

Eligibility Requirements for Dietitians: **

Academic Degree

A minimum if a Baccalaureate degree granted by a U.S. regionally accredited college/university or foreign equivalent**

Beginning in 2024 a master's degree will replace this requirement.

**Accredited education programs can be located at the following link:

<http://www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/>

Current Minimum Academic Requirements

Completion of an Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) accredited Didactic program in Dietetics (DPD). Signed verification statement from the DPD program.

Supervised Practice Requirements

All dietetic education programs accredited by ACEND must be in the U.S. or its territories. Supervised practice requirements stipulate completion of one of the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics accredited pathways:

- **Option 1 - Accredited Dietetic Internship Program**
Provides for the achievement of performance requirements for entry-level dietitians through a minimum of 1200 hours of supervised practice. The program follows completion of the Didactic Program in Dietetics and a Baccalaureate degree. Some programs may be completed part-time with supervised practice.
- **Option 2 - Accredited Coordinated Program**
Academic program in a U.S. regionally accredited college or university culminating in a minimum of a Baccalaureate degree. The program provides for the achievement of knowledge and performance requirements for entry-level dietitians through integration of didactic instruction with a minimum of 1200 hours of supervised practice.

Individualized Supervised Practice Pathways (ISPPs)

In September 2011, the Academy announced the development of Individualized Supervised Practice Pathways or ISPPs ("ispeys") which are intended to add supervised practice capacity through ACEND-accredited dietetics programs, while providing student protections missing from the unaccredited models of the past. This approach provides a framework that can align the availability of supervised practice with demand from DPD students who hold verification statements, thereby laying the foundation for addressing supervised-practice shortages in the future.

Some features of the ISPP initiative include:

- Developing processes for assessment of prior work experience and learning.
- Developing dietetics structured competency-assessment exams for assessment of prior work experience.
- Permitting DIs, CPs and DPDs to implement accredited ISPPs to prepare graduates with verification statements to sit for CDR's registration exam.

Option 3 – DPD Graduate

1. Giving permission for programs to develop criteria for accepting individuals holding doctoral degrees or overseas dietitians into ISPPs without a didactic verification statement. Completion of a bachelor's degree granted by a US regionally accredited college/university (or foreign equivalent)
2. Completion of an Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)
3. Did not match with a DI.
4. Completion of an ACEND accredited DPD ISPP (minimum of 1200 supervised practice hours).

Option 4—Doctorate Degree Graduate

1. Completion of a doctorate granted by a US regionally accredited college/university (or foreign equivalent)
2. Completion of an ACEND accredited doctorate ISPP (minimum of 1200 supervised practice hours)

Option 5—Registration Eligibility Reciprocity

Registration eligibility reciprocity is extended to individuals who completed all certification requirements (academic, didactic, experiential, and examination) in the country with whom CDR has an agreement. CDR currently has reciprocity agreements with the following foreign regulatory boards.

- Dietitians of Canada (DC)
- Dutch Association of Dietitians/Ministry of Welfare, Public Health and Culture (NVD)
- Philippine Professional Regulation Commission (PRC)
- Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute (INDI)

If you have completed certification requirements with one of the above credentialing bodies, please follow the instructions on the [International Registration Eligibility Application](#).

Option 6—International Dietetics Programs

Graduates of ACEND accredited IDE programs (determined to be “substantially equivalent” by ACEND) are eligible to take the entry-level registration examination for dietitians provided they apply for registration eligibility to CDR on or before July 1, 2019. Registration eligibility applications from graduates of “substantially equivalent” programs will not be considered after July 1, 2019. Graduates of Foreign Dietitian Education (FDE) programs are not eligible to take the RD exam but are eligible to apply to a Dietetic Internship.

There are five international programs in dietetics that have been recognized by ACEND under the IDE or

FDE Standards. **The only international program that is accredited by ACEND as an IDE is the American University Beirut.**

** Eligibility Requirements for Dietitians information was accessed from the website below on October 24, 2018.

<http://cdrnet.org/certifications/registration-eligibility-requirements-for-dietitians>

For more information: <http://www.eatright.org/ACEND/content.aspx?id=6442465002>.

Accredited DPD, DI and ISPP programs can be located at the following link:

<http://www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/content.aspx?id=73>

Please add the below information under the designated sections

Under Affiliation Sites

** Note this dietetic internship program requires all interns to have a car as they will be commuting to sites by car throughout the Eastern Shore of Delmarva. Public transportation is not available for many of the rotation sites. Proof of current car insurance is also required for the program length.

** Note that vaccinations, drug screens, background checks and PPD tests are required of dietetic interns. Any facility that has an affiliation agreement with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Dietetic Internship may choose not to provide unvaccinated interns supervised practice training as it is their decision. Proof of current medical insurance is also required for the program length.

Under section for Program Completion Requirements and Graduate Credit

Dietetic Interns must be in good financial standing with the university, including but not limited to payment of the internship program fee and tuition costs by the noted due dates and / or end of the dietetic internship program as a requirement for graduation.

Under section for Program Costs

Financial aid is not available through University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Applicants are encouraged to apply for scholarships through the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and their state/locals dietetics associations. If an intern would like to apply for loan deferment, please contact your specific financial institution for the process of deferment. In some cases, a letter may be requested from the director. This letter does not guarantee deferment as the intern's financial institution will have the final decision.