Trustees of Institution of Higher Learning. [Specific requirements for admission of freshman, special non-degree, transfer, and international students](#) are listed in the current Bulletin of Mississippi State University. Students may also access the [Office of Admissions and Scholarships](#) for details.

DPD Admission Requirements

Juniors and seniors majoring in the food science, nutrition and health promotion's food and nutrition concentration that meet the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) criteria are eligible for admission. Eligible students who wish to become DPD students must submit an eligibility form to the DPD director for approval. Food and nutrition concentration students will be notified via email or electronic announcement sent through Canvas each semester of the deadline to submit DPD paperwork.

A list of DPD students will be provided to advisors prior to pre-registration advising each semester. This will allow advisors to help monitor DPD student progress and assist as needed. During pre-registration advising each semester, advisors will update the DPD director of any student who will be submitting an eligibility form by the end of the semester, and of any student who has fallen below the eligibility criteria and the remediation conversation discussed so that a plan is in place for the student to maintain DPD eligibility.

It is recommended that admitted DPD students are members of the MSU Student Dietetic Association (\$30/year) and obtain a student membership to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Academy Membership begins June 1, is one year long, and is \$58 for students. See the [Academy student membership page](#) for more information.

DPD Eligibility Process

Students of the food and nutrition concentration must meet the following criteria for DPD admission:

- Completion of DPD Eligibility Form (found in the handbook appendix)
- Completion of 60 or more credits by the end of the semester in which you submit the form
- GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Completion of the following courses (or approved equivalents) with a letter grade of C or higher:
 - CH 1213/1211 – Chemistry I and Lab
 - CH 1223/1221 – Chemistry II and Lab
 - CH 2503/2501 Elem Organic Chemistry and Lab
 - BIO 1134 Biology I
 - FNH 2293 Individual and Family Nutrition
 - ST 2113 Intro to Stats

DPD Progression Policy

Once admitted to the DPD program, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA and a grade of "C" or higher in coursework applied to the DPD curriculum. Successful completion of the DPD required courses does not guarantee admission to post-baccalaureate programs.

Disciplinary/Termination Procedures

Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA and “C” or higher in DPD coursework to remain in the DPD. Students who drop below a 3.0 GPA can remain in the food and nutrition concentration but are removed from the DPD roster in accordance with details outlined in the DPD Student Retention section of the handbook (page 16).

Students in the FSNHP major must adhere to the University’s policy on suspension and dismissal. Students with a semester GPA less than 2.0 who fail to meet the following MSU cumulative GPA requirements will be suspended:

MSU GPA Hours	MSU Cumulative GPA
67+ semester hours	2.0
37-66 semester hours	1.8
19-36 semester hours	1.6
0-18 hours	Not subject to suspension

No student will be suspended for failing to achieve the required grade point average without first having had at least one semester of probationary notice (not necessarily the immediately preceding semester). For additional details and more in-depth discussion on Academic standing, refer to [OP 12.16](#).

Students who choose to withdraw from the University prior to the end of an enrollment period (semester) should follow the University's guidelines for withdrawing from school. Information concerning the details of withdrawal procedures can refer to [OP 12.02](#). The [university's refund policy schedule](#) is provided by the Office of the Registrar and details about [refund restrictions](#) can be found on the webpage of the Controller and Treasurer. Students who are withdrawing should also contact the following areas: Admissions and Scholarships, Housing, Dining Services, Post Office, and Account Services to discuss your withdrawal.

To officially withdraw from the University, an Official Withdrawal Form must be completed and submitted to the Registrar’s Office. To complete the online form the student must go to the [Registrar's website](#) and click the login button to their myState and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process.

Additional details about the withdrawal process from MSU can be found on [the Student Financial Aid webpage](#).

Assessment of Prior Learning Policy

Mississippi State University accepts transfer credits from regionally accredited institutions. The Office of the Registrar will assess transfer credit for MSU equivalency. If a course is not deemed equivalent to an MSU course, the DPD director can determine equivalency of a course from another institution to apply towards the DPD curriculum. To do so, the DPD director will review the course description and/or course syllabi for the transfer course for equivalent KRDNs and course objectives to determine whether the course can be used to fulfill MSU DPD requirements. Students can check the [Student Transfer Articulation site](#) to see if a course they have taken at another institution already has an MSU course equivalent.

Becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)

RDN Opportunities

Registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs) apply the science of nutrition by utilizing nutrition knowledge to promote health and/or treat disease. Many work environments require that an individual be credentialed as an RDN. RDNs often work in the following settings:

- Hospitals, HMOs or other health-care facilities, educating patients about nutrition and administering medical nutrition therapy as part of the health-care team. They may also manage the foodservice operations in these settings, as well as in schools, day-care centers and correctional facilities, over-seeing everything from food purchasing and preparation to managing staff.
- Sports nutrition and corporate wellness programs, educating clients about the connection between food, fitness and health.
- Food and nutrition-related business and industries, working in communications, consumer affairs, public relations, marketing, product development or consulting with chefs in restaurants and culinary schools.
- Private practice, working under contract with health-care or food companies, or in their own business. RDNs may provide services to foodservice or restaurant managers, food vendors and distributors or athletes, nursing home residents or company employees.
- Community and public health settings, teaching, monitoring and advising the public and helping improve their quality of life through healthy eating habits.
- Universities and medical centers, teaching physician's assistants, nurses, dietetics students, dentists and others the sophisticated science of foods and nutrition.
- Research areas in food and pharmaceutical companies, universities and hospitals directing or conducting experiments to answer critical nutrition questions and find alternative foods or nutrition recommendations for the public.

Supervised practice program/dietetic internship acceptance is very competitive. Students interested in this route should begin to prepare early. For more information on [careers in dietetics](#), see the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics's website.

Pathway to Become a RDN

1. Complete a minimum of a Baccalaureate degree granted by a U.S. regionally accredited university or college and course work accredited or approved by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). The FSNHP food and nutrition concentration is an accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) through ACEND.
2. Complete an [ACEND-accredited supervised practice program](#). The Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion at Mississippi State University offers a [Dietetic Internship program](#). A GPA of 3.0 (B) is often listed as the minimum GPA considered by most dietetic internship and supervised practice programs.
3. Earn a graduate degree (in any field), effective January 1, 2024. Many dietetic internships/supervised practice programs have a graduate program option.

4. Pass national RDN exam as set by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR).
5. Meet state licensure requirements.
 - As stated on the CDR website, “the majority of states have enacted laws which regulate the practice of dietetics. Should you plan to practice dietetics in these states it is important that you contact a state regulatory agency prior to practicing dietetics. In many states, it is a violation of state law to practice dietetics without a license. For information by state, check the [CDR State Licensure Agency List](#) .
 - [The state of Mississippi does practice exclusivity](#), meaning an individual must have a license to provide medical nutrition therapy. Details can be found in the [Regulations Governing Licensure of Dietitians](#) document available through the Mississippi Department of Health Office of Licensure.

Supervised Practice Programs and Dietetic Internships

Mississippi State University’s DPD provides the academic requirements needed to pursue a dietetic internship/supervised practice program. Supervised practice programs, such as dietetic internships, provide at least 1000 hours of practical experience across various settings. Some programs are combined with additional academic studies at the graduate level. Most supervised practice programs charge tuition and fees and most fulltime programs take 9 to 24 months to complete depending on whether or not graduate coursework accompanies the practice component. MSU DPD graduates must complete an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program and graduate degree (after January 1, 2024) to sit for the RDN registration exam.

Most students apply for supervised practice programs during the spring semester of their senior year. Successful acceptance in a supervised practice program greatly depends on students’ academic performance. Paid and volunteer work experience related to areas of nutrition and dietetics helps develop a strong resume and application. Experience in research and leadership roles also prove beneficial. Admission to dietetic internships and many supervised practice programs require students to participate in a nationwide computer match process. The match process is a computer-based method which provides an orderly and fair way to match the preferences of applicants for internships and practice programs with the preferences of program directors. Students apply to most supervised practice programs through the Dietetics Inclusive Centralized Application Services (DICAS). The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics contracts with a company called D&D Digital to operate the DI match process. More information about the [match process and supervised practice](#) can be found at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics website.

DPD Policies and Procedures

Assessment of Student Learning

Each course has a syllabus describing the general content and objectives of the course, the method to be used for the final course evaluation, and assignments of grades. The syllabi should be described to students during the first weeks of class. Faculty are expected to provide students with assessment of

their class performance within the first six weeks of the regular academic (fall/spring) semester. Student progress is evaluated through a variety of assessments of student learning throughout the DPD. Methods of assessment include, but are not limited to, multiple-choice, short answer and essay exams, oral presentations, case study, graded assignments, observations of practice skills, laboratory experiments and reports, experiential logs, diet analysis, abstracts, evidence reports, service-learning projects and research papers.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and laboratory sessions in order to take full advantage of learning opportunities within the MSU DPD. Class attendance policies are developed by the course instructor and adhere to the [MSU attendance policy](#) and may or may not be reflected in the course grading criteria. Students should refer to individual course syllabi for specific class attendance policies.

DPD Retention Procedures

Once a student submits the DPD eligibility paperwork, students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0. Students not maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or who receive a course grade of “D” or “F” in any program required course must establish a plan with their advisor and DPD Director to re-gain eligibility. If a student does not remediate the issue within two semesters, the student will be removed from the DPD roster.

DPD students with a “D” or “F” who wish to remain DPD students and earn a verification statement may repeat the DPD courses for which they have received a grade of “D” or “F” within two semesters of the unacceptable grade.

DPD students with a “D” or “F” may consider continuing with the food and nutrition concentration without remediation but must sign an acknowledgement stating that they wish to remain in the food and nutrition concentration but are aware that they are no longer DPD students and will not be eligible for a verification statement. The DPD Director will advise the student on career options and will also direct the student to the Career Center to explore other career/degree options.

DPD students whose GPA drops lower than 3.0 will be notified by their advisor or the DPD Director so that a discussion can take place related to remediation. If the student is unable to regain a 3.0 GPA after two semesters of dropping below the requirement, the student will be removed from the DPD roster. At that point, students must sign an acknowledgement stating that they wish to remain in the food and nutrition concentration but are aware that they are no longer DPD students and will not be eligible for a verification statement. The DPD Director will advise the student on career options and will also direct the student to the Career Center to explore other career/degree options. If a student can attain and maintain a 3.0 GPA prior to graduation, they can reapply for DPD eligibility.

Students who are removed from the DPD roster due to a “D” or “F” grade or by dropping below a 3.0 should speak to the DPD director to establish a plan if they wish to return to the DPD roster.

Remediation

Students who struggle to make a “C” or higher in required course work, maintain a 3.0 GPA, or meet KRDN objectives will be guided by their academic advisor towards resources that can benefit their academic efforts. Individual KRDN remediation will be initiated by the instructor who teaches the course which assesses the KRDN. Feedback and instructions will be provided by the instructor to assist

the student in meeting the KRDN objective within the same semester. Students who fail to meet a KRDN at the end of the semester will be reported to the DPD director and a plan will be established to assist the student in continued efforts to meet the KRDN objective prior to program completion. KRDN remediation that extends beyond the semester the objective is originally assessed in will be documented in the student's file and noted in the KRDN tracking document maintained by the DPD director.

Students who are struggling academically are encouraged to seek out their professors as soon as possible for clarification and assistance to challenging material. All instructors have office hours available to assist students on an individual basis, as needed. Students concerned that they may not be making satisfactory progress in the DPD are encouraged to schedule an appointment with their academic advisor or the DPD director to obtain additional guidance.

Mississippi State University provides many resources to assist students with remedial instruction and tutorial support. The Learning Center was established to assist MSU student in improving academic performance and offers "academically enhanced university credit courses, support programs, workshops, seminars, tutoring services, academic coaching, and state of the art technology labs". Additional information about their services and resources can be found on [The Learning Center](#) homepage.

Equitable Treatment

Mississippi State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, pregnancy, gender identity, status as a U.S. veteran, and/or any other status protected by applicable law. The University will not tolerate unlawful discrimination, harassment, or retaliation and is committed to preventing or stopping them whenever they may occur at the University or in its programs. Further details about MSU equal opportunity and nondiscrimination can be found in [OP 03.02](#).

The MSU DPD follows University policy related to equitable treatment of all students. The University's Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion mission and goals state, "The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion is committed to developing services, programs, and initiatives that foster successful recruitment and retention of faculty, staff, and students from diverse and under-represented groups. To this end, the Office strives to develop partnerships within communities to promote diversity which is an essential element of the mission of the University. Furthermore, the Office provides leadership and support toward developing a comprehensive and institution-wide approach to achieving and sustaining a diverse and pluralistic community of students, faculty, and staff."

ACEND® offers a series of [webinars to address diversity, equity and inclusion](#) in its accredited programs. The webinars are free and provide 1.5 CPEUs each. All ACEND® stakeholders (faculty, administrators, preceptors, students, interns, etc.) are invited.

Grievance Procedures

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) under the guidance of the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) requires dietetics education programs to identify an avenue for students to bring forward DPD program-specific complaints related to ACEND accreditation standards.

The first step in any resolution should be at the source of the problem, which is between the parties involved. It is recommended that the student attempt to first take the concern to the person in which they hold a grievance, in an attempt to reach a resolution on this level. If a resolution or concern needs to be further addressed, program-specific complaints should be brought to the attention of the DPD Director, in writing. The student may also bring programmatic concerns directly to the attention of the Department Head or Academic Dean. Documentation of a student complaint will be maintained in the student's file and DPD Director's program files for a period of seven years. There will be no retaliation for any student who makes a complaint at any level.

Undergraduate students who have concerns about an academic situation are encouraged to contact their academic advisor.

For issues specific to the DPD and the ACEND Accreditation Standards, DPD students should direct concerns to the DPD Director. If no resolution can be made, concerns should then be directed to the Department Head. In the event that a complaint remains unresolved, students may submit their complaints in writing directly to ACEND (Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606). Complaints should be submitted to ACEND only after all other options within the DPD and university have been exhausted. ACEND will review complaints that relate to a program's compliance with 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 act as a court of appeals for individuals in matters of admission, appointment, promotion or dismissal of faculty, staff or student.

Immunizations

The DPD adheres to university regulations regarding immunization/health records in cooperation with the Mississippi State Department of Health and for the protection of other students. [Immunization compliance and verification information](#) for all students can be found at the website for the Longest Student Health Center. [Immunization requirements](#) can be found in the Bulletin.

Protection of Privacy and Access to Student Files

The University recognizes that the maintenance of student information and educational records is necessary and vital to assist the student's education and development and to provide opportunities for University research and policy formation. The University recognizes its obligation to exercise discretion in recording and disseminating information about students to ensure that their rights of privacy are maintained. Details provide below are available in the MSU Undergraduate Catalog.

The University will furnish annual notification to students of their right to inspect and review their education records; and the right to request amendment of educational records considered by them to be inaccurate or misleading or that violates privacy or other rights; and of their right to a hearing should the University decline to amend such records. This annual notice will be published in the University's Bulletin. The University utilizes the Guide for Retention and Disposal of Records as published by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers as the policy for disposal of students' records.

The following guidelines have been developed to insure the privacy rights of students. For the purposes of this policy statement, a student is defined as an individual who has been admitted and has been in attendance in a component unit of the University. Classification as a student in one component unit of

the University (e.g. undergraduate program) does not infer that the person has been accorded the rights outlined below in other components units (i.e. graduate school, professional schools, branch campus).

Students have the right to be provided a list of the type of educational records maintained by the University which are directly related to the student; the right to inspect and review the contents of these records; the right to obtain copies of these records; the right to a response from the University to reasonable requests for explanation and interpretation of these records; the right to an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of these records; and if any materials or document in the educational record of the student includes information on more than one student, the right to inspect and review only the part of such material or document as relates to the student.

Students do not have access to: financial records of their parents; confidential letters and statements of recommendation which have been placed in the educational record prior to January 1, 1975, provided such letters of statements were solicited or designated as confidential and are not used for purposes other than those for which they were specifically intended; confidential recommendations, if the student signed a waiver of the right to access, respecting admission, application for employment, and the receipt of an honor or honorary recognition.

Students do not have access to: instructional, supervisory, and administrative personnel records which are not accessible or revealed to any other individual except substitute Campus Security records, which are maintained apart from the educational records, are used solely for law enforcement purposes and are not disclosed to individuals other than law enforcement officials of the same jurisdiction; employment records except when such employment requires that the person be a student; and the Alumni Office records.

Students do not have access to physical or mental health records created by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist or other recognized professional acting in his or her capacity, or to records created in connection with the treatment of students under these conditions which are not disclosed to anyone other than the individuals providing treatment. A physician or appropriate professional of the student's choice may review these records.

Students should contact the appropriate office to inspect and review their records. An office may require that a University official be present when a student inspects and reviews his educational records. Any questions concerning a student's access to records should be directed to the Registrar.

Release of Directory Information

The release of student directory information is governed by the University's Education Records Policy ([OP 30.02](#)). Directory information may be released by the University without the student's written consent. Directory information consists of the following items: name; addresses; telephone numbers; email address; NetID; photograph; classification or grade level (freshman, sophomore, graduate student, etc.); fields (programs) of study (includes majors, minors, certificates, degrees); dates of attendance; full- or part-time status; degrees, awards and honors, and dates awarded; and most recent previous institutions attended. Participation in recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, and other similar information is considered directory information. Student directory information may be made available to non-university organizations upon request.

A student may deny the release of directory information by requesting that the information not be released. A student may restrict the directory information displayed in the electronic student directories on-line via Student Information System on the address update link. This change will be reflected in the on-line directory immediately. A student may request in writing that the Registrar restrict his/her student record so that no information may be released. The student's record will be "flagged" and no information will be released concerning this student to include honors or graduation lists or publications. A student may remove this restriction by notifying the Registrar in writing or by changing their election via Student Information System.

To deny the release of participation in recognized activities, the student must notify the Provost and the Dean of Students in writing. To deny the release of athletic information the student must notify the Director of Athletics in writing. The restrictions a student places on his/her record while a student will remain in place indefinitely. A former student, one who is not in attendance, must contact the appropriate offices above to deny the release of directory information.

Release of Educational Records

The University will release a student's educational record(s) upon the student's written request. The student must:

1. 1. Specify the records to be disclosed.
2. 2. Include the purpose or purposes of the disclosure.
3. 3. State the party or parties and the address to whom the information is to be disclosed.

The student shall, upon request, receive a copy of the record that is to be disclosed. It is University policy to furnish single copies of a student's record at no charge except for the standard transcript fee, if applicable.

The University may release students' educational records to the following without prior written consent:

1. University officials who have a legitimate educational interest in the records. University officials are defined as teachers, administrative personnel and other employees except personnel of the security or law enforcement unit of Mississippi State University who in the performance of their normal duties require access to student records. If University officials are required in the performance of their duties to review the educational records of a student, this will be considered to be a legitimate educational interest.
2. Officials of another school in which the student seeks or intends to enroll upon request of the transfer school.
3. Government representatives of the Comptroller General of the United States, the Secretary of Education, the U.S. Commissioner of Education, the Director of the National Institute of Education, the Assistant Secretary for Education, State educational authorities, and State officials to whom such information is specifically required to be reported or disclosed by State law adopted prior to November 19, 1974.
4. Appropriate authorities in connection with financial aid with the understanding that only the necessary records will be released.
5. To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the University or its agencies for the purpose of developing, validating, or administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs, and

improving instruction and student life provided that the studies will not permit the personal identification of students and their parents by individuals other than representatives of the organization and provided that the personally identifiable information furnished will be destroyed when no longer needed for the purposes for which the study was conducted.

6. To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions.

7. To parents of a dependent student as defined in section 152 of the Internal Revenue code of 1986. University officials may release educational records to parents on the basis of written certification from the parent that the student is a dependent as defined under the Code.

8. To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena with the understanding that the student will be notified in advance insofar as possible.

9. To appropriate parties to protect the health and safety of the student or other individuals in emergencies with the understanding that only information essential to the emergency situation will be released, that information will only be released to a party who would be in a position to deal with the emergency, and that the student will be notified insofar as possible of the information released, the purpose for the release, and to whom the information was released.

No personal information on a student will be released without a statement from the University to the party receiving the information that no third party is to have access to such information without the written consent of the student.

This policy is adopted pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (20 U.S.C. §1232g), and is not intended to impose any restrictions or grant any rights not specifically required by this Act.

(See [AOP 30.02](#))

Liability for Safety in Travel

Students may be required to provide their own transportation to facilities for field trips, community activities, or FNH 3000 Field Experience. Automobile insurance (liability) in the state of Mississippi is mandatory. MSU and the MSU DPD assume no liability.

Student Services

Campus and Academic Resources

Mississippi State University provides a variety of resources and services to help ensure the success of all students. A link to many resources can be found at the website of the [University Academic Advising Center](#). The webpage has links to the following campus resources: Center for American veterans, Student Counseling Services, Holmes Cultural Diversity Center, The Career Center, Longest Student Health Center, Student Support Services, Housing and Residence Life, Dining Services, Barnes and Noble, and ITS. The webpage also has links to the following academic resources: Student Financial Aid, Office of the Provost, Registrar's Office, The Learning Center, Center for Student Success, The Writing Center, MSU Libraries, Assessment and Testing Services, Pathfinders, and Study Abroad. Visit each resources webpage for more information.

MSU Food Security Network

The MSU Food Security Network connects students in need to food resources on campus and within the community. For information on resources, students can visit the [MSU FSN](#) webpage.

Student Testing Identity Verification

The MSU DPD is a traditional, on-campus program. However, FNH 2293 Individual and Family Nutrition and other courses outside the DPD academic department may offer courses or course sections via an online delivery format. Instructors have access to Honorlock to help verify student identity. Instructors who use Honorlock are required to include the following statement on the course syllabus: “We will be using Honorlock, an online proctoring service, to proctor your exams this semester. You will need a computer, webcam, photo ID, and a stable Internet connection. You do not need to create an account, download software, pay a fee, or schedule an appointment in advance. To get started, you will need Google Chrome and to download the Honorlock Chrome Extension. You can download the extension at <http://www.honorlock.com/extension/install>. You should also review the information provided in Mississippi State University’s Honorlock Resources for Students guide. It’s very important to check your system compatibility and Internet connection speed in advance as described in the guide. Honorlock support is available 24/7/365 at <https://honorlock.com/support/>. If you encounter any issues, you are strongly urged to contact them by live chat within the Honorlock session.”

Should a DPD course offered through the FSNHP department be moved to an online format, an in-person, proctored exam may be utilized to help verify the identity of the students and maximize testing integrity.

[Honorlock’s Student Privacy Statement](#) outlines how student privacy is built into the system.

Professional Standards

MSU Honor Code

MSU is dedicated to the discovery, development, communication and application of knowledge in a wide range of academic and professional fields. The [MSU Honor Code](#) is critical to these ideals, to the goal of assuming a place of preeminence in higher education, and to the development of the whole student. The MSU DPD promotes academic integrity and enforces the MSU Honor Code. The MSU Honor Code states “As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”

Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics

“The Academy/CDR Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession establishes the principles and ethical standards that underlie the nutrition and dietetics practitioner’s roles and conduct. All individuals to whom the Code applies are referred to as “nutrition and dietetics practitioners”. By accepting membership in the Academy and/or accepting and maintaining CDR credentials, all nutrition and dietetics practitioners agree to abide by the Code.” Details about the [Code](#) can be found on the website of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Scope of Practice for Registered Dietitian Nutritionist

“Scope of practice in nutrition and dietetics encompasses the range of roles, activities, and regulations within which nutrition and dietetics practitioners perform.” Details can be found at a [Scope of Practice](#) publication by Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

ACEND Knowledge Requirements (KRDNs)

The program's curriculum meets accreditation standards to ensure breadth and depth of requisite knowledge needed for entry to supervised practice to become a registered dietitian nutritionist. The program's curriculum is designed to prepare students with the following core knowledge based on 2022 ACEND Standards:

Domain 1. Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice: Integration of scientific information and translation of 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 Practice for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist 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 bias, 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 nutritional 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 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 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.
<p>KRDN 4.1 Apply management theories to the development of programs or services.</p> <p>KRDN 4.2 Evaluate a budget/financial management plan and interpret financial data.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>KRDN 4.4 Apply the principles of human resource management to different situations.</p> <p>KRDN 4.5 Apply safety and sanitation principles related to food, personnel and consumers.</p> <p>KRDN 4.6 Explain the processes involved in delivering quality food and nutrition services.</p> <p>KRDN 4.7 Evaluate data to be used in decision-making for continuous quality improvement.</p>
<p>Domain 5. Leadership and Career Management: Skills, strengths, knowledge and experience relevant to leadership potential and professional growth for the nutrition and dietetics practitioner.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>KRDN 5.2 Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge and experiences relevant to the position desired and career goals.</p> <p>KRDN 5.3 Practice how to self-advocate for opportunities in a variety of settings (such as asking for needed support, presenting an elevator pitch).</p> <p>KRDN 5.4 Practice resolving differences or dealing with conflict.</p> <p>KRDN 5.5 Promote team involvement and recognize the skills of each member.</p> <p>KRON 5.6 Demonstrate an understanding of the importance and expectations of a professional in mentoring and precepting others.</p>

Professional Involvement

Students are encouraged to become active in the profession. There are many opportunities for students to gain experience and skills while providing service to the MSU campus and surrounding communities. Several opportunities are listed below.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)

Student membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is encouraged. Student membership is \$58 per year, beginning June 1. This is a significantly reduced rate compared to professional membership. Student benefits of joining AND include access to the Evidence Analysis Library (EAL), reduced registration fees for the annual conference, subscription to the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (JAND), eMentoring, career information, student community resources, and scholarship and financial aid resources.

MSU Student Dietetic Association

The Mississippi State University Student Dietetic Association (MSU-SDA) is open to all students in the Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion. The mission of the MSU-SDA is to provide a framework for meaningful student involvement and to stimulate interest in the profession of dietetics.

The MSU-SDA hosts a meeting once a month to further the professional development of its members and provide information about volunteer opportunities on campus and in the community. Monthly meetings feature guest speakers and provide the opportunity to network and explore different areas of the profession of dietetics. Past guest speakers have included members of MSU's outstanding faculty along with local dietitians practicing in clinical dietetics, community nutrition, sports nutrition, and food service systems, and even a past AND President. Active student involvement enhances learning and prepares students for future involvement and leadership in professional dietetic organizations.

Food Science Club

This student organization is for all students, regardless of major, that have an interest in the world of food science and technology. The objectives of the club is to foster a close relationship among the Department of Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion students and the faculty at Mississippi State University, to encourage leadership, to acquaint students with the many areas of activity in food science and technology, and to promote greater interest in the area of food science.

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS)

MANRRS is national organization established to develop network between minority natural resources and agriculture students and professionals from academic institutions, government, and industry. It is the goal of MANRRS to prepare students for leadership roles by involving them in leadership activities, educational opportunities, job readiness training, and facilitating internships and permanent employment. The MSU MANRRS chapter is open to anyone who is interested in fostering a bond of fellowship among students, faculty, and staff and in increasing the number of under-represented minorities in the natural resources and agricultural sciences.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) Ambassadors

The CALs Ambassadors are a select group of students representing all departments within CALs. They promote the college and actively participate in a variety of campus recruiting events.

Healthy Dawgs

Healthy Dawgs is a peer-to-peer outreach program committed to encouraging MSU students to achieve overall health and well-being. Students who are a part of Healthy Dawgs have the opportunity to become Certified Peer Educators and actively seek to educate the MSU community about important wellness topics including alcohol and other drug education, mental health, nutrition, healthy relationships, sexual health, body image, and more. The Healthy Dawgs utilize the Health Hut to reach students in highly trafficked areas around campus and provide information related to initiatives, connections to campus, and other resources.

Aspiring Minorities in Health Professions

Aspiring Minorities in Health Professions is a pre-professional health organization that strives to empower minorities interested in any health profession. The organization strives to create a positive, social environment for minorities by having general body meetings, hosting social gatherings, and connecting with the Starkville community through community service. The organization hosts minority professionals who are dedicated to diversifying healthcare. Members leave the organization and MSU with the knowledge needed to become successful individuals in their respective areas of interest.

Cowbell Connect

More information about student organizations can be found at [Cowbell Connect](#).

Appendix
Mississippi State University
DPD Eligibility Form

I. Personal Information

Name: _____ Student ID #: _____

University Email address: _____

Phone: _____ Gender: _____ Ethnicity: _____

II. Academic

Number of credits that will be completed by the end of current semester: _____
 -minimum requirement is 60 credits

Overall GPA: _____ MSU GPA: _____
 -minimum requirement for DPD is 3.0

Expected Graduation Date (Semester and Year): _____

Course completion requirements:

MSU Course	College/University Course # and Title ** (see below)	Semester Taken	Grade (IP=In progress)	Required Grade
CH 1213/1211 Chemistry I and Lab				C or greater
CH 1223/1211 Chemistry II and Lab				C or greater
CH 2503/2501 Elem Org Chem and Lab				C or greater
BIO 1134 Biology I				C or greater
FNH 2293 Individual and Fam Nutrition				C or greater
ST 2113 Intro to Statistics				C of greater

Include this information **only if equivalent course was taken at an institution other than MSU or if another course at MSU fulfilled this requirement.

III. Becoming an RD Questionnaire

Review details in this document and answer the following questions.

1. What is the minimum letter grade you need in your DPD classes to earn a verification statement at MSU? _____
2. What is the minimum GPA you must have to earn a verification statement at MSU?

3. Beginning in 2024, in addition to completion of a Dietetic Internship or accredited Supervised Practice program, students must have a master's degree to sit for the RDN credentialing exam.

____ Check here if you acknowledge and understand the above statement. Contact your advisor or the DPD Director if you have questions.

4. List three work/volunteer experiences, which you either have or could obtain that will help to make you more competitive for a dietetic internship. (If you are unsure, discuss opportunities with your advisor or DPD Director.)

- _____
- _____
- _____

5. Are you a member of the Student Dietetic Association at MSU? _____

IV. Contract of Agreement

DPD students are expected to follow the policies, procedures and information pertaining to the DPD, as described in the handbook. Please read the handbook, which can be found on the Canvas Student Hub and direct any questions you have to your academic advisor or the DPD director (agc8@msstate.edu).

By signing in the space below, you indicate that you have read the handbook and have addressed any questions you may have regarding its content. You also agree to check the Canvas Student Hub for updates and announcements throughout the semester for pertinent program information. You also understand that final decisions regarding admission and retention in the program are made at the discretion of the DPD leadership team.

Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submit completed DPD eligibility form in person or via email to the DPD Director, Dr. Mandy Conrad (agc8@msstate.edu or Herzer 203).