NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

Registered Dietitians (RDs) are food and nutrition experts who are dedicated to improving lives through nutrition. RDs use their nutrition expertise to help individuals and groups make lifestyle changes to both prevent and treat nutrition related illnesses. Translating the science of nutrition into solutions for healthy living, RDs are equipped with the knowledge to impact lives.

To become a Registered Dietitian, you must:
• Complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition and Dietetics
• Complete a supervised practice program
• Pass a national examination
• Complete continuing professional educational requirements

DEGREES OFFERED
• Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics
• Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics with a special emphasis in Culinary Arts
• Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics with an Emphasis in Food Innovations and Entrepreneurship (RD and non-RD options)
• Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) verification, pathway for students who already hold a bachelor’s degree in another field.

DEGREES OFFERED
The department offers verification with special emphasis in the following programs: Culinary Arts, Food Innovation and Entrepreneurship

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Factors considered for admission include academic performance, class rank, college admission test scores, and high school profile.

Requirements include:
• ACT composite of at least 24
• Combines SAT of no less than 1100 (no individual test score less than 550)
• GPA of 2.7/4.0
• 4 years of high school English
• 3 years of high school Math and Science (with one year Chemistry and one year Biology)

Transfer Requirements include:
• GPA of 2.75/4.0 for internal transfer students
• GPA of 2.75/4.0 for external transfer students

Currently, the average GPA of admitted students is 3.8/4.0 scale and the average ACT score is 26.

If you are interested in transferring into our undergraduate program or have already earned an undergraduate degree, we can help you plan a strategy for transfer of credits and program completion.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
RD’s are employed in a wide variety of areas including hospitals, food service, private practice, community and public health settings, universities, research, journalism, sports nutrition, corporate wellness, schools, and industry.

STUDENT ACTIVITY
SLUDA (Saint Louis University Dietetics Association) is the on campus organization established by students to promote nutrition and dietetics and to provide student opportunities for leadership and service. Departmental welcome picnics, open houses, holiday parties and research presentations allow students to socialize with faculty and peers.

Fresh Gatherings Cafeteria is run by the Nutrition and Dietetics Department and used as a teaching lab for all students studying nutrition and dietetics.

WHY CHOOSE SLU
• Since our establishment in 1934, our Department has a long standing reputation as a leader in dietetics education
• DCHS is located within the Allied Health Professions Building on SLU’s Medical Center. The school boasts modern labs including a gait lab for assisting motion analysis, a culinary lab for teaching food services and preparation, and a simulated medical office suite and exam rooms complete with videotaping capabilities and one-way mirrors for student observation
• Our curriculum is unique in offering courses such as, “Hot Topics in Nutrition” and “Ethnic Meal Management” and a curricular thread in sustainable food systems
• Class sizes are small, averaging 5-30 students. Our instructors are recognized for their expertise and enhance their courses through service learning, on-site experiences and guest lectures by alumni and local experts
• Interprofessional focus of core curriculum to build a team approach to health care
• We are one of the few programs in which students can choose to complete both the undergraduate requirements for becoming a Registered Dietitian and a Certified Culinarian
EARNING POTENTIAL
The salary range for Registered Dietitians is $30,000 - $130,000 annually. Earnings vary with the area of dietetics practice, level of education, additional certifications, and the geographic location of practice. Nationally, the average salary is $50,590 (bls.gov). The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) provides an interactive salary calculator that can be found on their website at www.eatright.org.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
Many organizations exist for nutrition and dietetics professionals. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) functions as the accreditation body for the registered dietitians (RD) and dietetic technicians, registered (DTR). As a part of AND, there are also Dietetics Practice Groups (DPGs) that you can choose to join. The DPGs allow for members to connect within specialized areas such as sports, cardiovascular and wellness DPG or pediatric nutrition DPG. Nutrition and dietetics professional associations include:

Local:
Saint Louis University Dietetic Association (SLUDA)
Saint Louis Dietetic Association (SLDA)

State:
Missouri Dietetic Association (MDA)

National:
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)
American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN)

International:
International Confederation of Dietetic Associations (ICDA)

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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