

Mississippi State University
Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion
Major: Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion
Concentration: Food and Nutrition

Admission Requirements for the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)

All Juniors and Seniors majoring in the Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion's Food and Nutrition concentration that meet the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) criteria are eligible for admission.

Upon graduation, in addition to an undergraduate degree, DPD students receive a verification statement, which makes them eligible to apply for a Dietetic Internship or similar Supervised Practice program. Acceptance and completion of a Dietetic Internship or similar Supervised Practice program is a required step towards a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist credential.

A DPD Eligibility Form can be found in the Appendix of the Nutrition/DPD Handbook and in the Canvas Nutrition Student Hub.

Food and Nutrition students will be emailed a reminder and deadline to submit the DPD paperwork early each semester. Students who join the DPD must maintain the DPD admission criteria to continue as DPD students and receive a verification statement upon graduation.

Criteria for DPD Admission

- Completion of DPD Eligibility Form
- Completion of 60 or more credits by the end of the semester in which you submit the form
- GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Completion (or in progress) at application time of the following courses (or approved equivalents) with a letter grade of C or higher:
 - CH 1213/1211 – Chemistry I and Lab
 - CH 1223/1221 – Chemistry II and Lab
 - CH 2503/2501 Elem Organic Chemistry and Lab
 - BIO 1134 Biology I
 - FNH 2293 Individual and Family Nutrition
 - ST 2113 Intro to Stats

DPD Students

A list of DPD students will be provided to advisors prior to pre-registration advising each semester. This will allow advisors to help monitor DPD student progress and assist as needed. During pre-registration advising each semester, advisors will update the DPD Director of any student who will be submitting an eligibility form by the end of the semester, and of any student who has fallen below the eligibility criteria and the remediation conversation discussed so that a plan is in place for the student to maintain DPD eligibility.

It is recommended that admitted DPD students are members of the MSU Student Dietetic Association and obtain a student membership to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Academy membership begins June 1, is one-year long, and is \$58 for students. See the [Academy student membership page](#) for more information.

DPD Progression Policy

Once a student submits the DPD eligibility paperwork, students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0. Dietetic internships are extremely competitive. Successful completion of all DPD required courses does not guarantee admission to a dietetic internship.

Students not maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or who receive a course grade of “D” or “F” in any program required course must establish a plan with their advisor and DPD Director to re-gain eligibility. If a student does not remediate the issue within two semesters, the student will be removed from the DPD roster.

DPD students with a “D” or “F” who wish to remain DPD students and earn a verification statement may repeat the DPD courses for which they have received a grade of “D” or “F” within two semesters of the unacceptable grade.

DPD students with a “D” or “F” may consider continuing with the food and nutrition concentration without remediation but must sign an acknowledgement stating that they wish to remain in the food and nutrition concentration but are aware that they are no longer DPD students and will not be eligible for a verification statement. The DPD Director will advise the student on career options and will also direct the student to the Career Center to explore other career/degree options.

DPD students whose GPA drops lower than 3.0 will be notified by their advisor or the DPD Director so that a discussion can take place related to remediation. If the student is unable to regain a 3.0 GPA after two semesters of dropping below the requirement, the student will be removed from the DPD roster. At that point, students must sign an acknowledgement stating that they wish to remain in the food and nutrition concentration but are aware that they are no longer DPD students and will not be eligible for a verification statement. The DPD Director will advise the student on career options and will also direct the student to the Career Center to explore other career/degree options. If a student can attain and maintain a 3.0 GPA prior to graduation, they can reapply for DPD eligibility.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do I want to apply to the DPD?

If you plan to apply for a Dietetic Internship (DI) or Supervised Practice program to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN), you need to be a part of the DPD program. To be accepted into a DI or most Supervised Practice program, you need a verification statement from the DPD Director stating that all the DPD coursework requirements were met. DPD students will be tracked to ensure they are eligible for a verification statement and will receive updates related to DI and Supervised Practice applications, as appropriate.

Are there extra classes required for DPD students?

No. You will complete all courses that are listed on the Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion Food and Nutrition concentration curriculum. The only additional requirement is that you maintain the stated grade and GPA criteria to meet the program’s accreditation requirements.

What if I do not meet the eligibility requirements for the DPD?

If you plan to become an RDN, you need to determine a realistic plan to meet the requirements. If are not a DPD student, you cannot earn a verification statement. If you do not have a verification statement, you cannot apply to Dietetic Internship or most any other Supervised Practice program. You may need to consider alternate academic and career options.

Please contact Dr. Mandy Conrad (agc8@msstate.edu) if you have questions about DPD eligibility.

**Mississippi State University
DPD Eligibility Form**

➔ Complete sections I-III by typing or clearly printing in blue or black ink.

I. Personal Information

Name: _____ Student ID #: _____

University Email address: _____

Phone: _____ Gender: _____ Ethnicity: _____

II. Academic

- Number of credits that will be completed by the end of current semester: _____
-minimum requirement is 60 credits
- Overall GPA: _____ MSU GPA: _____
-minimum requirement for DPD is 3.0
- Expected Graduation Date (Semester and Year): _____
- Course completion requirements:

MSU Course	College/University Course # and Title ** (see below)	Semester Taken	Grade (IP=In progress)	Required Grade
CH 1213/1211 Chemistry I and Lab				C or greater
CH 1223/1211 Chemistry II and Lab				C or greater
CH 2503/2501 Elem Org Chem and Lab				C or greater
BIO 1134 Biology I				C or greater
FNH 2293 Individual and Fam Nutrition				C or greater
ST 2113 Intro to Statistics				C of greater

Include this information **only if equivalent course was taken at an institution other than MSU or if another course at MSU fulfilled this requirement.

III. Becoming an RD Questionnaire

Review details in this document and answer the following questions.

1. What is the minimum letter grade you need in your DPD classes to earn a verification statement at MSU? _____
2. What is the minimum GPA you must have to earn a verification statement at MSU? _____
3. Beginning in 2024, in addition to completion of a Dietetic Internship or accredited Supervised Practice program, students must have a master's degree to sit for the RDN credentialing exam.

____ Check here if you acknowledge and understand the above statement. Contact your advisor or the DPD Director if you have questions.

4. List three work/volunteer experiences, which you either have or could obtain that will help to make you more competitive for a dietetic internship. (If you are unsure, discuss opportunities with your advisor or DPD Director.)

- _____

- _____

- _____

5. Are you a member of the Student Dietetic Association at MSU? _____

IV. Contract of Agreement

Mississippi State University
Didactic Program in Dietetics

DPD students are expected to follow the policies, procedures and information pertaining to the DPD, as described in the handbook. Please read the handbook, which can be found on the Canvas Student Hub and direct any questions you have to your academic advisor or the DPD director (agc8@msstate.edu).

By signing in the space below, you indicate that you have read the handbook and have addressed any questions you may have regarding its content. You also agree to check the Canvas Student Hub for updates and announcements throughout the semester for pertinent program information. You also understand that final decisions regarding admission and retention in the program are made at the discretion of the DPD leadership team.

Name [please print]

Signature and Date

Submit completed DPD eligibility form in person or via email to the DPD Director, Dr. Mandy Conrad (agc8@msstate.edu or Herzer 203).