Predictors of Success

Equipping Students for Successful Careers in Dietetics / Nutrition

For more information contact the DPD Director at the University of Central Arkansas:

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The mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics / Nutrition (DPD) at the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) is to prepare graduates who have the academic preparation necessary for success in an internship in dietetics / nutrition and other career opportunities.

**Grade Point Average**
Acceptance into a dietetic internship is extremely competitive. Typically students with a 3.5 GPA or higher are accepted into dietetic internships at a higher rate than those with a GPA of 3.49 or lower. Special attention is given to science and MNT GPA.

Grade point average requirements for scholarships and acceptance into graduate schools vary by program. The University of Central Arkansas requires a 2.7 GPA as one of the admission criteria. The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service requires a 2.7 GPA for employment.

**Field-Related Work Experience**
Students must document field-related work experience under the direction of a Registered Dietitian for the dietetic internship application. Field-related work experience is also important for other internship programs, scholarships, and for post-graduation employment opportunities.

Students in central Arkansas typically work part-time at local hospitals, nursing / retirement facilities, and other health-care related sites.

**Professional Involvement**
Demonstration of professional commitment is viewed favorably by internship directors, employers, and scholarship and graduate school selection committees. Students in the field of nutrition should be actively involved in the UCA Student Dietetic Association as well as student members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

**Communication Skills**
Students must demonstrate the ability to write and communicate orally in a professional manner. Throughout the curriculum students have opportunities to deliver oral presentations and complete written assignments. Additionally students must be able to write and clearly articulate their professional goals.

**Professional Conduct**
Students should view their time in the classroom as an opportunity to develop professional relationships with their peers, faculty and guest speakers. Demonstration of integrity, work ethic, and dedication to their field of study will influence the quality of references faculty can write for students for future internships, scholarships, employment, or graduate education programs. Professional conduct is also demonstrated by a student’s dress, speech, ability to work in groups, and appropriate use of social media.