Dietetics Program Admission Policy

A registered dietitian (RD) or registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) is a food and nutrition expert who has completed multiple layers of education and training accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) and credentialed by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). To become a RD or RDN, students must complete three steps. The steps include 1) completing a specially designed, ACEND-accredited bachelor’s or master’s degree curriculum; 2) completing an ACEND-accredited dietetic internship program; and 3) passing the nationally-recognized Registration Examination for Dietitians administered by CDR. Successful completion of Clemson University’s B.S. in Food Science and Human Nutrition with a concentration in Nutrition and emphasis in Dietetics fulfills only the first step of this three step process to become a RD or RDN. The Dietetics emphasis curriculum is an ACEND-accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD).

Students who select the Dietetics emphasis must complete a formal application and meet specific criteria for acceptance. The demand for dietetic internship positions greatly exceeds the number of available positions. Due to the competitive nature of dietetic internship acceptance, minimum grade criteria in specific DPD courses are required for Dietetics emphasis acceptance. Acceptance and successful completion of the Dietetics emphasis curriculum will not guarantee acceptance into a dietetic internship, step 2 in the process of becoming a RD or RDN.

Two application times for admission into the Dietetics emphasis are available, one at the beginning of the spring semester and one at the beginning of the fall semester. Students following the B.S. in Food Science and Human Nutrition with a concentration in Nutrition curriculum as freshmen are encouraged to apply during the spring semester of their sophomore year. Students who have transferred or changed their major into the program may apply during either the spring or fall semester based on when they attain the criteria for emphasis admission. Students must be formally admitted into the Dietetics emphasis before they are permitted to take coursework designated “Dietetics Emphasis Only.” A delay in application once a student has achieved the admission criteria may result in additional semester(s) and a delay in graduation.

For Dietetics emphasis admission, students must meet the following criteria:

1. Documented attendance at a dietetics program information session discussing the steps to become a registered dietitian/registered dietitian nutritionist, held fall semester.
2. Complete a minimum of 60 credit hours by the end of the semester in which the student is applying.
3. Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.20.
4. Complete the following courses with a C or better:
   - Biology 1030 and 1050 (or Biology 1100)
   - Biology 1040 and 1060 (or Biology 1110)
   - Chemistry 1010
   - Chemistry 1020
   - Chemistry 2230 and 2270
   - Biology 2220
   - Psychology 2010
   - Economics 2000 or 2120
5. Complete the following courses with a B or better:
   - Food Science 1010
   - Nutrition 2030
   - Nutrition 2160
6. Complete the Dietetics Emphasis Application Form by January 5th for potential fall semester admission and September 5th for potential spring semester admission.
The DPD director will review the applications and make decisions concerning acceptance into the Dietetics emphasis. Students will normally receive notification through their Clemson University email regarding the status of his/her application prior to fall or spring advising and registration depending on the application and acceptance period. Students who meet all outlined criteria will be automatically accepted into the Dietetics emphasis. Students who do not meet the criteria or have a GPA greater than 3.0 but less than 3.2 will be conditionally accepted. Students who are conditionally accepted will normally have their final acceptance determined by mid-May or mid-December following posting of the semester grades to their transcripts. If a required course was taken elsewhere, it will be the student’s responsibility to send an official transcript to the DPD director.

Students are allowed to apply up to two times. Therefore, a student should not apply until he or she is certain he or she has met or can meet the admission criteria, including completion of the required coursework. Upon acceptance into the Dietetic emphasis, students must complete the “Change of Academic Program” form to formalize selection of the “Dietetics” emphasis.

Once in the Dietetics emphasis, a student may complete the curriculum and graduate with a GPA ≥2.00. However, to receive a signed Declaration of Intent and/or Verification Statement, students must comply with the GPA, grade and other requirements indicated in the “Declaration of Intent and Verification Statement Policy”.

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