

Dietetics Program Questions & Answers

What type of dietetics program does Olivet offer?

Highlights of Olivet's dietetic program:

- A Christian perspective is integrated into the dietetics curriculum.
- Program size allows for personal attention from professors.
- Food and nutrition instructors are Registered Dietitians who have experience in the field.
- Preparation for food and nutrition careers occur through 35 practicum hours
- Technology – students use up-to-date software and equipment during the program.
- The program is located near multiple facilities where registered dietitians work, including Olivet DPD graduates.
- ACEND Summary of Candidate Testing, RD – Didactic Program in Dietetics within the first year
 - 2019 – 100.00% 4 of 4
 - 2020 – 100.00% 7 of 7
 - 2021 – 80% 4 of 5
 - 2022 – 81.82% 9 of 11
 - 2024 – 86% 6 of 7
- Match Rate: Students entering into an Supervised Practice Program (internship) upon graduation:
 - 2020 – 11/11; 100%
 - 2021 – 5/5; 100%
 - 2022 – 8/8; 100%
 - 2023 – 7/7; 100%
 - 2024 – 2/2; 100%
 - 2025 – 1/1; 100%

Mission Statement of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS)

As members of God's family, we may have different interests and gifts, but we have the common goal of sharing our faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God. Family and Consumer Sciences at Olivet Nazarene University include three majors that are joined together as one department.

Mission Statement for Dietetic Program

It is the mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics to prepare students to become entry-level dietetics practitioners through the provision of foundational knowledge, skills, and competencies to aid in a successful application process and completion of their selected dietetic internship as well as successful completion of the Registered Dietitian examination.

Goals of the Dietetics Program at Olivet

Program Goal I: The DPD shall prepare students to be competent in various stages of career readiness culminating with the successful completion of an ACEND accredited SPP and the Registration Examination.

Program Goal II: The program will provide a framework in which students can reflect a comprehensive understanding of the dietetic profession and means by which they can become contributing members of society.

For outcomes data on program objectives or general information about the program go to <https://www.olivet.edu/dietetics>

Dietetics at ONU

Program Information for Prospective Students

***Family and Consumer Sciences Department
Olivet Nazarene University
One University Avenue
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 939-5398
<http://www.olivet.edu/dietetics>
E-mail Debbie Kimberlin, PhD, RDN, LDN
Associate Professor/Program Director
dkimberl@olivet.edu***

The undergraduate program is currently transitioning away from Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) accreditation and is no longer accepting new students into the DPD program. The DPD program will be retired effective June 15, 2028, and currently enrolled students must complete all requirements for their degree before June 15, 2028, if they wish to receive a DPD verification statement.

ACEND is located at 120 South Riverside Drive, Suite 2190, Chicago, Illinois 60606, (312) 899-0040, ext. 5400. www.eatright.org/acend. The program is reviewed and monitored by ACEND for assurance of quality dietetics education. The DPD program at Olivet Nazarene University completed the most recent Self-study in 2018/2019. The ACEND Board voted to continue full accreditation of our program for a term of seven + year ending June 30, 2027 (extension request submitted to align with program closure date). Accreditation is granted for a Didactic Program in Dietetics at the baccalaureate level for a maximum enrollment of 12 third- and 12 fourth-year students.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How do I apply to be a DPD student?

Olivet's DPD program is no longer accepting new students, however here is a link if you would like to apply to an alternative program at ONU: <https://www.olivet.edu/apply/>.

What is the cost to complete a degree at Olivet?

The university catalog states current tuition/room and board fees.
https://catalog.olivet.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=521#General_Expenses In addition, students are responsible for all costs related to books and materials for required courses. .

How do I transfer into Olivet's DPD?

Olivet's DPD program is no longer accepting new students, however, here are requirements for transfer students:
https://catalog.olivet.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=471#Admissions_Process_for_Transfer_Students

Am I a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) when I graduate with a dietetics degree from Olivet?

Current students who complete the DPD will receive a Verification Statement. The Verification Statement is provided by the DPD Director upon proof of program completion, including graduation with a BS in Dietetics. The Olivet graduation requirements for dietetics, which are the same for obtaining the Verification Statement from Olivet, are stated in the Student Manual

Students must also complete the master's application process. Acceptance into this step is competitive. Grade point average,

work experience and leadership qualities are considered.

Students must complete a Supervised Practice Program in addition to a master's degree requirement. Upon completion, the student must take and pass the Registration Exam for Dietitians given by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). *At this step, the RDN credential is earned. See DI director & state regulatory agency for further licensure details.*

Do I need a Master's Degree to become an RDN?

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 [program type] program at [Institution name] are eligible to [apply to an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program/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 <https://www.cdrnet.org/licensure> . For more information about educational pathways to become a RDN". <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/information-for-students>

Revised 5/2025