Didactic Program in Dietetics

Overview:

The Family and Consumer Sciences Department at Sacramento State also offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Food and Nutrition with an emphasis in Dietetics. This major is designed to meet the degree requirement that prepares students to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN), as well as to prepare students for a variety of careers in nutrition, foodservice administration, and food science.

The Dietetics emphasis is a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) and is currently accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60606-6995, 1-800-877-1600, Ext. 5400.

A BS in Dietetics is designed to academically prepare students to apply for an Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics accredited supervised practice program (Dietetic Internships or Pre-professional Practice Programs) to establish eligibility for active membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and/or to sit for the registration examination for becoming a diet technician registered or a registered dietitian nutritionist after successful completion of an accredited supervised practice program and the only program that allows one to become to go on to become a registered dietitian nutritionist at Sacramento State. To become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN), you must first successfully complete the degree, followed by an accredited supervised practice program, and then pass the Examination for Registered Dietitians. Our program will guide you through these steps.

The majority of required courses for the Dietetics program are offered through the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. Additional courses are needed in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics & Statistics, and Psychology. Students who intend to earn a BS with an emphasis in Dietetics declare the Family and Consumer Sciences major, with a Nutrition and Food concentration. Students must complete all-university graduation requirements, including general education and specified dietetics course requirements, as described in the major requirements and in the CSUS course catalog. Approximately three semesters prior to the anticipated graduation date and in conjunction with a faculty adviser, students complete a Dietetics Emphasis Declaration to verify completion and/or pending completion of dietetics course requirements along with a Declaration of Major Form and a copy of your transcripts from all colleges and universities to an advisor for approval.

If you already have a Bachelor’s degree (or a more advanced degree), you may elect to take only courses required for the DPD listed under the dietetic emphasis major requirements. You are advised to consult with a faculty adviser for the courses you need to take.

Employment opportunities include dietetics work in hospitals, HMOs, health care facilities, sports nutrition, corporate wellness programs, hospitality and food service industry, food and nutrition-related businesses, private practice, community and public health settings, university and medical centers and research areas.
DPD Program Mission, Goals and Objectives

The mission of the DPD at Sacramento State is to prepare a diverse population of students to become competent, productive, culturally sensitive, committed, and ethical members of the professions of dietetics, nutrition and food. The program is dedicated to the delivery of a high quality curriculum and experiential activities in accordance with the Foundation Knowledge and Skills set forth by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics and prepare students for supervised practice leading to eligibility for the Commission on Dietetic Registration credentialing exam to become registered dietitian nutritionists or entry-level nutrition and dietetics technicians, registered.

Goals and related Objectives:

Goal 1: The program will prepare graduates for supervised practice, graduate school, or to pursue employment in the field of dietetics.

Program objective measures:

1.1 Over a seven-year period, at least 50% of DPD graduates will apply to a supervised practice program within one year of completing the program.

1.2 Over a seven-year period, acceptance into a supervised practice program by ≥ 50% of DPD graduates who apply for a supervised practice program.

1.3 Over a seven-year period, 80% or more of DPD graduates will either continue on in a supervised practice program, will obtain employment in dietetics, nutrition and food or related field or acceptance into a graduate program within 12 months of completing the DPD.

1.4 Over a seven-year period, of the students who complete a supervised practice program, ≥ 80% of those who respond to the graduate survey will rate the DPD program as being “adequate” or higher in preparing them for a dietetic internship.

1.5 Over a seven-year period, of the DPD graduates who complete a supervised practice program, ≥80% will pass the Registration Examination for Registered Dietitians on their first attempt.

1.6 Over a seven-year period, 75% or more of employers of DPD graduates that complete the employer survey will indicate that the graduate was adequately prepared for entry level work in supervised practice or other position in the field of nutrition and food/dietetics.

1.7 Over a seven-year period, 75% or more of dietetic internship directors of DPD graduates that complete the director survey will indicate that the graduate was adequately prepared for supervised practice.

1.8 Over a seven-year period, 60% or more of students will complete the degree and program requirements within six years (150% of the program length).

Goal 2: The program will graduate diverse practitioners who work effectively with diverse populations in dietetics or related fields.

Program objective measures:

2.1 Over a seven-year period, the DPD will include representation of at least three ethnic/racial groups and 5% male students.

2.2 Over a seven-year period, 80% or more of DPD graduates will indicate cultural awareness and sensitivity.
Goal 3: The program will graduate practitioners with a commitment to continuing education and service to the profession.

Program objective measures:

3.1 Over a seven-year period, at least 75% of DPD graduates responding to the one year post-graduation survey will indicate membership in a professional organization.

3.2 Over a seven-year period, at least 50% of graduates responding to the one year post-graduation survey will indicate having participated in one or more professional activity including but not limited to continuing education events, workshops, seminars, association, meetings, professional updates, graduate level coursework.

*Program outcome data is available upon request*