

# Registered Dietitian



## What do they do?

Dietitians are experts in nutrition and food. The specific work a Dietitian does can vary depending on where they work or the specialty they choose. They may advise people on what to eat to live a healthy lifestyle or reach a health-goal, they may create meal plans for schools, hospitals or nursing homes or they might work in their community to help promote better nutrition through education programs teaching ideal diet and fitness habits.

## Where do they work?

The majority of Dietitians work in hospitals, but others may work in smaller offices or nursing care facilities.

## Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for Dietitians is \$55,240.



## Education:

A four-year bachelor's of science degree is required to become a Dietitian. After graduation, an internship must also be completed.

### Dietitian training in Madison:

UW-Madison: [www.nutrisci.wisc.edu](http://www.nutrisci.wisc.edu)

### Dietitian Internship in Madison:

UW-Hospital: [www.uwhealth.org/health-careers-education-and-training/31846](http://www.uwhealth.org/health-careers-education-and-training/31846)

High School students interested in becoming a Dietitian should take classes in anatomy & physiology, biology, chemistry, statistics & probability, economics, health, home economics and math.

## Accreditation:

Education programs for Dietitians are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

[www.eatright.org/ACEND](http://www.eatright.org/ACEND)



## Professional Associations:

Dietitians could choose to join any of the following professional associations:

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics:

[www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org)

American Society for Nutrition:

[www.nutrition.org](http://www.nutrition.org)

Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics:

[www.eatrightwisc.org](http://www.eatrightwisc.org)



## Registration & License:

Dietitians must pass a national registration exam before they can practice. The Registered Dietitian Exam is maintained by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). The exam is administered by Pearson Vue Testing Centers.

[www.cdrnet.org](http://www.cdrnet.org)

[www.pearsonvue.com](http://www.pearsonvue.com)

State certification is also required before working as a Dietitian. Wisconsin licensure is managed by the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS):

[www.dsp.wi.gov](http://www.dsp.wi.gov)



## Specialization:

A Registered Dietitian could choose to become certified in any of the following dietary specialties:

- Pediatric Nutrition  
Working with healthy and/or ill children.
- Oncology Nutrition  
Working with cancer patients.
- Gerontological Nutrition  
Working with the elderly.
- Sports Dietetics  
Working with athletes or active individuals.
- Renal Nutrition  
Working with adults or children who suffer from kidney failure or chronic kidney disease.



## Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Dietitians is expected to grow 21 percent between 2012-2020, which is faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition*, Dietitians and Nutritionists:  
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dietitians-and-nutritionists.htm>

