

Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics Samford University

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NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

The major of Nutrition and Dietetics is one of six majors in the Department of Exercise Science and Sports Medicine in the Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies at Samford University. This department is the largest department on the Samford campus with over 200 students in the combined six majors. The six majors are: Athletic Training, Exercise Science (Pre-Physical therapy), Fitness and Health Promotion, Nutrition and Dietetics, Physical Education and Sports Medicine (Pre-Medicine).

The Nutrition and Dietetics (NTDT) Program is developmentally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE), a specialized accrediting body recognized by The Council on Higher Education Accreditation and the United States Department of Education. The address and phone number of CADE are: 120 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000, Chicago, Illinois, 60606-6995, 312-0899-4876.

NTDT students graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree. Students should graduate with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 to 3.0 (out of 4.0) for entrance into a dietetic internship program which usually requires a 3.0 GPA. Students transferring into the program will be evaluated on their SAT/ACT score, as well as the cumulative grade point average. Students completing university graduation requirements will receive a Verification Statement for application to a Dietetic Internship. After successful completion of the Dietetic Internship, students sit for the national Registration Exam. If passed, the student is credentialed as a Registered Dietitian. Usually licensure is also required by the state of residence.

Mission Statement of the Samford University Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD):

The mission of the Samford University Didactic Program in Dietetics is to provide a curriculum of comprehensive study in all areas of nutrition and dietetics that provides a base for life-long learning. This program enables students the opportunity to pursue knowledge in a distinctive Christian environment. The faculty of the department is committed to the preparation of competent entry-level practitioners in the profession of dietetics who contribute to the needs of their community and society at large.

Goals of the DPD are:

- 1. To prepare graduates to be competent dietetic interns and entry level registered dietitians.**
- 2. To prepare graduates to communicate and contribute to the body of knowledge in nutrition and dietetics, and be a lifelong learner.**
- 3. To prepare graduates with a broad world view as they seek to strengthen community through their vocation and personal spiritual lives.**

Learning Outcomes for these Goals are:

- 1. Student will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively**
- 2. Students will demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge from the social, physical, biological sciences to human, food science and food service management**
- 3. Students will apply knowledge of social sciences to medical nutrition therapy and food service management**
- 4. Students will demonstrate the ability to understand, interpret, and conduct basic research**

5. **Students will demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge of foods and food science to culinary skills and medical nutrition therapy**
6. **Students will demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge of human nutrition to the practice of medical nutrition therapy**
7. **Students will demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge to the functioning of food service systems**
8. **Students will demonstrate their knowledge of health care systems**

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates from this didactic curriculum who are verified by the program director may apply for dietetic internships or pre -professional practice programs. After successful completion of one of these programs, the intern is eligible to sit for the examination to become a registered dietitian (RD). Nutrition and dietetics is a dynamic profession where possibilities are endless. The direction you take and how far you go are up to you. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that job demands for nutritionists and dietitians will grow faster than the average profession through the year 2000. Possible careers include:

Clinical:

- Clinical Nutrition Specialist
 - Nutrition support team member
 - Specialist in medical areas – pediatrics, diabetes, renal, gerontology, weight management
- Educator of hospital/medical staff and patients
- Outpatient care dietitian
- Dietitian in the Armed Services – VA hospitals

Community:

- Home health care consultant
- Community dietitian: Public health department
 - Mission field
 - Peace Corps
- Consumer seminar lecturer
- Daycare centers
- Health and recreation clubs

Consultant:

- Private practice
- Nursing homes, companies, athletes

Business:

- Editor for foods magazine
- Editor of nutrition column for newspapers
- Freelance writer for journals and magazines
- Critic of nutrition and food columns in magazines and newspapers
- Marketing editor of food products material
- Marketing nutrition specialist for large foods corporation
- Consumer representative
- Investigator of quality assurance programs in food manufacturing firms
- Certified chef

Food product representative
Consumer seminar lecturer
Product development
Public relations
Communications

Administrative:

Director of Dietetic Service in:
Hospitals, nursing homes, restaurants, schools/colleges, airlines,
rehabilitation centers
Owner/manager of restaurant
Institutional kitchen layout and design entrepreneur
Owner/manager of catering business

Research:

Recipe/menu development staff of National Dairy Council
Research grants – cancer, diabetes, metabolic support units, pharmaceutical
companies, government agencies

Teaching:

Nutrition Educator
Junior colleges – dietetic technician
Community groups
College/University – dietetic interns
Medical/dental/nursing
Pharmacy/physical education students

FACULTY PROFILES

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Patricia Hart Terry is the director of the Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics. She is a former missionary to Venezuela. She is a registered and licensed dietitian and directs the only approved educational program for the training of registered dietitians in the Birmingham area. Dr. Terry is the co-author a weekly column on foods and nutrition for the Birmingham News. She is the past president of the Birmingham District Dietetic Association and was named Outstanding Dietitian of the Year in 1998. She earned her Ph.D. from Texas Woman's University.

PART-TIME FACULTY

Donna Seibels is a registered and licensed dietitian with a master's degree in nutrition from the University of Alabama. She teaches Personal Nutrition and Nutrition and Diet Therapy and Advanced Nutrition and Metabolism for the Department. She also supervises students who counsel in the Samford Wellness Program. There are three other adjunct faculty.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

STUDENT DIETETIC ASSOCIATION

The Student Dietetic Association is an affiliate associate of the Birmingham, Alabama, and American Dietetic Associations. Each college or university association is student-led. Any nutrition/dietetics major at Samford is welcome to join the Samford SDA. SDA helps keep majors informed about nutrition issues at the local, state, and national level. SDA helps students prepare to apply for dietetic

internships through information, meetings, and special project in the community associated with the Birmingham District Dietetic Association. The SDA provides important opportunities for students to meet and network with dietetic professionals as they progress throughout their undergraduate education. Dr. Terry is the faculty advisor. The Samford SDA was awarded the 2006 Outstanding Student Dietetic Association by the Alabama Dietetic Association.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

The Department of Nutrition and Dietetics is able to offer several scholarships from endowed funds each year to enrolled students who are declared majors in our department. Students are invited to apply for three types of scholarships: academic, lab assistant, and faculty assistant. The amount of the award varies according to the funds available to the major, as well as the number of students who qualify and apply. Application must be made each spring by filling out a scholarship application which may be obtained from the department office. The Patricia H. Terry Scholarship in Nutrition and Dietetics goes to an NTDT major who participates in community, state, national or international service in missions or nutrition education.

The NTDT major also awards medals or certificates of merit to students with GPAs of 3.5 or above. An award is made to the Outstanding Senior in Nutrition and Dietetics. The Outstanding Senior Student in Dietetics Award is presented at the annual Alabama Dietetic Association state conference.

KAPPA OMICRON NU

Kappa Omicron Nu is a national honor society for Nutrition and Dietetics majors. Samford Nutrition and Dietetics students who have at least a 3.5 GPA and have completed 45 semester hours are invited for initiation. These students are eligible for scholarships, fellowships and grants at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NTDT MAJORS:

In addition to the general policies, rules, regulations and procedures applicable to all Samford students relating to student responsibilities and the protection of student rights (as found in the Samford University Catalog, Student Handbook and other publications), the following policies, rules, regulations and procedures apply, as appropriate, to students in the Department of Exercise Science and Sports Medicine:

Insurance requirements: Students are encouraged to have student health insurance, and if required by the relevant accreditation agency students must carry professional liability insurance in the amount of \$1 million per occurrence and \$3million aggregate (or such higher amounts as may be in required from time to time by Samford University or by organizations with affiliation agreements with the student's relevant program.

Safety: While on campus students are required to comply with safety codes, procedures and instructions. Students who are required to be off campus for program related activities or assignments should follow good safety practices as well as safety procedures in course syllabi and instructor directions. Students may be required to execute liability waivers for travel to or from assigned areas. If so, students have a shared responsibility to evaluate the means of transportation, routes, and destination and to notify their instructor, advisor or department chair

of any student concerns about safety. Students are required by Alabama law to carry automobile liability insurance as a condition to driving on public streets, roads and highways.

Any trip in a motor vehicle on public or private streets or highways entails risks of bodily injury, including death, as well as property damage. Part of the educational value of engaging in off-campus activities and educational opportunities is learning about the risks of travel and learning to how to manage risks. Supervised practice in facilities off campus is considered to be an extension of the University's campus program, and therefore, the normal rules and regulations governing academics and behavior that are applicable on the Samford University campus are applicable to each student during travel and while at the practice facility.

Students should not rely solely on assurances of safety from Samford University with respect to travel or attendance at a practice facility, but rather students should practice good risk management by being alert to travel conditions and to conditions at the practice facility.

Injury or illness while in a facility for supervised practice: *Students are responsible for payment of medical services rendered to them in a facility where they practice under the supervision of facility or university personnel. The terms of affiliation agreements between the University and health care facilities or other facilities may have specific provisions relating to injury or illness and the treatment of same. Students are responsible for informing themselves about such provisions.*

Students are encouraged to ask questions about insurance requirements, safety, and injury or illness while in a facility for supervised practice.