

Verification Statement Policy: Nutrition and Dietetics option

****Amended to include the Alternative Grade policy approved by Penn State Faculty Senate in Spring 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021.**

Date Issued: 07 Aug 2012

Revised and Reviewed: 27 June
2022

Approved: 27 June 2022

Policy:

A Verification Statement is an official document that signifies that the student has met all academic and professional requirements as dictated by the Accreditation Council in Education for Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) for the Pennsylvania State University DPD program.

Procedure

Students must meet the criteria below to have a Verification Statement issued to them:

1. Earn a 70% or higher on assignments tied to the ACEND KRDN student learning outcomes given in selected DPD courses in the curriculum.
2. Attend one of the scheduled Dietetics Option Information sessions held by the DPD director upon declaring the Nutrition and Dietetics option and sign a form documenting their attendance.
3. Meet the degree requirements for the Nutritional Sciences major and Nutrition and Dietetics option. This includes earning a “C” or better in all the Nutrition and Dietetics options prescribed and additional courses listed below**:
 - BIOL 161 and BIOL 162L: Anatomy and Physiology I
 - BIOL 163 and BIOL 164L: Anatomy and Physiology II
 - MICRB 106: Elementary Microbiology and MICRB 107: Elementary Microbiology Lab
 - STAT 200: Elementary Statistics or STAT 250: Introduction to Biostatistics
 - CHEM 110: Chemical Principles I or CHEM 197: Chemistry of Sustainability or CHEM 130: Intro to General, Organic, and Biochemistry
 - CHEM 200: Fundamentals of Organic Chemistry I or CHEM 210:
 - HDFS 129: Intro to Human Development & Family Studies or PSYCH 100: Psychology
 - BMB 211: Elementary Biochemistry
 - NUTR 211R: Applying Biochemistry to Nutrition
 - NUTR 251: Introductory Principles of Nutrition
 - NUTR 320 Science and Methods of Food Preparation
 - NUTR 358 Assessment of Nutritional Status
 - NUTR 360 Nutrition Education and Behavior Change
 - NUTR 361 Community and Public Health Nutrition
 - NUTR 386 Managing Quality in Food and Nutrition Services
 - NUTR 391 Professional Preparation in Nutrition and Dietetics
 - NUTR 393 Dietetic Internship Application Development
 - NUTR 400 Introduction to Nutrition Counseling
 - NUTR 445 Energy and Macronutrient Metabolism
 - NUTR 446 Micronutrient Metabolism
 - NUTR 451 Nutrition throughout the Life Cycle
 - NUTR 452 Nutritional Aspects of Disease

- NUTR 453 Medical Nutrition Therapy
- NUTR 490W Nutrition Seminar
- NUTR 495 Advanced Field Experience in Nutrition
- HM 329 Intro to Food Production and Service
- HM 330 Food Production & Service Management

Issuing Verification Statements

- DPD Verification statements, per ACEND requirements, will be issued after the following are met:
 - Nutritional Sciences, Nutrition and Dietetics option B.S. degree is conferred and designated as such on the official transcript, and
 - the DPD director has confirmed that all KRDN Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) meet the minimum requirements on the assignments given in the selected DPD courses in the curriculum.
- One original signed copies will be sent to each student to their Penn State University email address on record with the University. Students have the option pick up their Verification Statement in person upon request.

****Amendment to the “C” or higher grade policy listed above**

- The Penn State University faculty senate implemented an alternative grading policy to respond to the unique remote class delivery approach that was implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that occurred in Spring and Fall semester 2020 and Spring semester 2021 (see [Senate Policy 49-70](#))
- To earn a DPD Verification Statement, students can either accept the letter grade earned in the class or choose the “Satisfactory (SAT)” option to replace the letter grade in the course. The SAT grade option will not be used in computing grade points for the student’s cumulative or DPD GPA calculations.
- This amended policy applies to courses taken for credit by any baccalaureate or associate degree candidates in the same (single) semester in which the policy is passed as formal legislation by the University Faculty Senate.

Information for transfer equivalency courses and transfer students:

Transfer equivalency courses:

- Courses taken at another institution may be transferred to Penn State but must be approved through the Penn State Admissions office transfer course equivalency process. Any DPD required Nutrition (NUTR) or Hospitality Management (HM) course must be evaluated for content by the DPD director to determine which courses will be approved. It is recommended that the student do this prior to taking the course.

Students transferring from another ACEND accredited DPD program:

- Students who transfer from other ACEND Accredited DPD programs may request to have their DPD courses reviewed by the DPD director to determine the course and KRDN SLO equivalency to meet the DPD Verification Statement criteria. Students must provide a copy of the course syllabus and graded assignments from the course that met

the KRDN SLO. The determination of equivalency by the DPD director will occur on a case-by-case basis.

- Students are required to complete at least 22 credits of Nutritional Sciences and Hospitality Management courses to earn the Verification Statement from the Penn State DPD program. These courses include:
 - NUTR 358 Assessment of Nutritional Status (3 credits)
 - NUTR 391 Professional Preparation in Nutrition and Dietetics (2 credits)
 - NUTR 400 Introduction to Nutrition Counseling (2 credits)
 - NUTR 452 Nutritional Aspects of Disease (3 credits)
 - NUTR 453 Medical Nutrition Therapy (3 credits)
 - NUTR 490W Nutrition Seminar (3 credits)
 - NUTR 495 Advanced Field Experience in Nutrition (3 credits)
 - HM 330 Food Production & Service Management (3 credits)

One official original copy of the Verification Statement will be kept on record indefinitely; however, it is important that the student keep an original Verification Statement in their files.

Verification Statements are required for:

- Dietetic Internship programs

Verification Statements may be needed by:

- Future Education Graduate Programs and Coordinated Programs in Dietetics
- States for licensure purposes
- Potential employers

Additional information about Verification Statements is available on the ACEND website at <http://www.eatright.org/ACEND/content.aspx?id=66>.

Amended Verification Statement by the DPD Director on June 27th, 2022 to reflect changes in courses offered by other departments and the conclusion of the alternative grading policy by the Penn State faculty senate in Spring 2021.

Amended Verification Statement Approved by the DPD Curriculum Committee on April 17, 2020

Mary Dean Coleman-Kelly, PhD, MS, RD, DPD Director and Chair

Denise Lawson, MS, RD

Lynn Parker Klees, MA, RD, LDN

Jennifer Fleming, PhD, MS, RD

Alison Gernand, PhD, MPH, RD