

# **DIDACTIC PROGRAM IN DIETETICS STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**Department of Nutrition Science  
College of Allied Health Sciences  
East Carolina University**

**Last Revised Summer 2021**

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**WELCOME** to the Department of Nutrition Science (NUTR) in the College of College of Allied Health Sciences (CAHS) at East Carolina University (ECU).

More than 28,000 students are enrolled at ECU, located in Greenville, North Carolina. With approximately 93,000 citizens in the City of Greenville and 178,000 residents in Pitt County, the area is changing rapidly. Greenville is a growing city with an expanding network of greenways and transportation links, and the city serves as a major center for education and cultural life for the residents of eastern North Carolina. Additionally, people from throughout the region travel to Greenville for state of the art medical care. For more information about Greenville and eastern North Carolina, please visit the City of Greenville's website at:

<http://www.greenvillenc.gov/>. For more information about ECU, you may visit <http://info.ecu.edu/about>.

This *Didactic Program in Dietetics Student Handbook* is intended to provide information and guidelines regarding the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) that you may find useful as you pursue your Bachelor of Science (BS) degree. However, it is not intended to replace advisement by faculty, advisors, or information in the ECU Catalog. The student handbook is available online at <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/nutr/undergrad/index.cfm>

### **DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Department of Nutrition Science  
College of Allied Health Sciences  
East Carolina University  
Greenville, NC 27834  
252-744-1034  
<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/nutr/>

### **FACULTY AND STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

Contact information for the faculty and staff of the Department of Nutrition Science is available online at <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/nutr/faculty/>

## **MISSION STATEMENT OF EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY**

**To be a national model for student success, public service and regional transformation, East Carolina University:**

- Uses innovative learning strategies and delivery methods to maximize access;
- Prepares students with the knowledge, skills and values to succeed in a global, multicultural society;
- Develops tomorrow's leaders to serve and inspire positive change;
- Discovers new knowledge and innovations to support a thriving future for eastern North Carolina and beyond;
- Transforms health care, promotes wellness, and reduces health disparities; and
- Improves quality of life through cultural enrichment, academics, the arts, and athletics.

**We accomplish our mission through education, research, creative activities, and service while being good stewards of the resources entrusted to us.**

*Approved by the Board of Trustees in July, 2013*

*Approved by the Board of Governors in February 2014*

## **COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To improve the quality of health through leadership, excellence, and innovation in the delivery of progressive baccalaureate, master's, doctoral, and continuing education programs, providing professional and clinical services and conducting basic, clinical and applied research.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

The College of Allied Health Sciences at East Carolina University provides opportunities to make a difference in the health of the region, state, and nation.

### **DIDACTIC PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the DPD is to prepare graduates to become competent leaders in successful careers in a multicultural society making a positive impact on health as registered dietitian

nutritionists. The DPD will use innovative learning strategies in the delivery of the required knowledge to prepare graduates for supervised practice leading to eligibility for the Commission on Dietetic Registration's (CDR) credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN).

### **DIDACTIC PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**Goal 1:** The program will prepare graduates for acceptance to a supervised practice program and/or graduate school.

- 70 percent of alumni completing the follow-up survey will report a minimum of 3 on a 5-point scale that rate the academic preparation in terms of knowledge and skills necessary for entry to supervised practice and/or graduate school.
- At least 80 percent of program students complete program/degree requirements within 3 years.
- 70 percent of program graduates apply for admission to a supervised practice program prior to or within 12 months of graduation.
- 80 percent of program graduates are admitted to a supervised practice program within 12 months of graduation.
- 80 percent of supervised practice program directors will rate DPD graduates with a minimum of 3 on a 5-point scale that rate the academic preparation in terms of knowledge and skills necessary for entry to supervised practice.

**Goal 2:** The program will prepare graduates for careers as entry-level registered dietitian nutritionists in a variety of practice settings.

- 70 percent of alumni completing the follow-up survey will report a minimum of 3 on a 5-point scale that rate the academic preparation in terms of knowledge and skills necessary for entry-level registered dietitian nutritionist position.
- 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 percent.

### **ACCREDITATION STATUS**

ECU's Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND), which is recognized by the United States Department of Education.

Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995  
312-899-0040 x 5400

Outcomes data and reports related to accreditation are available on request from the Department Chair or the DPD Director.

### **ADMISSION TO ECU**

For information about admission into the undergraduate program at ECU, please visit <http://admissions.ecu.edu>.

### **STUDENT EXPENSES**

Please refer to ECU's Undergraduate Catalog for financial information for North Carolina resident (in-state) and non-resident (out-of-state) students at <https://financialservices.ecu.edu/cashier-tuition-fees-main-campus/>. The policy on withdrawal and refund of tuition and fees is also located on this webpage.

Various other fees include:

- Textbooks: varies between \$100 and \$400 per semester, depending on if you rent, own, or buy used). [ECU Dowdy Student Stores](#) lists textbook prices.
- Chefs Coat or Lab Coat: \$20 available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)
- [Computer Matching fee](#) for application to Dietetic Internship (if students choose the next step to go on to be Registered Dietitians) through DICAS and: \$55
- [DICAS application fee](#) (if students choose the next step to go on to be Registered Dietitians): \$50 for the first Dietetic Internship program you apply to and \$25 for each additional program.

### **ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER**

The Center for Pre-Professional Advising is the first stop for students planning to major in one of the undergraduate programs offered. Students are advised by a professional advisor in their intended major. Academic advisors are good resources for information about internships, careers and graduate studies. Students need to apply for graduation online one semester before their expected graduation date. Each student will meet with their advisor to assure all requirements for graduation will be met.

Advising is an interactive process involving students, advisors, faculty and administrators. The professional advisors guide the student toward appropriate decisions that will help them



achieve academic and career goals, by assessing prior learning and credit toward program requirements.

Please see <https://ppac.ecu.edu/advising/allied-health/> for more information.

## **TRANSFER, SECOND DEGREE, AND STUDENTS INTERESTED IN A NUTRITION AND DIETETICS MAJOR**

For individual transcript evaluations and program requirements, please contact the Center for Pre-Professional Advising at <https://ppac.ecu.edu/advising/allied-health/>. Once an applicant has been admitted into East Carolina University, an advisor will assess prior coursework and establish an individualized plan of study.

### **ASSESSMENT OF PRIOR LEARNING**

A student can request that prior coursework from a regionally accredited college or university be assessed in order to develop an individualized curriculum plan. This process is facilitated by the academic advisor. Official transcripts, course syllabi, date of instruction and other documents related to the assessment process may be requested of the student. Course instructors, the DPD Director, and the department chairperson may be included in the assessment process.

Persons with a foreign degree will be required to have their degree validated as equivalent to a degree from an accredited university within the United States. This validation must be completed prior to identifying needed courses to complete the DPD degree requirements.

Information on independent, nonprofit agencies available to validate foreign degrees can be found on the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR), Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) website at [eatright.org](http://eatright.org).

### **PROGRAM COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS AND DEGREE OPTIONS**

For a complete overview of requirements, please refer to the Undergraduate Catalog at <http://catalog.ecu.edu> to find a list of course descriptions and a complete list of course requirements. Didactic Program in Dietetics concentration is the last two years of the 4 year degree.

All students that wish to pursue the Didactic Program in Dietetics will be required to fill out the Application for the Didactic Program in Dietetics Undergraduate Cohort after they have completed or are currently enrolled in the prerequisite courses (prerequisite courses take 2 years to complete). The total time required to complete the Didactic program is a minimum of 2 years, maximum of 3. Due to extenuating circumstances, students may need to take an extra year to complete the Didactic program, which will need to be approved by the Program Director. The 4 year curriculum plan and Didactic Program Cohort information are outlined in pages that follow.

**4-YEAR CURRICULUM PLAN FOR THE DIDACTIC PROGRAM IN DIETETICS****CONCENTRATION – Suggested sequence\***

\*We understand not all students will be able to follow the schedule exactly.

Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
<b>FRESHMAN YEAR</b>			
ENGL 1100 (WI)	3	ANTH 1050 or 2200	3
NUTR 1300 F	1	NUTR 1330 S	1
BIOL 1150/1151	4	NUTR 1010	3
MATH 1065	3	CHEM 1150/1151	4
PSYC 1000	3	HLTH 1000	2
	14	Elective	3
			16
<b>Apply to DP Cohort by February 1st prior to taking 3000 level NUTR courses.</b>			
<b>SOPHOMORE YEAR</b>			
Fine Arts	3	SOCI 2110	3
NUTR 2105	3	Statistics	3
CHEM 1160/1161	4	ENGL 2201 (WI)	3
KINE 1000	1	NUTR 2330	3
BIOL 2130, 2131	5	CHEM 2750, 2753	4
	16		16
<b>JUNIOR YEAR</b>			
NUTR 2400 *prereq 2105	3	Humanities	3
NUTR 2331	1	COMM 2020 or 2410	3
Elective	3	NUTR 3700 (WI)	3
NUTR 3105	3	NUTR 3104	3
BIOL 2110, 2111	4	NUTR 3311	3
	14		15
<b>SENIOR YEAR</b>			
NUTR 4312 plus lab F	4	NUTR 4313 plus lab S	4
NUTR 4330 F	3	NUTR 4500 S	3
NUTR 4300 F	1	NUTR 4600 S	3
NUTR 3535 F	3	NUTR 4331 S	2
NUTR 3330 F	3	HIMA 3000 (recommended)	3
	14		15

**F Fall**

**S Spring**

\*ok to take NUTR 2400 earlier, as long as student has completed 2105

can be taken either fall or spring of Junior year.

can be taken in fall of Junior or Senior year

## **DIDACTIC PROGRAM COHORT ADMISSION POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) Cohort is designed to begin during fall semester of the junior year of the curriculum plan. A separate application is required to be admitted into the DP Cohort. Admission is very competitive and is based on two criteria: 1) satisfactory completion of all pre-requisite courses by the end of the summer semester prior to the start of the cohort (summer semester enrollment ok) 2) 3.0 minimum grade point average of prerequisite courses. Applicants who do not meet the criteria are not to be considered for admission. The application is available on the department website.

Applications are submitted to the Didactic Program Director electronically by email and the deadline is February 1. Prior to the start of the cohort the Departmental Administrative Assistant compiles documents identifying the grade point averages and course completion status of applicants. Ancillary support is provided by nutrition faculty as needed. The DPD Cohort annually admits approximately twenty-six students. Applicants with the highest cumulative grade point averages for prerequisite courses at the time of application are used to determine acceptance into the DPD Cohort. An alternate list of applicants will be made in case admission adjustments need to be made. The Didactic Program Director and Nutrition Advisor review and rank applicants and obtain confirmation of selection results with the Department Chairperson. Applicants are notified by March 1 regarding their admission status by the Didactic Program Director and have one week to confirm their acceptance. Initial acceptance is contingent upon successful completion of all pre-requisite course requirements. The Nutrition Advisor or Didactic Program Director will review the status of applicants at the close of spring and summer semester. If there be a change in admission status, the notification of admission denial will be communicated by the Didactic Program Director by the end of May. The ranked alternate list is used, if necessary, to meet annual enrollment goals should vacancies occur.

Students will be informed of the admission procedure in NUTR 1300 Orientation to Nutrition and Dietetics Profession course. The admission procedure will be reviewed during individual Advising sessions, in the Didactic Program in Dietetics Student Handbook, and on the department website.

## DPD Cohort Application

Nutrition Science Department, East Carolina University

**Full Name (Last, First, Middle/Maiden):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Banner ID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ECU Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

### OVERVIEW

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) Cohort is for those students who want to become Registered Dietitians Nutritionists and begins during fall semester of the junior year of the curriculum plan. This application is required to be considered for admission.

### CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE

Admission is very competitive and is based on two criteria: 1) satisfactory completion of all pre-requisite courses by the end of the summer semester prior to the start of the cohort; and 2) minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average of all prerequisite courses listed below. Applicants who do not meet the criteria are not considered.

### APPLICATION DUE DATE

Applications need to be submitted to the Department of Nutrition Science (NUTR@ecu.edu) electronically by email no later than February 1st. Late applications will not be accepted.

The DPD Cohort annually admits approximately twenty-six students. Applicants with the highest cumulative grade point averages from their courses at ECU and any transfer credits at the time of application will be used to determine acceptance into the DPD Cohort. An alternate list of applicants will be compiled in case admission adjustments need to be made. The Didactic Program Director and Nutrition Advisor will review and rank applicants and obtain confirmation of selection results with the Department Chairperson. Students may only apply to the Cohort once.

### ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATIONS

Applicants will be notified no later than February 15th regarding their admission status by the Didactic Program Director and will have one week to confirm their acceptance. Initial

acceptance is contingent upon successful completion of all pre-requisite course requirements. The Nutrition Advisor or Didactic Program Director will review the status of applicants at the close of spring and summer semester. Should there be a change in admission status, the notification of admission denial will be communicated by the Didactic Program Director after grades have been posted for Spring or Summer sessions. A ranked alternate list will be used, if necessary, to meet annual enrollment goals should vacancies occur.

**Prerequisite courses GPA:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicants must have completed or be currently enrolled in all the following courses prior to beginning the cohort:**

Prerequisite Course Status

Courses	Have Completed	Currently Enrolled	Summer Enrollment
ENGL 1100	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ENGL 2201	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NUTR 1010	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NUTR 1300	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NUTR 1330	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NUTR 2105	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NUTR 2400	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEM 1150	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEM 1151	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEM 1160	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEM 1161	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEM 2750	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEM 2753	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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BIOL 1150, 1100 or 1050	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BIOL 1151, 1101 or 1151	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BIOL 2130	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BIOL 2131	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MATH 1065	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STATISTICS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please email completed application to [NUTR@ecu.edu](mailto:NUTR@ecu.edu). You will receive a confirmation e-mail from the Nutrition Department within 24 hours.**

## **DIDACTIC PROGRAM FORMS**

### ***Orientation to Nutrition and Dietetics Profession Summary***

Completed in NUTR 1300 Orientation to Nutrition and Dietetics Profession course to confirm that students have been made aware of pertinent academic and professional development information.

### ***Application for the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) Undergraduate Cohort***

Application process occurs annually. Applicants must have completed or be currently enrolled in the required prerequisite courses and submit their application by February 1<sup>st</sup> to the Didactic Program Director. Admission will be confirmed when all prerequisite courses have been completed. This application can be found on the departmental website <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/nutr/undergrad/index.cfm>.

### ***Declaration of Intent***

*Declaration of Intent* form MUST be completed by all seniors within [Dietetic Internship Centralized Application Service \(DICAS\)](#) if they are applying for Dietetic Internships. DICAS is an online applicant portal, for use by students who are applying to Dietetic Internship programs that participate in the DICAS Match. The DICAS Online is a service of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. This form will be used to identify what courses need to be completed by the student when applying to Dietetic Internships. Within DICAS, students will send a notification to the DPD Director that they intend to complete the program.

### ***Verification Statements***

*Verification Statements* are official forms that are recognized by The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics and Dietetic Internship Directors. *Verification Statements* are **REQUIRED** to verify that you have completed the DPD academic requirements and are eligible to begin the dietetic internship. After graduation, the DPD Director will obtain an official transcript verifying that you have completed the DPD requirements and will mail your Verification Statement to you. You will need to provide an original, signed copy to the Director of the Internship program you will be attending. A copy of the transcript and the Verification Statement will be kept on file in the DPD Director's office.

After graduation, please notify the DPD Director of any name, mailing address, email address, employment, academic or personal changes as the DPD Director will track the progress of graduates (regardless of whether you become a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist). The DPD Director will keep you informed of program changes, career opportunities, continuing educational opportunities, etc.

### **Illness or Injury at a Facility/Experiential Learning Site**

If the student has an injury, illness, or other adverse event while participating in class activities at a facility/Experiential learning site, neither the university nor the site is responsible or liable to provide compensation or medical treatment for the student.

### **Liability for Safety in Travel**

Liability for safety in travel to and from assigned areas/facilities is the responsibility of the student and is not the responsibility of the university or the assigned facility.

### **PRIVACY AND ACCESS TO STUDENT FILES**

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, it is the policy of the university that students have the right to access their personal file in regard to official educational records maintained by the university. For specific information, refer to the Office of the Registrar's website pertaining to FERPA. <https://registrar.ecu.edu/family-educational-rights-privacy-act/>

### **ACADEMIC PROBATION POLICY**

#### **GPA requirements**

To declare a major in Nutrition Science, students must have at least an overall 3.0 GPA. To continue in the program and to graduate, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA. Students who fail to do so may result in removal from the major. The DPD Director, academic advisor, or Department Chair will monitor the GPA of declared majors. If a student's academic performance falls below standard they will be contacted for advisement and may be put on academic probation.

Any student placed on academic probation will have at least one semester to raise their cumulative GPA to 3.0 or greater or they may be removed from the major.

#### **Appeals**

Under extenuating circumstances a student may request an extension of the probationary period. The appealing student must write a formal letter addressing the Department Chair that expresses (explicitly) any extenuating circumstances that adversely affected their GPA while also providing evidence of said circumstance. This appeal and its accompanying materials will be evaluated by a committee consisting of the Department Chair, DPD Director and a representative from the advising department.

### **STUDENT PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

Starfish Retention Solutions is an early alert/kudos communication tool used by faculty to support student academic success. Working through Blackboard, Starfish enables instructors to



provide praise or raise concerns regarding their students' academic performance. Referred to as "Kudos" and "Flags", these notifications are sent to the students' ECU e-mail account. A university support network has access to the notifications raised and provides outreach to students as needed. The Nutrition Academic Advisor will be in contact with the program director regarding early detection of academic difficulty. Students with minimal chances of success in the program must be counseled into career paths that are appropriate to their ability.

## **ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

The DPD program follows the official academic calendar established by ECU. Past, present, and future academic calendars are available online at <http://www.ecu.edu/fsonline/senate/fscalend.cfm>.

## **DIDACTIC PROGRAM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Academic integrity is expected of every student. Please refer to the ECU Student Code of Conduct <https://osrr.ecu.edu/policies-procedures/> for a list of what constitutes as an academic violation and for the procedures governing academic integrity violations.

### **Student Code of Conduct For Non-Academic Offenses**

Any student whose conduct becomes unsatisfactory in the judgment of university officials in light of the foregoing statements or policies will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary action can be initiated by campus police, students, staff, faculty, or administrative personnel. No student will be permitted to graduate or officially withdraw from ECU's DPD program while disciplinary action is pending against him or her. Unwarranted charges shall not be subject to disciplinary action. A student may be charged with offenses as a principal directly involved in the crime or as an accessory.

Students shall refrain from:

- A. Knowingly publishing or circulating false information that is damaging to any member of the university community (slander, lying, or libel).
- B. Using abusive, obscene, vulgar, loud, or disruptive language or conduct directed toward and offensive to a member of or a visitor to the university community.
- C. Harassing, abusing, or threatening another by means other than the use or threatened use of physical force.
- D. Endangering, injuring, or threatening to injure the person or property of another.
- E. Entering residence halls, buildings, classrooms, or other university properties or student properties (i.e., automobiles, lockers, or residences) without authorization.

- F. Vandalizing, destroying maliciously, damaging, or misusing public or private properties, including library materials.
- G. Stealing or attempting to steal, aiding or abetting, receiving stolen property, selling stolen property, or embezzling the property of another person, the university, or associated units.
  - 1. Book Selling. When a student resells a book to an individual or to the bookstore, that student is held responsible if the book that is being resold is stolen property. If and when a student buys a book from another student, it is the purchaser's or seller's responsibility to be able to identify the student involved. If the student buying the book will not or cannot identify the seller, the student buying the book will be held responsible.
  - 2. In addition to penalties given by the Honor Board, a student convicted of stealing or knowingly possessing stolen goods shall make immediate and complete restitution.
- H. Disruptive and disorderly conduct.
- I. Illegally manufacturing, selling, using, or possessing narcotics, barbiturates, amphetamines, marijuana, sedatives, tranquilizers, hallucinogens, and/or other known drugs and/or chemicals. A student shall also refrain from buying, selling, possessing, or using any kind of drug paraphernalia or counterfeit drugs.
- J. Being intoxicated in public, displaying, driving under the influence, or illegally possessing or using alcoholic beverages or liquors.
- K. Refusing to comply with any lawful order of a clearly identifiable university official acting in the performance of his or her duties in the enforcement of university policy.
- L. Failing to present his or her ECU 1 Card when requested to do so by a university official.
- M. Participating in hazing or harassment of East Carolina University students.
- N. Gambling.
- O. Forging, altering, defrauding, or misusing documents, charge cards, or money, checks, records, ECU 1 Cards of an individual or the university.
- P. Furnishing false information to the university with intent to deceive.
- Q. Issuing bad checks to the university.
- R. Violating academically the Honor Code, which consists of the following:

**Cheating** – The actual giving or receiving of any unauthorized aid or assistance or the giving or receiving of any unfair advantage on any form of any academic work.

**Plagiarism** – Copying the language, structure, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and passing same as one’s original work.

**Falsification** – Statement of any untruth, either verbally or in writing, regarding any circumstances relative to academic work.

**Attempts** – Action toward the commission of any act that would constitute an academic violation as defined herein (that is, cheating, plagiarism, and/or falsification) shall be deemed to be a violation of the Honor Code and maybe punishable to the same extent as if the attempted act had been completed or consummated.

- S. Possessing or using firearms, fireworks, explosives, or illegal weapons on property owned or controlled by the university.
- T. Withholding, with knowledge, information from East Carolina University.
- U. Obstructing justice by hindering or impeding a duly authorized function of any judicial body, council, or board.
- V. Violation of a university policy, city ordinances, state or federal laws.
- W. Any action that university officials or faculty members deem inappropriate, offensive, or disruptive to classroom behavior.
- X. Knowingly acting as an accessory to any of the charges contained herein by:
  - 1. Being present while the offense is committed and advises, instigates, or encourages the act, or fails to attempt to discourage or to prevent the offense; or
  - 2. Facilitating in the committing of an offense in any way.

## **Student Code of Conduct Policies and Procedures For Academic Offenses**

This document sets forth procedures to be followed for suspected academic integrity violations at ECU. It also details possible penalties for violations. Additional penalties for academic

integrity violations established by the Department of Nutrition Science are have been agreed upon by the faculty and are consistent with procedures and policies set by the ECU Faculty Manual, Part VI, Section II.

<https://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/fsonline/customcf/currentfacultymanual/part6.pdf>

Every student must comply with the academic Honor Code, which consists of the following:

**Cheating** – The actual giving or receiving of any unauthorized aid or assistance or the giving or receiving of any unfair advantage on any form of the academic work.

**Plagiarism** – Copying the language, structure, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and passing same as one’s original work.

**Falsification** – Statement of any untruth, either verbally or in writing, regarding any circumstances relative to academic work.

**Attempts** – Action toward the commission of any act that would constitute and academic violation as defined herein (that is, cheating, plagiarism, and/or falsification) shall be deemed to be a violation of the Honor Code and maybe punishable to the same extent as if the attempted act had been completed or consummated.

Students are expected to be reliable and demonstrate professional behavior while attending class, representing ECU during campus events, and representing ECU during off campus events. This includes:

**Reliability** – be on time to class/events, give 24-hour advanced notice if you are sick or cannot attend class or an out of class event.

**Professionalism** – Students should wait until **after** class is over to pack up, not use their cell phone during class, be respectful on campus, and dress appropriately (casual ok for class, business casual for out of class events, see below for examples)

### Business Casual - Top (Women)

**DO:**

Blazer



Button down



Cardigan



Sweater



Printed shirt



**DON'T:**

Tank top



Tshirt



Sleeveless blouse



Sheer blouse



### Business Casual - Top (Men)

**DO:**

Polo shirt



Button down



Short sleeve button down



Lightly patterned button down



Casual blazer



Sweater



**DON'T:**

Tshirt



Track jacket



Hoodie



## Procedures For Responding To Suspected Academic Misconduct

Because academic integrity violations are unfair to honest students and because they damage the reputation of the entire university, ignoring academically dishonest behavior is almost as problematic as actively participating in a violation.

*Faculty Responsibility.* If a faculty member suspects that a student has violated the academic integrity policy, he or she should, as a matter of academic honor, follow the procedures outlined below, making sure that the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities is aware of students who might be endangering the integrity of the university.

*Student Responsibility.* Students are also expected to promote academic integrity in the ECU community, both by upholding it in their own work and by taking the responsibility to report any suspected violations. A student knowing of circumstances in which an academic integrity violation may have occurred or is likely to occur is encouraged to bring this knowledge to the attention of a faculty member.

For a graphical overview of the academic integrity grievance process, please see:

<https://osrr.ecu.edu/wp-content/pv-uploads/sites/1015/2018/03/Academic-Integrity-Process.pdf>

*\* In the procedures that follow, “working days” means week days on which the university holds classes or administers final exams. This definition includes summer sessions.*

1. *Faculty member notifies student(s) of suspected violation and requests meeting with student(s)\**

When a faculty member believes an academic integrity violation has occurred in his or her class, the faculty member must request, in writing (delivery receipt-requested email or letter delivery in person or via receipt-request postal mail), that the student should come see him or her to discuss the situation. This written notice must be sent to the student(s) involved within 3 working days of the time the suspected violation comes to the attention of the faculty member. \*Note that a student may not withdraw from a course if a suspected academic integrity violation is being investigated.

2. *Student responds to notification*

Upon delivery of the written notification from the faculty member, the student has 5 working days to contact the instructor and set up a meeting day and time. If the student fails to respond to faculty notification within 5 working days, the student will forfeit the opportunity to present his or her understanding of the situation to the instructor. In this case, the student might be found responsible of the violation, and any sanctions determined by the faculty member will go into effect.

3. *Initial meeting occurs*

**Scheduling.** The initial meeting between the faculty member and the student suspected of an academic integrity violation should be held within 18 calendar days of the time that the suspected violation has come to the attention of the faculty member.

**Non-participating observer(s).** The student and the faculty member may each have a nonparticipating observer at the initial meeting. The faculty member's nonparticipating observer should be the Department Chair or his/her designee. The student may select a faculty member or student who is not involved in the suspected violation.

**Meeting procedures.** At the meeting, the faculty member will explain the reasons for his or her suspicion of an academic integrity violation. The student will be given the opportunity to respond and to explain any circumstances that he or she believes the instructor needs to consider with regard to the situation.

#### 4. *Meeting outcomes*

One of the following outcomes of the initial meeting will be communicated to the student within 10 working days of the meeting:

- a. *No violation found—no penalty.* If the instructor believes that no violation occurred, he or she will impose no penalty. He or she will notify the student in writing of this decision.
- b. *Violation found—academic penalty assigned by instructor (XF Grade option).* If the instructor believes there has been a violation, he or she will assign an appropriate admonition or academic penalty.

An admonition is essentially a warning by the professor that may result only in a grade reduction that does not exceed the value of the assignment in question. There are no University penalties or sanctions with admonitions. Admonitions are generally for lesser offenses and first-time offenses. However, first offenses that are more severe in nature are not automatically treated as an admonition but are subject to an academic penalty.

Possible penalties associated with an admonition may include but are not limited to:

- Recommendation to redo or resubmit work, if appropriate
- Grade reduction that does not exceed the value of the assignment
- Assessment of "zero" for the particular assignment

Typically, academic penalty will be failure for the course and a grade of "XF" recorded on the student's transcript to indicate that failure in the course was the result of an academic integrity violation. For details on the XF Grade option, see the ECU Academic Integrity Policy.

<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/fsonline/customcf/currentfacultymanual/part6.pdf>



The faculty member will impose an academic penalty by completing an Academic Integrity Violation Form (AIV form, see below). The completed form will be submitted by the faculty member to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities within 10 calendar days of the initial meeting. The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities will notify the student, in writing, of the instructor's decision and penalty within 5 working days of receiving the AIV form. The AIV form will be kept for 7 years in the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, unless the student has been suspended or expelled, in which case the record is kept permanently.

- c. *Violation found—severe enough for referral to Academic Integrity Board.* If the instructor believes that a failing grade in the course alone is inadequate disciplinary action given the severity of the violation, he or she may recommend to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities that the case be forwarded to the Academic Integrity Board (AIB) to pursue further action (see below). The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities will inform the student of the referral to the AIB within 5 working days of receiving the instructor's recommendation. Until the hearing is completed, the grade for the course shall be "Incomplete."

#### Repeated violations

If, upon receiving an AIV form from an instructor, the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities discovers that the student has prior academic violations in his or her file, the case will be referred to the Academic Integrity Board for consideration of a more severe academic penalty, including suspension or expulsion from the university. Until the hearing is completed, the grade for the course shall be "Incomplete." If the AIB determines that the violations merit suspension or expulsion, a record of the penalty will be kept permanently in the student's file.

#### Appeals of Decisions Reached by the Instructor

*Conditions for Appeal.* If an instructor imposes an academic penalty for a first violation of the academic integrity policy, the student may appeal the decision to the Academic Integrity Board if:

- The student contests the decision of the faculty member on the basis of the issues and materials discussed during the initial meeting and/or because he or she believes that the faculty member has not sufficiently supported his or her decision.
- if specific penalties are indicated in the course syllabus, it is expected that students who have violated the Academic Integrity Policy will be held to those penalties.

A student may appeal a faculty member's imposition of a penalty even if the faculty member has not properly followed the steps outlined above for responding to an academic integrity

violation. In the event that a faculty member has not followed the proper steps at the time of an appeal, he or she must fill out the AIV form at the time of the appeal and must participate in the appeal process as outlined below.

*Process for Appeals.* Students wishing to appeal a faculty member's imposition of a penalty for an Academic Integrity Violation must complete the "Academic Integrity Violation Appeal Form," available from the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities.

<https://registrar.ecu.edu/saac/>

*Time limit on appeals.* A student wishing to appeal an academic integrity penalty must submit the "Academic Integrity Violation Appeal Form" to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities within five working days after receiving notification of the decision made by the faculty member.

<http://osrr.ecu.edu>

### **Disruptive Academic Behavior**

East Carolina University is committed to providing each student with a rich, distinctive educational experience. Disruptive academic behavior impedes the learning environment and hinders other students' learning. The course instructor has original purview over his/her class and may deny a student who is unduly disruptive the right to attend the class. Students who repeatedly violate reasonable standards of behavior in the classroom or other academic setting may be removed from the course by the instructor following appropriate notice. Students removed from a course under this policy will receive a "drop" according to university policy and are eligible for tuition refund as specified in the current tuition refund policy. This policy does not restrict the instructor's prerogative to ask a disruptive student to leave an individual class session where appropriate or to refer the student to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Disruptive academic behavior is any behavior likely to substantially or repeatedly interfere with the normal conduct of instructional activities, including meetings with instructors outside of class. Examples of such behavior include, but are not limited to, making loud or distracting

noises; using cell phones and other electronic devices without prior approval; repeatedly speaking without being recognized; frequently arriving late or leaving early from class; and making threats or personal insults. A verbal expression of a disagreement with the instructor or other students on an academic subject matter discussed within the course, during times when the instructor permits discussion, is not in itself disruptive academic behavior.

### **Procedure for Instructors**

A student who does not follow reasonable standards of academic decorum should first receive a private verbal warning from the faculty member. The instructor should describe the behavior of concern to the student, explain that it is inappropriate, and ask the student to stop the behavior. If the behavior continues, the instructor should give the student a written warning indicating that the student will be removed from the course if the behavior does not cease. If the behavior persists, the instructor should discuss the situation with his/her department chair. If it is decided to remove the student from the course, then the instructor should schedule a meeting with his/her department chair and the student to inform the student that s/he is being removed from the course. This decision must be communicated in writing to the student with a copy promptly forwarded to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. The department chair must promptly communicate the decision in writing to the Office of the Registrar so that the student's schedule will be adjusted accordingly. Instructors should keep written documentation of all actions taken during this process. If the behavior is threatening in nature or is likely to result in immediate harm, the faculty member should contact the East Carolina University Police Department for immediate assistance.

**Academic Integrity Violation Form**

(Completed at conclusion of meeting or online, <https://osrr.ecu.edu/>)

Faculty Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Job \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Course \_\_\_\_\_ CRN \_\_\_\_\_

Date of alleged academic integrity violation \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Banner ID \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a description of the incident below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Identify the academic integrity violation(s) you charged the student with in your initial written notification.  
Check all that apply (Required).

Cheating     Plagiarism     Falsification/Fabrication     Violation Attempt     Violation Assistance

Responsibility:

- The student denied responsibility.
- The student admitted responsibility.
- The student failed to respond or appear or reschedule a meeting request.

If the student was found responsible, indicate the admonition or penalty assigned (check all that apply)

- Complete or Resubmit original assignment.
- Assignment grade reduction. Please specify new grade \_\_\_\_\_
- F or "no credit" for the assignment
- Course grade reduction. Please specify new grade \_\_\_\_\_
- F in the course (XF course option).

Other penalty (in accordance with the University Policy). Please specify. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Provide rationale for decision and academic penalty

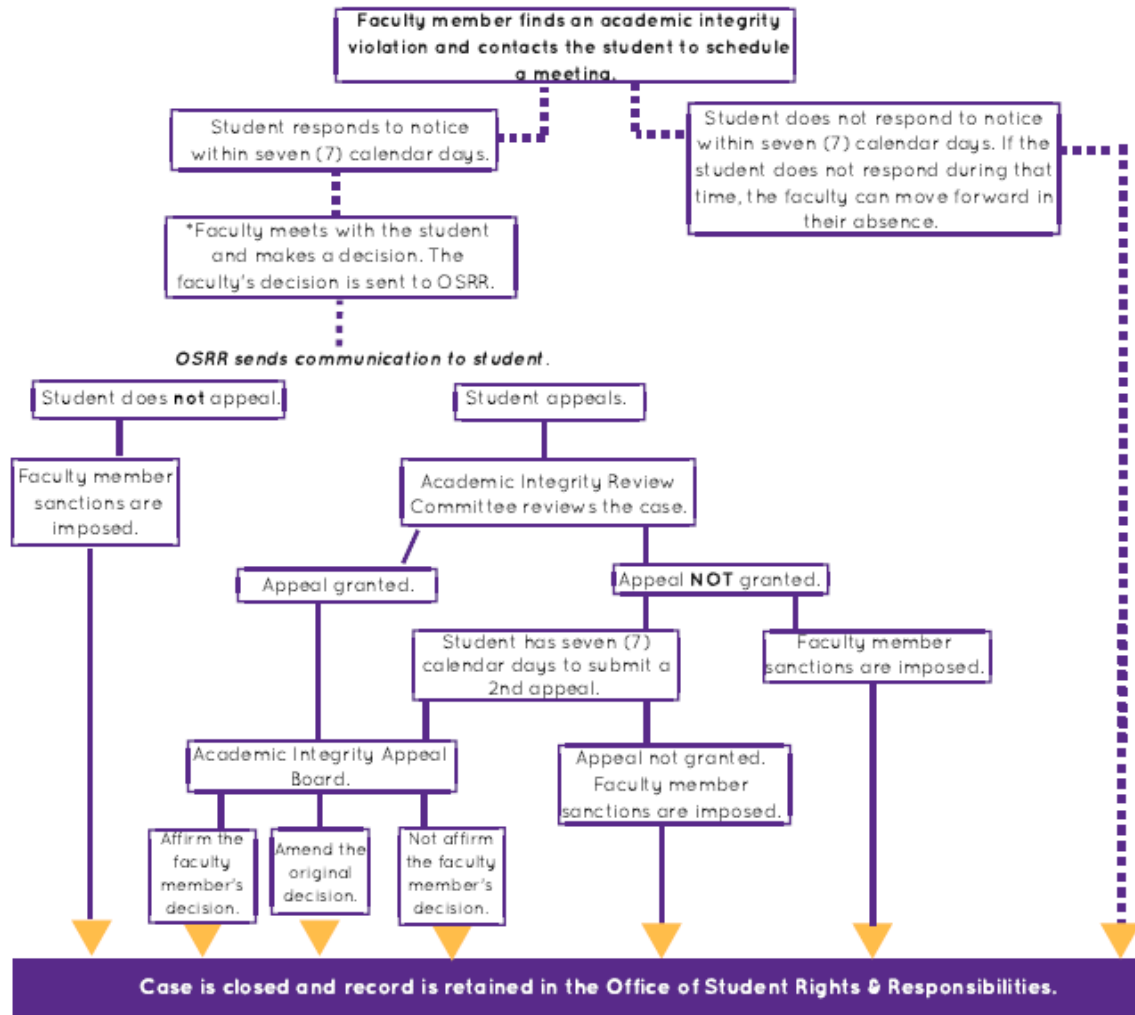
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Department Chair Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please supply a copy of the course syllabus and supporting documentation.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY



*NON-PARTICIPATING OBSERVER	ECU'S ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY	ECU RESOURCES
The student and the faculty member may each have a nonparticipating observer at the initial meeting.	For more information, click here or visit <a href="http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/fsonline/customcf/currentfacultymanual/part6.pdf">http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/fsonline/customcf/currentfacultymanual/part6.pdf</a>	Joyner Library Pirate Success Center University Writing Center

## **STUDENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES**

Students who have a grievance with the DPD program are encouraged to meet with the DPD Director. If the issue is not resolved, the student may present the grievance to the Chair of the Department of Nutrition Science, who will then meet with the Dean of the College of Allied Health if necessary.

Some grievances may be under the jurisdiction of the College and/or University and university policies as specified in the Student Handbook. The office of Student Affairs may facilitate the processing of student grievances.

<https://studentaffairs.ecu.edu/>

## **STUDENT COMPLAINTS RELATED TO ACEND STANDARDS**

If students have followed the proper procedure and believes the matter has not been properly handled, students may submit a complaint against any accredited program to ACEND®. Please see the link below to access the Complaint Investigation Form.

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/public-notices-and-announcements/filing-a-complaint-with-acend>

## **DEPARTMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES**

### ***Professional Development***

We encourage our students to participate in the Nutrition Science Association (NSA). The NSA provides students an avenue for networking with other students and nutrition professionals, participation in campus activities, and outreach activities. Through volunteering, there are ample opportunities for students to gain experience in the field of nutrition and dietetics. Additionally, the ECU student body is served by the NSA as a valid resource for nutrition information. Students are also encouraged to become student members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. For additional information, please visit [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org).

Additional opportunities available for professional development include networking, shadowing professionals in the field, attendance at professional meetings, and volunteer service.

### ***Student Research and Creative Activity***

There are many opportunities for undergraduate research projects available to qualifying students. Research projects, including writing for publication and submitting presentations at professional meetings, offer students excellent exposure to the field. Students are encouraged to express interest to faculty.

### ***International Opportunities***

Students are encouraged to develop cultural competence through diversity training and international study or travel. For information regarding international opportunities sponsored by ECU, please call the Office of Global Affairs at 252-328-1937 or visit [piratesabroad.ecu.edu](http://piratesabroad.ecu.edu)

## **CAREER OPTIONS**

### ***Become a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist (RDN)***

Completion of a didactic program in dietetics from an ACEND-accredited program is the first step in becoming a registered dietitian nutritionist. Our undergraduate didactic program provides this step. The second step is to complete an ACEND-accredited supervised practice dietetic internship program or Individual Supervised Practice Pathway. The third step is passing the CDR dietetic registration exam. For more details about the requirements and process to become a registered dietitian nutritionist and dietetic technician, registered (DT), please visit [5 Steps to Become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist](#) website on eatright.org. Please note, in the year 2024, all students must have a graduate degree to take the CDR dietetic registration exam.

### ***Become a Dietetic Technician, Registered (DTR)***

For information about what a DTR is and how to become a DTR, please visit <https://www.eatrightpro.org/about-us/what-is-an-rdn-and-dtr/what-is-a-nutrition-and-dietetics-technician-registered>

### ***Graduate School***

For information about graduate school at ECU, please visit <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/gradschool>.

### ***Employment***

For information about a career in dietetics, please visit <https://www.eatrightpro.org/about-us/what-is-an-rdn-and-dtr/what-is-a-registered-dietitian-nutritionist>.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

For a complete list of student services offered by ECU, please visit the Division of Student Affairs at <http://studentaffairs.ecu.edu> and Academic and Student Affairs at <http://deanofstudents.ecu.edu>.

### **Learning Resources**

The William E. Laupus Health Sciences Library provides health sciences information, resources, and services for eastern North Carolina with a primary focus on colleges and schools within the Division of Health Sciences at ECU. The library is staffed with fourteen librarians and one librarian is assigned as a liaison to the program. Services provided by the library includes a systematic review service, customized instruction sessions on critical evaluation and information seeking skills, bibliographic software, exam grading, and collection development



with input from program faculty. The collections/subscriptions are print and electronic. In total, Laupus has 36,734 unique titles in print, 14,402 unique titles as e-books, and access to 120 databases total.

Library facilities include computer lab, computer classrooms, and study rooms. Any faculty, staff, or student with a valid Pirate ID can access digital library resources from any location with internet access through the ECU website.

The Laupus Library is open 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 7:30AM - 5:00 p.m. Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and noon -10:00 p.m. on Sunday during the semester. Hours during semester and holiday breaks are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### Academic Services

University Writing Center – Assists at any stage of the writing process.

Speech Communication Center – Organizing and delivering presentations

Career Services – major and career planning, resumes and cover letters, job search, interview preparation, graduate school resources, career resource guide, alumni services. Hours – walk in hours daily, and by appointment.

Information Technology and Computing Services – Assists students, faculty, and staff with their technology needs such as help with Blackboard, PiratePort, Banner, e-mail, Pirate ID, password resets, and mobile applications. Computer services include computer warranty repair, virus removal, software installation, network troubleshooting, etc.

Health Sciences Bookstore – Carries all necessary items for the students in the program.

Office of the Registrar – Registration information and assistance, course drops and withdrawals, transcript services, graduates, enrollment verification, graduation.

### Counseling Services

Navigate Counseling Clinic – Services designed to help students identify challenges, cope with stress, improve interpersonal skills and relationships, choose a career or education path or

change careers, improve confidence and self-esteem, improve assertiveness, and assess and address the impact of alcohol or drug use in their lives. Hours: by appointment.

Center for Counseling and Student Development – Enhance personal growth through developmental, preventive, and therapeutic programming designed to facilitate skill development, improved functioning, and increased understanding of self and others. Students in crises can walk-in M-F from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm; others by appointment.

### Health Services

Student Health Services – Primary healthcare services including medical clinic, pharmacy, lab, x-ray, health education, nutrition, rapid care, allergy clinic and sexual assault, and personal safety to enrolled students. Medical advice from a nurse is available 24 hours per day, 365 days a year.

Health Sciences Campus Student Center – Satellite Student Health Service office.

Access to fitness equipment, basketball courts, among other areas for sports, group training, and fitness classes.

### Disability Services

ECU seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Department for Disability Support Services located in Slay 138 ((252) 737-1016). For more information on DDS, please visit <http://dss.ecu.edu>.

Disability support services provides individuals with disabilities support services that will enable them to access programs, services, facilities, and activities of the university including accommodations. Hours: M-F 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

### Financial Aid Services

Office of Student Financial Aid – Education, guidance, and support to individuals and families in the financial aid process and administers federal, state, and institutional aid programs to students. Through the use of federal and state funds, as well as contributions from its many friends and alumni, ECU makes every effort to assist students in the continuation of their education. The staff of the ECU Office of Student Financial Aid assists students in obtaining funds from the source best suited to the individual's need. Information pertaining to the application process, types of aid available and academic requirements may be obtained from the ECU Office of Student Financial Aid and at <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/financial/availableaid.cfm>. Students should contact appropriate deans or departmental chairpersons of intended major areas concerning scholarships that are available in those

disciplines. Additional information regarding college or departmental scholarships is available online at <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/universityscholarships/>. Scholarships are also available through the NC Dietetic Association Foundation and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation.

Cashier's Office – Billing, receiving, and financial record of keeping of student tuition, fees, and related charges. Hours: M-F 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

### Student Affairs

Dean of Students – Addresses student complaints and inquiries and serves as an advocate for student issues, needs and concerns; responds to emergencies and assists with crisis situations. Hours: M-F 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities – Promotes students' awareness and understanding of their rights and responsibilities. Hours: M-F 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Student Veteran Services – Transition from the military to university life. Navigation of Federal VA benefits and the resources available on campus and within the community. Hours: M-F 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

LGBT Resource Office – Support and a sense of community for students and alumni of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Fosters student leadership, as well as personal, academic, and professional growth, through volunteer opportunities and collaborative partnerships across campus. Safe and welcoming environment that promotes understanding, acceptance, and visibility of the LGBT community through a comprehensive range of educational programming and advocacy services. Hours: M-F 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

### **DIVERSITY**

For information on the Office of Equity and Diversity, please visit <http://oed.ecu.edu>. The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center also offers multicultural opportunities. Please visit <http://lwcc.ecu.edu> for additional information.

## Orientation to Nutrition and Dietetics Profession Summary

### General Information

The East Carolina University website ([www.ecu.edu](http://www.ecu.edu)) and the undergraduate catalog are great resources for information on many topics including admission and retention requirements, anticipated financial costs, university policies and procedures, degrees available, academic calendars, career and counseling services, Pirate tutoring center, volunteer and service learning center, libraries and other student services.

### Undergraduate Didactic Program

The mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) is to prepare graduates to become competent leaders in successful careers in a multicultural society making a positive impact on health as registered dietitian nutritionists. The DPD will use innovative learning strategies in the delivery of the required knowledge to prepare graduates for supervised practice leading to eligibility for the Commission on Dietetic Registration's (CDR) credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN). The DPD Program is a Bachelor of Science degree program that provides graduates with the required coursework to apply for a supervised practice or dietetic internship in order to become a registered dietitian. Information about the program and degree requirements can be found on the Nutrition Science link on the Department of Allied Health website at (<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/nutr/>).

### Grade Point Average (GPA)

Academic excellence is required to be successful in nutrition programs. To declare a major in Nutrition and Dietetics, students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0. Students who fall below the minimum GPA will have one semester to raise their GPA and will be considered to be on Academic Probation. Failure to raise the cumulative GPA to a 3.0 or above will result in removal from the major. A student can be on Academic Probation only once while in the cohort.

### Curriculum Options

The two curriculum options within the major of Nutrition and Dietetics include the Didactic Program in Dietetics and the Nutrition with Science track. See the curriculum plans and course

requirements for each curriculum on the departmental website <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/nutr/>. Academic advisors are available in the College of Allied Health Advising Center for both curriculum options.

### **Program Accreditation**

The Didactic Program in Dietetics is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND), which is a specialized accreditation body recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE). Outcomes data and reports related to accreditation are available upon request from the Program Director or Department Chairperson.

### **Departmental Policies, Procedures and Forms**

The Department of Nutrition Science has policies, procedures and required documentation for academic advising, code of conduct offenses, academic probation, and student complaints/grievances. These are located in the advising office as well as in the department office.

### **Scholarship Opportunities**

Various resources are available for financial support. Contact the Office of Financial Aid for further information <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/financial/availableaid.cfm>. Scholarships are also available through the Department of Nutrition Science, the College of Allied Health Sciences, the North Carolina Dietetic Association Foundation, and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation.

### **Professional and Leadership Development**

Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities to enhance personal and professional development. Activities might 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 global careers. Developmental opportunities might include diversity training, study or travel abroad programs, international internships, and volunteer service opportunities. Contact the Office of Global Affairs for more information on long term international programs and the Office of Continuing and Professional Education for short term international programs. Contact the Office for Equity and Diversity for information on diversity training to improve cultural competence.

### **Research and Creative Activity**

It is important for undergraduate students to be exposed to research. Students are encouraged to identify faculty mentors who mentor them in developing research skills, grant writing and providing professional poster and oral presentations.

### **Professional Portfolio/Resume**

Undergraduate students are encouraged to compile a professional portfolio that includes components such as examples of outstanding academic works, honors or awards, scholarships, reference letters as well as a record of extracurricular activities, volunteer service, leadership development and career-related work experiences.

### **Supervised Practice/Dietetic Internship Requirements**

Completion of a supervised practice or dietetic internship at the graduate level is required to become a registered dietitian nutritionist. 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. In addition to the application process being competitive, there are a limited number of positions available.

**National Organization - Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics** [eatright.org](http://eatright.org)

**State Organizations - North Carolina Dietetic Association** <https://ncda.memberclicks.net/> and  
**North Carolina State Licensure Board** <https://www.ncbdn.org/>

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What does DPD stand for and what is it?**

Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) is a Bachelor of Science degree program that provides students with the appropriate coursework to apply for a dietetic internship in order to become a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist (RDN). Completion of a didactic program will also allow one to take the Dietetic Technician, Registered (DTR) exam.

### **How do I find an advisor?**

You may contact the College of Allied Health Advising Center at 252-328-6001.

### **What are foundations courses?**

These courses provide a solid foundation in the core disciplines in the liberal arts (humanities, fine arts, basic sciences, and social sciences), in conjunction with education in health promotion, physical activity, mastery of writing, and mathematics competencies. Foundations courses are required for all undergraduate students regardless of their major at ECU. For a complete list of foundations courses required, please visit <http://catalog.ecu.edu/>.

### **What is a core course?**

Core courses are specifically nutrition (NUTR) related courses required for the major and the minor. For a complete list of the courses for the major and minor, please refer to the Undergraduate Student Catalog at <http://catalog.ecu.edu/>.

### **What is a cognate course?**

Cognate courses are required courses for the major and the minor. While cognates are required, they are not NUTR courses. For a complete list of the courses for the major and minor, please refer to the Undergraduate Student Catalog at <http://catalog.ecu.edu/>.

### **What are the main differences between a minor and the two majors in Nutrition Science?**

A Nutrition **minor** will **NOT** qualify a student to apply for a dietetic internship program or to practice as an RDN. A Nutrition and Dietetics major in the Nutrition with Science option will **NOT** qualify a student to apply for a dietetic internship or to practice as an RDN. A Nutrition Science major in the Didactic Program in Dietetics **WILL** qualify students for a dietetic internship and to practice as an RDN.

### **Is there a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) requirement for the Didactic Program in Dietetics?**



Yes, you must have a GPA of at least 3.0 to be accepted into the program. Additionally, it is necessary that you maintain a GPA of 3.0 or above to continue in the program.

**Are there any funds available to dietetic students?**

There are many resources available to students in need of financial assistance, i.e., grants and scholarships from various organizations, the school you are interested in attending, and the federal government. Funding is also available to qualifying students interested in graduate studies and dietetic internships. For more information, please visit ECU's Office of Financial Aid at [www.ecu.edu/financial](http://www.ecu.edu/financial) or you may visit the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics website at [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org).

**Is ECU the only place I can do my internship?**

There are internships available throughout the United States. For information on supervised internship programs, go to <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs/about-accredited-programs>.

**Do I have to start my internship immediately following graduation?**

While it is not required, it is encouraged. Talk with your advisor and faculty members to determine the best course of action for you.

**What is the difference between a Dietetic Technician, Registered (DTR) and a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist (RDN)?**

An RDN has completed a minimum of a bachelor's degree at an accredited college or university, whereas a DTR has completed at least an associate's degree. Additionally, both an RDN and a DTR must pass a national examination and complete continuing professional educational requirements to maintain registration. For more details, please visit <https://www.eatrightpro.org/about-us/what-is-an-rdn-and-dtr/rdn-and-ndtr-overview>.

**What is the difference between a Nutritionist and a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist (RDN)?**

An RDN has successfully passed the National Registration Exam administered through the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. A Nutritionist may or may not be an RDN.

### **What are the career possibilities for a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist?**

RDNs work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, institutions, school systems, outpatient clinics, corporate wellness, and more. Within these settings, RDNs have the opportunity to work in various fields, including clinical, community, food service and systems management, sports nutrition, and more. For more detailed descriptions of career possibilities, please visit the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' website at <https://www.eatrightpro.org/about-us/what-is-an-rdn-and-dtr/what-is-a-registered-dietitian-nutritionist>

### **What are the career possibilities for non-RDNs?**

There are career opportunities for students who earn their bachelor's degree, but do not complete the RDN requirements. These students are eligible to take the registration examination to become a Dietetic Technician, Registered (DTR). According to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, DTRs work in settings such as hospitals and clinics, extended-care facilities, home health-care programs, schools, correctional facilities, restaurants, food companies, foodservice providers, public health agencies, government and community programs, health clubs, weight management clinics, and wellness centers. For more information on employment opportunities for DTRs, please visit <https://www.eatrightpro.org/about-us/what-is-an-rdn-and-dtr/what-is-a-nutrition-and-dietetics-technician-registered>

### **How do I know if a career in dietetics is right for me?**

You can contact ECU Career Services for advice about what careers are available at <https://career.ecu.edu/>. For more specific advice about a degree and a career in nutrition and dietetics, please visit the Academic Advising Center at [www.ecu.edu/advising/](http://www.ecu.edu/advising/).

# DIDACTIC PROGRAM

## Orientation to Nutrition and Dietetics Profession Signature Form

I have read and understand the content of the Didactic Program in Dietetics Student Handbook including departmental, college, and university guidelines, regulations, and services.

**Student Signature:** *Sign your name in the area below*

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**Date:** Click here to enter text.

**Banner ID:** Click here to enter text.