

Orientation to the Major Form

Standing:

Transfer; Second Degree; Freshman; Sophomore; Junior;
Senior; Graduate; Non-degree; Other, please specify _____

General Information:

The East Carolina University website (www.ecu.edu) and the undergraduate catalog are great sources for information for many areas including admission requirements, anticipated financial costs, university policies and procedures, available degrees, academic calendars, career and counseling services, Pirate tutoring center, volunteer and service learning center, libraries and electronic resources.

Student Handbook:

Information about the Bachelor of Science, Didactic Program in Dietetics degree can be found in the *Student Handbook* available on the department website (<http://www.ecu.edu/che/nutr/>).

Grade Point Average:

All core, cognate and foundation courses in the DPD Program must be completed with a grade of C or higher. To declare a major in nutrition, students must complete all cognate classes with a grade of C or higher and have at least a 3.0 GPA. Students who fall below the minimum GPA will have one semester to raise their GPA. Failure to do so may result in removal from the major.

DPD Program Accreditation:

The DPD Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND). CADE is a specialized accreditation body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation and the United States Department of Education.

DPD Program Curriculum Requirements:

Students are responsible for completing the required coursework, completing documentation with university units, completing a Declaration of Major form, and scheduling a senior summary. Advising materials include a suggested curriculum plan which can be used as a guide to develop an individualized academic plan that meets the curriculum requirements.

Advisors are available for guidance in the College of Human Ecology Advising Center. Program information can be found on the College of Human Ecology, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Bachelor of Science, Didactic Program in Dietetics website (<http://www.ecu.edu/che/nutr/>). The Director of the DPD Program will provide each qualified student with a Verification Statement once the degree requirements have been met.

Departmental Policies, Procedures and Forms:

The Department has policies, procedures and documentation forms for academic and non-academic code of conduct offenses, academic probation and student admonishment complaints and non-eligibility for verification statement documentation.

Scholarship Opportunities:

Various resources are available for financial support. Contact the Financial Aid Department for further information. Scholarships are also available through the Department of Nutrition Science, College of Human Ecology, North Carolina Dietetic Association Foundation, and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation.

Professional Development:

Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities to enhance personal and professional development. Activities include:

- Student organizations – membership and leadership roles
- Student Member of professional organizations at the national, state, and local levels
- Networking
- Shadowing professionals in the field
- Attendance at professional meetings
- Volunteer service
- Technology training

Diversity Training and Cultural Competence:

Students are encouraged to prepare for globally based careers. Examples of training opportunities include diversity awareness, study abroad programs, and international career and service opportunities. Contact the International Affairs Office for more information. Contact the Office of Institutional Diversity and the Division of Continuing Studies for more information.

Research and Creativity Activity:

Students are encouraged to identify faculty mentors who can direct research, grant writing and professional presentation skill development.

Professional Portfolio:

Undergraduate students need to begin a professional portfolio which would include components such as self-reflection activities, resume development, examples of academic works, honors or awards, scholarships, reference letters as well as a record of extracurricular activities, volunteer activities and career-related work experiences.

Supervised Practice Requirements:

Supervised practice or dietetic internships are required to become a Registered Dietitian. The application process is complicated and program admission is VERY COMPETITIVE. Applications often require high grade point averages, successful completion of standardized tests such as the GRE, impressive performance in extracurricular activities and volunteer service in addition to strong personal references. Supervised practice programs are generally non-paid experiences requiring a minimum of 1200 supervised practice hours.

Orientation to Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics:

- History of the organization
- Governance (including organizational chart, Board of Directors, House of Delegates, bylaws, strategic plan)
- Commission on Accreditation of Dietetics Education Programs (CADE) – program standards
- Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) and national registration exam - practitioner standards for Registered Dietitians (RD) and for Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTR)
- Political Action Committee (ANDPAC)
- Dietetic practice groups (DPG)
- Member interest groups (MIG)
- Position papers
- Evidence analysis library, tool kits and evidenced based practice guidelines
- Scope of dietetics practice framework
- Standards of professional practice and standards of professional performance
- Nutrition care process
- Code of ethics
- Career opportunities and areas of practice
- AND CareerLink
- Career choices for non-RD Nutritionists
- Advanced practice - specializations and certifications within AND (for example, Certified Pediatric Specialist)
- Advanced practice outside AND (for example, Certified Diabetes Educator from the American Association of Diabetes Educators)
- Publications (MNT Provider, House of Delegates Fact Sheets, On the Pulse, Public Policy Initiatives and Advocacy Report, Grassroots Report, Nutrition Care Manual)
- Diversity mentoring tool kit

Orientation to the North Carolina Dietetic Association and North Carolina State Licensure Board

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Advisor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Revised November 2011