

Dear Prospective Student:

The mission of CSUSB's Nutrition and Food Sciences (NTFS) Program [to be renamed the Nutritional Science and Dietetics (NSCD) Program in Fall 2020] at CSUSB is to provide a high-quality education and cultural competencies to prepare students for supervised-practice leading to eligibility for the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN). Through the accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) and Individualized Supervised-Practice Pathway (ISPP) Program, graduates will be prepared academically and professionally to work in a variety of employment opportunities as an entry-level registered dietitian nutritionist, who will address the nutrition and health needs of individuals, families, schools, and communities.

How do I become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist?

Many students/majors in the Program aspire to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) and there are 3 steps that individuals must complete to become a RD/RDN.

1. Complete a Bachelor degree and a set of classes in the DPD and obtain the DPD Verification Statement (DPD VS). **To receive the Verification Statement for DPD, students must have a minimum GPA of 2.8 and B- or better in all 3000 and 4000 level DPD courses.** (Note: students may not repeat any classes with a grade of C or better at CSUSB without an approval from the Dean of the Undergraduate Studies. Therefore, it is pertinent that students should receive a minimum grade of B- in the classes. Note: Students can still graduate with the BS in NTFS/NSCD without the VS if they meet the University and Department requirements for graduation.

Students, who do not have a Bachelor degree in Nutrition and Food Sciences or Nutritional Science and Dietetics, will need to complete all DPD courses to receive the DPD Verification Statement. With the Verification Statement from CSUSB DPD, graduates are eligible to apply for a dietetic internship or individualized supervised-practice pathway (ISPP)* program. **CSUSB's DPD was granted to provide ISSP** starting September, 2013 as a second round program, and the program accepts up to 25 interns each year. The Program gives preference to CSUSB graduates so if graduates meet the qualifications for ISPP, they may apply for the ISPP program in the month of April. Graduates may apply during the final year of the DPD courses **after** they are not matched into the DI program through DICAS (centralized application system).

Information on CSUSB ISPP Program may be obtained at the ACEND-AND Accredited Program under DPD for CSUSB. One may also go to this website for CSUSB ISPP Program. <https://cel.csusb.edu/pace/courses-programs/medical-health-care/individualized-supervised-practice-pathwaysdietetics> To be successful in the application process for the dietetic internship program, students should have a good grade in the foundation science and DPD courses, have volunteer and/or work experiences in dietetic related area, and an original DPD VS.

2. Completion of Dietetic Internship (DI) or ISPP from an ACEND accredited program and receive the Verification Statement (VS DI or VS ISPP). Note that ISPP (Individualized Supervised-Practice Pathway) is an alternative pathway to dietetic internship and it is offered through the accredited DPD or DI program. DI and ISPP programs require 1,200 hours of supervised experience, which takes about 9 to 12 months to complete. Note that many supervised-practice programs have tuition and fees that need to be paid at the start of the program and some programs provide student loans. Go to www.eatrightPRO.org and review the application and program information about each DI and ISPP program. CSUSB ISPP program starts in August and ends in June of the following year. Upon successful completion, interns will receive the Verification Statement for ISPP, which allows them to take the CDR eligibility exam.
3. With the Verification Statements from the DPD and DI/ISPP, interns are eligible to take the CDR eligibility exam. The ISPP or DI Program Director will submit the paperwork to CDR in order for the candidate to take the exam. After successful passage of the CDR eligibility exam, the candidate is now a RDN.

What other career pathways are available?

With the DPD Verification Statement after completion of the BS degree, graduates are also eligible to take the Nutrition and Dietetic Technician Registered (NDTR) exam, which allows some of the graduates to work in a dietetic related job in order to gain the experience necessary to enhance their DI application and resume. Also with a completion of BS degree (without VS DPD), graduates are eligible to take the Dietary Supervisor Exam to become a Certified Dietary Supervisor/Manager (CDM), the exam information is available through ANFP (Association of Nutrition and Foodservice Professionals), the website is http://www.anfponline.org/Training/credentialing_exam.shtml

How long will it take to complete the program?

Most of the classes in Nutrition and Food Sciences Program (NTFS) are upper division courses, and it will take 2 years to complete the program courses. However, if students have not taken the two semesters of Chemistry courses (CHEM 2050 and 2060, 2060L) and Anatomy and Physiology (BIOL 2230 and 2240), it will take the students 3 years to complete the program as a transfer student. In addition to classes in NTFS program, students will need to complete other required courses for completion of the Didactic Program. Please go to the Department website at <http://health.csusb.edu/BSNutritionFoods.htm> for a check list of DPD courses that will be needed to complete in order to receive the VS DPD and BS in NTFS/NSCD.

Special instructions for international students

For foreign students or foreign nationals, CSUSB DPD does not certify them to be eligible to be a RD/RDN in the USA. Only the CDR (Commission on Dietetic Registration) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) in Chicago, IL, can do that. The phone number for CDR is (800) 877-1600. International students may complete the DPD classes at CSUSB for the DPD Verification Statement and they will need to apply for a dietetic internship program to be eligible for RD/RDN exam. For any specific questions regarding the process, please contact Dr. Chen- Maynard.

Note: One does not have to become a RDN to obtain the BS degree in NTFS/NSCD. However, to receive the verification statement necessary to start a supervised-practice program or dietetic internship, students must complete all the DPD courses listed, with a minimum of B- for 3000/4000 level courses and a minimum overall GPA of 2.8. Please refer to the University Bulletin of Courses for specific requirements of the major, The Bulletin of Courses may be accessed on www.csusb.edu .

Thank you for your interest in our program and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, problems or concerns.

Sincerely,



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*ISPP's are alternative pathway programs administered by an ACEND accredited dietetic program, and the programs provide 1,200 hours of supervised practice, similar to a dietetic internship. Upon successful completion of an ISPP Program, the graduates will receive a Verification Statement for ISPP so they are eligible to take the registration examination to become a RDN.

**If you already received a bachelors degree in a non-nutrition major and want to have your transcript evaluated to determine what DPD courses you will need to complete at CSUSB for DPDVS, you should do both of the following:

1. Submit a copy of your transcripts (does not have to be original). For international graduates, include both of the following: a. a copy of transcripts and b. a transcript evaluation from an international transcript service for foreign universities. The transcript service for an international university can be found at www.eatright.org).
2. Make a donation of \$50. (checks may be made out to CSUSB Philanthropic Foundation. You may also pay by credit card at: [https://advancement.csusb.edu/make-giftonline?edit%5Bsubmitted%5D%5Bplease direct my gift to the following area%5D=CNS](https://advancement.csusb.edu/make-giftonline?edit%5Bsubmitted%5D%5Bplease%20direct%20my%20gift%20to%20the%20following%20area%5D=CNS)) and email the receipt to Dr. Chen-Maynard at CSUSB. Dr. Chen-Maynard, DPD Director, will send a list of courses you need to complete at CSUSB for the DPDVS.

Note: the transcript evaluation is only good for CSUSB's program since each DPD has different requirements even though all DPD's are accredited by ACEND.