

Mission and Goals
Didactic Program in Dietetics
Department of Nutrition, The University of Tennessee

The mission, goals, and outcome measures of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Didactic Program in Dietetics (detailed below) guide the program in its quest to provide the best possible education and to develop future leaders in nutrition and dietetics.

Mission: The mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics is to promote understanding of the scientific underpinnings of nutrition and their translation to effective, evidence-based practice, thereby preparing graduates for supervised dietetics practice programs leading to eligibility for the CDR credentialing exam to become registered dietitian nutritionists, and to build future leaders in dietetics and nutrition to optimize the nutritional health of individuals, families, and communities within state, national, and global populations.

Program Goals:

1. The program curriculum will prepare graduates effectively for supervised practice programs leading to CDR credentialing as Registered Dietitian Nutritionists.
 - 1.1 At least 95% of program students complete the program/degree requirements within three years (planned program length is two years).*
 - 1.2 At least 90% of graduates over a five-year period pass the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within one year following first attempt.*
 - 1.3 At least 40% of program graduates will apply for admission to a supervised practice program within 12 months of graduation.*
 - 1.4 At least 35% of program graduates will be admitted to supervised practice programs within 12 months of graduation.*
 - 1.5 At least 80% of program graduates who apply for admission to a supervised practice program within four years of graduation will be admitted.*
 - 1.6 Supervised practice program directors will rate preparation of graduates in specific knowledge areas as “satisfactory” or better on program director surveys.*
 - 1.7 Program graduates will rate how well the program prepared them in specific knowledge areas as “satisfactory” or better on program graduate surveys.*

2. The program will prepare graduates to practice at the highest level by emphasizing ability to read and appropriately apply nutrition research findings and evidence-based guidelines to practice and providing opportunities to participate in research.
 - 2.1 At least 35% of program graduates, by the time of program completion, will have participated in research.*
 - 2.2 At least 10% of program graduates, by the time of program completion, will have presented research at the Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement or state or national meeting.*
 - 2.3 Program graduates will rate how well the program helped them build knowledge and skills in their “ability to locate, interpret, evaluate and use information from professional literature including original research articles and evidence-based*

guidelines” as “satisfactory” (2) or better on program graduate surveys. 3 = outstanding, 2 = satisfactory, 1 = needs improvement, 0 = unsatisfactory.

2.4 Supervised practice program directors will rate preparation of graduates compared to other students in their program in their “ability to locate, interpret, evaluate and use information from professional literature including original research articles and evidence-based guidelines” and in their “knowledge of research methods and interpretation of research publications” as “above average” or better on program director surveys. 5 = outstanding, 4 = above average, 3 = average, 2 = below average, 1 = unsatisfactory.

3. The program will prepare graduates for leadership roles in nutrition and dietetics.
 - 3.1. *At least 20% of program graduates who attain the RDN credential will hold professional leadership roles in nutrition and dietetics within five years of program completion.*
 - 3.2. *Program graduates will rate how well the program helped them build “leadership skills” as “satisfactory” (2) or better on program graduate surveys. 3 = outstanding, 2 = satisfactory, 1 = needs improvement, 0 = unsatisfactory.*
 - 3.3. *Supervised practice program directors will rate “leadership skills” of graduates compared to other students in their program as “above average” or better on program director surveys. 5 = outstanding, 4 = above average, 3 = average, 2 = below average, 1 = unsatisfactory.*

Program outcomes data are available upon request.