

**Didactic Program in Dietetics
Jacksonville State University Student
Handbook**



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Didactic Program in Dietetics Jacksonville State University

Accreditation Status:

The Didactic Program in Dietetics at Jacksonville State University has been granted continued accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 S Riverside Plaza, Ste 2190, Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995; Phone: 800-877 1600; website: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend>

Program Description

The Didactic Program in Dietetics at Jacksonville State University resides in the Department of Kinesiology, a unit of the College of Health Professions and Wellness. In 1966, the dietetics program was initiated and approved by the American Dietetic Association. Students completing the program earn a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science Wellness with a concentration in Dietetics. The program has a long history of preparing students for careers in the areas of dietetics and nutrition. The sponsoring institution, Jacksonville State University, is a state-supported, comprehensive, regional agency serving approximately 10,000 students in northeast Alabama and surrounding areas. The dietetics program strives to emulate the university's educational philosophy by providing a quality learning-centered educational experience emphasizing global engagement, scholarship, and service.

Program Mission, Goals, and Objectives

The mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics at Jacksonville State University is to provide a high-quality dietetics program that offers instruction for the entry-level dietitian that is related to nutrition knowledge, critical thinking skills, problem-solving abilities, and ethical awareness. The program seeks to encourage diversity of the student population and prepare graduates who are competent for entry into supervised practice, leading to eligibility for the CDR credentialing exam to be a registered dietitian nutritionist who is empowered to manage the challenges of a complex global society, by encouraging excellence in scholarly and service activities related to dietetics and nutrition.

Goal #1– Program graduates will be prepared to become competent at entry into supervised practice or other post-graduate programs through high-quality educational offerings.

At least 50 percent 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 60 percent are admitted within 12 months of graduation.
80% of dietetic internship directors will rate graduate as 4 or better out of 5 as being prepared for supervised practice.
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%.

Goal #2 – Program graduates will be prepared to serve communities and individuals through application of evidence-based nutrition knowledge.

40% of graduates will report being involvement in research or community service within 12 months of graduation.
At least 80% of students complete program requirements within 3 years (150% of planned program length).

Program outcomes data are available to ACEND, current and prospective students, and the public upon request.

Requirements and Processes for Becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)

See information from the Accreditation Council on Education in Nutrition and Dietetics about the pathway to the registered dietitian credential. [Become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist](#). Note: as of January 1, 2024, in addition to all other requirements, a completed graduate degree is required for eligibility to sit for the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) Examination for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. In some states RDN's are required to be licensed. For more information, please review [State Licensure](#). The JSU DPD fits into the pathway by providing and required educational components, knowledge, and skills. Upon completion of DPD requirements, a verification statement of completion is issued by the program director. This statement is required for entrance into a supervised practice program and eligibility for CDR's NDTR and RD examinations.

Requirements and Processes for Becoming a Nutrition Dietetic Technician Registered (NDTR)

See information from ACEND about the pathway to the Nutrition Dietetic Technician, Registered (NDTR) credential [NDTR](#). Note, upon completion of the undergraduate degree and the DPD requirements, graduates will be eligible to sit for the NDTR exam. Graduates interested in taking the exam should contact the program director.

Admission to the JSU Didactic Program in Dietetics

Students will be classified as "ESW_NSC_Undecided" majors prior to assessment into the ESW program.

At the completion of the sophomore year, students may seek assessment into the ESW upper-level courses upon email invitation from the Kinesiology Office. Assessments are completed twice per year. All the following criteria must be met:

1. The candidate must have earned a minimum of 60 semester hours of college credit.
2. The candidate must have an overall grade point average of 2.5 based on a 4.00 scale to include all HPE courses and BY263 with a "C" or better. After assessment into the ESW upper-level courses (Nutrition Science concentration), the student is required to maintain a minimum 2.50 grade point average. In accordance with the Department of Kinesiology Grades Dismissal Policy, a student may repeat a professional course only once and may not accumulate more than three (3) grades of "D" or "F" in "professional studies" courses. In accordance with the Department of Kinesiology GPA Dismissal Policy, failure to maintain the appropriate GPA will result in dismissal

from the ESW program. Reinstatement to the ESW program is at the discretion of the ESW committee.

JSU Graduation Requirements:

General requirements for obtaining a bachelor's degree from JSU are available in the undergraduate catalog: <https://catalog.jsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-regulations/>

Completion Requirements of the JSU Didactic Program in Dietetics

An overall minimum grade point average of 2.50.

Complete the degree plan of study. Note: the course of study builds on prior learning. Students may not take courses out of sequence as directed by course pre-requisites.

Have a "C" or better in all science courses.

Have a "C" or better in all pre-professional and professional courses.

Achieve a minimum of a "meets expectations" on a minimum of one assignment/activity linked to each Core Knowledge Requirement for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (KRDN). Core Knowledge Requirements are as follows:

Domain 1. Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice: Integration of scientific information and translation of research into practice. Knowledge Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

- 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. Knowledge Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

- 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. Knowledge Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

- 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. Knowledge Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

- KRDN 4.1 Apply management theories to the development of programs or services.
- KRDN 4.2 Evaluate a budget/financial management plan and interpret financial data.
- 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.
- KRDN 4.4 Apply the principles of human resource management to different situations.
- KRDN 4.5 Apply safety and sanitation principles related to food, personnel, and consumers.
- KRDN 4.6 Explain the processes involved in delivering quality food and nutrition services.
- KRDN 4.7 Evaluate data to be used in decision-making for continuous quality improvement.

Domain 5. Leadership and Career Management: Skills, strengths, knowledge, and experience relevant to leadership potential and professional growth for the nutrition and dietetics practitioner. Knowledge Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

- 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.

- KRDN 5.2 Identify and articulate one’s skills, strengths, knowledge and experiences relevant to the position desired and career goals.
- 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).
- KRDN 5.4 Practice resolving differences or dealing with conflict.
- KRDN 5.5 Promote team involvement and recognize the skills of each member.
- KRDN 5.6 Demonstrate an understanding of the importance and expectations of a professional in mentoring and precepting others.

Verification Statement Requirements:

A verification statement is an official document that certifies successful completion of the requirements of an ACEND accredited didactic program in dietetics.

JSU students must either complete a BS in Exercise Science and Wellness with a concentration in Nutrition Science or the DPD post baccalaureate plan with a minimum GPA of 2.5 and the DPD required coursework to qualify for a verification statement.

Completion of the requirements for Jacksonville State University’s DPD will be verified by the Program Director prior to issuance of a verification statement. Students must meet the program completion requirements as well as all requirements of the institution.

Estimated Cost to Students

Information about fees and tuition costs can be found on the JSU Tuition and Fees webpage located at this link:

<https://www.jsu.edu/bursar/fees/>

Students must purchase required textbooks and materials listed in course syllabi for all courses on the dietetics check sheet. Textbooks range from \$250 to \$500. Some texts may be used in more than one course during the program. Students are encouraged to keep all nutrition and dietetic related textbooks for future reference. Other required materials include a lab. The estimated cost is \$30.

Course Withdrawal and Refund of Tuition:

The program follows the JSU withdrawal and tuition refund policy. For policy details please visit the JSU withdrawal policy website: [Refund Information - Office of Student Accounts \(jsu.edu\)](#)

JSU Academic Calendar and Program Schedule:

The academic calendar is published on JSU's website at:

<https://www.jsu.edu/registrar/academic-calendar/index.html>

The DPD follows JSU’s academic calendar regarding course offerings, holidays, and deadlines.

Distance Education Requirements

Students can access information regarding the laptop policy and online requirements and resources at:

[Online@JSU: A Guide for Online Students](#) and [Jacksonville State University Laptop Policy](#)

Online Testing

To verify identity during any online test, instructors use Honorlock, available in JSU's Canvas Learning Management System. Students must have their cameras on during the exam. Instructors have access to the videos of the test taking window. Any questions will result in a meeting with the course instructor. If problems persist students will be required to take a test in person with a proctor.

Financial Aid and Scholarships:

Information about financial aid at JSU, including federal and private loans, loan deferments and scholarships can be found at <https://jsu.edu/finaid/index.html> or by contacting the office of financial aid at 256-782-5006.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics also provides information on financial aid resources here: [Financial Aid \(eatrightpro.org\)](http://eatrightpro.org)

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation funded scholarships. Learn more at:

<https://www.eatrightfoundation.org/foundation/apply-for-funding/scholarships>

Computer Matching for Dietetic internships:

Use of [Dietetic Internship Centralized Application Service \(DICAS\)](#) is required to apply for most Dietetic internships. The fees to applicants for use of DICAS are \$50 to submit the first application \$25 for additional application. Participation and computer matching through [D&D Digital](#) required in conjunction with DICAS. DND charges a flat fee of \$55 regardless of the number of internships students apply for.

[ACEND Accredited Programs](#) – students can search for ACEND accredited programs offering graduate degrees and/or supervised practice. Students can find a link to each program where more information on admission, application, and completion details can be found.

Prior Learning Assessment:

The registrar's office at JSU reviews transcripts for transfer students and postbaccalaureate students to evaluate coursework taken prior to entering JSU. Faculty evaluate post-baccalaureate coursework to determine which courses are needed to earn a verification statement from JSU's DPD program. Students must provide faculty with course syllabi for any DPD nutrition course that they would like to have

evaluated for transfer credit or a verification statement. If the student's knowledge requirements/learning objectives for the course match a JSU DPD course and the student received a C or better in the course, then the student will be granted course credit and will not be required to repeat the course. Course credit is not offered for prior work or volunteer experience.

Student Performance Monitoring:

Any DPD major on the ACEND accredited track earning a cumulative grade score of below a "C" in any required course at the semester midpoint will be identified and counseled by the course instructor. Instructors will meet with the student to determine needed areas of support and offer additional resources to aid the student. The instructor and student will meet weekly or bi-weekly for check-ins to monitor the student's performance. If additional strategies or help is needed the instructor will work with the Student Success Center to support the student.

Student Retention and Remediation:

Core Knowledge Requirements for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (KRDNs) will be tracked every semester by the DPD Director. The DPD Director will work with other faculty to collect student outcomes at the end of each semester. Students are notified via the syllabus and email from the DPD Director of KRDNs and the requirement to obtain a passing grade on all KRDN's at least once in the program in order to earn a verification statement from the program.

Students who do not earn at least a "meets expectation" on core knowledge requirements in the designated course will meet with the course instructor to review the material. KRDN assignments may be broken down into more manageable components for the student if needed. The student will be offered an opportunity to revise their submission for a satisfactory score as the goal is for the students to master the material to be successful in the program and profession. If students are unable to obtain a passing score on the initial assignment, the DPD Director will work to provide/offer an appropriate alternate assignment that will allow essential knowledge acquisition, application, and assessment of the specific KRDN(s) needed remediation.

Students will be given an opportunity to raise their GPA the semester after it falls below a 2.5. During this time students will meet weekly or bi-weekly with the DPD director to ensure they are going to class, understanding the material (as evidenced by course grades), and staying up to date with assignments. The goal is for the student to continue in the program. If additional support is needed the DPD director will help the student locate more specialized help. Students may be assisted by the DPD Director as needed and/or directed to Jacksonville State University resources such as JSU's Student Success Services <https://www.jsu.edu/studentsuccess/academic-support/index.html> .

If a student is unlikely to be successful in the DPD on the path to the verification statement, the Kinesiology Department and College of Health Professions and Wellness provides other health related degree tracks that students may choose to move into that do not result in a verification statement.

Process for Submission of Written Complaints:

Grievances with students, faculty or program directors should be addressed as outlined by the JSU grievance policy available on the JSU website.

<https://www.jsu.edu/studentaffairs/studentcomplaints.html>

Notification of program noncompliance with ACEND accreditation standards complaints may be redirected to:

Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics
120 S Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190
Chicago, Illinois 60606- 6995
Telephone 312-899-0400, Ext 5400
Fax 312899 4817
Email: acend@eatright.org

Formal Assessment of Student Learning and Reports on Performance:

Students receive a formal assessment of student learning and regular reports of performance and progress throughout the semester in each individual course. Any DPD dietetics accredited track students earning a cumulative grade score less than a “C” in any dietetic course at the semester midpoint will be identified and counseled by the course instructor. At the end of each semester, any ACEND accredited track student earning a cumulative GPA below 2.5 will be referred to the ACEND program director for additional academic counseling and advising on alternative degree plan options and career paths that are appropriate for their academic ability.

Student remedial instruction and tutoring support is available through [JSU Student Success Center](#).

Program Disciplinary/Termination Processes

The DPD program follows JSU disciplinary and termination process outlined in JSU student code of conduct policy. For details, please visit the [University Code of Conduct](#).

Students failing to comply with the JSU student code of conduct will be subject to appropriate discipline action including, but not limited to, expulsion suspension disciplinary probation, reprimand, or warning.

Leave of Absence:

A leave of absence may be taken by the student at any time. The student will be held to any JSU policies regarding payments and refunds. In the event of a leave of absence from the program, students must complete all requirements from their catalog year within two years of the semester when they requested a leave of absence.

Privacy of Student Information

JSU DPD program complies with the [Family Education Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#)

Student Access to Personal Records

Students may have access to their student file through their university account. For details, please visit [Student Regulations Information](#).

Protection of Student Privacy

Information can be found at [Verification of Identify & Protection of Student Privacy](#)

Student Support Services:

JSU students have access to a wide variety of student support services including health services, counseling and testing, and financial aid services. Available student support services at JSU can be found at the resource website: [Student Success Center](#) and [Campus Services](#).

Equitable treatment:

All students are treated with respect and dignity and the program does not discriminate on any basis. The program follows Jacksonville State University policies and procedures ensuring all students are treated equally. [Office of Diversity and Inclusion Policies and Procedures](#).