

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT REPORT  
GRADUATE PROGRAM IN DIETETICS (CAPD)  
Academic Year: 2024

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**Executive Summary:**

The annual review of program occurred in January-December of 2024. The Certificate of Applied Practice in Dietetics (CAPD) program is in its inaugural year. This program replaces the CPD program that has been a part of Utah State University since the mid-1970's. In 2024 the structure of all dietetics programs in the United States was modified to require a master's degree before students are eligible to take the registration examination. The CAPD program was created as a post-BS certificate program that coincides with approved master's degree programs. The CAPD program is anticipated to continue achieving the high standards the CPD program

**Program Description:**

The Graduate Program in Dietetics (CAPD) is a certificate program (Certificate of Applied Practice in Dietetics). The CAPD is a face-to-face internship program that is offered in conjunction with a master's degree in Public Health or a master's of science degree. Graduates who successfully complete the 1000 hour CAPD program AND one of the qualifying master's programs at Utah State University are eligible to take the CDR dietetics registration exam and begin entry-level practice as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN).

**Mission Statement:**

The mission of the CAPD is to enhance the health of family, communities, and nations by advancing students who are prepared to advance the profession of dietetics through scientific understanding, compassionate clinical practice, and community engagement.

**Accreditation:**

The CAPD program at Utah State University Dietetic is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND®). ACEND is the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' accrediting agency for education programs preparing students for careers as registered dietitian nutritionists (RDN) or nutrition and dietetic technicians, registered (NDTR). ACEND serves and protects students and the public by assuring the quality and continued improvement of nutrition and dietetics education programs. ACEND Accreditation Standards serve as the basis for each education program's evaluation. The 2022 ACEND Standards can be accessed [HERE](#). A program undergoing accreditation assesses its strengths and challenges based on ACEND's standards and describes its plans for improvement in a Self-Study Report. The report is reviewed by a team of peer reviewers that includes an educator and a practitioner. An ACEND Board member and a staff member assist the team in its review. The team also visits the program to participate in a series of focused interviews, meetings, observations, and tours. These activities provide information to validate the content of the Self-Study Report and further evaluate the program. The team writes its own report to document its findings and to objectively address key areas of ACEND's standards based on evidence provided by the program and gathered by the team. The ACEND Board of Directors reviews the team's and uses it to arrive at a final accreditation decision.

Program Goals and Objectives

Academic Year	# of students in the cohort	Goal #1: Graduate students who are exam-ready and able to enter the dietetics work force or advanced study			Goal #2: Produce professionals who are independent, capable, and prepared to function in entry-level dietetics practice.			
		At least 90 percent of program graduates take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within 12 months of program completion	The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%	The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%	Of graduates who seek employment, at least 70 percent are employed in nutrition and dietetics or related fields within 12 months of graduation	At least 80 percent of interns will complete the MPH/DI or MS/DI program requirements within three years	80% of graduates will report being 'well prepared' for entry level employment on 1- year alumni surveys	70% of graduates will be rated as 'above average' on employer surveys
**2024	9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*\*The program has not completed a graduation cycle yet. There is not any data yet.