

**McNeese State University  
Nutrition and Dietetics Undergraduate  
Student Handbook**



**Harold and Pearl Dripps School of  
Agricultural Sciences**

**2018-2019**

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## **The Undergraduate Degree Program in Nutrition and Dietetics**

The Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics (DP) at McNeese State University is located in the Harold and Pearl Dripps Department of Agricultural Sciences which is housed in the College of Science. Graduates of the DP receive a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Agricultural Sciences with a concentration in Nutrition and Dietetics. The program has been accredited since 1993 and the programs outcomes data are available on request.

The DP has been granted accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) the accrediting agency for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (the Academy). The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) is the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' accrediting agency for education programs preparing students for careers as registered dietitians (RD) or dietetic technicians, registered (DTR). ACEND serves and protects students and the public by assuring the quality and continued improvement of nutrition and dietetics education programs.

The address of ACEND is 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995, Phone number: 312.899.0040 Ext. 5400.

The website is [www.eatright.org/ACEND](http://www.eatright.org/ACEND).

**Elizabeth T. Moore MS RD LDN**  
**Director of the Didactic Program of Nutrition and Dietetics**  
**McNeese State University**  
**Gayle Hall 208**  
**Box 92820**  
**Lake Charles, LA 70609**  
**(337) 475-5700**  
[emoore1@mcneese.edu](mailto:emoore1@mcneese.edu)

## **Nutrition and Dietetics Faculty**

**Elizabeth T. Moore MS RD LDN**

**Director of the Didactic Program of Nutrition and Dietetics**

**McNeese State University**

**Gayle Hall 208**

**Box 92820**

**Lake Charles, LA 70609**

**(337) 475-5700**

**[emoore1@mcneese.edu](mailto:emoore1@mcneese.edu)**

**Dr. Debra Hollingsworth, PhD, RDN, LDN, FAND**

**Dietetic Internship Director**

**McNeese State University**

**Gayle Hall 119**

**Box 92820**

**Lake Charles, LA 70609**

**(337) 475-5683**

**[dhollingsworth@mcneese.edu](mailto:dhollingsworth@mcneese.edu)**

**Dr. Wannee Tangkham,**

**Food Science and Technology**

**Assistant Professor**

**McNeese State University**

**Gayle Hall 209**

**Box 92820**

**Lake Charles, LA 70609**

**(337) 475-5970**

**[wtangkham@mcneese.edu](mailto:wtangkham@mcneese.edu)**

The McNeese State University Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics is designed for students who wish to become registered dietitian nutritionist and practitioners in medical nutrition therapy, community nutrition/nutrition education programs, wellness/health promotion, food industry, and foodservice.

## **What does it mean to be a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist?**

Registered Dietitian Nutritionist are food and nutrition experts uniquely qualified to address the public's growing interest in nutrition, health, and lifestyle management. Dietitians study a variety of subjects, ranging from food and nutrition sciences, foodservice systems management, business, economics, computer science, culinary arts, sociology and communication to science courses such as biochemistry, anatomy, physiology, microbiology, and organic chemistry.

### **Licensure Law**

**“Every Registered Dietitian is a nutritionist but not every nutritionist is a Registered Dietitian”**

In order to practice Nutrition and Dietetics in the state of Louisiana, as well as in most other states, you must be a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RD or RDN), and you must be licensed. State licensure laws protect the titles “dietitian” and “nutritionist”. You cannot call yourself a dietitian or nutritionist and you cannot practice the profession, even if you have a degree in dietetics, unless you are a registered dietitian nutritionist. The Louisiana **Board of Examiners in Dietetics and Nutrition (LBEDN, [www.lbedn.org](http://www.lbedn.org))** licenses registered dietitians in the state

## **Job Opportunities as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist**

- Hospitals, clinics or other health-care facilities, educating patients about nutrition and administering medical nutrition therapy as part of the health-care team. They may also manage the foodservice operations in these settings, or schools, daycare centers or correctional facilities, overseeing everything from food purchasing and preparation to managing staff.
- Sports nutrition and corporate wellness programs, educating clients about the connection between food, fitness and health.
- Food and nutrition-related business and industries, working in communications, consumer affairs, public relations, marketing, product development or consulting with chefs in restaurants and culinary schools.
- Private practice, working under contract with healthcare or food companies, or in their own business. RDs or RDNs work with food service or restaurant managers, food vendors and distributors, athletes, nursing home residents or company employees.
- Community and public health settings, teaching, monitoring and advising the public and helping improve quality of life through healthy eating habits.
- Universities and medical centers, teaching physician assistants, nurses, dietetics students, dentists and others about the sophisticated science of food and nutrition.
- Research areas in food and pharmaceutical companies, universities and hospitals directing or conducting experiments to answer critical nutrition questions and find alternative foods or nutrition recommendations for the public.

## **How does one become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist?**

1. Complete a baccalaureate degree from a didactic program that is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) and receive an ACEND verification statement of completion;
2. Complete a post-baccalaureate ACEND-accredited dietetic internship or individualized supervised practice pathway (ISPP) and receive the ACEND verification statement of completion;
3. Pass the National Examination for Dietitians, administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR).

The McNeese Didactic Program of Nutrition and Dietetics will allow you to complete the first step. After receiving a baccalaureate degree, you will be eligible to apply for accredited Dietetic Internships.

## **What is a Dietetic Internship?**

A post-baccalaureate supervised practice program (dietetic internship) that is usually completed in 8-24 months. Admission to accredited dietetic internships is highly competitive. The selection process varies among supervised practice programs, but in general, criteria for selection include the following:

- Overall grade point average (GPA)
- GPA in major courses or GPA in science courses
- Work experience (type and amount)
- Leadership abilities
- Personal characteristics

It is important to recognize that not all students are accepted into a dietetic internship (supervised practice experience). Initial acceptance into a practice program occurs almost exclusively for students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher

## **How to Apply for Internships - Dietetic Internship Match**

The Dietetic Internship Match is a computer-based method which provides an orderly and fair way to match the preferences of applicants for Dietetic Internships (DIs) with the preferences of DI program directors. The Academy contracts with a company called D&D Digital to operate the DI Match and help applicants obtain an Internship (supervised practice position)

1. Complete an application for the internship through the Dietetic Internship Central Application Service. There is no limit on the number of DI programs that students can apply to through DICAS. However, each program must be prioritized during the next stage of the process. If the DI program you are interested in does not appear in the DICAS, check the DI program's website for directions on how to apply or contact the DI program director.
2. Register for the DI match through D&D Digital. This step allows you to create, edit and verify the priorities for your choices of internships. Some programs do not participate in the match. This is because they only accept applications from students who are employed by that sponsoring institution.

Through the DICAS, program directors can access applications from interested applicants; however, they cannot see the information about the priorities of the choices. The programs only see the application from applicants who applied to their programs. The program director and other staff from each Dietetic Internship program screen applications and submit

rankings for acceptable applicants, as well as indicating their maximum class size.

If you have questions about the centralized application, please contact DICAS customer support at 617/612-2855 or [dicasinfo@dicas.org](mailto:dicasinfo@dicas.org).

If you need assistance with computer matching, please contact D&D Digital customer support at 515/292-0490 or [dnd@sigler.com](mailto:dnd@sigler.com).

## **Preselect Option for the McNeese State University Combined Master of Science/Dietetic Internship**

In 2014, McNeese State University was granted preselect option status for those who are beginning their last semester at McNeese State University in the DP. The purpose of the Preselect combined Master of Science/Dietetic Internship Admission Option is to offer qualified McNeese State University undergraduate dietetic and DP students the opportunity to apply for admission into the McNeese State University Dietetic Internship/Master's Program during their senior year and be granted direct admission into the program upon final acceptance and successful completion of the DP and Bachelor of Science program requirements. Students applying to the Preselect Admission option will commit to attending the McNeese State University combined Master of Science/Dietetic Internship the year following undergraduate completion and bypass the computer matching application and selection Dietetic Internship process.

### **Admission Requirements:**

- Current McNeese Senior
- A minimum of a 3.0 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA)
- A minimum of a 3.0 GPA in the core Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics (DP)
- A grade of C or better in DP coursework
- GRE scores (Must be equivalent of 800)

## **The Didactic Program of Nutrition and Dietetics (DPD)** **Mission Statement:**

To prepare undergraduate students academically and professionally for entry into post-baccalaureate programs that provide for the achievement of performance requirements for entry-level dietitians in a manner that is fiscally responsible and enhances the community awareness and knowledge of nutrition and dietetics. The curriculum promotes accountability in life-long professional development through self-directed learning and innovative thinking skills that is based on researched evidence and to produce registered dietitians that become active and productive members of society. The program prepares students for supervised practice to become a registered dietitian nutritionist.

## **Goals and Expected Outcomes of the Nutrition and Dietetics Concentration**

**Goal 1:** Prepare students for successful entry into a dietetic internship and/or a graduate program.

- a. Over a three year period, at least eighty percent (80%) of program students, who declare the Nutrition and Dietetics concentration, will complete program/degree requirements within 3 years which is 150% of program length.
- b. Over a three year period, at least seventy-five (75%) the McNeese Didactic program graduates will apply for admission to a supervised practice program prior to or within 12 months of graduation.

- c. Over a three year period, at least seventy five percent (75%) of McNeese Didactic program graduates are admitted to a supervised practice program within 12 months of graduation.
- d. Over a three year period, at least sixty percent (60%) of graduates who do not apply or do not get accepted to a dietetic internship, will apply to a graduate program or begin their career in nutrition and food within 12 months of graduating.

**Goal 2:** To produce professionals who upon completion of the Dietetic Internship of Nutrition and Dietetics (DI) are competent entry-level dietitians

- a. 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%.
- b. Over a three year period, ninety percent (90%) of the directors of the dietetic internship who respond to the Director survey will rate program graduates as prepared or well prepared for their programs.
- c. Over a three year period, ninety percent (90%) of graduates who complete a dietetic internship and who respond to the alumni survey will rate themselves as prepared or well prepared for their dietetic internship.

**Outcome Data is Available Upon Request**

## **Changing your Major to Agricultural Sciences with a Concentration in Nutrition and Dietetics**

Students enrolled at McNeese State University and wanting to change their major to the concentration of Nutrition and Dietetics need to go through the following steps:

- Schedule an appointment with the Didactic Program of Nutrition and Dietetics (DPD) director.
- Complete McNeese State University Transfer paperwork in the School of Agricultural main office (Gayle 101).

## Undergraduate Curriculum

### Advising

Course scheduling is very important. Many of the courses in the curriculum have pre-requisites and many are offered only one time a year, and in some cases, every other year. For this reason, students are required to meet with an academic advisor each semester. Students are **not allowed** to register for classes for the next semester until they have met with an academic advisor. This helps to ensure students are on track to graduate and allows a chance to address any academic issues.

## Course Sequence of Didactic Program of Nutrition and Dietetics Curriculum

1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester
ENG 101- English Composition (3)	ENG 102 – English Composition II (3)
MATH 113 – College Algebra (3)	*BIOL 225 – Human Anatomy and Physiology I (4)
*PSYC 101 – Introduction to Psychology (3)	CHEM 101 – General Chemistry (4)
*NFSC 131 – Nutrition (3)	*SOCL 201 – Introduction to Sociology (3)
*AGEC 201 – Introduction to Agriculture Economics (3)	*NFSC 255 – Introduction to Nutrition and Food Science (1)
NFSC 112 - Safety and Sanitation (1)	
Total Hours: 16	Total Hours: 15

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Semester</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Semester</b>
CHEM 102 – General Chemistry II (4)	*NFSC 111 – Introduction to Food Science (3)
*BIOL 226 – Human Anatomy and Physiology II (4)	*CHEM 211 – Elements of Organic Chemistry (3)
*ANSC 101 or AGRI 101 – General Animal Science or Introduction to Plant Science (4)	*STAT 231 – Elementary Probability and Statistical Inference (3)
*NFSC 232 – Fundamentals of Quantity Food Production (3)	*BIOL 201 – Microbiology (4)
	COMM 201 – Fundamentals of Public Speaking (3)
Total Hours: 15	Total Hours: 16
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Semester</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Semester</b>
*NFSC 257 – Nutrition Across the Lifespan (3)	*CHEM 265 – Basic Biochemistry (3)
*NURS 302 – Human Pathophysiology (3)/HSM 380 - Introduction to Human Disease (3)	*NFSC 351 – Human Nutrition and Metabolism (3)
*AGRI 340 – Junior Seminar (1)	*NFSC 341 – Advances in Food Science and Technology (3)
*NFSC 349 – Nutrition Assessment (1)	HIST 201/202 – American History (3)
*NFSC 354 – Community Nutrition (3)	ENG 203/204/223 – Intro to Literature/Mythology (3)
Agricultural Elective – 300+ level course (3)	
Total hours: 14	Total hours: 15
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Semester</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Semester</b>
*NFSC 352 – Medical Nutrition Therapy (3)	*NFSC 450 – Medical Nutrition Therapy II (3)
HSM 200 - US Healthcare Organization and Delivery (3)	*NFSC 459 – Field Experience in Dietetics (3)
NFSC 412- Food Laws, Standards, and Regulation (3)	*NFSC 356 – Management in Nutrition and Food Science (3)
*NFSC 350 – Nutrition Counseling and Education (3)	*AGRI 401 – Agricultural Statistics (4)
Fine Art Elective (3)	*AGRI 441 – Senior Seminar (1)
Total hours: 15	Total hours: 14

Students should be aware of the following course sequencing (prerequisites before course):

**1. Biology Sequence and Clinical Nutrition Course Sequence**

BIOL 225 BIOL 226 NURS 302 NFSC 352 NFSC 450

**2. Chemistry and Clinical Nutrition Course Sequence**

MATH 113 CHEM 101 CHEM 102 CHEM 211 CHEM 265, NFSC 131, NFSC 257 NFSC 349, NFSC 351, NURS 302 NFSC 352 NFSC 450

**3. Nutrition and Nutrition Assessment and Counseling Course Sequence**

NFSC 131 NFSC 257 NFSC 349 NFSC 350

**4. Food Science Course Sequence**

NFSC 111, STAT 231 NFSC 341

**5. Foodservice Systems Management Course Sequence**

MATH 113, NFSC 111, NFSC 131, NFSC 232 NFSC 356 NFSC 111, BIOL 201, STAT 231 NFSC 341, NFSC 232 NFSC 356

## **NFSC 459- Field Experience Requirements**

The last semester before graduating, each student will take the course NFSC 459 – Field Experience in Dietetics. In order to enroll in this field experience class a student must meet the following criteria:

- Have a curriculum GPA of at least 2.8
- Have an overall GPA of at least 2.5
  - The curriculum GPA is not the same as the overall cumulative GPA posted on the student's transcript. The curriculum GPA is calculated using only courses that are listed on the curriculum sheet (or university approved substitutions for these courses).
- Have no grade lower than "C" in any DPD or NFSC course

## **Facilities and Student Supervised Practice, Observation, and Shadowing Policy and Procedure**

### **NFSC 459 Field Experience -**

During the last semester before graduation, seniors are to take a course that will help them to gain observation hours in Clinical, Food service, Management, and Community settings. This course is aimed to help students observe Registered Dietitians in different fields of practice.

Currently the DPD has utilized facilities for supervised practice, observation and shadowing for NFSC 459 – Field Experience Class. The

DPD director and/or the student select facilities that offer learning experiences and activities in the Nutrition and Dietetics field. The DPD director and/or student contact the liaison for the facility to request and confirm that they are willing and able to provide learning experiences for the student. To meet policy the following needs to be present:

- Facility and liaison have the appropriate credentials, licenses and experience in the area of practice.
- Management/administration at the facility supports the McNeese State University DPD.
- The field experience, observation or shadowing at the facility provides the student the educational outcomes of the class.
- Facilities and facilitator are willing and able to serve as professional role models.
- The setting is conducive to learning.
- Facility is in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.
- The director reviews sites for adequacy and appropriateness of facilities for the field experience in dietetics course.

### **Physical Examinations, Tests, Vaccinations, Background Check and Professional Liability Insurance**

Students must abide by the University policy on vaccination requirements. When going into facilities for observation, a physical exam, Tuberculosis (TB) test, certain immunizations, drug test, and background checks will be required. Also professional liability will be required for working with individuals in the community. This will be a part of the Field Experience Course (NFSC 459) and further details will be given at the start of each of these courses.

**MSU UNDERGRADUATE DIETETIC FIELD  
EXPERIENCE  
EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE OF OBSERVATION IS TO  
PREVENT THE USE OF STUDENTS TO REPLACE  
EMPLOYEES**

Observation hours are a critical aspect of dietetic education. Observation hours are in place to provide an opportunity for the students to explore dietetic practice by observing the knowledge and skills needed to practice in the profession. Rotation site experiences are for educational purposes only, and students are not to be used to replace employees.

**Program Fees**

In addition to McNeese State University tuition and fees (listed in the current catalog), books, and living expenses, there are other costs and potential fees associated with the Nutrition and Dietetics may include the following (but may not be limited to):

- |                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| ● Laboratory attire   | \$100.00 |
| ● Field trip expenses | \$400.00 |
| ● Calculator          | \$60.00  |

- Student Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Membership  
\$60.00/year
- Project Materials \$300
- Laboratory fees \$50/lab
  - Medical Exam, Tb Test, immunizations  
varies
- Professional liability insurance \$75
- Precheck screening for field experiences \$175
  - Drug Testing, Background check
- Distance Learning ProctorU exams  
\$25/exam

## **Successful Completion of the Didactic Program (DPD) of Nutrition and Dietetics**

Requirements to successfully complete the McNeese State University Didactic Program are as followed:

- Have a curriculum GPA of at least 2.8
- Have an overall GPA of at least 2.5
  - The curriculum GPA is not the same as the overall cumulative GPA posted on the student's transcript. The curriculum GPA is calculated using only courses that are listed on the curriculum sheet (or university approved substitutions for these courses).
- Have no grade lower than "C" in any DPD or NFSC course

Upon completion of all the DPD curriculum courses and credit hours specified for the program, students will be awarded a Bachelor of Science degree.

- The total number of credit hours required for graduation in the Dietetics Concentration is 120 hours.
- Students are required to complete an Application for Degree at the beginning of the semester of anticipated graduation. This application may be obtained from the department secretary in Gayle 101.

## **Verification Statement**

Verification Statements are official documents that signifies that the student has completed and met all academic and professional requirements as dictated by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for the McNeese State University Didactic Program of Nutrition and Dietetics. The verification statement will be signed and issued to a student by the DPD director upon completion of the program. The verification statement will be required to apply for supervised practice/dietetic internships. If the student does not have a curriculum GPA of 2.8, they will not be awarded the Verification Statement needed for application to supervised practice internships.

Another Verification Statement is given at the completion of the dietetic internship by the DI Director. This second Verification Statement indicates that one has completed the supervised practice and is now eligible to sit for registration exam for becoming a registered dietitian nutritionist.

## **Transfer Students/Credits**

Transfer Credit Students transferring into the Nutrition and Dietetics curriculum from another major on campus or from another institution will be assigned an academic advisor, who will review academic transcripts and make a tentative recommendation about which courses already completed by the student will count toward the degree requirements. In many cases, students will have completed some of the courses as specified on the Nutrition and Dietetics curriculum sheet. In some cases, students will have completed similar courses or higher level courses. In such situations, the advisor and student will complete paperwork to request substitutions if the student has earned a "C" or better in that course.

## **Students with a Prior Degree Seeking a Verification Statement**

Students who have previously earned a Bachelor's degree in another field may choose to enroll in the Didactic Program in Dietetics at McNeese State University in order to receive an ACEND verification statement. They must complete courses that meet ACEND Core Knowledge Requirements. The students must have a "C" or better in all required courses. Transcripts from previous degrees will be reviewed by the DPD Director and the Agricultural Science School's Associate Dean to determine whether previous coursework satisfies any of the degree requirements.

## **Recency of Education**

In order to receive an ACEND verification statement documenting completion of the ACEND Core Knowledge Requirements, all course work requirements must be completed within five years of receiving the verification statement. Students wishing to earn a verification statement will be required to retake any core curriculum requirement courses that are more than five years old.

## **International Students**

International students whose undergraduate work was taken at a school outside of the United States must have their previous coursework evaluated by an evaluation agency suggested by ACEND for the concentration of nutrition and dietetics. A detailed course-by course evaluation of previous coursework is required before an advisor can review

the student's records and credentials to determine what coursework is necessary to earn a Verification Statement and/or a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Sciences with a concentration of Nutrition and Dietetics at McNeese State University.

## **McNeese State University Student Handbook**

The McNeese State University Didactic Program of Nutrition and Dietetics does abide by the rules and regulations stated in the McNeese State University Student Handbook for all students. The McNeese State University Student Handbook provides information regarding student's rights and responsibilities, and code of student conduct and academic integrity.

[https://www.mcneese.edu/policy/student\\_handbook](https://www.mcneese.edu/policy/student_handbook)

## **Filing Complaints with the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)**

For those in the Nutrition and Dietetics program, the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) will review complaints that relate to a program's compliance with the accreditation/approval standards. ACEND is interested in the sustained quality and continued improvement of dietetics education programs but does not intervene on behalf of individuals or act as a court of appeal for individuals in matters of admission, appointment, promotion or dismissal of faculty, staff, or student. A copy of the accreditation/approval standards and/or ACEND's policy and procedure for submission of complaints may be obtained by contacting the Education and Accreditation Team at The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics at 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190 Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995 or by calling 1-800-877-1600 ext. 5400.

