

This is largely due to the emphasis that the medical community is placing on disease prevention through improved dietary habits. The growing aging population will also increase demand for dietitians because they will need balanced meals and nutritional counseling in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. As in most other occupations, job openings will result from the need to replace experienced workers who retire or leave the profession for other reasons.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Dietetic Association
216 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606-6995
Phone: (800) 877-1600
Phone: (312) 899-0008
Web: www.eatright.org

American Society for Nutritional Sciences
9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814-3990
Phone: (301) 530-7050
Web: www.faseb.org/asns

Society for Nutrition Education
7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 901
Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone: (800) 235-6690
Phone: (301) 656-4938
Fax: (301) 656-4958
Web: www.sne.org

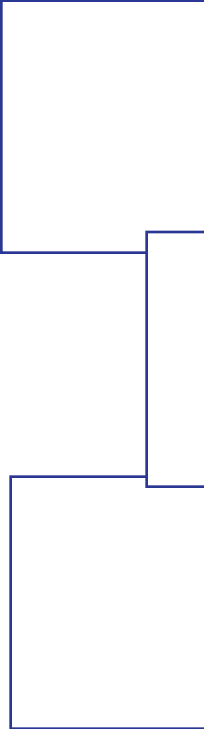


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POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Dietitians learn the fundamental principles of food and nutrition and help educate people on a healthy diet and ways to prevent diseases. They plan and supervise the preparation and serving of meals in facilities such as schools, hospitals, and restaurants. They are highly trained in the art of feeding individuals and large groups. Dietitians help decrease malnutrition, promote healthy lifestyles, and control diseases such as heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes. They are often in a managerial role that has them training and supervising the food service personnel who prepare and serve the meals. They apply the principles of food service, nutrition, physiology, and biochemistry to make recommendations for the nutritional management and support of patients. Other responsibilities for dietitians include establishing quality control standards for food service, supervising personnel, and controlling costs. They also spend a great deal of time on educational programs for nutrition, diet modification, and diet therapy. This is an essential service because a patient's diet can have a tremendous impact on the outcome of many medical therapies and procedures. Regardless of age, nutrition plays a major role in everyone's well being. Individuals interested in this field should have a good understanding of foods and nutrition, possess excellent communication skills, and be compassionate and understanding.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Dietitians and nutritionists work in a variety of settings including secondary schools, colleges and universities, government agencies, hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, voluntary health agencies, health clubs, various support programs, research facilities, and food related industry.

HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

Students interested in a career as a dietitian should take high school courses in biology, chemistry, algebra, English, business, health occupations/medical professions education, physical education, psychology, computer skills, social studies, and home economics.

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Employers usually prefer to hire individuals who are members of the American Dietetic Association (ADA). To become a member, students must receive a bachelor's degree from an ADA-approved institution, and then complete an approved pre-professional practice program or dietetic internship. Once the prerequisites are met for membership, individuals must pass the ADA examination in order to become registered. Dietitians must also complete continuing education hours to remain in good standing. Students interested in this field should contact schools for information on admission and course of study.

EDUCA

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1000 ASU D
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Delta State U
PO Box 327
Cleveland, M
Phone: (662)

Mississippi S
PO Box 603
Mississippi S
Phone: (662)

University of
2609 W 4th S
Hattiesburg,
Phone: (601)

University of
PO Box 184
University, M
Phone: (662)

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