Mission Statement: The Mission of the DPD at LSU is to provide a program of excellence that gives students a broad knowledge base combined with specialized skills in human nutrition, food and food systems management to improve the quality of life for families and individuals in a complex and changing world. The program prepares students for supervised practice leading to eligibility for the CDR credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist. The learning environment is structured to promote self-reliance, critical thinking, problem solving, intellectual curiosity, community involvement, scholarly pursuits, life-long learning, and professional integrity.

The Student Handbook is located on the Dietetics webpage: Nutrition and Food Sciences, Concentration in Dietetics

Student Membership in The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is required of all Dietetics students throughout the entire program. Student memberships start at $58/year. Join at: The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Memberships

Student Membership of the eNCPT is required in NFS 2110 (Methods of Nutritional Assessment), NFS 3110 (Nutrition Counseling and Education), and NFS 4111 and 4114 (Nutrition and Disease I and II). Student memberships are $25/year. Join at: Electronic Nutrition Care Process Terminology Memberships

The Dietetics concentration is currently accredited as a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Students successfully completing this program will receive a verification statement that allows them to apply for an ACEND accredited dietetic internship.

Completion of a 1200-hour supervised practice Dietetic Internship (DI) is required before an individual is allowed to take the RD Exam. At this time, LSU does not have DI. You will need to apply for a DI at another institution – this will be fully discussed in NFS 3025. Dietetic Internships have costs attached to them. Internship programs (distance and on-site) can range anywhere from $5,000 to over $20,000 depending on where they are located. Internships that are combined with a graduate degree program may cost anywhere from $16,000 to $50,000 depending on the college or university. If financing your post-graduate work will be an issue preventing you from completing a DI to become a RD, we will be happy to discuss alternative undergraduate nutrition concentration options other than dietetics here at LSU.

Students who successfully complete the knowledge requirements of the dietetics concentration, as outlined by ACEND, but do not enter and complete a dietetic internship are qualified to sit the examination to become a dietetic technician, registered (DTR). Information about both the RD and DTR programs are available through the Commission on Dietetic Registration.

Dietetic Internship Application Information Packet for Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 applicants is located on the Dietetics webpage at: Nutrition and Food Sciences, Concentration in Dietetics

Questions about the DPD Program: Dr. Erin McKinley, Director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics, email: emckinley1@lsu.edu, Phone: 225-578-1631