

CAREERS IN... DIETETICS



WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DEGREE IN DIETETICS?

Dietitians work in four main areas: Management, Clinical, Community and Consultant. Management dietitians are in charge of meal planning on a large scale in areas such as schools, hospitals, and prisons. They supervise those who plan the meals and inspect the meals that are prepared. They monitor the way food smells and tastes and the overall presentation of the meals. They perform administrative duties that include budgeting for food and supplies. They also make sure that safety and cleanliness guidelines are being followed. Clinical dietitians work in nursing homes and hospitals and make diets for patients that fit their dietary needs. These diets can include low-fat, low-sugar, low-cholesterol and other special foods. These dietitians may have similar administrative duties to those of management dietitians. Community dietitians work with the public along with individual patients. These dietitians serve as educators for nutrition. They design classes specific to the group they are teaching such as children, the elderly, or for general nutrition information. Community dietitians also evaluate their patients and ensure that they are following the diets and may perform home visits to monitor their patients. Community dietitians may work in public health clinics and home health agencies. Consultant dietitians often run their own businesses. They also work with patients and assess their dietary needs, but they may also work with those who simply want to change their diets due to personal reasons rather than for medical reasons.

The University of Akron offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics through the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the School of Family and Consumer Sciences. A Master of Science in Nutrition/Dietetics degree is also available for graduate level students. UA also has the Student Dietetic Association for student involvement. For more information, visit the Departments webpage at: <http://www3.uakron.edu/fcs/nutrition.html>.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Clinical
- Management
- Community
- Consulting

REQUIRED SKILLS

- Organization
- Knowledge of diseases
- Willingness to work in interdisciplinary teams
- Written/Oral communication
- Understanding diversity
- Listening skills

COMPANIES THAT HIRE

- Schools
- Nursing homes
- Home health agencies
- Hospitals
- Food service organizations
- Prisons

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- American Dietetic Association www.eatright.org/cps/rde/xchg/ada/hs.xsl/index.html

JOB AND EARNING OUTLOOK

According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook, the number of jobs for dietitians is expected to grow faster than average nationally through 2014. Due to the aging populations, dietitians will be needed in places like home health care agencies and hospitals and also because of the increased interest in health from the overall population.

According to a 2004 salary survey in the Occupational Outlook Handbook, the median annual salary for dietitians and nutritionists was \$33,670.

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ZIPPY MASCOT

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OBJECTIVE

To obtain an internship within the field of dietetics.

EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Science, Coordinated Program in Dietetics

Expected, August 2007

The University of Akron, Akron, OH

- GPA: 3.5/4.0
- Dean's List

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Student Clinician Food Systems Management

Jan 2006- May 2006

Akron Public Schools, Akron, OH

- Create school lunch menus by following guidelines
- Implement a healthy snack policy for the middle school vending machines
- Design a monthly nutrition newsletter

Student Clinician Community Nutrition

Sept 2005- Dec 2005

The University of Akron, Athletic Department, Akron, OH

- Inventory, maintain, and issue sports equipment
- Assist in event management
- Coordinate daily laundry duties

WORK EXPERIENCE

Clerical Specialist

Diet Needs, Inc, Canton, OH

May 2000- Present

- Data entry; proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point
- Conduct retention calls for customers with service changes
- Constructed new system of filing

COMPUTER SKILLS

PeopleSoft, MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Desktop Publisher, Harvard Graphics, Lotus 1-2-3, NetWare 2.2

ACTIVITIES

President of Pi Sigma Epsilon

2003-present

Member of Toast Master's

2004- present

Member of Mu Kappa Tau

2004- present

American Dietetic Association Member

2005- present