

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION

Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Updated July 2026



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY

Table of Contents

Welcome to the CWRU Didactic Program in Dietetics.....	3
Purpose of this Handbook.....	3
Program History.....	3
DPD Mission.....	3
DPD Philosophy, Goals, and Objectives.....	4
DPD Accreditation and the Educational Pathway to the RDN.....	5
DPD Application and Admission.....	6
Degree Completion, DPD Completion, and Academic Planning.....	7
DPD Courses, Curriculum, and Suggested Plan of Study.....	8
Knowledge for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (KRDNs): Learning and Assessment.....	10
Student Performance Monitoring, Remediation, Retention, and Professional Conduct.....	12
Prior Assessed Learning, Transfer Coursework, and Equivalency Review.....	13
Equitable Treatment, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Student Rights.....	13
Student Complaints, Grievances, and Protection from Retaliation.....	14
Academic Discipline, Withdrawal, Leave, and Refunds.....	15
Academic Calendar, Holidays, and Program Operations.....	16
Distance Education Components, Technology, and Online Assessment.....	17
Privacy, Student Records, and Access to Student Files.....	17
Estimated Costs: Tuition, Fees, Books, Housing, Transportation, and Other Expenses.....	18
Financial Aid, Scholarships, Loans, Work-Study, and Other Support.....	20
CWRU Student Support Services and Resources.....	21
Professional Ethics and Conduct in Nutrition and Dietetics.....	22
Student Compensation and Employment as Related to the DPD.....	23
DPD Verification Statement: Requirements and Issuance.....	23
Preparing for Supervised Practice and the DICAS Application.....	24
Alternative Credentialing Pathway: DTR / NDTR.....	24
DPD Program Governance, Advising, and Key Contacts.....	25
Appendices:	
Appendix A — DPD Application Form and Admission Criteria.....	26
Appendix B — DPD Course Worksheet.....	27
Appendix C — Curriculum Components and Location.....	28
Appendix D — Professional Ethics Reference.....	29
Appendix E — Student Acknowledgement and Signature Page.....	30

Welcome to the CWRU Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) is designed to provide a rigorous academic foundation for students preparing for the next stages of professional education in nutrition and dietetics. The program integrates the biological, chemical, behavioral, social, clinical, food, community, management, and evidence-based dimensions of nutrition and dietetics practice. Students develop the foundational knowledge and professional skills needed to pursue supervised practice, graduate education, employment in health-related fields, and, when all applicable requirements are subsequently satisfied, eligibility for the US national credentialing examination for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs). [DICAS application system](#)|[CDR RDN eligibility](#)

Students who complete the CWRU DPD receive a DPD Verification Statement; this statement is required for eligibility to enter supervised practice programs (e.g. dietetic internships) after graduation from your Department of Nutrition degree program. The DPD should be understood as the foundational didactic component of a broader dietetics' professional pathway rather than as a stand-alone guarantee of professional credentialing; completion of the DPD itself does not guarantee admission to a supervised practice program, employment, state licensure, or successful performance on a national examination. [CDR state licensure](#)

Purpose of this Handbook

This handbook provides a detailed description of DPD program expectations, academic procedures, student responsibilities, professional standards, resources, and progression information in one reference. This handbook (<https://case.edu/medicine/nutrition/dpd-handbook>) is reviewed annually by the DPD Director and Department of Nutrition. Tuition, fees, academic calendars, university policies, and web addresses are subject to change; University-wide policies remain the determinant (primary source) when they differ from descriptions in this handbook summary.

Program History

The CWRU Nutrition Department has a long history in nutrition education. The Department of Nutrition was established in 1913 and the first CWRU student identified as a “dietitian” graduated in 1918. The DPD is situated within the CWRU School of Medicine and emphasizes clinical nutrition and application of nutrition science to health maintenance and improvement.

Overview of Recent DPD Graduate Performance

- The CWRU DPD has a current three-year rolling (2023-Spring 2026) supervised practice program applicant acceptance rate of 100%.
- The CWRU DPD has a three-year rolling (2023-2025) average RDN exam pass rate of 97.4%.

DPD Mission

The CWRU DPD mission is to provide quality dietetics education and didactic learning experiences that prepare graduates with the knowledge, competencies, and skills necessary to successfully enter supervised practice programs, pursue graduate education, subsequently become eligible for the national Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) credentialing examination to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN), and/or obtain employment in a health-related field.

DPD Philosophy

The DPD philosophy is to educate individuals through high-quality dietetic coursework and didactic learning experiences so that graduates can translate the science and art of nutrition and food into the practice of dietetics and develop into competent and visionary practitioners and leaders capable of identifying and solving complex problems encountered by nutrition professionals.

DPD Program Goals and Objectives*

Program Goal 1 - Program graduates will be prepared to support the health and well-being of society through a high-quality nutrition and dietetics education.

- Objective 1.1 (Required): At least 80% of students complete program requirements within three years (150% of planned program length).
- Objective 1.2: At least 80% of program graduate respondents rate the quality of academic instruction as satisfactory or higher.
- Objective 1.3: At least 80% of program graduate respondents rate the quality of advising and educational support provided by the DPD Director as satisfactory or higher.

Program Goal 2 - Program graduates will be prepared to enter and perform competently in a supervised practice program in preparation to become entry-level dietitians.

- Objective 2.1 (Required): At least 80% of program graduates apply for admission to a supervised practice program prior to or within 12 months of graduation.
- Objective 2.2 (Required): Of graduates who apply to a supervised practice program, at least 80% are admitted within 12 months of graduation.
- Objective 2.3: At least 80% of supervised practice program director respondents rate graduates' preparation as satisfactory or higher within 12 months of graduation.
- Objective 2.4: At least 80% of program graduate respondents rate their preparation for supervised practice as satisfactory or higher.

Program Goal 3 - Program graduates will be prepared for employment as an RDN, employment in a health-related field, and/or post-baccalaureate education.

- Objective 3.1 (Required): The program's one-year pass rate on the CDR credentialing examination for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%.
- Objective 3.2: At least 80% of program graduate respondents who did not apply to supervised practice are employed in a health-related field and/or enter post-baccalaureate education within 12 months of graduation.
- Objective 3.3: At least 80% of respondents in the population described above rate their preparation as satisfactory or higher.

**Program outcomes data are available upon request.*

Source: [CWRU DPD Program](#)

DPD Accreditation and the Educational Pathway to the RDN

The CWRU Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

Accreditation by ACEND ensures that DPD graduates are eligible to apply to and, upon acceptance, enter a supervised practice program in dietetics (e.g. Dietetic Internship (DI), combined Master's+DI, or other post-baccalaureate supervised experiential learning (SEL) program).

ACEND® can be contacted by:

- **Email:** ACEND@eatright.org
- **Phone:** 800/877-1600, ext. 5400
- **Mail:** 120 South Riverside Plaza
Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995
- <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend>
 - o [ACEND accreditation](#)

The CWRU-DPD and Beyond Multi-Step Pathway

1. Complete the CWRU DPD and the applicable CWRU degree requirements, including the required ACEND-related core knowledge and skills.
2. Receive a DPD Verification Statement after the program confirms you successfully completed all DPD requirements.
3. Complete a minimum graduate (Master's) degree requirement - applicable to current RDN examination eligibility rules.
4. Apply to, be accepted by, and complete an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program such as a Dietetic Internship, Coordinated Program (e.g. Master's+DI), Graduate Program, or other supervised experiential learning (SEL) pathway as applicable.
5. Meet CDR eligibility requirements and apply for the national registration examination for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDN).
6. Pass the CDR examination to obtain the RDN/RD credential and separately satisfy applicable state licensure and/or certification requirements where required.

NOTE: Effective this past January 1, 2024, CDR requires a minimum graduate degree from a USDE-recognized accredited institution (or foreign equivalent) for individuals establishing eligibility to take the RD examination. The DPD remains the coursework component of the DPD + DI pathway; it is not itself the supervised practice component. [DICAS application system](#)|[CDR RDN eligibility](#)

Verification Statement

A DPD Verification Statement confirms completion of the program's academic, knowledge, and skills requirements. Students who complete DPD requirements will receive a Verification Statement after the DPD Director verifies completion of all requirements with the Department of Nutrition and CWRU University Registrar. Students should plan for a 2–3 week processing time after final requirements are completed.

Supervised Practice and DICAS

Students apply to supervised practice programs through the Dietetics Centralized Application Service (DICAS), where participating programs can receive centralized applications. Application requirements and timelines vary by program. Students should consult ACEND and the DICAS platform directly for current application instructions and deadlines. [DICAS](#)

State Licensure and Certification

National RDN credentialing and state authorization to practice are separate matters. Many states regulate dietetics practice through licensure or certification laws. Students should investigate the requirements of every state in which they may seek employment or practice and should use the current state licensure resources provided by the Academy/CDR. [CDR State Licensure Map](#)

Related resources: [ACEND Accreditation](#) | [ACEND Student Application Process](#) | [DICAS](#) | [CDR RDN Eligibility](#) | [CDR RDN Certification](#) | [CDR RD Exam Overview](#) | [CDR Dietitian Licensure Compact](#)

DPD Application and Admission

Students interested in pursuing the DPD should review the admission criteria, consult the DPD Director, and submit the required application materials. The DPD is not restricted to a single Nutrition Department major; rather, students may integrate the DPD (work concurrently on the DPD) with any Nutrition Department major program as integrated within their broader academic program in consultation with the DPD Director and Nutrition Department major advisor.

Prospective Student Admission Criteria

- Grade of B or above in NTRN 201
- Grade of C or above in BIOL 214, CHEM 105, and CHEM 106
- Overall cumulative GPA of at least 3.2 at the time of application

NOTE: These admission criteria are in place to support student success and were established following review of historic DPD student performance and graduate data. Students who do not initially meet admission criteria are encouraged to retake one or more required courses and reapply. After admission, students are expected to maintain an overall GPA of at least 3.2 and a DPD GPA of at least 3.4 to maintain active DPD status. In sum, applicants that meet all admission criteria are accepted.

Typical Entry Point and Application Advising

Undergraduate students typically apply to and enter the DPD in the fall semester of the junior year. Students with prior college-level coursework, including international coursework, should submit official documentation for review before assuming that a course will satisfy a DPD requirement (see Prior Assessed Learning in this handbook for further details).

Application Process

1. Review the DPD Handbook and admission criteria.
2. Consult the DPD Director and major advisor to determine how DPD requirements fit into the student's degree plan.

3. Complete the DPD application and provide required academic information and transcripts.
4. Receive formal admission notification from the DPD Director.
5. Upon admission, monitor both overall and DPD GPA requirements and meet with the DPD Director regularly.

The DPD Admission Criteria and Application Form is provided in **Appendix A** of this Handbook.

Other resources for this section: [CWRU DPD Program](#) | [CWRU DPD Curriculum](#) | [CWRU Registrar](#)

Degree Completion, DPD Completion, and Academic Planning

The DPD may be completed concurrently with any degree program in the CWRU Department of Nutrition. Degree completion and DPD completion are related but distinct. A student earns the degree by completing the formal academic requirements of the degree program in which the student is enrolled within the Department of Nutrition. A student completes the DPD when all DPD requirements, including applicable ACEND-required knowledge and skills, have been successfully completed and verified.

Integrating the DPD with a Major in the Department of Nutrition

Some DPD courses are already required for Nutrition Department majors. Other DPD course requirements are added to a student's overall academic plan. Students are responsible for working proactively with the DPD Director and their major advisor to integrate and sequence courses, prerequisites, and degree requirements without creating avoidable conflicts or delays.

Maximum Completion Period

DPD students have a maximum of three years (36 months) as active-status DPD students from the point of junior-year status to complete DPD requirements.

Academic Planning Principles

- Review the DPD curriculum before registration each semester.
- Confirm prerequisites before enrolling in advanced DPD courses
- Maintain the required overall and DPD GPAs
- Meet with the DPD Director at least three times annually, including at least once in each during the fall, spring, and summer periods
- Notify the DPD Director promptly about changes in major, degree status, course sequence, transfer credit, leave, or academic difficulty
- Maintain documentation of approved course substitutions or prior-learning determinations

Verification Statement and Program Completion

The program will issue a DPD Verification Statement after the DPD Director confirms that the student has successfully completed all required DPD courses and applicable knowledge and skills (called "KRDNs"). The typical processing period is approximately 2–3 weeks after completion, subject to verification with the Department of Nutrition and Registrar.

Official resources and active links: [CWRU DPD Curriculum](#) | [CWRU Registrar](#) | [CWRU Academic Calendar](#)

DPD Courses, Curriculum, and Suggested Plan of Study

The DPD curriculum provides foundational knowledge and skills for entry into supervised practice and for employment in health-related fields. The curriculum encompasses basic sciences, nutrition sciences, clinical nutrition, community nutrition, foodservice systems management, statistics, and social and behavioral sciences.

DPD Courses

Courses	Course titles	Credits
NTRN 201/401	Nutrition / Nutrition for Community and Health Care Professionals	3
NTRN 337/437	Nutrition Communication, Counseling, and Behavior Change Strategies	3
NTRN 342 + 342L	Food Science and Laboratory	5
NTRN 343	Dietary Patterns	3
NTRN 351/451	Food Service Systems Management	3
NTRN 363/433	Human Nutrition I / Advanced Human Nutrition I	3
NTRN 364/434	Human Nutrition II / Advanced Human Nutrition II	3–4
NTRN 365	Nutrition in the Prevention and Management of Disease (MNT)	4
NTRN 350/528	Community/Public Health Nutrition	3
<i>Non-NTRN DPD Courses</i>		
BIOC 307	Biochemistry	4
BIOL 343	Microbiology	3
BIOL 216 or BIOL 340/346	Development and Physiology / Human Anatomy and Physiology	3
CHEM 223	Introduction to Organic Chemistry	3
ANTH 215 or SOCI 311	Medical Anthropology / Health, Illness, and Social Behavior	3
SOCI 101	Introduction to Sociology	3
STAT 201 or <i>approved equivalent*</i>	Basic Statistics for Social and Life Sciences	3
UGER Writing Portfolio	Writing requirement	—

*Approved STAT 201 equivalents are STAT 312 or 313, PQHS 431, ANTH 319, PSCL 282, or SOCI 307, subject to current program approval.

Related links: [Current CWRU DPD Curriculum](#) | [CWRU Course Bulletin](#)

DPD Courses-Curriculum Plan

The DPD curriculum provides the foundational knowledge and skills to prepare students for successful entry into a supervised practice program (dietetic internship) and/or in support of employment in a health-related field. The DPD will provide courses and educational experiences in the basic sciences of biology, chemistry, biochemistry, physiology, and microbiology, and also nutrition sciences - including introductory nutrition, food science, advanced human nutrition, community nutrition, foodservice systems management, and nutrition in the prevention and management of diseases, as part of Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) and the Nutrition Care Process - as well as statistics and the social sciences, such as sociology, behavioral change, and educational psychology.

Sample Plan of Study

The DPD program curriculum plan is suggested for students based on a student's successful application to the DPD program, with "Semester 1" reflecting the first semester the student begins work on completing DPD requirements rather than academic year; "Semester 1" may be the Fall semester of a student's junior academic year. Individual student's DPD curriculum plans - when DPD courses are taken according to semester - may vary based on when a student enters the DPD program, after application, and the student's overall academic and major program(s) requirements.

The following shows DPD courses and credit hours:

SEMESTER 1

Course	Credit Hours
NTRN 201 - Nutrition or NTRN 401 - Nutrition for Community and Health Care Professionals	3
BIOL 216 - Development and Physiology or BIOL 340/346 - Human Physiology/Human Anatomy	3
SOCI 101 - Introduction to Sociology	3
ANTH 215 - Health, Culture, and Disease: An Introduction to Medical Anthropology or SOCI 311 - Health, Illness, Social Behavior	3
Semester total:	12

SEMESTER 2

Course	Credit Hours
NTRN 337/437 - Nutrition Communication, Counseling, and Behavior Change Strategies	3
NTRN 343 - Dietary Patterns	3
NTRN 351/451 - Food Service Systems Management	3
CHEM 223 - Introduction to Organic Chemistry I	3
BIOL 343 - Microbiology	3
Semester total:	15

SEMESTER 3

Course	Credit Hours
NTRN 342 - Food Science	3
NTRN 342L - Food Science Lab	2
NTRN 363/433 - Human Nutrition I / Advanced Human Nutrition I	3
BIOC 307 - Introduction to Biochemistry: From Molecules to Medical Science	4
STAT 201 - Basic Statistics for Social and Life Sciences (<i>or equivalent*</i>)	3
Semester total:	15

SEMESTER 4

Course	Credit Hours
NTRN 364/434 - Human Nutrition II / Advanced Human Nutrition II	3
NTRN 365 - Nutrition for the Prevention and Management of Disease (MNT)	4
NTRN 350/528 - Community Nutrition / Public Health Nutrition	3
UGER Experience (Writing) Portfolio	-
Semester total:	10

***Equivalent courses for STAT 201:** STAT 312 or 313, PQHS 431, ANTH 319, PSCL 282, or SOCI 307

Note: Nutrition electives and Nutrition Department major requirements and other courses are also included in a student's overall academic plan of study.

Knowledge for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (KRDNs): Learning and Assessment

The DPD curriculum is designed to develop and assess the ACEND-required Knowledge Requirements for Dietitian Nutritionists (KRDNs) under domains (see below); the DPD is currently adhering to national ACEND 2022 Standards for DPD programs. Students often encounter KRDN content across multiple courses rather than in a single class. The program monitors student attainment through course assignments, examinations, case studies, modules, projects, presentations, documentation activities, and other learning experiences. KRDNs are paraphrased below:

Domain 1 — Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice

- KRDN 1.1 — Demonstrate how to locate, interpret, evaluate and use professional literature to make ethical, evidence-based practice decisions.
- KRDN 1.2 — Select and use appropriate current information technologies to locate and apply evidence-based guidelines and protocols.
- KRDN 1.3 — Apply critical thinking skills.

Domain 2 — Professional Practice Expectations

- KRDN 2.1 — Demonstrate effective and professional oral and written communication and documentation.
- KRDN 2.2 — Describe the governance of nutrition and dietetics practice, including Scope of Practice and the Code of Ethics.
- KRDN 2.3 — Assess the impact of a public policy position on nutrition and dietetics.
- KRDN 2.4 — Discuss health-care policy and health-care delivery systems as they affect food and nutrition services.
- KRDN 2.5 — Identify the work of interprofessional teams and the roles of collaborators.
- KRDN 2.6 — Demonstrate cultural humility, awareness of personal biases, and understanding of cultural differences.
- KRDN 2.7 — Describe contributing factors to health inequity, including structural bias, social inequities, disparities, and discrimination.
- KRDN 2.8 — Participate in a nutrition and dietetics professional organization and explain its role.
- KRDN 2.9 — Defend a position on issues affecting the nutrition and dietetics profession.

Domain 3 — Clinical and Client Services

- KRDN 3.1 — Use the Nutrition Care Process and clinical workflow elements to assess, diagnose, intervene, and monitor nutrition-related problems.
- KRDN 3.2 — Develop an educational session, program, or strategy for a target population.
- KRDN 3.3 — Demonstrate counseling and education methods that facilitate behavior change and enhance wellness.
- KRDN 3.4 — Practice routine health screening assessments, including blood pressure and waived point-of-care testing.
- KRDN 3.5 — Describe nutritional genomics and its relationship to medical nutrition therapy, health, and disease.
- KRDN 3.6 — Develop nutritionally sound meals, menus, and meal plans that meet client/patient needs.

Domain 4 — Practice Management and Use of Resources

- KRDN 4.1 — Apply management theories to development of programs or services.
- KRDN 4.2 — Evaluate budgets/financial management plans and interpret financial data.
- KRDN 4.3 — Understand billing/coding, third-party reimbursement, and reimbursement processes.
- KRDN 4.4 — Apply human-resource management principles.
- KRDN 4.5 — Apply food, personnel, and consumer safety and sanitation principles.
- KRDN 4.6 — Explain processes involved in delivering quality food and nutrition services.
- KRDN 4.7 — Evaluate data for continuous quality improvement.

Domain 5 — Leadership and Career Management

- KRDN 5.1 — Perform self-assessment and develop goals for self-improvement.
- KRDN 5.2 — Identify and articulate skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals.
- KRDN 5.3 — Practice self-advocacy for opportunities and needed support.
- KRDN 5.4 — Practice resolving differences and dealing with conflict.
- KRDN 5.5 — Promote team involvement and recognize the skills of team members.
- KRDN 5.6 — Demonstrate understanding of the importance and expectations of professional mentoring and precepting.

Student Learning Assessment and Progress Review

The DPD conducts a student performance-monitoring process in which students meet with the DPD Director at least three times annually. The Director also receives information about student performance on selected DPD course assignments as part of the program's ongoing assessment of student learning outcomes (SLOs) and progress. Students are encouraged to use these meetings to review academic performance, identify gaps early, discuss professional development, and plan corrective actions where needed.

Student Performance Monitoring, Remediation, Retention, and Professional Conduct

The DPD uses ongoing assessment to identify academic difficulty early and to support student progression. Monitoring includes academic achievement, attainment of KRDNs, professional and ethical behavior, and academic integrity. Students are expected to communicate promptly when they encounter difficulty rather than waiting until the end of a term.

KRDN Attainment and Remediation

When a student unsuccessfully demonstrates a required knowledge or skill (KRDN), the student will be instructed to repeat the related assignment, examination, case study, module, or other learning activity, in full or in part, until the required knowledge or skill is demonstrated. However, only the first attempt counts toward the student's course grade; the additional attempt is used to assess and confirm demonstrated attainment of the required KRDN.

Academic Support and Early Intervention

Students experiencing difficulty will be provided with additional advising, mentoring, and instructed to seek a variety of additional resources (e.g. tutoring and other resources as applicable). The DPD Director and major advisor will also work with the student to create a plan addressing course sequencing, study strategies, time management, and/or help identify other barriers to academic progress. [CWRU Academic Resources](#)|[CWRU Student Health](#)|[CWRU Counseling Services](#)

Academic Integrity and Professional Behavior

DPD students are members of the CWRU academic community and are subject to university academic-integrity and conduct policies. Professional expectations include honesty, accurate representation of work, appropriate attribution, respectful communication, confidentiality, and adherence to applicable course and program instructions. [CWRU Academic Integrity Resources](#)

Retention and Continuation

Maintenance of active status in the DPD requires continued maintenance of the overall and DPD GPAs. A student who becomes inactive will receive additional advising and guidance regarding course repetition, academic planning, major/career planning, and pathways for regaining active status, subject to the policies of the program.

Related resources: [CWRU Academic Support Resources](#) | [CWRU Academic Integrity Resources](#) | [CWRU Student Conduct and Community Standards](#)

Prior Assessed Learning, Transfer Coursework, and Equivalency Review

The DPD recognizes prior academic learning through a formal review process for equivalent college-level coursework. Rather than assuming that a prior course automatically satisfies a DPD requirement, students must obtain approval (pre-approval is best) for any DPD course equivalencies by the DPD Director.

Prior Assessed Learning (PAL)

Prospective or current DPD students must submit official college-level transcripts to the DPD Director for review for any DPD course equivalency inquiry. The DPD Director evaluates whether prior coursework is equivalent to a DPD course; the review considers course content, assignments, assessments, and whether the course learning experience addresses the applicable ACEND KRDN knowledge and skills. The following courses are a recommended minimum to be taken in the program: NTRN 337/437; NTRN 351/451; NTRN 363/433; NTRN 364/434; NTRN 350/528; and NTRN 365.

International Coursework

International transcripts must be first formally evaluated by a reputable foreign transcript evaluation service, such as World Education Services (WES). Students must also request translated course syllabi and related documentation from the originating institution be sent to the DPD Director.

Required Documentation

- Official transcript(s).
- Detailed course syllabus and catalog description.
- Course learning objectives.
- Major assignments and assessment descriptions when requested.
- Evidence of laboratory or experiential components when relevant.
- Official English translations for international materials.
- Foreign transcript evaluation when applicable.

Related links: [CWRU DPD Program](#) | [World Education Services](#)

Equitable Treatment, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Student Rights

The CWRU DPD is committed to an educational environment in which students are treated with dignity, respect, and fairness. The program, Department of Nutrition, and university operate within applicable federal, state, and university requirements concerning nondiscrimination, accessibility, equal educational opportunity, harassment, retaliation, and civil rights.

Inclusive Educational Environment

The DPD seeks to support students from diverse backgrounds and to provide equitable access to educational opportunities. The program recognizes that students bring different experiences, identities, perspectives, resources, learning needs, and cultural contexts to the educational environment. Program interactions should be professional, respectful, and consistent with university policy. The DPD program does not discriminate on race, ethnicity, national origin, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, body size, socioeconomic status, and age throughout the program. This handbook also recognizes that applicable university and civil-rights protections may cover additional characteristics and circumstances. Students should consult current university policy for the authoritative scope of protected status and prohibited conduct. [CWRU Title IX / Nondiscrimination](#) | [CWRU Office of Equity](#)

Accessibility and Accommodations

Students who require disability-related accommodations are instructed to contact CWRU Disability Resources to coordinate provision of accommodations. Accommodations are administered through the university process rather than through informal and/or departmental program arrangements. Students are responsible for initiating and maintaining the accommodation process; accommodations generally do not apply retroactively. [CWRU Disability Resources](#)

Addressing Inequitable Treatment

If a student believes that they have experienced inequitable treatment, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, or another violation of university policy, the student may seek assistance through the appropriate university office and may also raise concerns through the DPD complaint process described later in this handbook. The DPD will address substantiated concerns consistent with university policy and applicable law.

Related resources: [CWRU Disability Resources](#) | [CWRU Title IX / Nondiscrimination](#) | [CWRU Office of Equity](#)

Student Complaints, Grievances, and Protection from Retaliation

Students are encouraged to raise concerns promptly and through the appropriate level of review. The DPD complaint process provides recourse to an administrator other than the DPD Director and is designed to prevent retaliation for good-faith complaints.

Program-Level and Department-Level Concerns

Students who have a complaint concerning the DPD program, DPD Director, DPD faculty member, or another aspect of the program are advised to submit a formal complaint to the Department of Nutrition Chair, Hope Barkoukis, PhD, RDN, LD, FAND, [CWRU Nutrition Department](#) and/or to the appropriate university Provost-level office. [CWRU Provost](#)

Documentation and Retention

The DPD program maintains a record of student complaints for seven years, including their resolution. Students should retain copies of their own complaint submissions and relevant correspondence.

ACEND Complaint Process

After other program and institutional options have been exhausted, a student may submit a written complaint to ACEND concerning alleged noncompliance with ACEND accreditation standards or policies. ACEND explains on its website that it does not serve as a general court of appeal for individual admissions, promotion, or dismissal decisions; its complaint process focuses on potential noncompliance with accreditation standards or policies. Current ACEND procedures should be reviewed before submission. [ACEND Filing a Complaint](#)

ACEND® can be contacted by:

- **Email:** ACEND@eatright.org
- **Phone:** 800/877-1600, ext. 5400
- **Mail:** 120 South Riverside Plaza
Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995
- <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend>

No Retaliation

It is the intent of the DPD program that students are able to raise concerns in good faith without retaliation. Any allegation of retaliation should be addressed through the appropriate university process and, where applicable, through the relevant complaint or civil-rights process.

Related resources: [ACEND Filing a Complaint](#) | [ACEND Contact Information](#) | [CWRU Office of Equity](#) | [CWRU Provost](#)

Academic Discipline, Withdrawal, Leave, and Refunds

DPD students are subject to CWRU academic, conduct, and financial policies. The DPD handbook summarizes these processes but does not replace the determinant (“controlling”) university policies.

Academic Discipline and Conduct

Academic difficulty, academic integrity concerns, and student conduct matters are handled under the applicable university process. Possible outcomes can include academic probation, suspension, separation, or dismissal or other actions depending on the governing policy and circumstances. Students should consult the current General Bulletin and Student Conduct resources for authoritative procedures. [CWRU Student Conduct](#) | [CWRU Academic Integrity Resources](#)

Withdrawal from Courses or the University

CWRU distinguishes course drops from withdrawal from all courses in a term. For fall and spring terms, a student discontinuing all studies must follow the university withdrawal process; non-attendance does not constitute official withdrawal. Students should consult the Registrar and Student Financial Services before withdrawing because academic and financial consequences may differ. [CWRU Withdrawal and Refund Policies](#)

Refunds

CWRU's current general refund schedule provides a sliding scale after the applicable add/drop period each semester. The current policy states that fall/spring term withdrawals may receive 100%, 75%, 50%, 25%, or 0% tuition adjustment depending on timing; fees are treated differently after the 100% period. Housing and meal plan charges have separate policies. Financial aid may also be affected. [CWRU Undergraduate Tuition & Fees](#)|[CWRU Graduate Tuition & Fees](#)

Refund Schedule (2026-2027)

Fall/Spring timing	Tuition adjustment	Fee adjustment
Weeks 1–2	100%	100%
Week 3	75%	0%
Week 4	50%	0%
Week 5	25%	0%
Week 6 through end	0%	0%

Leaves, Pauses, and Vacations

A student seeking a formal pause in studies, leave of absence, or other change in enrollment status must follow the applicable CWRU approval process. The DPD will recognize and document the university's decision and will advise the student regarding DPD completion implications. Students should not assume that an informal break automatically pauses the DPD completion clock.

Related resources: [CWRU Academic Bulletin](#) | [CWRU Student Conduct](#) | [CWRU Withdrawal and Tuition Refund Policy](#) | [CWRU Registrar Withdrawal and Refunds](#)

Academic Calendar, Schedule, Holidays, and Program Operations

The DPD follows the CWRU academic calendar and university-recognized holidays. Individual course schedules, examinations, assignment deadlines, and instructional formats are established by the relevant course and university scheduling systems.

Academic Calendar

The CWRU Registrar publishes the official academic calendar, enrollment deadlines, and related dates. The current 2026–2027 calendar that is in place includes officially approved dates for Summer 2026 through Summer 2027. Students should always consult the official calendar rather than relying on dates reproduced in this handbook. [CWRU Academic Calendar](#)

Holidays and Religious Observances

University-recognized holidays and policies concerning religious observances are governed by CWRU policy. Students should review the official calendar and applicable attendance policies when planning coursework.

Related resources: [CWRU Academic Calendar](#) | [CWRU Registrar](#) | [CWRU General Bulletin](#)

Distance Education Components, Technology, and Online Assessment

The CWRU DPD is not a distance program per se. However, some DPD courses may include online instruction, online modules, online assignments, and/or online testing. These components are part of the regular educational design of the applicable course and will be disclosed to students on the course syllabus. Also, because the United States Department of Education (USDE) currently considers “distance” education to include online content, this information is described here.

Technology Expectations (University Policy)

- Reliable access to a computer and the internet sufficient for course participation
- Ability to access CWRU systems such as Canvas and university authentication services
- Ability to use course-specific software or tools identified by instructors
- Working camera and microphone when required for synchronous activities or identity verification
- Ability to submit assignments and complete online assessments by published deadlines

Identity Verification for Online Testing

DPD courses using online testing employ identity-verification procedures. These may include active video, university credentials/ID access, and the Respondus LockDown Browser system within Canvas or another approved platform which is accessed by a student using their university login credentials. Submission and system logs also associate work with the student's university account.

Privacy and Responsible Technology Use

Students should use university systems and online assessment tools in accordance with CWRU privacy, acceptable-use, academic-integrity, and course policies. Students should not share assessment materials, credentials, or protected information. [CWRU FERPA / Student Privacy](#)

Related resources: [CWRU Canvas](#) | [CWRU Information Security](#) | [CWRU Registrar / FERPA](#)

Privacy, Student Records, and Access to Student Files

The DPD follows CWRU policies governing student records, confidentiality, privacy, and access to education records. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) provide students with rights concerning access to and disclosure of education records.

Student Records and Confidentiality

CWRU's FERPA policy states that personally identifiable student records generally may not be released to third parties without the student's written consent, subject to specific exceptions. Directory information is treated separately under university policy, and students have rights to request inspection and review of official education records. [CWRU FERPA / Student Privacy](#)

Access to DPD-Related Files

Students may request access to their own DPD-related student files through the DPD Director and/or appropriate Department of Nutrition administrative staff. Students should allow

reasonable processing time for coordination of access. Requests involving official university records are governed by CWRU's FERPA procedures. [CWRU FERPA / Student Privacy](#)

Distance-Learning Privacy

When online or Canvas-based course activities are used, the DPD operates within the university's information-privacy and security framework. Students should use their assigned credentials, protect passwords, and avoid placing sensitive student information into unauthorized systems.

Related resources: [CWRU FERPA Policy](#) | [CWRU Student Financial Services FERPA](#) | [CWRU Information Security](#)

Estimated Costs: Tuition, Fees, Books, Housing, Transportation, and Other Expenses

The DPD does not impose a separate DPD tuition charge. Students incur the tuition and fees associated with their CWRU (University) degree enrollment and courses. Because DPD students may be undergraduate or graduate students, costs vary by student status, entering cohort, enrollment intensity, course level, housing choice, meal plan, and other circumstances. [CWRU Undergraduate Tuition & Fees](#) | [CWRU Graduate Tuition & Fees](#)

CWRU's official 2026–2027 undergraduate cost information is summarized below.

Cost Category	Residential Student	Commuter Student
Tuition	\$71,410	\$71,410
Housing	\$11,688	\$3,824
Meal Plan	\$8,600	\$1,124
Fees	\$696	\$696
Matriculation Fee	\$760	\$760
Books	\$1,200	\$1,200
Personal Expenses	\$1,350	\$1,350
Transportation	Variable	Variable
Total Cost of Attendance	\$95,704	\$80,364

The figures above are CWRU's published 2026–2027 estimates. The university's Cost of Attendance page explains that the COA includes direct charges and estimated indirect expenses and that actual costs can vary. Students should use CWRU Student Financial Services for billing-specific charges. [CWRU Financial Aid — Undergraduate Cost of Attendance](#)

Graduate-Level Costs

Graduate DPD students may be enrolled in a graduate Nutrition degree or another graduate program within the Department of Nutrition. CWRU's School of Graduate Studies published 2026–

2027 reference rates include \$2,384 per credit hour for programs not listed separately, plus applicable fees; actual program-specific rates may differ. CWRU School of Graduate Studies — Tuition & Fees

Source: CWRU Student Financial Services — School of Graduate Studies. The university states that tuition and fees vary by program and/or entering year; 2026–2027 includes Summer 2026, Fall 2026, and Spring 2027.

CWRU's official 2026–2027 graduate cost information is summarized below.

Cost Category	Summer 2026	Fall 2026	Spring 2027	Fall & Spring Total
Graduate tuition — programs not listed separately	\$2,316/credit hour	\$2,384/credit hour	\$2,384/credit hour	—
Tuition maximum per term	\$27,774	\$28,607	\$28,607	\$57,214
Student Medical Plan	—	\$2,110*	\$2,110*	\$4,220*
One to One Fitness Membership (optional)	—	\$150	\$187.50	\$337.50
Sales Tax	—	\$12	\$15	\$27
Graduate Student Fee	—	\$6	\$6	\$12
Graduate Student Council Fee	—	\$20	\$20	\$40
RTA Transportation Fee (optional)	—	\$70	\$70	\$140
Total Tuition and Fees	—	\$30,975.00	\$31,015.50	\$61,990.50

Other Estimated Costs Included in Cost of Attendance

Estimated Cost	Fall 2026	Spring 2027	Fall & Spring Total
Housing / living allowance	\$5,492	\$5,492	\$10,984
Meals / living allowance	\$1,927	\$1,927	\$3,854
Books and supplies (up to 12 credits/term)	\$86/credit	\$86/credit	\$86/credit
Transportation and personal expenses	\$5,401	\$5,401	\$10,802
Loan origination fees	Varies	Varies	Varies

Important notes. Above costs are estimates. CWRU states that published tuition and fees are informational and may not represent all fees and charges a student may incur. *Programs entirely

online are not charged the Student Medical Plan; also, the Student Medical Plan is subject to state approval.

Official CWRU source: [School of Graduate Studies — Tuition & Fees](#)

Books, Supplies, Transportation, and Housing

In addition to tuition, students should budget for textbooks, laboratory materials, technology, transportation, housing, meals, personal expenses, and any course-specific charges. Some DPD courses may involve laboratory or specialized materials. The DPD does not establish a single program-wide cost for these items.

Related resources: [CWRU Undergraduate Tuition & Fees](#) | [CWRU Undergraduate Cost of Attendance](#) | [CWRU Graduate Tuition & Fees](#) | [CWRU Housing](#)

Financial Aid, Scholarships, Loans, Work-Study, and Other Support

Financial assistance is administered through CWRU's Office of University Financial Aid and related university offices. The DPD does not independently award federal financial aid. Students should use official CWRU resources to determine eligibility, deadlines, application requirements, and the effect of enrollment changes on aid.

Undergraduate Financial Aid

CWRU offers merit- and need-based assistance, including scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study. Students seeking need-based assistance should complete the applicable FAFSA and, when required for institutional aid, the CSS Profile. Eligibility depends on the student's circumstances and applicable federal, state, and institutional requirements. [CWRU Financial Aid](#)

Graduate Financial Aid

Graduate students should review CWRU's graduate financial-aid resources because eligibility, deadlines, and funding sources can differ from undergraduate aid. Students should also consult their degree program regarding assistantships and departmental funding. [CWRU Financial Aid](#)

Loans and Deferment

CWRU provides information about federal and other educational loans. Students should carefully review interest, repayment, eligibility, and enrollment requirements. A DPD student's DPD status alone does not create a special loan-deferment entitlement; students should consult the appropriate financial-aid or loan servicer resource.

Scholarships and Outside Funding

Students may pursue CWRU scholarships and outside scholarships. Outside scholarships may affect the composition of a financial-aid package and cannot generally cause total aid to exceed applicable cost-of-attendance limits. [CWRU Scholarships](#)

Assistantships and Employment

The DPD itself does not compensate students. Teaching assistantships, research assistantships, student employment, and work-study opportunities are separate university or departmental arrangements; students do not receive compensation in the DPD.

Related resources: [CWRU Financial Aid](#) | [Undergraduate Financial Aid](#) | [Applying for Undergraduate Aid](#) | [CWRU Scholarships](#) | [CWRU Loans](#) | [Outside Scholarships](#)

CWRU Student Support Services and Resources

Successful progression through a demanding nutrition and dietetics curriculum requires more than classroom instruction. CWRU provides academic, health, counseling, accessibility, financial, career, and student-life resources. Students are encouraged to seek assistance as needed.

Academic Support, Tutoring, and Coaching

CWRU Academic Support Resources provides academic coaching, peer tutoring, study groups, supplemental instruction, and English-language support. Peer tutoring is free for undergraduates within the published limits, and current supported courses include several DPD-related courses such as NTRN 201, BIOL 214/216/340/343/346, CHEM 105/106/223, BIOC 307, ANTH 215, SOCI 101, and STAT 201/312. [CWRU Academic Resources](#)[CWRU Student Health](#)[CWRU Counseling Services](#)

Health Services

University Health and Counseling Services provides student health services, including care for acute illness and injury, primary care, immunizations, sexual and reproductive health, and occupational health. Students should use the current appointment system and service information on the website. [CWRU Student Health](#)[CWRU Counseling Services](#)[CWRU Disability Resources](#)

Counseling and Mental Health

Counseling Services offers same- or next-day initial appointments, brief individual counseling, group counseling, workshops, psychiatry, crisis intervention, and care management. Students may access virtual or in-person services. UH&CS also partners with TimelyCare for 24/7 virtual medical and mental-health support. [CWRU Student Health](#)[CWRU Counseling Services](#)

Disability Resources and Accommodated Testing

Disability Resources assists students with disabilities in accessing educational and residential programs and coordinates accommodations. The Office of Accommodated Testing & Services provides testing accommodations and related services based on approved accommodations. [CWRU Disability Resources](#)

Career Support

CWRU career resources can support students in exploring health-related careers, preparing application materials, developing professional communication skills, and planning post-graduation opportunities. DPD students should also discuss dietetics-specific career pathways with the DPD Director and advisors. [CWRU Career Center](#)

Dean of Students and Student Advocacy

The Dean of Students Office provides non-clinical advocacy, support, and referral coordination for students experiencing academic, personal, or other challenges.

Related resources: [Academic Support Resources](#) | [Peer Tutoring](#) | [Tutor-Supported Courses](#) | [University Health & Counseling Services](#) | [Counseling Services](#) | [Disability Resources](#) | [CWRU Student Affairs](#) | [CWRU Career Center](#)

Professional Ethics and Conduct in Nutrition and Dietetics

Students in the DPD are preparing for a profession that places public protection, evidence-based practice, integrity, respect, confidentiality, and professional accountability at the center of practice. The Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession provide a professional framework that students should study and apply in academic work and professional development. [Academy Code of Ethics](#)

Core Ethical Principles – Code of Ethics for Dietitians

Principle	How to Apply these Principles
Competence / non-maleficence	Build scientific competence, recognize limitations, seek guidance, and avoid practicing beyond qualifications.
Integrity / autonomy	Represent information truthfully, disclose conflicts, respect autonomy, safeguard confidentiality, and comply with applicable laws.
Professionalism / beneficence	Communicate respectfully, maintain professional boundaries, avoid harassment, and contribute to the competence of others.
Social responsibility / justice	Promote equitable treatment, reduce disparities, protect human rights, serve communities, and strengthen public trust.

Academic and Professional Application

Students should apply ethical reasoning to case studies, research appraisal, nutrition counseling, documentation, group work, social media, and professional interactions. Ethical conduct includes accurate citation, responsible use of information technology, truthful communication, respect for intellectual property, and appropriate handling of confidential information.

Social Media and Professional Representation

Professionalism applies to electronic communication and social media. Students should avoid false, misleading, disparaging, discriminatory, or confidential disclosures and should understand that public communications can affect patients, communities, employers, professional relationships, and the reputation of the profession.

Related resources: [Academy Code of Ethics](#) | [CDR Scope and Standards](#) | [CWRU Student Code of Conduct](#)

Student Compensation and Employment Related to the DPD

As stated previously in this handbook, students do not receive compensation as part of participation in the CWRU DPD. The DPD is an academic program and does not provide wages, stipends, or other compensation for completion of its curriculum. However, DPD students may apply for non-DPD related university student positions, such as Teaching or Research Assistants, and student may participate in CWRU Work-Study programs.

Independent Employment and Assistantships

Teaching assistantships, research assistantships, student employment, and Federal Work-Study positions may be available through CWRU or the Department of Nutrition. Such opportunities are separate from the DPD and are governed by their own appointment, employment, payroll, and eligibility requirements.

Related resources: [CWRU Student Employment](#) | [CWRU Financial Aid](#)

DPD Verification Statement: Requirements and Issuance

The DPD Verification Statement is the formal program document confirming successful completion of the CWRU DPD. It is used in the subsequent professional education pathway, including applications to supervised practice programs. [DICAS application system](#)|[CDR RDN eligibility](#)

Requirements for Issuance

- Successful completion of all required DPD courses or approved equivalents
- Successful attainment of all required ACEND KRDNs (knowledge and skills)
- Completion of any required degree-related or program-related academic requirements specified by the DPD
- Confirmation by the DPD Director and appropriate university records that requirements have been completed

Processing

The DPD Verification Statement is generally issued approximately 2–3 weeks after completion, once the DPD Director verifies that all program requirements have been completed with the Department of Nutrition and University Registrar. If a student is asked by the program director of the supervised practice program to which they have been accepted to and plan to enter to provide the DPD Verification Statement at an earlier date the DPD Director will assist the student to provide the DPD Verification Statement promptly, once all has been verified.

What the Verification Statement Does Not Mean

A Verification Statement confirms completion of the DPD. However, it does not guarantee admission to supervised practice, confer the RDN credential, constitute state licensure, or guarantee examination success. Those outcomes depend on additional requirements established by ACEND, CDR, state regulators, and individual supervised-practice programs. [DICAS application system](#)|[CDR RDN eligibility](#)

Related resources: [CWRU DPD Program](#) | [ACEND Student Application Process](#) | [CDR RDN Eligibility](#)

Preparing for Supervised Practice and the DICAS Application

The transition from the DPD to a supervised practice program is a major professional milestone. Students should begin preparing well before graduation, review program-specific prerequisites, and understand that supervised-practice programs make their own admissions decisions.

Application Planning

- Identify supervised-practice programs that align with career interests, geographic preferences, financial considerations, and graduate-degree needs
 - [ACEND — Find an Accredited Program](#)
- Review each program's current prerequisites and application requirements
- Track deadlines and required documents in a personal application calendar
- Prepare transcripts, references, personal statements, resume/CV, and other required materials
- Confirm that the DPD Verification Statement will be available when required
- Use DICAS and ACEND resources for current application procedures

See more at: [DICAS application system](#)|[CDR RDN eligibility](#)

DICAS and Application Integrity

Students should provide complete, accurate, and truthful information in all applications. Academic records and professional experiences should be represented accurately. Students should retain copies of submitted materials and confirmations.

DICAS and Graduate Degree Planning

Because CDR now requires a minimum graduate (Master's) degree for current RDN examination eligibility (since January 1, 2024), students should evaluate graduate-degree pathways early. A graduate degree may be completed before, during, or in conjunction with supervised practice depending on the pathway and program design. [DICAS application system](#)|[CDR RDN eligibility](#)

Related resources: [ACEND Application Process](#) | [DICAS](#) | [CDR RDN Eligibility](#) | [ACEND Program Directory](#)

Alternative Credentialing Pathway: DTR / NDTR

Students who complete the DPD program have the option of pursuing the Dietetic Technician, Registered (DTR), also referred to by CDR as Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered (NDTR), credential. DTR/NDTR certification is distinct from RDN credentialing and should be considered a separate professional pathway. [CDR DTR/NDTR Certification](#)

What Is the DTR/NDTR Credential?

CDR describes DTRs/NDTRs as nutrition and dietetics professionals who work in a variety of settings and roles, including foodservice and clinical nutrition support. Eligibility depends on

satisfying CDR's current requirements and being validated by CDR. After eligibility requirements are completed and validated, candidates may take the DTR registration examination. CDR administers the examination through its testing process, with current examination information published on its website. [CDR DTR Exam Overview](#)

Important Distinction

The DTR/NDTR credential does not replace the educational and supervised-practice requirements for RDN eligibility. Students interested in both credentials should review each pathway independently with CDR and the DPD Director.

Related resources: [CDR DTR/NDTR Certification](#) | [CDR DTR Exam Overview](#) | [CDR Credential Use and Misuse](#)

DPD Program Governance, Advising, and Key Contacts

Students should know where to direct questions and when to seek assistance. The DPD Director is the primary program contact for DPD admission, academic planning, DPD equivalency review, progression, KRDN assessment, and Verification Statements.

Overview of Roles, Purpose, and Contact throughout the DPD Pathway

Role / Office	Primary Purpose	Contact / Resource
DPD Director	DPD program management, progression assessments and evaluations, DPD Verification Statements	James Swain, PhD, RDN, LD, FAND james.swain@case.edu Office Tel: 216.368.8554 School of Medicine Nutrition Department Campus location: W-G48
Department of Nutrition	Department-level academic and administrative matters	CWRU Nutrition Department website CWRU Nutrition Department
University Registrar	Enrollment, academic records, calendars, withdrawals	CWRU Registrar CWRU Registrar
Student Financial Services	Tuition, billing, refunds, payment plans	CWRU Student Financial Services Student Financial Services
University Financial Aid	Scholarships, grants, loans, work-study	Office of University Financial Aid CWRU Financial Aid
ACEND	Accreditation and accreditation-related complaints	ACEND@eatright.org 800-877-1600 ext. 5400 ACEND
CDR	Credentialing, examinations, RDN/DTR eligibility	CDR official website CDR

Advising Expectations

Students should prepare for advising meetings by reviewing their degree audit, DPD worksheet, current grades, upcoming prerequisites, and any questions about course sequencing or professional planning. Advising is most effective when students identify concerns early and bring relevant documentation.

Appendix A — DPD Application Form and Admission Criteria

Case Western Reserve University — Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)

Students seeking admission to the CWRU DPD must complete the following one-page application and provide official academic transcripts*.

Admission criterion	Minimum Requirement
NTRN 201	Grade B or above
BIOL 214	Grade C or above
CHEM 105	Grade C or above
CHEM 106	Grade C or above
Overall cumulative GPA	3.2 minimum at time of application
Post-admission active status	Overall GPA $\geq$ 3.2; DPD GPA $\geq$ 3.4

Student Information

Student Applicant Information	Notes (DPD Program Use)
Name	
CWRU email	
CWRU 7-digit ID	
Year entered CWRU	
Anticipated graduation	
Nutrition Dept. major/program	
Major advisor	

Prerequisite Coursework

Course	Semester/Year	Grade
NTRN 201		
BIOL 214		
CHEM 105		
CHEM 106		
Overall cumulative GPA		

***Attach an official transcript and/or other documentation as requested by the DPD Director – send to james.swain@case.edu**

Appendix B — DPD Course Worksheet

DPD Students are to use this worksheet as a planning and advising aid. Course numbering and equivalencies should be confirmed against the current CWRU DPD curriculum.

Course	Course title	Credits	Sem/Yr
NTRN 201/401	Nutrition / Nutrition for Community and Health Care Professionals	3	
NTRN 337/437	Nutrition Communication, Counseling, and Behavior Change Strategies	3	
NTRN 342 + 342L	Food Science and Laboratory	5	
NTRN 343	Dietary Patterns	3	
NTRN 351/451	Food Service Systems Management	3	
NTRN 363/433	Human Nutrition I / Advanced Human Nutrition I	3	
NTRN 364/434	Human Nutrition II / Advanced Human Nutrition II	3	
NTRN 365	Nutrition in the Prevention and Management of Disease (MNT)	4	
NTRN 350/528	Community/Public Health Nutrition	3	
Non-NTRN DPD Courses			
BIOC 307	Biochemistry	4	
BIOL 343	Microbiology	3	
BIOL 216 or BIOL 340/346	Development and Physiology or Human Anatomy and Physiology	3	
CHEM 223	Introduction to Organic Chemistry	3	
ANTH 215 or SOCI 311	Medical Anthropology or Health, Illness, and Social Behavior	3	
SOCI 101	Introduction to Sociology	3	
STAT 201 or approved equivalent*	Basic Statistics for Social and Life Sciences	3	
UGER Writing Portfolio	Writing requirement	—	

**Approved STAT 201 equivalents are STAT 312 or 313, PQHS 431, ANTH 319, PSCL 282, or SOCI 307, subject to current program approval*

Official resources and active links: [CWRU DPD Curriculum](#)

Appendix C — Curriculum Components and Location

DPD curriculum component list:

Curricular component	Courses
Research methodology and evidence-based practice	ANTH 215; NTRN 363/433; NTRN 364/434; NTRN 365; SOCI 311
Communication and documentation	ANTH 215; NTRN 201/401; NTRN 337/437; NTRN 342/342L; NTRN 343; NTRN 351/451; NTRN 363/433; NTRN 364/434; NTRN 365; NTRN 350/528; SOCI 311; UGER Writing Portfolio
Education, counseling, behavior change	NTRN 337/437; NTRN 365
Governance, ethics, interprofessional relationships	NTRN 337/437; NTRN 365; NTRN 350/528
Medical nutrition therapy and Nutrition Care Process	NTRN 365
Environment, food, nutrition, lifestyle, prevention	ANTH 215; BIOL 343; NTRN 201/401; NTRN 337/437; NTRN 342/342L; NTRN 343; NTRN 363/433; NTRN 364/434; NTRN 365; NTRN 350/528; SOCI 311
Management and business principles	NTRN 351/451
Continuous quality management	NTRN 342/342L; NTRN 351/451; NTRN 350/528
Public policy and regulatory basis	NTRN 351/451; NTRN 365; NTRN 350/528
Licensure and certification	NTRN 365; NTRN 350/528
NPI	NTRN 365; NTRN 350/528
Health-care delivery systems	ANTH 215; NTRN 351/451; NTRN 365; NTRN 350/528; SOCI 311
Coding and billing	NTRN 351/451; NTRN 365; NTRN 350/528
Food science, systems, safety, sustainability, menus	NTRN 342/342L; NTRN 343; NTRN 351/451
Organic chemistry, biochemistry, anatomy, physiology, genetics, microbiology, statistics and nutrition	BIOC 307; BIOL 216/340/346; BIOL 343; CHEM 223; NTRN 201/401; NTRN 337/437; NTRN 343; NTRN 363/433; NTRN 364/434; NTRN 365; STAT 201/equivalent
Cultural humility and DEI	ANTH 215; NTRN 337/437; NTRN 343; NTRN 350/528; NTRN 365; SOCI 101; SOCI 311
Human behavior, psychology, sociology, anthropology	ANTH 215; NTRN 337/437; SOCI 101; SOCI 311

Appendix D — Professional Ethics Reference

The complete current Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession should be accessed from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. [Academy Code of Ethics](#)

Key Ethical Expectations

- Practice within competence and use evidence-based approaches.
- Recognize limitations and seek consultation or referral when appropriate.
- Respect individual values, circumstances, autonomy, and confidentiality.
- Disclose conflicts of interest and avoid conduct that could improperly influence professional judgment.
- Provide accurate, truthful, and appropriately documented information.
- Respect intellectual property and properly credit the work of others.
- Maintain professional boundaries and avoid harassment or discriminatory behavior.
- Communicate respectfully and at an appropriate level for health literacy.
- Promote fairness, equity, public trust, and reduction of health disparities.
- Contribute to the development of colleagues, students, and the profession.

Ethics in DPD Coursework

Students should expect ethical reasoning to be embedded throughout the DPD curriculum, including in case studies, counseling exercises, community nutrition, clinical nutrition, foodservice systems management, research-related activities, and professional communication. Ethical conduct is part of professional preparation, not an optional component.

Related resources: [Current Academy Code of Ethics](#) | [CDR RDN Scope and Standards](#)

Appendix E — Student Acknowledgement and Signature Page

I have read and comprehend the information in this Student Handbook regarding the CWRU Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD), including all DPD program requirements, policies, procedures, academic expectations, professional responsibilities, and resources presented in this DPD Student Handbook.

I understand that university policies may be updated. I also understand that professional dietetics credentialing rules may be revised by national organizations and entities and that I share responsibility for consulting current official sources and seeking clarification when necessary.

I agree to abide by the policies and procedures set forth in this Handbook and by applicable Case Western Reserve University policies and academic and professional standards.

Student Name: (printed): _____.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

DPD Director Signature: _____ **Date:** _____