

PHILOSOPHY AND MISSION

The philosophy and mission of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health Dietetic Internship Program (UTHH-DI) is to educate and train graduates to be competent, entry-level registered dietitian nutritionists in the field of nutrition and dietetics using current nutritional sciences research and evidenced-based practices and employing technological innovations to prepare them to improve the nutritional status of various populations in multiple settings.

PROGRAM GOALS:

The program Goals and outcome Measures of the UTHH-DI are in concert with the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) 2022 Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards. The UTHH-DI Goals are as follows:

Goal 1

Program graduates will become professional entry-level dietitians through comprehensive scientific research-focused education and experiences. The UTHH-DI Program will meet the required competency statements of entry-level dietetic education programs for the supervised practice component in public health/community, foodservice/management and medical nutrition therapy dietetics practice.

Objectives

- a. Program Completion: At least 80% of the program students will complete program/degree requirements within 33 months (150% of the program length).
- b. Graduate Employment: Of graduates who seek employment, 80% will be employed in Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics or a related field within 12 months of graduation.
- c. Graduate Performance on Registration Exam:
 1. 80% of program graduates take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within 12 months of program completion.
 2. The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration within one year of first attempt) on CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%.
- d. Employer Satisfaction: 80% of the Employers returning the Employer Graduate Survey will state that they would hire another graduate from this DI Program.
- e. 90% of the graduates will complete their Competencies/Learning Outcomes for Entry-Level Dietitians as evidenced by scores of 2-3 on evaluations by preceptors and DI program faculty.

Goal 2:

The UTHH-DI Program will provide opportunities for graduates to develop professional attitudes and skills with an understanding of and commitment to ethical practices consistent with the emerging needs of the dietetic professional.

Objectives:

- a. At least 90% of the UTHHealth Houston graduates (who respond to the survey) will state yes through Student Evaluations that their supervised practice experience helped develop competency as an entry-level dietitian nutritionist.
- b. At least 90% of UTHHealth Houston graduates (who respond to the survey) will rate learning activities as strongly agree or agree regarding preparing the intern for professional practice as an entry-level dietitian nutritionist.
- c. At least 90% of UTHHealth Houston students will achieve Excellent – Satisfactory scores for all Supervised Practice Rotation Completion scores on knowledge base, communication skills, timeliness, interpersonal skills, dependability, and attitude as evaluated by Supervising Practice Preceptors.
- d. At least 80% of the employers returning the Employer UTHH-DI Graduate Survey will rate graduates as good or excellent at understanding patient care from nutritional sciences and population health perspectives.
- e. At least 90% of UTHHealth Houston students will score 90 or above on an ethics quiz administered during their last semester.