

Directions and Information for Application

Texas Christian University
Combined BS/MS in Dietetics (CDP) and Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)
Department of Nutritional Sciences
P.O. Box 298600
Fort Worth, TX 76129
(817) 257-7309 (phone or fax); nutrition@tcu.edu

The mission of the Department of Nutritional Sciences (NTDT) at Texas Christian University is to provide a distinctive program of study in all areas of nutrition and dietetics within a traditional liberal arts setting. The faculty of the department affirm their commitment to the education of broadly informed, scientifically competent, self-educating, and ethically responsible professionals who are capable of entering successful careers in nutrition and dietetics, and are cognizant of the needs of the community and society at large.

Accredited Dietetics Programs: The Texas Christian University Combined BS/MS in Dietetics (Option I) and the Didactic Program in Dietetics (Option II) are currently granted accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). ACEND is the accrediting agency for education programs preparing students for careers as registered dietitian nutritionists (RD/RDN) or nutrition and dietetics technicians, registered. ACEND serves and protects students and the public by assuring the quality and continued improvement of nutrition and dietetics education programs. ACEND is recognized by the US Department of Education as a Title IV gatekeeper. This recognition affirms that ACEND meets national standards and is a reliable authority on the quality of nutrition and dietetics education programs.

Combined BS/MS in Dietetics (Option I): The mission of the Combined BS/MS in Dietetics program is to support the missions of the University, college and department by fostering a rigorous academic curriculum culminating in a Master of Science degree that prepares students to be scientifically competent, accountable and ethically responsible citizens who are prepared to be productive leaders, research-literate professionals and entry-level registered dietitian nutritionists within the global community.

The three-year (junior/senior/fifth years) CDP offers students the unique opportunity to complete the required didactic course work (lecture and laboratory courses) with over 1000 hours of supervised practice hours necessary to meet the Core Knowledge and Competencies for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist as mandated by ACEND. Curriculum is based on educational standards mandated by ACEND. Graduates receive verification and establish eligibility to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). The program does not grant credit or supervised practice hours for prior learning, self-organized volunteer activities, or other self-organized professionally-related activities.

The Combined BS/MS in Dietetics offers students the unique opportunity to complete the required didactic instruction (lecture and laboratory courses) and supervised practice.

More detailed program information and graduation requirements are available on the [Combined BS/MS in Dietetics program website](#), the [TCU Undergraduate Catalog](#), and the [TCU Graduate Catalog](#).

Didactic Program in Dietetics (Option II):

The mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at Texas Christian University is to support the missions of the University, college and department by fostering a rigorous academic curriculum that prepares students to be scientifically competent, accountable and ethically responsible citizens who are prepared for supervised practice and/or graduate school, and thereby advancing as self-educating dietetics professionals who will become Registered Dietitian Nutritionists in the global community.

The Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) provides didactic coursework leading to a Bachelor of Science degree. Curriculum is based on the educational standards and Core Knowledge for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist as mandated by ACEND. Graduates of the DPD who are verified by the Program Director may apply for Dietetic Internships or other accredited supervised practice programs. After successful completion of a Master's degree and an accredited Dietetic Internship or supervised practice program, DPD graduates may then take the Registration Examination to become Registered Dietitian

Nutritionists. More detailed program information and graduation requirements are available on the [Didactic Program in Dietetics program website](#) and the [TCU Undergraduate Catalog](#).

Eligibility and Program Prerequisites: Students must complete an application process and be accepted into the Combined BS/MS in Dietetics (CDP) or the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). Eligibility for admission to the CDP or the DPD is based on successful completion of at least 60 semester hours with a minimum Nutrition grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (based on a 4.0 scale), an Associated Requirements GPA of at least 2.75, no more than 3 grades below a “B-” in the Associated Requirements, 45 semester hours of required prerequisites and major courses specified in the TCU Undergraduate Studies Bulletin, 200 documented hours of practical experience in food or nutrition, and the CDP/DPD application packet. A formal application must be submitted by February 1 for entry the following fall semester. Applicants are notified of provisional acceptance by April 15. Materials and directions for application to the CDP or the DPD are available online from the [Department of Nutritional Sciences website](#).

Once accepted into the TCU CDP or DPD, a student’s continuation in the program is contingent upon attainment of a strong academic record and successful completion of the program sequence. Students must abide by program policies and procedures and meet all university requirements in order to graduate from, and earn verification from, either the CDP or DPD.

Courses which *must* be completed by the fall of the student's entrance into the TCU Combined BS/MS in Dietetics (CDP) or the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) include:

CHEM 10113 General Chemistry I	3	NTDT 10003 Contemporary Issues in Nutrition	3
CHEM 10123/10122 General Chemistry II Lecture and Lab	5	NTDT 10103 Food Preparation Lecture and Lab	3
CHEM 30123 Organic Chemistry	3	NTDT 20403 Nutrition	3
BIOL 20214 Physiology Lecture and Lab	4	NTDT 21163 Food and Culture	3
BIOL 20234 Microbiology Lecture and Lab	4	NTDT 30123 Nutrition Throughout the Lifecycle	3
		NTDT 30331 Medical Terminology	1

It is *preferred* that the following courses also be completed prior to enrollment in the CDP or the DPD:

ECON 10223 Microeconomics or ECON 10233 Macroeconomics	3
MANA 30653 Survey of Management	3
MATH 10043 Elementary Statistics	3
MARK 30653 Principles of Marketing	3
PSYC 10213 General Psychology	3
SOCI 20213 Sociology	3

Program Costs: Costs for tuition and university fees are available through the TCU Office of Admissions or the TCU Financial Services office. More detailed costs for students are outlined in the CDP Student Handbook (~\$1,000-\$1,500) and the DPD Student Handbook (~\$1,000), and include items such as textbooks, lab fees, photocopying, school and office supplies, lab coat, professional dues and insurance, and travel expenses to CDP supervised practice sites. Handbooks are available on the [CDP](#) and [DPD](#) websites.

Students are responsible for their own transportation. CDP students are required to travel to healthcare, foodservice and community facilities in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. Prior to beginning program courses, a medical release form must be on file for all CDP and DPD students. In addition, all students accepted into the CDP or DPD are required to have current CPR certification, a current Food Handler’s card, drug screening, criminal background check, a recent negative TB test, and proof of program-required immunizations.

Selection Criteria: Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee consisting of the nutrition faculty and nutrition professionals. Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview. Students will be selected on the basis of:

- a. Cumulative Nutrition GPA (3.0 minimum)
- b. Associated Requirements GPA (2.75 minimum)

- c. No more than three grades below a “B- “in Associated Requirements courses
- d. Evaluation of documented food and nutrition work and/or volunteer experiences (200 hours minimum)
- e. Program prerequisites completed
- f. Completed, typed application form
- g. Evaluation of typed personal statement
- h. Evaluation of three Letters of Recommendation on the “Recommendation Form”
- i. Results of the student interview with the selection committee

Final approval for admission to the program will be contingent upon the recommendation of the Nutritional Sciences faculty. All application materials become the property of the Texas Christian University Nutritional Sciences Department. All applicants will be notified of their admission status no later than April 15th.

Application Components:

1. Cover page
2. Typed personal statement (*Include how academic and personal backgrounds influenced the decision to apply for the CDP and/or DPD.*)
3. Resumé (*Include relevant experience, honors, awards, and certificates, as applicable.*)
4. Typed CDP/DPD application form
5. Correctly completed GPA calculation sheet. The GPA calculation sheet template is available on the [Department of Nutritional Sciences website](#).
6. Documented food and nutrition work and volunteer experience log. The experience log template is available on the [Department of Nutritional Sciences website](#).
7. Transcripts
 - a. Current TCU students must submit an unofficial TCU transcript with their application. The Department of Nutritional Sciences will access all other transcripts that have been submitted to the university for transfer credit.
 - b. Applicants not currently enrolled at TCU must submit official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended directly to the Department of Nutritional Sciences.
 - c. International students must have their degree transcripts evaluated by one of the Commission on Dietetic Registration’s (CDR) approved [foreign degree evaluation agencies](#).
8. Three written recommendations from faculty/employment supervisors. The required recommendation form is available on the [Department of Nutritional Sciences website](#). **TCU Nutritional Sciences faculty should not be used for reference.*

Application materials, transcripts and letters of recommendation should be submitted to the TCU Department of Nutritional Sciences via email at nutrition@tcu.edu before February 1. Application materials listed above must be compiled into **one PDF document**, with the exception of official transcripts, as applicable, and recommendation letters. Official transcripts must be received directly from the issuing college/university. References must email letters of recommendation to the department. Incomplete or late application packets will **NOT** be considered.

Texas Christian University (TCU) is committed to providing a positive learning, living and working environment free from discrimination and harassment. In support of this commitment, TCU prohibits a range of behaviors, including unlawful discrimination and harassment based on age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ethnic origin, disability, predisposing genetic information, covered veteran status, and any other basis protected by law, except as permitted by law.

CDP/DPD APPLICATION FORM

**Texas Christian University
Department of Nutritional Sciences
P.O. Box 298600
Fort Worth, TX 76129
(817) 257-7309 (phone or fax)
nutrition@tcu.edu**

For which accredited program are you applying? (You may choose one or both programs.)

- Combined BS/MS in Dietetics (CDP)**
- Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)**

I. Personal Data

Name: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Present Address: _____
(Number & Street) (City, State, Zip) (Area Code & Tel. No.)

Permanent Address: _____
(If different from above) (Number & Street) (City, State, Zip) (Area Code & Tel. No.)

Email Address: _____

II. Education

High School	City & State	Dates Attended	GPA	Rank/ %Rank	Date of Graduation
College or University	City & State	Dates Attended	GPA	# Hours Completed	Degree(s) Received/or Expected & Dates

Nutrition GPA _____ Associated Requirements GPA _____
(Courses from all colleges/universities applied to your degree should be included in the Nutrition and Associated Requirements GPAs).

Submit completed GPA calculation sheet. Current TCU students must submit an unofficial TCU transcript. Applicants not currently enrolled at TCU must submit all official transcripts.

III. Academic Plan

List (a) current courses and (b) courses to be completed before entering the Texas Christian University Combined BS/MS Program in Dietetics or the Didactic Program in Dietetics. (Not on official transcript.)

Current Courses:				
Course #	Course Title	Cr. Hrs.	College/University	
Courses to be Completed Prior to Entering the Combined BS/MS in Dietetics or the Didactic Program in Dietetics:				
Course #	Course Title	Cr. Hrs.	College/University	Semester Planned to Complete

IV. List of Personal and Professional Goals

V. Letters of Recommendation

Complete the information about the individuals who will write your letters of recommendation.

Name	Title	Physical address and email address	Phone # Include Area Code

VI. Applicants who are conditionally accepted will be required to complete the following items by the specified dates at their own expense. Additional details and instructions will be provided upon acceptance.

***Please initial beside each item to acknowledge your understanding:**

INITIALS

1. By April 30th, complete the following:
 - a. Pass a criminal background check through the company specified by the CDP/DPD _____
 - b. Receive a negative result on a random drug screening through the company specified by the CDP/DPD. _____
 - c. Pay for CDP/DPD name tag _____
2. By August 1st, provide documentation of the following:
 - a. Transcripts showing required prerequisites completed over the spring and summer with a passing grade of C or better. TCU transcript can be unofficial. Outside universities must be officially sent to the TCU Registrar. _____
 - b. Texas Food Handler Training Certificate. _____
 - c. Completed physical exam. _____
 - d. Shot record showing immunizations (including Tdap, MMR, Hepatitis A & B, varicella) _____
 - e. Annual tuberculosis (TB) test, CPR certification, and proof of health insurance. _____
 - f. Student membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (renew or join after June 1st) _____