

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DIETETICS



WHY STUDY AT UCA?

The University of Central Arkansas is committed to a bright future - that includes you! At UCA, you're provided an innovative, collaborative education within a culture of student support and success

Through high impact teaching practices like internships, hands-on research opportunities, and service learning, we'll provide you with the experiences you need to grow as a person and enter the workforce confidently. We can't wait to see you thrive!

BEAR EXPERIENCE

The Bear Experience is a campus-wide initiative to promote experiential learning beyond the classroom.

The Bear Experience offers students the opportunity to thoughtfully plan their college experiences by integrating them with their academic curriculum, personal values and future goals.

- Bear Experience Pathways:
- Community Engagement and Service
- Diversity Awareness and Inclusion
- Intellectual and Professional Development
- Well Being and Personal Development

Visit uca.edu/bearexperience for more information.

The Department of Nutrition and Family Sciences (NFS) offers Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Nutrition & Family and Consumer Sciences. Our faculty hold certifications and licensure in their respective fields and are committed to providing every student with quality teaching, mentoring, and research opportunities. Our programs are part of the people-centered sciences and are housed in the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences (CBHS). Opportunities for interprofessional education and experiential learning including simulations and service learning are built into our programs to produce graduates who practice in an ethical and socially responsible manner. Most programs within NFS are externally accredited with their respective fields of study. Students who successfully complete these accredited programs are eligible to take license/certifications exams in their respective areas.

TOP 5 REASONS TO STUDY DIETETICS

1. Prepares students for entry into a dietetic internship/supervised practice.
2. Prepares students for careers in human nutrition, health and behavior, and food service systems management.
3. Exploration of various topics, concepts, values, and applications in nutrition.
4. Ideal degree for those seeking to promote a balanced lifestyle and improve people's diet with Medical Nutrition Therapy
5. Prepares students to become a food and nutrition expert.

ALUMNI STORY

"I chose to attend UCA to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist because of its reputation and faculty mentorship. UCA provided me a quality education with a positive learning environment. The dietetics program prepared me to become an educator, mentor, and a leader in the field of nutrition and dietetics. Because of the dietetics program, I have been able to experience many wonderful career opportunities and have enjoyed mentoring others along the way."

-Dr. JoAnna Cupp, DSHc, RDN, LD, FAND

TOP ALUMNI JOBS

1. Registered Dietitian Nutritionist
Clinical and Outpatient Dietitians
2. Educator
3. Public Health Nutritionist/Community
Nutrition Dietitian
4. Nutrition Consultant
5. Renal Dietitian

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First Year

Middle Years

Last Year

SUCCEED ACADEMICALLY

Complete key coursework and benchmarks
 Maintain "C" or better in coursework
 Meet with Academic Advisor and Mentor
 Consider Honors in the Major

Collaborate with peers
 Continue to meet with Academic Advisor and Mentor
 Complete any required pre-professional prerequisite courses.
 Maintain "C" or better in coursework

Complete all required coursework in the DPD Program
 Continue to meet with Academic Advisor and Mentor
 Complete ServSafe Exam
 Apply for graduation
 Apply to supervised practice and graduate programs
 Complete DICAS application
 Complete D & D Digital application

CONNECT TO THE WORLD AROUND YOU

Join Student Dietetic Association (SDA)
 Attend peer coaching and student success workshops
 Explore campus involvement
 Intramural Sports
 Student Orientation Staff (SOS)
 Student Government Association (SGA)
 Greek Life

Join SDA or professional associations
 Participate in research day
 Peer coaching
 Various job shadowing
 Engage in interprofessional education activities
 Study Abroad/Study Away in Italy while taking courses in Nutrition
 If eligible, join Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society.

Committee involvement
 Peer coaching of underclassmen
 Be involved in Interprofessional education activities
 Participate in undergraduate research

PREPARE FOR WHAT'S NEXT

Seek out scholarship opportunities
 For questions about the program, contact your advisor and mentor
 Make sure prerequisites are completed
 Become involved in the Student Dietetic Association (SDA)
 Campus involvement
 Explore becoming an NFS Department Student Ambassador

Visit career services and begin resume building and interviewing skills
 Attend UCA Career Services Career Fairs.
 Continue to participate in SDA and consider becoming an officer.
 Consider membership to Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)
 Apply to be a NFS Department Student Ambassador

Continue to seek out scholarship opportunities
 Attend a career fair and network
 Professional organization participation
 SDA
 AND
 Apply to supervised practice and graduate programs
 Complete application for DICAS
 Complete application for D&D Digital

WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS MAJOR?

Students who enter into this major have the long-term goal of becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). The RDN professional is the food and nutrition expert qualified to address today's complex issues surrounding food and nutrition. Students can also take the Nutrition & Dietetics Technician, Registered NDTR) exam upon completion of this degree. NDTRs are an integral part of healthcare and food service management teams. Employment can be full-time or part-time, or weekends.

WHAT SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS MIGHT I NEED?

The Bachelor of Science in Dietetics is an interdisciplinary program that combines the science of human biology and biochemistry with human development, management, nutrition, counseling, and research. Students in this major share classes with undergraduate students majoring in pre-medicine, nursing, chemistry, biology, exercise science, and psychology.

Dietetics is a profession that interacts with peers, patients, families, and other healthcare professionals. Therefore, excellent written and strong communication skills are very important.