STUDENT HANDBOOK
2021-2022

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Kristina (Krissie) May, MS, RDN, LD
Clinical Instructor/Program Coordinator
Lamar University
Department of Nutrition, Hospitality & Human Services
PO BOX 10035
Beaumont, Texas 77710
Office 123: 409-880-8051
Email: Kmay4@lamar.edu

The Lamar University Didactic Program in Nutrition & Dietetics is accredited by:
Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000
Chicago, IL 60606-6995
Phone: (800) 877-1600 ext. 5400
www.eatright.org/ACEND

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LAMAR UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION, HOSPITALITY, & HUMAN SERVICES

DIDACTIC PROGRAM IN
NUTRITION AND DIETETICS
(DPND)

STUDENT HANDBOOK

This handbook has been prepared by the Department of Nutrition, Hospitality, & Human Services for use by students enrolled in the Didactic Program in Nutrition & Dietetics (DPND). Its objective is to readily provide information frequently needed by students about the Lamar University DPND. This Student Handbook is not designed to be used in place of, but rather in conjunction with the Lamar University Comprehensive Catalog and Student Handbook.

DISCLAIMER

The guidelines and policies presented in this handbook are intended for information only and do not constitute a contract, expressed or implied, between any student and faculty member in Lamar University. Lamar University reserves the right to withdraw courses at any time, change fees, calendars, curricula, and any other requirement affecting students. Changes become effective when the proper authorities so determine the application to both prospective students and to the students already enrolled.

Lamar University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action educational institution and employer. Students, faculty and staff members are selected without regard to their race, color, creed, sex, age or national origin, consistent with the Assurance of Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Executive Order 11246 as issued and amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Inquiries concerning application of these regulations may be referred to the Office of the Vice President for Administration and Counsel.
Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics (DPND)

Student Handbook

Introduction to the Program
The Lamar University Didactic Program in Nutrition & Dietetics (DPND) is a four-year program culminating in a Bachelor of Science Degree. The program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND). The program consists of 120 credit hours, including the university’s core curriculum requirements (34 credit hours), department core courses (7 credit hours), science courses (19 credit hours), foods/nutrition/dietetics courses (39 credit hours), and other supporting courses (21 credit hours). The program is a track within the Nutrition-Dietetics Program in the Department of Nutrition, Hospitality, & Human Services (NHH). Upon satisfactory completion of the degree and DPND course requirements, graduates will receive a verification statement, along with their degree, and are eligible to apply for accredited supervised practice programs (such as internships). Students who wish to pursue DPND requirements in order to earn a verification statement after being awarded at least a baccalaureate degree in a discipline other than dietetics must complete the requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition-Dietetics track.

Note: Effective January 1, 2024, the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) will require a minimum of a master’s degree to be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN). In order to be approved for registration examination eligibility with a bachelor’s degree, an individual must meet all eligibility requirements and be submitted into CDR’s Registration Eligibility Processing System (REPS) before **12:00 midnight Central Time, December 31, 2023**. For more information about this requirement visit CDR’s website. In addition, CDR requires that individuals complete coursework and supervised practice in program(s) accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). Graduates who successfully complete the ACEND-accredited didactic in dietetics program at Lamar University are eligible to apply to an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program (ex: Dietetic Internship (DI)).

To become a registered dietitian nutritionist, an individual must:
1. **Earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition-Dietetics/earn a verification statement.**
2. **Complete an ACEND accredited supervised practice program (ex: Dietetic Internship).**
3. **Successfully pass the National Registration Examination for Dietitians.** The dietetic registration examination requirements are set by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). Upon passing the exam, the student is then able to use the credential of RDN.

Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995, 1-800-877-1600 ext. 5400. https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend

Commission on Dietetic Registration of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995, 1-800-877-1600 ext. 5500. https://www.cdrnet.org/
**Program Mission**

The mission of the Lamar University Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics (DPND) is to prepare graduates to use program knowledge and skills for careers in nutrition, dietetics, and other fields to address issues of critical concern in the local, national, and international communities, ultimately contributing to the enhancement of human well-being. Students gain an appreciation of lifelong learning, ethical standards, and diversity. The curriculum is designed to provide core knowledge for the preparation of entry-level registered dietitians. After completion of the DPND required courses, along with the Bachelor’s Degree and earning a verification statement, program graduates are qualified to apply for supervised practice programs (dietetic internships) accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Graduates who successfully complete supervised practice programs are qualified to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians, and upon passing the exam, to become credentialed as Registered Dietitians Nutritionists (RDNs), apply for licensure if applicable, and become active members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

**Program Goals and Objectives (through June 30, 2023)**

**Program Goal 1:** To provide quality instruction and experiences for graduates to be successful in ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs.

**Program Objectives for Goal 1:**
1. Over a five year period, 90% of students beginning at the freshman year will complete the DPND within six years (150% of time required).
2. Over a five year period, 50% of graduates will apply for accredited supervised practice programs within one year of graduation.
3. Over a five year period, 90% of graduates who apply for accredited supervised practice programs within one year of graduation will be accepted.
4. Over a five year period, 80% of graduates will pass the Registration Examination for Dietitians on first attempt.
5. Over a five year period, 90% of graduates will pass the Registration Examination for Dietitians within one year of first attempt.
6. Over a five year period, 80% of graduates accepted into accredited supervised practice programs will be rated at least “satisfactory” in knowledge and skills at the beginning of the program.
7. Over a five year period, 80% of graduates accepted into accredited supervised practice programs will be rated at least “satisfactory” in professional readiness at the beginning of the program.
8. Over a five year period, 80% of graduates accepted into accredited supervised practice programs will be rated at least “average” in overall preparedness to successfully complete the program.

**Program Goal 2:** To provide instruction and experiences that motivate graduates to seek opportunities for lifelong learning and instill in graduates an appreciation for ethical standards and diversity.

**Program Objectives for Goal 2:**
1. Over a five year period, within one year after graduation 90% of graduates who are accepted into supervised practice programs will be accepted into a post baccalaureate degree program in nutrition/dietetics or related field.
2. Over a five year period, within one year after graduation 30% of graduates who do not apply or are not accepted into supervised practice programs will be accepted into a post baccalaureate degree program in nutrition/dietetics or related field.
3. Over a five year period, within one year after graduation 75% of graduates who are not full time interns/students will report finding employment which uses knowledge and skills gained from the DPND.

4. Over a five year period, 90% of graduates will report a strong appreciation of ethical standards as a result of instruction and experiences in the DPND.

5. Over a five year period, 90% of graduates will report a strong appreciation of diversity as a result of instruction and experiences in the DPND.

Note: Program outcomes data are available upon request.

Program Admission
A student who is admitted to Lamar University may enter the DPND by declaring a major in Nutrition, Hospitality, & Human Services: Nutrition- Dietetics Track. For admission requirements to Lamar University, go to [http://www.lamar.edu/admissions/index.html](http://www.lamar.edu/admissions/index.html). Students who pursue DPND requirements after being awarded at least a baccalaureate degree in a discipline other than dietetics must complete the requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition-Dietetics Track. The student must meet with the DPND Program Director, who will evaluate the student’s previous course work and provide a list of courses necessary to complete requirements.

Tuition, Fees, and Other Expenses
For current information on tuition and fees, see [http://students.lamar.edu/paying-for-school/ tuition-and-fees.html](http://students.lamar.edu/paying-for-school/tuition-and-fees.html). Information about financial aid can be found at [http://financialaid.lamar.edu/index.html](http://financialaid.lamar.edu/index.html). Other program expenses include textbooks, school supplies, laboratory fees and materials, etc. In addition, DPND students will need to purchase their own knives, a lab coat, hat, and apron (approximately $200) for culinary and food service management classes. Students should plan to become members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; dues are $64 per year. Students should also plan to become an active student member of Lamar University’s Nutrition and Dietetic Student Organization (LUNDA). Annual membership is $10.
Degree Plan – Nutrition-Dietetics Track
An overview of course requirements for the Bachelor of Science Degree appears below:

**GENERAL EDUCATION (34 HRS)**
- ENGL 1301
- ENGL Literature OR PHIL 1370
- COMM OR Foreign Language
- HIST 1301
- HIST 1302
- POLS 2301
- POLS 2302
- Social Science (Psychology or Sociology)
- MATH 1332 (Contemporary Math)
- Creative Arts
- Statistics
- LIBR 1101

**NHHS DEPT CORE (7 HRS)**
- FCSC 4301 (Senior Seminar)
- APPROVED UPPER LEVEL HLTH or KINT ELECTIVE
- APPROVED ONE HOUR COURSE

**SCIENCE (19 HRS)**
- BIOL 2401 (Anatomy and Physiology I)
- BIOL 2402 (Anatomy and Physiology II)
- BIOL 2421 (Microbiology)
- CHEM 1306/1106 **AND** 1308 (Chemistry for Allied Health) **OR**
- CHEM 1311/1111 **AND** 1312/1112 (General Chemistry) **PLUS** CHEM 3311/3111 (Organic)

**NUTRITION/DIETETICS (39 HRS)**
- HOSP 1315 (Basic Foods)
- HOSP 3314 (Food and Beverage Controls)
- HOSP 3360 (Quantity Foods Management)
- NUTR 1322 (Basic Nutrition)
- NUTR 3316 (Nutrition and Fitness)
- NUTR 3320 (Advanced Nutrition)
- NUTR 3328 (Community Nutrition)
- NUTR 3330 (Nutritional Biochemistry)
- NUTR 4300 (Medical Nutrition Therapy I)
- NUTR 4307 (Nutrition Thru Life Cycle)
- NUTR 4315 (Medical Nutrition Therapy II)
- NUTR 4331 (Nutrition Assessment and Counseling)
- NUTR 4347 (Advanced Foods)

**NHHS DEPT CORE (7 HRS)**
- FCSC 4301 (Senior Seminar)
- APPROVED UPPER LEVEL HLTH or KINT ELECTIVE
- APPROVED ONE HOUR COURSE

**SUPPORTING COURSES (21 HRS)**
- NURS 2373 (Basic Pathophysiology)
- MGMT 3310 (Principles of Organization & Mgmt)
- ENGL 3310 or BCOM (Written Communication)
- APPROVED Elective
- APPROVED Elective
- APPROVED UPPER LEVEL Elective
- APPROVED UPPER LEVEL Elective

To find course descriptions along with prerequisites, see the Course Directory tab of the Lamar University Comprehensive Catalog at [http://catalog.lamar.edu/course-directory/index.html](http://catalog.lamar.edu/course-directory/index.html).

An official degree plan should be obtained from the Department of Nutrition, Hospitality, & Human Services Department office or from an advisor.

**Transfer Credit**
Students who transfer to Lamar University from another Texas public institution of higher education shall be governed by the provisions of Texas Senate Bill 148 (75th Legislature). Lamar will accept, *en bloc*, an approved core curriculum successfully completed at another Texas public institution of higher education in lieu of Lamar’s core curriculum. Any student who transfers to Lamar University before completing the core curriculum of another Texas public institution of higher education shall receive academic credit at Lamar for each of the courses that the student has successfully completed in the core curriculum of the other institution; however, the student shall be required to complete Lamar’s core curriculum. Students transferring to Lamar from institutions of higher education outside of Texas or from private institutions within Texas shall be subject to the requirements of Lamar University’s core curriculum.

Regarding all transfer courses, a Lamar University Student Records Specialist in the Office of the Registrar
evaluates the student’s transfer work and matches the transfer courses to the equivalent Lamar University courses. The transcript evaluation becomes part of the student’s electronic record at Lamar University. Some transfer courses may be labeled as “accepted” by Lamar University, but not equivalent to a specific course offered at Lamar. Such courses may be used as free electives; however, the student’s advisor and/or department chair are free to make decisions whether to accept the courses as meeting degree requirements (unless the courses are used to meet the Lamar Core Curriculum). The DPND Program Director may request course descriptions and syllabi to determine whether transfer credits meet requirements for the DPND nutrition/dietetics courses or supporting courses.

Post Baccalaureate Students Meeting DPND Requirements
Students who pursue DPND requirements after being awarded at least a baccalaureate degree in a discipline other than dietetics must complete the requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition-Dietetics Track. The University’s requirements for a second bachelor’s degree include completion of the degree plan and at least 30 credit hours beyond the first bachelor’s degree completed at Lamar University. The DPND Program Director will review the student’s previous course work, as well as experiential learning, to determine courses needed by the student to complete the Bachelor’s Degree along with the DPND requirements. The student will be provided a plan for completion. Plans are designed individually to assure the student meets core knowledge to successfully earn a verification statement and complete an accredited supervised practice program.

Academic Advising
Academic advising is mandatory for students before they can register for classes. Freshmen and sophomores with fewer than 60 credit hours are advised in the Undergraduate Advising Center (UAC). The UAC advises, enrolls, tracks, and refers students to faculty, departments, support services, and activities. The UAC assesses and responds to student needs, helping students formulate the appropriate plan for student success toward degree completion. Extensive advisement opportunities for Juniors and Seniors are also available through the Offices of Student Advising and Retention Services (STARS). Detailed information is available at http://www.lamar.edu/student-advising-and-retention/.

Students with over 60 credit hours meet with the Nutrition/Dietetics program director or faculty for advisement. One week before advisement begins each semester, faculty members will use Navigate to send student emails notifying students to sign up for advisement. It is important that you schedule an advising appointment within the advising campaign time frame to help ensure you are able to register for the classes you need as classes fill up fast. It is important to have a tentative schedule in mind and have questions ready for the meeting with the advisor. The advisor will monitor the student’s progress toward graduation and discuss the student’s current qualifications and preparation for application for accredited supervised practice programs (internships). The advisor can also answer questions about graduate school and/or employment opportunities. Students who are within one year of graduation should meet with the Program Director to make sure everything is in order for graduation and to discuss in more detail the internship application process. Advising notes, along with CRN #s, will be documented in Navigate and Degree Works. Once advising is complete, the mandatory advisement hold will be lifted so the student can register for courses. It is the student’s responsibility to register for courses after an advisement meeting.

Record Maintenance and Confidentiality
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. To learn more about these rights, go to http://catalog.lamar.edu/general-academic-policies/index.html.

The Department of Nutrition, Hospitality, & Human Services (NHHS) maintains a folder on each student. Contents may include advising records, degree plan worksheets, transcripts, copy of the completed
Insurance Requirements
The DPND has no program-specific insurance requirements.

Grievance Procedures
Academic grievance procedures and procedures dealing with discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including sexual harassment), national origin, or age are outlined in the Lamar University Student Handbook which can be viewed online: http://students.lamar.edu/student-handbook.html.

In addition, the Lamar University Student Handbook outlines policies and procedures dealing with behavioral/disciplinary issues and academic dishonesty. Any grievance for which Lamar University has policies and procedures in place will be resolved according to the University procedures.

Grievances specifically related to the DPND and involving the standards of the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) may include such matters as dissatisfaction with curriculum, program director, program faculty, program quality, advising process, issuing of the Verification Statement or any other complaint related to accreditation standards. Grievance procedures related to the DPND accreditation standards are described below.

1. When a student feels dissatisfied with an aspect of the DPND involving a faculty member, the student will verbalize dissatisfaction to the faculty member. Every effort will be made by the faculty member to promptly settle the matter at this informal level.
   a. If still dissatisfied, the student will send a memo to the Program Director stating the problem/situation and the reason(s) for dissatisfaction.
   b. The Program Director will arrange a meeting with the student to discuss the problem within five working days.
   c. The Program Director will contact the appropriate person(s) to review pertinent information on the problem and submit a solution or decision to the student within five working days.

2. If the solution or decision made by the Program Director is not acceptable to the student, an appeal can be made to the Chair of the Department of Nutrition, Hospitality, & Human Services.

3. When a student feels dissatisfied with an aspect of the program or a decision made by the Program Director, the student will verbalize dissatisfaction to the Program Director. Every effort will be made by the Program Director to promptly settle the matter at this informal level.
   a. If still dissatisfied, the student will send a memo to the Chair of the Department of Nutrition, Hospitality, & Human Services stating the problem/situation and the reason(s) for dissatisfaction.
   b. The Chair of the Department of Nutrition, Hospitality, & Human Services will arrange a meeting with the student to discuss the problem within five working days.
   c. The Chair of the Department of Nutrition, Hospitality, & Human Services will contact the appropriate person(s) to review pertinent information on the problem and submit a solution or decision to the student within five working days.
   d. If the solution or decision made by the Chair of the Department of Nutrition, Hospitality, & Human Services is not acceptable to the student, an appeal can
be made to the Dean of the College of Education and Human Development.

4. In the event a student has a complaint regarding an ACEND accreditation standard, the student must submit the complaint in writing to the Program Director. The grievance procedure will be followed as outlined above. In the event neither the Dean of the College of Education and Human Development nor members of Lamar University’s Executive Administration are able to resolve the complaint, the student is advised to contact ACEND regarding the unresolved complaint. ACEND may be contacted at:

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120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000
Chicago, IL 60606-6995
Phone: (800) 877-1600 ext. 5400
www.eatright.org/ACEND

5. Any written complaint made regarding the program will remain on file for a minimum of five years.

General Academic Policies
The program adheres to the academic policies of Lamar University regarding dropping courses, instructor-initiated drops, withdrawing from the University, academic probation, academic suspension, incomplete grades, academic progress, grading system, and academic honesty. Policies and procedures regarding these issues may be found in the Lamar University Comprehensive Catalog at: https://www.lamar.edu/catalog/index.html.

Assessment and Monitoring of Student Progress
Student academic progress is monitored each semester during the mandatory meeting with the advisor. If academic performance appears unlikely to result in successful completion of the program or admission to an accredited supervised practice program, the student will be counseled on steps for remediation (tutoring, course repetition, student support services, etc.). If remediation strategies are unsuccessful, the student will be counseled and assisted in choosing a more appropriate career pathway. Generally, an overall grade point average below 3.0 is indicative of unacceptable student progress in the program and obtaining an appointment to an accredited internship program is highly unlikely.

Maximum Time for Program Completion
The Lamar University DPND sets no maximum time limit to complete program requirements. It is highly recommended students complete the program within six years. Students should be aware that, in applying for internships or graduate school, some programs may require current course work; thus, students may need to repeat outdated courses to satisfy admission requirements.

Academic Calendar
Lamar’s Academic Calendar varies from year-to-year. Students should consult the calendar for deadlines such as final drop and withdrawal dates, holidays, etc. The Calendar can be viewed at: https://www.lamar.edu/events/academic-calendar-listing.html.

Graduation Requirements
The program adheres to the graduation requirements outlined in the Lamar University Comprehensive
The semester before a student projects graduation, the student should notify the NHHS Department Administrative Associate in Office 120 of the NHHS Building. The administrative associate submits a final degree plan to the Graduation Coordinator in the Records Office. After submission of the final degree plan by the Department, the student may apply for graduation. The student must meet the deadline for applying for graduation as published in Lamar University’s Academic Calendar.

**Verification Statement Procedures**
After completion of the Bachelor of Science Degree and all DPND courses, the graduate will be provided five copies of the DPND Verification Statement, all with the original signature of the Program Coordinator. In addition, a copy with an original signature will be placed in the graduate’s permanent file. The graduate’s file will be stored in the NHHS Department indefinitely. The graduate should treat the Verification Statement as an important document as it will be needed for applying for supervised practice programs, state licensure/certification, membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, etc.

Students who pursue DPND requirements after being awarded at least a baccalaureate degree in a discipline other than dietetics must complete the requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition-Dietetics Track. After graduation/completion of all DPND requirements the student will receive the DPND Verification Statement.
EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Application to Dietetic Internships (DI)

1. The following is a guideline for students who graduate from Lamar University’s DPND program with a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition-Dietetics degree. Upon graduating, the student will receive a verification statement which allows the student to then apply to an ACEND accredited supervised practice program (ex: Dietetic Internship).

2. There is a national shortage of dietetic internship positions and therefore the application process is highly competitive. According to data from ACEND, demand for internships rose to a peak in 1997. The demand has continued to rise since 2001 with no significant increase in number of positions since 2003. To see a graphic representation, visit the ADA website at: https://www.eatrightpro.org/-/media/eatrightpro-files/acend/supply-and-demand-chart.pdf?la=en&hash=D980DE0F836AAB57E7050D9C5760F8A79EE0D97C.

3. Internship applications are completed online via DICAS. Most DI programs use a national computer matching process to match applicants to programs and therefore, applicants are also required to register with an online service called D&D Digital. There are two start dates for DI programs, one in the fall and one in the spring. This is called “fall match” and “spring match”. For “Spring Students find out in April if they were matched to a DI program and if so, which program they were matched with. For “Fall Match”, applications are due mid-September and students find out if they are matched in November. You can search for dietetic internship programs and review DI handbooks by searching: https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs/accredited-programs-directory. Each fall, seniors are required to meet with the program coordinator (Krissie May) to further discuss the application process in detail. It is the student’s responsibility to make an appointment before December 1st.

4. You will be responsible for requesting a “Declaration of Intent to Complete” form and “DPND Course List” form from the program coordinator if you have not yet graduated by the time you submit your application. This is part of your application process with DICAS. For those students that have already graduated at the time of application, you are responsible for requesting a “Verification Statement” and a “DPND course list” from the program coordinator.

5. As part of the application process, you will be asked to submit a minimum of three letters of recommendation. Ideally, you will want to request a letter of recommendation from an instructor (must take at least 2 courses from the instructor), an employer, and from a place you have volunteered at. Each program will have different requirements so be sure to review the DI handbook for the program(s) you wish to apply to.

6. GPA is important. An overall GPA of at least a 3.0 is required to apply to most DI programs. However, acceptance history indicates a student needs a GPA of 3.4 or higher to be seriously considered. Academic performance is also assessed by the GPA in the
science courses and the DPND courses. It is crucial to have an excellent GPA in the DPND courses to show the student has mastered the knowledge and skills to successfully perform at the supervised practice level. Repeating courses if the grade is not adequate can show determination and is encouraged prior to graduation. Make every effort to earn an A in all your DPDN courses (NUTR, HOSP, CHEM, BIOL, NURS courses).

7. **Work Experience/Volunteer Activities/Leadership:** The field of dietetics requires that an individual be dependable and motivated. Work experience can demonstrate these qualities. Working and taking courses can also demonstrate the student’s organizational and time management skills. Work experience in a nutrition/dietetics related field is extremely valuable. If a student does not have employment experience, volunteer experience is essential.

Examples of sites for valuable volunteer experiences include hospitals, long-term care facilities, hospice organizations, home-delivered meals programs, food banks, food pantries, congregate meals programs for senior citizens and Lamar University’s Athletic Complex. Students can obtain excellent experience by working in summer camps for diabetic children, individuals with weight management issues, and camping experiences for children with special needs.

**Lamar University Nutrition and Dietetic Association (LUNDA):** The Lamar University Nutrition and Dietetic Association (LUNDA) helps students obtain volunteer experiences in nutrition related areas. Participation in the organization by holding an office position can provide evidence of leadership, also important when being considered for an internship.

**Nutrition/Dietetics Learning Community (Cardinal Community):** Lamar University offers different Learning Communities (Cardinal Communities) each Fall semester. “Nutrition For You” is a learning community geared toward our Nutrition-Dietetic majors in which students learn about valuable campus resources as well as the program, career opportunities, salary expectations, preparing for success in an internship, student volunteer opportunities, professional organizations, conferences, and much more. The group meets once a week. The sessions are led by Krissie May, MS, RDN, LD, along with a dynamic upper-level dietetics major. Speakers may include faculty members, dietetics interns, and professionals from the community. Participating in a learning community not only looks great on a dietetic internship application but also offers perks such as early course registration.

8. **Professional Organizations:**

**The Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics (AND)**
- The largest organization of Food and Nutrition Professionals promoting optimal nutrition
- Visit their website: [http://www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org)

**Texas Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics (TAND)**
- Organization for dietetics professionals and students in Texas with the main goal being to promote optimal nutrition.
• Visit their website: [http://www.eatrighttexas.org](http://www.eatrighttexas.org)

**Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics-Southeast Region**

• Attending meetings helps students obtain professional resources, updates on trends and network with local dietitians. Visit their website: [https://eatrighttexas.org/southeast-region/#events](https://eatrighttexas.org/southeast-region/#events) for registering and event dates.

**Texas Student Dietetics Association (TSDA)**

• Statewide branch of the Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics connecting Texas students in the field of dietetics and providing resources to be involved on your university campus as well as at the district, state, and national level. Visit their website: [https://texasdieteticstudents.com/](https://texasdieteticstudents.com/)

9. **Student Behavior:** Students majoring in Dietetics are making a commitment to a profession requiring maturity and sound judgment. Thus, demonstration of mature adult behavior is expected of students. This behavior is demonstrated by the student’s time and attendance patterns, appearance, and conduct. Students are expected to come to class prepared and present themselves as sincere and motivated learners.

Students are seen as having responsibility for their own learning, and must be active learners. Students are expected to fulfill all course requirements, and to meet course and program objectives.

Students are to follow University guidelines as printed and available in (1) the Lamar University Comprehensive Catalog, and (2) the Lamar University Student Handbook. In addition to the University publications, this student handbook can add to student’s awareness of material pertinent to the DPND.

Students should participate in academic honesty at all times. The attempt of students to present as their own, any work that they have not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. This policy applies to exams, quizzes, and all written assignments.

**Cheating:** Dishonesty on examinations and quizzes or on written assignments, illegal passion of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination of quiz, obtaining information during an examination from the examination paper or otherwise from another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry to or unauthorized presence in an office are instances of cheating.

**Plagiarism:** Offering the work of another as one’s own, without proper acknowledgement, is plagiarism; therefore any student who fails to give credit for quotations or has essentially identical expression of material taken from books, journals, encyclopedias, magazines, and other reference works, or from the themes, or other writings of a fellow students, is guilty of plagiarism.

**Questions with grading:** It is the responsibility of the student to retain all graded assignments and return the original assignment with the instructor’s grade and comments should any questions about grading arise.
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Code of Ethics

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Commission on Dietetic Registration have adopted the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics (updated 2018). Students enrolled in the DPND at Lamar University are expected to abide by the most recent Academy Code of Ethics and understand the nineteen principles listed (www.eatright.org/codeofethics/).

Preamble: When providing services the nutrition and dietetics practitioner adheres to the core values of customer focus, integrity, innovation, social responsibility, and diversity. Science-based decisions, derived from the best available research and evidence, are the underpinnings of ethical conduct and practice. This Code applies to nutrition and dietetics practitioners who act in a wide variety of capacities, provides general principles and specific ethical standards for situations frequently encountered in daily practice. The primary goal is the protection of the individuals, groups, organizations, communities, or populations with whom the practitioner works and interacts. The nutrition and dietetics practitioner supports and promotes high standards of professional practice, accepting the obligation to protect clients, the public and the profession; upholds the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (Academy) and its credentialing agency the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession; and shall report perceived violations of the Code through established processes. The Academy/CDR Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession establishes the principles and ethical standards that underlie the nutrition and dietetics practitioner’s roles and conduct. All individuals to whom the Code applies are referred to as “nutrition and dietetics practitioners”. By accepting membership in the Academy and/or accepting and maintaining CDR credentials, all nutrition and dietetics practitioners agree to abide by the Code.

Principles and Standards:

1. Competence and professional development in practice (Non-maleficence) Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:
   a. Practice using an evidence-based approach within areas of competence, continuously develop and enhance expertise, and recognize limitations.
   b. Demonstrate in depth scientific knowledge of food, human nutrition and behavior.
   c. Assess the validity and applicability of scientific evidence without personal bias.
   d. Interpret, apply, participate in and/or generate research to enhance practice, innovation, and discovery.
e. Make evidence-based practice decisions, taking into account the unique values and circumstances of the patient/client and community, in combination with the practitioner’s expertise and judgment.

f. Recognize and exercise professional judgment within the limits of individual qualifications and collaborate with others, seek counsel, and make referrals as appropriate.

g. Act in a caring and respectful manner, mindful of individual differences, cultural, and ethnic diversity.

h. Practice within the limits of their scope and collaborate with the inter-professional team.

2. Integrity in personal and organizational behaviors and practices (Autonomy) Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:

   a. Disclose any conflicts of interest, including any financial interests in products or services that are recommended. Refrain from accepting gifts or services which potentially influence or which may give the appearance of influencing professional judgment.

   b. Comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including obtaining/maintaining a state license or certification if engaged in practice governed by nutrition and dietetics statutes.

   c. Maintain and appropriately use credentials.

   d. Respect intellectual property rights, including citation and recognition of the ideas and work of others, regardless of the medium (e.g. written, oral, electronic).

   e. Provide accurate and truthful information in all communications.

   f. Report inappropriate behavior or treatment of a patient/client by another nutrition and dietetics practitioner or other professionals.

   g. Document, code and bill to most accurately reflect the character and extent of delivered services.

   h. Respect patient/client’s autonomy. Safeguard patient/client confidentiality according to current regulations and laws.

   i. Implement appropriate measures to protect personal health information using
appropriate techniques (e.g., encryption).

3. Professionalism (Beneficence) Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:
   a. Participate in and contribute to decisions that affect the well-being of patients/clients.
   b. Respect the values, rights, knowledge, and skills of colleagues and other professionals.
   c. Demonstrate respect, constructive dialogue, civility and professionalism in all communications, including social media.
   d. Refrain from communicating false, fraudulent, deceptive, misleading, disparaging or unfair statements or claims.
   e. Uphold professional boundaries and refrain from romantic relationships with any patients/clients, surrogates, supervisees, or students.
   f. Refrain from verbal/physical/emotional/sexual harassment.
   g. Provide objective evaluations of performance for employees, coworkers, and students and candidates for employment, professional association memberships, awards, or scholarships, making all reasonable efforts to avoid bias in the professional evaluation of others.
   h. Communicate at an appropriate level to promote health literacy.
   i. Contribute to the advancement and competence of others, including colleagues, students, and the public.

4. Social responsibility for local, regional, national, global nutrition and well-being (Justice) Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:
   a. Collaborate with others to reduce health disparities and protect human rights.
   b. Promote fairness and objectivity with fair and equitable treatment.
   c. Contribute time and expertise to activities that promote respect, integrity, and competence of the profession.
   d. Promote the unique role of nutrition and dietetics practitioners.
   e. Engage in service that benefits the community and to enhance the public’s trust in the profession.
   f. Seek leadership opportunities in professional, community, and service organizations
to enhance health and nutritional status while protecting the public.
Core Knowledge for the RDN
Source: 2017 Standards for Didactic Programs in Nutrition and Dietetics

Domain 1. Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice: Integration of scientific information and translation of research into practice. Knowledge Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:
KNOWLEDGE:
KRDN 1.1 Demonstrate how to locate, interpret, evaluate and use professional literature to make ethical, evidence-based practice decisions.
KRDN 1.2 Use current information technologies to locate and apply evidence-based guidelines and protocols.
KRDN 1.3 Apply critical thinking skills.

Domain 2. Professional Practice Expectations: Beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviors for the professional dietitian nutritionist level of practice. Knowledge Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:
KNOWLEDGE:
KRDN 2.1 Demonstrate effective and professional oral and written communication and documentation.
KRDN 2.2 Describe the governance of nutrition and dietetics practice, such as the Scope of Nutrition and Dietetics Practice and the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Nutrition and Dietetics; and describe interprofessional relationships in various practice settings.
KRDN 2.3 Assess the impact of a public policy position on nutrition and dietetics practice.
KRDN 2.4 Discuss the impact of health care policy and different health care delivery systems on food and nutrition services.
KRDN 2.5 Identify and describe the work of interprofessional teams and the roles of others with whom the registered dietitian nutritionist collaborates in the delivery of food and nutrition services.
KRDN 2.6 Demonstrate an understanding of cultural competence/sensitivity.
KRDN 2.7 Demonstrate identification with the nutrition and dietetics profession through activities such as participation in professional organizations and defending a position on issues impacting the nutrition and dietetics profession.
KRDN 2.8 Demonstrate an understanding of the importance and expectations of a professional in mentoring and precepting others.

Domain 3. Clinical and Customer Services: Development and delivery of information, products and services to individuals, groups and populations. Knowledge Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:
KNOWLEDGE:
KRDN 3.1 Use the Nutrition Care Process to make decisions, identify nutrition-related problems and determine and evaluate nutrition interventions.
KRDN 3.2 Develop an educational session or program/educational strategy for a target population.
KRDN 3.3 Demonstrate counseling and education methods to facilitate behavior change and enhance wellness for diverse individuals and groups.
KRDN 3.4 Explain the processes involved in delivering quality food and nutrition services.
KRDN 3.5 Describe basic concepts of nutritional genomics.
Domain 4. Practice Management and Use of Resources: Strategic application of principles of management and systems in the provision of services to individuals and organizations. Knowledge Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to:

**KNOWLEDGE:**

- KRDN 4.1 Apply management theories to the development of programs or services.
- KRDN 4.2 Evaluate a budget and interpret financial data.
- KRDN 4.3 Describe the regulation system related to billing and coding, what services are reimbursable by third party payers, and how reimbursement may be obtained.
- KRDN 4.4 Apply the principles of human resource management to different situations.
- KRDN 4.5 Describe safety principles related to food, personnel and consumers.
- KRDN 4.6 Analyze data for assessment and evaluate data to be used in decision-making for continuous quality improvement.
USEFUL INFORMATION

Students are encouraged to read the *Lamar University Graduate Catalog* and also the *Lamar University Student Handbook*.

**Contact Information for the Nutrition, Hospitality, & Human Services Department:**
Lamar University Department of Nutrition, Hospitality, & Human Services
PO Box 10035
Beaumont, TX 77710
Department FAX: (409) 880-8666
DPND Program Coordinator: Kristina (Krissie) May, MS, RDN, LD
Office: (409) 880-8051 Email: kmay4@lamar.edu

**NHHS Department Chair:**
Dr. Jill Killough, PhD, RDN, LD
(409) 880-8665

**Department Administrative Associate:**
Kent O’Quinn
(409) 880-8663

**Program Faculty**
Dr. Jau-Jiin Chen (409) 880-8664 jchen@lamar.edu
Dr. Molly Dahm (409) 880-1744 molly.dahm@lamar.edu
Chef Charles Duit (409) 880-8962 charles.duit@lamar.edu
Dr. Jill Killough (409) 880-8669 jill.killough@lamar.edu
Dr. Connie Ruiz (409) 880-8668 connie.ruiz@lamar.edu
Dr. Amy Shows (409) 880-7962 amy.shows@lamar.edu
Kristina May (409) 880-8051 kmay4@lamar.edu

**Other LU Important Numbers**

Undergraduate Advising Center: (409) 880-8822 advising@lamar.edu
Advisors for Freshmen and Sophomore DPND Students

Housing: (409) 880-8550

Mary and John Gray Library: (409) 880-8117

Records/Registrar: (409) 880-2113 or 8968

Student Financial Aid: (409) 880-8450

Student Health Center: (409) 880-8466

Lamar Police Department: (409) 880-8305
This sheet is to be separated from the Handbook and signed by the student. Submit the signed form to the NHHS Department office to be added to the student’s advisement folder.

I have received a copy of the Didactic Program in Nutrition & Dietetics (DPND) Student Handbook. I will read the handbook. I recognize that it contains pertinent information regarding my progress in the program.

Completing the DPND requirements does not guarantee an appointment to a dietetic internship. The national internship acceptance rate is approximately 50% due to a national shortage of supervised practice sites. To have a competitive application, I understand that I need to follow the recommendations outlined in the student handbook.

Signature __________________________

Date ________________________________