Dietetics

Admission Policy

Admission to the University is sufficient for lower-division admission to the human nutrition and dietetics majors. However, lower-level admission to the majors or any admission to the University does not guarantee upper-division admission to either of the degree programs in the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition. In general, admission depends upon the qualifications and preparation of applicants, as well as the availability of resources for maintaining quality instruction.

Upper-division admission into the human nutrition or dietetics degree programs is necessary in order to be granted a baccalaureate degree from the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition. Students who have attained a 2.8 or higher grade-point average in the premajor component required for all students in the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition will be assured admission.

To be considered for upper-division admission to either the human nutrition or dietetics undergraduate degree programs, an applicant must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Enrollment in the University of Kentucky. (Students are considered for acceptance by the Department only after acceptance by the University of Kentucky.);
2. Completion of the premajor component (premajor courses include: CHE 105, CHE 107, CHE 111, CHE 113, BIO 148, DHN 212, and DHN 241) required for all students within the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition with a minimum premajor course work grade-point average of 2.8.*
3. Submission of an application form to the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition Academic Coordinator.

*A student can repeat a premajor course to meet this GPA requirement. If a student repeats the course as one of their three University-accepted repeat options then the repeat grade will be factored into the premajor course work GPA. If a student repeats the course outside of the University-accepted repeat options then the course grades will be averaged and then factored into the premajor course work GPA.

Applications from students outside the University of Kentucky seeking admission to the Human Nutrition or Dietetics degree programs, whether for upper-division or lower-division status, must be received by the University Admissions Office no later than April 15 (first summer session); May 15 (second summer session); August 1 (fall semester); and December 1 (spring semester).

Students enrolled in other UK programs on campus should apply for admission prior to the priority registration period. (The appropriate deadlines are listed in the University calendar for approved times to change major.)

Lower-division students enrolled in the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition should apply for upper-division admission to the Human Nutrition Program or Didactic Program in Dietetics during the semester they are completing the premajor course work. The application for upper-division admission should be made before the priority registration period for the upcoming semester.

The Dietetics Program

Dietetics prepares professionals who are recognized for expertise in food and nutrition. Graduates of the University of Kentucky Dietetics Program are prepared to apply to an accredited Dietetic Internship program to become Registered Dietitians to function as entry level professionals with opportunities for practice in medical nutrition therapy, community dietetics, food systems management, and/or the business of dietetics.

Becoming a registered dietitian involves a combination of academic preparation, including a minimum of a baccalaureate degree, and a supervised practice component and successfully passing the registration examination for dietitians.

The UK DHN Dietetics Program offers two options to earn a bachelor’s degree in dietetics. Option A is the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) and Option B is the Coordinated Program in Dietetics (CP). Both options lead to the Bachelor of Science in Dietetics and fulfill the foundation knowledge and/or competencies established by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics, ACEND, the accrediting agency for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, AND. The DPD and the CP are both fully accredited by ACEND. Option B, CP, is a selective admission program to which students must apply prior to beginning the major course work in the third year of the dietetics program.

Option A, designated as the Didactic Program in Dietetics, DPD, focuses on the foundation knowledge requirements provided by the academic component of dietitian education. A student must be a declared dietetics major in the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition to complete the DPD. Students must attain a cumulative grade-point average of 2.4 or above to progress into course work designated as major requirements.

Successful completion of the DPD curriculum enables graduates to apply to an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program, SPP, in a post-baccalaureate Dietetic Internship.

Upon successful completion of the Dietetic Internship the individual is eligible to sit for the national registry exam administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration, CDR, the credentialing agency of the AND, which grants use of the nationally recognized credential “RD” Registered Dietitian.

Graduates of the UK DHN Option A may apply for placement in the Dietetic Internship program offered by the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition, School of Human Environmental Sciences, or any other ACEND-accredited dietetic internship outside the department. Students must consider the highly competitive scenario in competing for acceptance into a Dietetic Internship.

Option B, designated as the Coordinated Program in Dietetics, CP, provides the foundation knowledge requirements provided by the academic component of dietitian education (see DPD above) and an ACEND-accredited supervised practice component.

Students who have completed the premajor requirements and are interested in the Coordinated Program to attain the academic preparation and supervised practice program through the UK DHN Dietetics Program may apply for admission to Option B, the CP. Option B requires three additional semesters of didactic course work in the major requirements prior to beginning the 1,200 hour supervised practice program. Students in the CP must successfully complete the didactic and supervised practice component to receive the B.S. in Dietetics degree.

The ACEND-accredited CP is a selective admission program. Admission to the University of Kentucky DHN Dietetics Program does not guarantee admission to the Coordinated Program, CP. A limited number of students who have completed the required preprofessional courses will be admitted on the basis of cumulative grade-point average, potential qualities for becoming a successful dietitian, leadership potential and professional involvement and commitment.

The application deadline for the UK DHN CP is February 1, prior to potential fall admission in Year Three of the Dietetics Program. Year Three of the Dietetics Program is the beginning of the Major Requirements for completion of course work. Program application materials should include a letter of professional goals and qualifications, two letters of reference, and record of academic performance.

The CP Admissions Committee considers grade-point average, letter of application, work experience, honors and extracurricular activities and letters of recommendation. Students who apply to the UK DHN CP will be granted an interview where the applicant’s goals, communication skills, knowledge of the profession, and organizational and leadership skills are evaluated.

Successful CP applicants will be notified of provisional acceptance into the CP before the UK’s priority registration dates for the ensuing fall semester. Final acceptance depends on successful completion of the work in progress at the time of the application and throughout the remaining didactic component prior to beginning the supervised practice component of the undergraduate dietetics program.
Transfer students are urged to contact the DHN Academic Coordinator, 203 Funkhouser Building, for a preliminary evaluation of credits well in advance of the application date. Year Three of the Dietetics Program is the beginning of the Major Requirements for completion of course work. CP applicants must be a declared major in the UK DHN dietetics program or if a transfer student, indicate intent to declare dietetics as their major. Students accepted into the CP must be majors in the UK DHN dietetics program.

Successful completion of Option B, the UK DHN CP, results in the Bachelor of Science in Dietetics degree. Graduates of Option B are eligible to sit for the national registry exam administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration, CDR, the credentialing agency of the AND, which grants use of the nationally recognized credential “RD” Registered Dietitian.

The UK DHN ACEND-accredited Dietetic Internship, DI, selects competitive students who have completed a Didactic Program in Dietetics at UK or other ACEND-accredited institutions. Qualified graduates compete for a limited number of positions in the UK DHN DI. For information regarding the UK DHN Dietetic Internship, the application and/or screening procedures, please contact:

Director, Dietetic Internship Program
Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition
203 Funkhouser Building
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506-0054

Degree Requirements
Each student must complete the following:
1. Complete UK Core requirements.
2. Complete 120 credit hours with a minimum grade-point average of 2.0.
3. Complete the required curriculum in the major program.

UK Core Requirements
See the UK Core section of the 2021-2022 Undergraduate Bulletin for the complete UK Core requirements. The courses listed below are (a) recommended by the college, or (b) required courses that also fulfill UK Core areas. Students should work closely with their advisor to complete the UK Core requirements.

I. Intellectual Inquiry in Arts and Creativity
Choose one course from approved list.................................................................3

II. Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities
Choose one course from approved list.............................................................3

III. Intellectual Inquiry in the Social Sciences
PSY 100 Introduction to Psychology
or
SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology...................................................................3-4

IV. Intellectual Inquiry in the Natural, Physical, and Mathematical Sciences
CHE 105 General College Chemistry I ............................................................4
CHE 111 Laboratory to Accompany General Chemistry I ..............................1

V. Composition and Communication I
CIS/WRD 110 Composition and Communication I .......................................3

VI. Composition and Communication II
CIS/WRD 111 Composition and Communication II ......................................3

VII. Quantitative Foundations
MA 111 Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics.....................................3

VIII. Statistical Inferential Reasoning
STA 210 Making Sense of Uncertainty: An Introduction to Statistical Reasoning..........................................................3

IX. Community, Culture and Citizenship in the USA
Recommended:
GEN 100 Issues in Agriculture, Food and Environment ...........................3

X. Global Dynamics
Choose one course from approved list..........................................................3

UK Core hours ............................................................................................32-33

Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR)
DHN 374 Research and Writing in Dietetics.......................................................3

Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement hours (GCCR).................................................................3

Progression Requirements
Students must attain a grade-point average of 2.4 or above to progress into course work designated as major requirements. In addition, students must sustain a grade-point average of 2.4 or above to continue in major course work.

Students must complete the following requirements:

Premajor Requirements Hours
BIO 148 Introductory Biology I .......................................................................3
BIO 208 Principles of Microbiology .................................................................3
CHE 105 General College Chemistry I ............................................................4
CHE 107 General College Chemistry II ..........................................................3
CHE 111 General Chemistry I Laboratory .......................................................1
CHE 113 General Chemistry II Laboratory .....................................................2
CHE 230 Organic Chemistry I
or
CHE 236 Survey of Organic Chemistry .........................................................3
CLA 131 Medical Terminology from Greek and Latin ...................................3
ECO 201 Principles of Economics I .................................................................3
DHN 212 Introductory Nutrition .....................................................................3
DHN 241 Food Service Sanitation ..................................................................1
PGY 206 Elementary Physiology ....................................................................3
PSY 100 Introduction to Psychology ...............................................................4
SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology ..................................................................3
STA 210 Making Sense of Uncertainty: An Introduction to Statistical Reasoning..........................................................3

Subtotal: Premajor hours ...............................................................................42

Major Requirements Hours
Prior to beginning the major requirements, students should indicate a choice of Option A or Option B with the Advising Resources Office, 112 Erikson Hall, and the UK DHN Academic Coordinator, 203 Funkhouser. Option B is a selective admissions program.

DHN 301 Dietetics Practice ...............................................................................1
DHN 302 Principles of Food Preparation .........................................................3
DHN 311 Nutritional Biochemistry ..................................................................3
DHN 312 Life Cycle and Community Nutrition I ..........................................3
DHN 313 Life Cycle and Community Nutrition II .........................................3
DHN 342 Quantity Food Production ...............................................................4
DHN 346 Management for Food Industries ...................................................3
DHN 374 Research and Writing in Dietetics ...................................................3
DHN 408G Seminar in Dietetics and Human Nutrition ..................................1
DHN 510 Advanced Nutrition ........................................................................3
DHN 512 Medical Nutrition Therapy I ............................................................4
DHN 514 Dietetics: Counseling and Communication Theories and Applications...................................................3
DHN 517 Medical Nutrition Therapy II ...........................................................3

Subtotal: Major hours ..................................................................................37

Option Requirements
One option must be completed concurrently with the major requirements stated above.

Options

Option A – Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)
DHN 480 Dietetics Pre-Professional Practice ..................................................1-6

Subtotal: Option A .......................................................................................1-6

— CONTINUED —
Option B – Coordinated Program in Dietetics (CP)

Option B requires the student to apply to admission to the CP after completion of premajor requirements. See Bulletin for details.

DHN 518 Evaluation of Dietetic Issues and Leadership .............................................. 2
DHN 520 Medical Nutrition Therapy I: Supervised Practice ....................................... 5
DHN 522 Food Service Systems Management I: Supervised Practice .......................... 5
DHN 524 Food Service Systems Management II: Supervised Practice ......................... 3
DHN 526 Medical Nutrition Therapy II: Supervised Practice ..................................... 3
DHN 528 Community Nutrition I: Supervised Practice ............................................. 1
DHN 530 Community Nutrition II: Supervised Practice ............................................. 2

Subtotal: Option B .................................................................................................. 21

Professional Support Electives

Select professional support electives at the 200 level or above.

Subtotal: Professional Support Elective hours

Option A ............................................................................................................. 15
Option B .......................................................................................................... 3

Electives

Electives should be selected by the student to lead to the minimum total of 120 hours required for graduation.

Subtotal: Minimum Elective hours

Option A ............................................................................................................. 1
Option B .......................................................................................................... 2

TOTAL HOURS: Options A and B ...................................................................... 120

Requests for applications or further information may be directed to:

Director, Coordinated Program
Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition
203 Funkhouser Building
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506-0054