

FOOD AND NUTRITION, BS

Food and nutrition students typically have an aptitude for science, a concern for people, the ability to plan and direct programs, and a strong interest in food, nutrition, and health.

Office: 403 Russell Hall

The curriculum of the food and nutrition major is designed to prepare students for careers in health care facilities, community-health-nutrition programs, food-service management, and business. The major offers two routes to registration as a dietitian: a didactic program in dietetics (DPD) and a coordinated program in dietetics (CPD), both of which are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics. The DPD prepares students to apply for dietetic internships in order to be eligible to take the registration examination for dietitians. Students who complete the CPD are eligible to take the registration examination after graduation. A third option, the nutrition sciences concentration, is designed for students who plan to attend medical school or other advanced health professions program.

Students who have completed 90 hours of undergraduate work with a 3.3GPA overall are eligible to apply to the Accelerated Master's Program (AMP). If accepted, then up to 15 graduate credit hours of the 30 hour Master's program could be taken as cross-listed courses or would substitute for required undergraduate coursework while finishing the undergraduate degree. Any coursework taken in this manner would apply toward both the undergraduate degree and a master's degree at The University of Alabama.

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: <https://www.cdrnet.org/graduatedegree>. 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 Coordinated Program or the Graduate Dietitian Program (beginning in Fall 2023) at The University of Alabama are eligible to apply to take the CDR credentialing exam to become an RDN.

In most states, graduates also must obtain licensure or certification to practice. For more information about state licensure requirements click here.

For more information about educational pathways to become a RDN click here.

All students in the coordinated or didactic program in dietetics follow the same plan of study for the first 66 or 68 hours. In the fall semester of the junior year, students either apply to the coordinated program or the didactic program focused areas of study. Regardless of the focused area chosen, all students complete the required courses listed below:

Code and Title	Hours
Required Courses	
BER 345 Educational Statistics	3
BSC 215 Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4
BSC 216 Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4
BSC 242 Microbiology And Man	4

CH 104	Introductory Chemistry	4
CH 105	Introductory Org Chem	4
HES 100 or HES 103	Freshman Compass Human Env Sci ¹ Distance Compass HES	3
NHM 101 or NHM 102	Intro Human Nutrition Honors Intro to Nutrition	3
NHM 195	Intro Dietetics Nutrition	1
NHM 201	Nutrition In Life Cycle	3
NHM 253	Food Science	3
NHM 295	Intro Research Food Nutr	1
NHM 340	Community Nutrition	3
NHM 345	Nutrition Counseling	3
NHM 346	Nutrition Ed Theories and Prac	3
NHM 361	Nutritional Biochemistry	3
NHM 362	Nutrition At Cell Level	3
NHM 363	Applied Nutrition	3
NHM 365	Med Nutr Therapy I	3
NHM 372	Intro Food Service Mgt	3
NHM 373	Purchsg Design Risk Mgt Food S	3
NHM 374	Quant Food Prod & Servc	3
NHM 454	Experimental & Functional Food	3
NHM 465	Medical Nutrition Therapy II	3
NHM 475	Mgt Food Service Systems	3
NHM 491	Directed Professional Study	3
PY 101	Intro To Psychology	3

Total Hours **82**

Footnotes

¹ HES 103 Distance Compass HES is for Distance Learning Students Only. It is not required for transfer students.

Focused Areas of Study

Coordinated Program in Dietetics

The coordinated program in dietetics (CPD) provides students with both the required knowledge and supervised practice experiences to be eligible to sit for the national examination to become a registered dietitian (RD). The University of Alabama CPD provides a concentration and culminating experience in dietetics management and communication. Students in the CPD take the courses required of all food and nutrition majors plus an additional seven courses (17 hours) in which they apply the theories presented in these courses through experiences in food service and health care facilities, as well as health promotion programs. Students interested in completing the CPD should apply at the beginning of the junior year during the fall admission period. A second opportunity for admission is available at the end of the junior year during the spring admission period. Application forms are available from the department. Admission to the CPD is limited. Applications will be reviewed and recommended by the committee on admissions of the Department of Human Nutrition and Hospitality Management. Criteria for admission include the following:

- The student must present a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 and must have completed the following courses:

Code and Title	Hours
BSC 215 Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4
BSC 216 Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4
CH 104 Introductory Chemistry	4
CH 105 Introductory Org Chem	4
EN 101 English Composition	3
EN 102 English Composition	3
NHM 101 Intro Human Nutrition	3
NHM 195 Intro Dietetics Nutrition	1
NHM 201 Nutrition In Life Cycle	3
NHM 253 Food Science	3
Total Hours	32

- A pretest covering material from the above prerequisite courses is part of the admission process. The score on the pretest is considered by the committee on admissions.
- Please see the Director of the Coordinated Program in Dietetics for more information regarding admission requirements to the CPD, as the requirements may change in order to maintain accreditation and registration eligibility requirements.
- Please refer to the current CPD handbook for CPD continuation and completion policies.

Students who choose the coordinated program in dietetics must also take:

Code and Title	Hours
NHM 366 Supv Pract Med Nutr Therapy I	3
NHM 390 Pract Food Service Mgt I	3
NHM 464 Superv Pract Commun Nutr	1
NHM 466 Sup Pract Med Nutr Therapy II	3
NHM 467 Sup Prac Longterm Care	3
NHM 476 Pract Food Serv Mgt II	2
NHM 485 Sup Prac in Dic Mgmt	3
Total Hours	18

Didactic Program in Dietetics

The didactic program in dietetics (DPD) provides students with the required knowledge to apply for a dietetic internship. Upon successful completion of the DPD, students receive a verification statement indicating that they are eligible to enter a dietetic internship. Students in the DPD take the courses required of all food and nutrition majors plus NHM 492 Prepare Dietetic Internship (offered on campus only).

To enter the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) a student must:

- Have completed a minimum of 60 semester hours including:

Code and Title	Hours
NHM 101 Intro Human Nutrition	3
NHM 195 Intro Dietetics Nutrition	1
NHM 201 Nutrition In Life Cycle	3
NHM 253 Food Science	3
CH 104 Introductory Chemistry	4
CH 105 Introductory Org Chem	4
BSC 215 Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4
BSC 216 Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4
Total Hours	26

- Earn a minimum of **C** - in the following courses: BSC 215 Human Anatomy & Physiology I, BSC 216 Human Anatomy & Physiology II and BSC 242 Microbiology And Man; CH 104 Introductory Chemistry and CH 105 Introductory Org ChemPY 101 Intro To Psychology.
- Earn a minimum of **B**- in all "NHM designated" courses including BER 345 Educational Statistics or equivalent.
- Have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Submit official transcripts of all work taken at another institution to the DPD Director.
- Submit a completed "**DPD Admission Petition Form**":
 - for **On-campus students** to the DPD Director (at 424 Russell Hall)
 - for **Distance students** to the student's Academic Advisor, mail to: P.O. Box 870311, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0311)

To **complete** and meet all DPD requirements and **receive** a **Verification Statement**, a student:

- must maintain an *overall* GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- must earn a minimum of **C** - in the following courses: BSC 215 Human Anatomy & Physiology I, BSC 216 Human Anatomy & Physiology II and BSC 242 Microbiology And Man; CH 104 Introductory Chemistry and CH 105 Introductory Org ChemPY 101 Intro To Psychology;
- must earn a minimum of **B-** or higher in all "NHM designated" food and nutrition courses including BER 345 Educational Statistics (or equivalent).
- may only have a total of 2 retakes in one "DPD Professional Course (NHM designated and BER 345, or 1 retake in up to two different DPD Professional Courses (excluding original attempt) to earn the required grade.
- must complete the courses required for the DPD, and/or complete a bachelor's degree

Additional Courses Typically Required for Premedical Education

Please consult with the Health Professions Advising Office in the College of Arts and Sciences for program-specific coursework required.

Code and Title	Hours
BSC 114 Principles Of Biology I & BSC 115 and Laboratory Biology I	4
BSC 116 Principles Biology II & BSC 117 and Biology II Laboratory	4
CH 232 Elem Organic Chem II	3
CH 237 Elem Organic Chem Lab	2
MATH 115 Precalc Algebra & Trig	3
MATH 125 Calculus I	4
PH 101 General Physics I	4
PH 102 General Physics II	4
Total Hours	28

Clinical nutrition in the hospital and long-term care settings, Department of Public Health, private consulting businesses and industries, performance nutrition, the Child Nutrition Program in elementary through high school, food service management, food sales, and food service equipment sales.

Types of Jobs Accepted

Our graduates accept positions such as clinical nutrition manager, certified nutrition support specialist (CNSS), board certified specialist in sports dietetics (CSSD), child nutrition specialist, lactation consultant.

Jobs of Experienced Alumni

Our alumni serve in positions such as a Food Editor at myRecipes.com, Founder of Computrition and focusGreen, Regional Manager for Frito-Lay Corporation, and Account Manager at Nestle Corporation.

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center