

**Clemson University**  
**Dietetics Program Admission Policy for Graduate Students**  
**Effective Fall 2021**

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 an 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 Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) course requirements fulfills only the first step of this three step process to become a RD or RDN.

Students who have already earned a minimum of a bachelor's degree from a U.S. regionally accredited college/university or foreign equivalent, are enrolled as a graduate student at Clemson University, and are interested in completing DPD coursework to receive a Verification Statement must complete a formal application and meet specific criteria for acceptance into the DPD. 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 DPD acceptance. Acceptance and successful completion of DPD requirements 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 DPD are available, one at the beginning of the spring semester and one at the beginning of the fall semester. Students may apply during either semester based on when they attain the criteria for DPD admission. Students must be formally admitted into the DPD 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 DPD admission, graduate 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. Documented conferral of a minimum of a bachelor's degree from a U.S. regionally accredited college/university or foreign equivalent.<sup>1</sup>
3. Documented enrollment in a graduate degree program at Clemson University.
4. Demonstrate an overall minimum GPA of 3.20 based on all completed college coursework.
5. Complete the following courses with a C or better:
  - Biochemistry 3050
  - Biology 1030 and 1050 (or Biology 1100)
  - Biology 1040 and 1060 (or Biology 1110)
  - Biology 2220
  - Chemistry 1010
  - Chemistry 1020
  - Chemistry 2230 and 2270
  - Economics 2000 or 2120
  - Psychology 2010
6. Complete the following courses with a B or better:
  - Nutrition 2030
  - Nutrition 2160
7. Complete the Dietetics Program Application Form by the annual January submission deadline for potential spring semester admission or the annual June submission deadline for potential fall semester admission.

The DPD director will review the applications and make decisions concerning acceptance into the DPD. 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 DPD. 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. Once in the DPD, a graduate student may complete the curriculum; 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 "Dietetics Program Declaration of Intent and Verification Statement Policy".

<sup>1</sup>Students who have earned an academic degree outside of the United States and its territories must have the academic degree validated as equivalent to a bachelor's or master's degree conferred by a U.S. regionally accredited college or university. The summary section of the evaluation report must state "From a regionally accredited institution." Evaluation must be completed by an independent foreign degree evaluation agency, such as one listed on ACEND's website at <http://www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/content.aspx?id=6442485499>. It is the student's responsibility to obtain not only degree evaluation but also a detailed course-by-course evaluation. The coursework area analysis must include semester units received for each course taken and a translation of grades received (i.e., numeric) into letter grades (i.e., A, B, C, D, F, P). An official copy of the evaluation must be sent directly to the DPD director.