### What Does a Registered Dietitian (RD) Do?

Registered Dietitians work in a variety of settings, including health care, business and industry, community/public health, education, research, government agencies, and private practice. RDs perform a variety of different functions,

- Educate patients about nutrition and administer medical nutrition therapy
- Manage foodservice operations in hospitals, clinics, or other health-care facilities
- Contribute to public campaigns to improve quality of life through healthy eating habits
- Research critical nutrition questions
- Teach other healthcare professionals about food science and nutrition
- Consult with chefs, product developers, and other nutrition-related businesses

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### What Degree Do I Need to Be a Registered Dietitian?

Registered Dietitians need to complete a minimum of a bachelor’s degree and coursework accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) of the American Dietetic Association. RDs also need to complete a CADE-accredited internship and pass a national examination administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). Students with a bachelor’s degree outside the field of nutrition must complete a coordinated program in dietetics, which includes a supervised practice program. Graduates of these programs usually earn an M.S. or M.P.H. degree. For a list of programs go [here](http://www.eatright.org).

### What Classes Do I Need to Apply to a Coordinated Program in Dietetics?

The most common prerequisites for a coordinated program in dietetics are:

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<tr>
<th>Intro Biology</th>
<th>Applied Anatomy &amp; Physiology</th>
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<td>General Chemistry</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>Basic Nutrition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>General Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microbiology</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
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### What Test Do I Need to Take for Admission?

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required for admission to most coordinated graduate programs in dietetics.

### How & When Do I Apply?

There is no centralized application service for coordinated programs in dietetics. Prospective students should visit the websites of individual schools to learn more about the application process and deadlines for the programs to which they plan to apply. In general, applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, so it is important to submit applications well in advance of posted deadlines.

### What Does a Competitive Applicant Look Like?

Admission to coordinated programs in dietetics is very competitive. The acceptance rate is around fifty percent. Most programs require applicants to have at least a 3.0 GPA, but they also must distinguish themselves outside of the classroom. It is imperative that pre-dietetic students gain substantial and substantive work experience in the field of nutrition prior to applying to dietetics programs.

### What Sites Do I Need to Check Out?

- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org)
- Commission on Dietetic Registration: [www.cdrnet.org](http://www.cdrnet.org)

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