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WHAT IS ACCREDITATION? WHY PROFESSIONALISM?

DN Program Orientation Breakout Session
Fall, 2022

Kudos from a grateful graduate...Kudos from a grateful graduate...July 12, 2017

Hello, Drs. Huffman and Campa. My name is Dan _____, and I am an alumni from FIU. I graduated with a BS in DN this past December. I am currently a first year medical student at Bastyr University in San Diego California.

I want to thank every single professor in the program for being so strict with me. I was frustrated many times during the program because I had to study so much, and I even got mad at some professors from the overload of reading and assignments I had to do for classes. I can now say that I am so thankful that professors such a Prof. Marn, and Drs. Rivera, Abel, Coccia, Magnus, and Narayanan pushed me to my limits in order to excel all my classes. Medical school can be terrifying for students, but I can say that it has been a breeze to me because of my strong background in many of the classes these professors taught.

All students in the program should be very thankful to have them as professors and you ladies should be very lucky to have them work for you. Please keep up the hard and good work!

About me...

- ▶ Prof. Joan A. Marn, MS, RDN, LDN
 - ▶ DPD Director and Assistant Teaching Professor
 - ▶ BS, The Ohio State Univ., Medical Dietetics
 - ▶ MS, FIU - same department as you are in
 - ▶ DPD Program Director, since 2012
 - ▶ Currently teach Life Cycle, Nutrition Education, Nutrition Counseling lab
 - ▶ Find me in AHC5-308

Important department information..

- ▶ Main office: AHC5-305A; 305-348-2878
- ▶ We are in the process of hiring a new Program Coordinator
- ▶ My office Rm. 308; jmarn@fiu.edu → stop by to say hi
- ▶ Program website: <http://stempel.fiu.edu> > academics > Dietetics & Nutrition → check out resources
- ▶ Check out resources on our professional website:
www.eatright.org

DEPARTMENT PROGRAM TRACKS

- ▶ BS/Dietetics Track (an accredited DPD) → accredited internship → national RDN exam
- ▶ BS/Nutrition Science Track → for those going into a medical profession
- ▶ MS → can complete DPD courses → apply to MS-DI or obtain an outside internship
- ▶ Other programs can be viewed at www.eatright.org

IMPORTANT THAT YOU...

- ▶ Ask questions
- ▶ Read DPD Handbook
- ▶ Read FIU Student Handbook

PROGRAM MISSION - in DPD Handbook

► *“...to provide students with a comprehensive, rigorous academic core of knowledge & skills so they are critically thinking graduates, who are ethically & culturally competent & prepared for evidence-based practice in the profession of dietetics & nutrition &/or post-baccalaureate educational programs.”*

- DPD track leads to the awarding of the Verification Statement (VS), which is to confirm eligibility for an accredited dietetic internship.
- We provide a high quality didactic & experiential learning environment so that you
- Achieve RDN status
- Obtain professional employment in the field
- Pursue further education

HEIRARCHY OF OUR ORGANIZATIONS

- ▶ **National** level = AND (The Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics)
- ▶ **State** level = FAND - (Florida Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics)
- ▶ **Local** level = SFLAND (Miami, Broward, etc.)
- ▶ All have student levels of participation

ACCREDITATION: ACEND

- ▶ Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) = accrediting agency for education programs preparing students for careers as registered dietitian nutritionists (RDN) or nutrition and dietetics technicians, registered (NDTR)

ACCREDITATION: ACEND

- ▶ ACEND® can be contacted by:

Email: ACEND@eatright.org

Phone: 800/877-1600, ext. 5400

Mail: 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190
Chicago, IL 60606-6995

- ▶ Spend a little time on the website

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Relationships...

1. ACEND (Accrediting Agency)
2. BOD (Board of Directors) – professional membership organization
(Professional)
3. CDR (Commission on Dietetic Registration) – credentialing agency

ACCREDITATION OF DPD PROGRAM

- ▶ Nationally accredited by ACEND, the accrediting agency for AND
 - USDE recognizes ACEND as the accrediting body for nutrition & dietetics education programs
 - ACEND assures the quality of nutrition & dietetics education through a peer review process, certifying that we meet all requirements of academic excellence, curriculum sequencing, funding, support facilities, etc.
 - Numerous reports & benchmarks are required of me as the director, the department, & the university
- ▶ Accredited for full 7-year term; new term starts 2025

ACCREDITATION: ACEND

- ▶ Currently in the 2022 Standards
- ▶ KRDN = Knowledge for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist
 - ▶ On every syllabus in the Didactic Track
 - ▶ Appendix in DPD Handbook
 - ▶ Example: *KRDN 1.1: Demonstrate how to locate, interpret, evaluate, & use professional literature to make ethical, evidence-based practice decisions.*

DIDACTIC TRACK

- ▶ Lock-step course sequencing
- ▶ Leads to BS in Dietetic & Nutrition + a VS
- ▶ VS allows you to apply to an accredited internship
- ▶ Will also receive an internship VS
- ▶ Both VS are required to sit for the national RDN exam
- ▶ Important to come in for advising mid-semester **EVERY** semester to **KEEP ON TRACK!**
- ▶ Any questions on accreditation?



Role of Faculty in the DPD Program

- ▶ Implement & assess specific assignment & activities in courses
- ▶ Track SLOs (student learning outcomes) on specific assignments & provide data to the program director
- ▶ Include knowledge requirements & competencies on all syllabi

Progression through the Program

- ▶ Grades of C or above only
- ▶ Must complete all required prerequisites; NO overrides
- ▶ Must successfully meet all KRDNs or will not receive a VS
- ▶ Save time & trouble by scheduling mid-semester required advising **EVERY** semester

DPD Handbook includes...

- ▶ Well, YOU read it and tell me!
- ▶ Special section for international students
- ▶ You have to sign off on it when you take DIE 3005 (Orientation to Dietetics)

PROFESSIONALISM

- ▶ Not an easy program of study; heavily science based:
 - ▶ Gen chem, organic chem, biology, microbiology, nutritional biochemistry, etc.
- ▶ Leads to preparation for a successful dietetic internship
 - ▶ Be sure to attend Internship W/S beginning of fall & spring semesters annually (usually week 3)
- ▶ All faculty and staff are here to assist you in being successful

PROFESSIONALISM

Mutually synergistic relationship:

We are accredited to provide you the best education in this field →

*when you pass the RDN exam the first time →
you solidify our accreditation standing →
which makes your degree solid and valuable!*

Professionalism extends to all our programs

COMPONENTS of PROFESSIONALISM

Reliability

Collegiality

Positive attitude towards learning

Initiative & self-motivation

Balance between humility & confidence in one's ability

Maturity

Class professionalism

Follows DPD handbook dress code

Personal phone is off during class times

No gum chewing or eating in classrooms

Avoids dishonesty or being complicit in dishonesty

Allegiance to the profession: memberships,
completing surveys, mentoring/precepting fellow
students

Precepting/Mentoring: Professional Organizations

- ▶ Networking → start now! Fellow students = future colleagues
- ▶ Save well-done, pertinent assignments for Senior Seminar
- ▶ Join! → SDA, SFLAND, AND (required of all DPD students), plus other related organizations
- ▶ One never learns something better than when you're teaching!
- ▶ Need volunteer & leadership experience to develop a solid internship application portfolio
- ▶ AND student membership allows access to the Evidence Analysis Library for a \$25 fee

Best Advice for SUCCESS...

- ▶ 2 kinds of education goals

1. PERFORMANCE = “I will work my way up to 500 sit ups each day.”

2. LEARNING = more powerful = to actually master the material until it becomes a habit

- ▶ Quotes

“Learning to become a self-directed learner is probably the greatest intellectual & psychological challenge that an individual can face in a lifetime.” (Dealty)

“Nothing worthwhile is ever acquired without effort, & effort gives meaning to our lives.” (D. Tipton)

Best Advice for SUCCESS...

- ▶ Do not wait for things to be handed to you
 - Show initiative
 - Find opportunities → they are everywhere; say “yes” as often as possible
- ▶ Have fun, make new friends, seek out meaningful experiences, & enjoy your time at FIU
- ▶ Keep Calm & Study Dietetics!

PROFESSIONALISM – MISC.

- ▶ Extremely important that you fill out our two surveys
 - ▶ One at graduation
 - ▶ One sent one year later
 - ▶ Both for accreditation purposes
 - ▶ Give back your department
 - ▶ May have an additional survey if you become an employer or preceptor
- ▶ Any questions regarding professionalism?



I will end with a quote...

“Today is the first day of your “interview.” How you behave in the classroom with your professionalism, your attendance, your attitude, your work ethic, is how you are going to behave when you go out and interact with the internship preceptors.”

--Christopher Taylor, PhD., instructor at
The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

...and I might add “with me, also.”