College of Health Sciences

Didactic Program in Dietetics

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<https://www.pointloma.edu/undergraduate/programs/dietetics-bs>

2023-2024

Welcome to PLNU and the dietetics major in the College of Health Sciences!

This handbook is to help you plan your coursework and answer questions you may have about the educational path to becoming a Registered Dietitian (RD) or Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). It contains general information about PLNU’s program such as our Mission Statement and Goals, our accreditation status, and information about university policies and procedures that provide guidance in your academic career at PLNU. This handbook is not intended to replace regular appointments with your advisor. It is only meant to be a ready source of information for your use while studying dietetics.

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PLNU Didactic Program in Dietetics

Student Handbook

Policies and Procedures

1. **Accreditation Status**

PLNU’s DPD program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60606, (312) 899-5400. ACEND has established Standards of Education which accredited programs must meet and include knowledge, skill and competency requirements.

**II. University Accreditation**

PLNU is numbered among those institutions of higher education that meet or exceed the rigorous standards of accrediting associations and commissions. PLNU is accredited by the WASC Senior Colleges and Universities Commission (WSCUC), for which it periodically completes a self-study that addresses recognized standards and principles of excellence.

WSCUC may be contacted at:

985 Atlantic Avenue

Suite 100

Alameda, CA 94501

(510) 748-9001

https://[www.pointloma.edu/accreditation](http://www.pointloma.edu/accreditation)

**III. PLNU’s Mission Statement and Department Mission Statement**

The mission of PLNU is *“To Teach – To Shape – To Send.”* Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where truth is pursued, grace is foundational, and holiness is a way of life.

The vision of the College of Health Sciences is:

We train exceptional graduates to transform the well-being of their communities.

The mission of the College of Health Sciences is:

The College of Health Sciences exists to provide multidisciplinary education in health, wellness, medicine, and therapy that transforms students and prepares them to serve their communities as an expression of Christian faith.

The mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) is to prepare students who are competent to complete a supervised practice program for eligibility for the CDR exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist. The program will provide the foundation, knowledge and skill competencies as outlined by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) for students seeking a baccalaureate degree in dietetics. The learning environment is structured to foster intellectual discourse, leadership development, and spiritual formation, as well as life-long learning, effective problem-solving and teamwork.

**IV. PLNU’s DPD Goals**

The goals for the DPD program are listed below. The program will:

* prepare graduates competent in the foundation knowledge and skills of dietetics education for success in completing a dietetic internship program and/or a career in the food and nutrition field.
* prepare graduates who demonstrate a commitment to community service.
* prepare graduates who demonstrate spiritual understanding with integrity and ethical principles for living life, and working in the field of dietetics.

The department also has program learning outcomes (PLO) that are assessed for WSCUC (WASC) accreditation. The PLO’s are delineated as follows:

PLO 1. Demonstrate content knowledge of food and nutrition as well as concepts and theories of nutrition across a broad range including lifecycle stages, cellular nutrition, disease prevention and medical therapy; food and food systems; development, modification, and evaluation of recipes, menus and food products.

PLO 2. Demonstrate basic skills in food preparation, sanitation and safety in

working with a variety of food products.

PLO 3. Identify and assess scientific research evaluating current evidence-based research related to child and adolescent development.

PLO 4. Evaluate the effects of societal, cultural, ethical and financial dynamics upon diet trends, dietary choices, and food preparation methods among individuals, families and societies.

PLO 5. Develop and articulate their own professional philosophy and personal code of ethics within the dietetics profession.

**V. PLNU’s DPD Outcome Measures**

The outcomes measures for the DPD program are as follows:

* 100% of students seeking a Verification Statement must maintain a GPA of > 2.8.
* 100% of students earning a Verification Statement must earn a “C” or better on all core DPD and prerequisite courses throughout their didactic education.
* 80% of students who claim dietetics as their major by their third year will be able to graduate from the program within three more years.
* Over a five-year period, 60% of the students choosing to apply to graduate school will be accepted.
* Over a five-year period, 60% of graduates will apply to supervised practice experiences within 12 months of graduation.
* For those choosing to apply to dietetics internships, 50% will be placed.
* Over a five-year period, 80% of internship graduated will successfully complete the RD exam on the first try.
* At least 80% of internship directors who return surveys will rate graduates as “satisfactory” or above in professional knowledge and skills.
* 80% of employed graduates will rate the program’s ability to prepare them for their first position as “mostly satisfied” or higher.
* 100% of graduating seniors will demonstrate participation in community service-learning activities during their PLNU career.
* 80% of post-graduate RDs will indicate they participate in one or more community service activities.
* 100% of students will build a portfolio that demonstrates a knowledge of self and one content area of the dietetics discipline**.**
* At least 95% of graduates will behave ethically in an internship, and uphold the Code of Ethics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.
* Data from program outcomes from previous cycles are available upon request.

**VI. What is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist?**

A registered dietitian (RD) or registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) has completed multiple layers of education and training established by the [**Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)**](http://www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/). The RD or RDN credential is the primary credential nationally recognized in foods and nutrition as the nutrition expert and the credential is usually required for employment in the health care industry and preferred for many other employment opportunities in foods and nutrition. In addition to holding a bachelor's degree, an RD or RDN must fulfill a specially designed, accredited nutrition curriculum, complete an extensive supervised program of practice at a health care facility, foodservice organization or community agency and pass a rigorous registration exam. The credential is particularly important when nutrition counseling/advice is a component of the employment.

**VII. Route to becoming a R.D.**

Earn a Bachelor’s degree: may or may not be in Foods and Nutrition

Earn a Master’s degree in any subject

Complete the undergraduate DPD requirements

Get verified by the DPD Director

Apply for and get accepted to an accredited Dietetic Internship program

(internships can be done after the MS degree, or combined with a MS

degree)

Complete the Dietetic Internship

Pass the national registration exam

Some states will require licensure prior to practicing in that state

**VIII. To Be Verified at PLNU**

Earn a “C” or better in all core curriculum DPD and prerequisite classes

Maintain a GPA of 2.8 or higher

Earn a B.S. degree (official transcripts, including the one that shows an earned Bachelor’s degree, must be in your DPD file)

Participate in community service learning activities during your

college education, as evidenced in your senior portfolio

Demonstrate ethical principles and follow AND’s Code of Ethics

Verification statements are issued to all graduates of the DPD program

who meet the above criteria after graduation. Students must have on file an official transcript showing PLNU graduation, and DPD courses passed with a “C” or better, and a GPA of 2.8 or higher. Official transcripts from courses transferred in that are DPD requirements must also be provided to the DPD Director.

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**IX. What is the difference between a nutritionist and a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist?**

There is no national standard and/or credential associated with the nutritionist title as compared with the term Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. Therefore, individuals can legitimately call themselves a nutritionist without any educational preparation in the field. Many fallacies about food and nutrition come from nutritionists who do not have the educational background to understand and apply evidence-based science. The term may be used appropriately by an individual who has completed a 4-year degree in a food and nutrition field but who has not completed the requirements to become an RDN. One should always verify the educational background of their healthcare provider, especially an individual using the nutritionist title.

**X. What is a Dietetic Internship?**

After finishing your bachelor’s or master’s degree program, and the required DPD coursework, ACEND (Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics) requires that you gain at least 1000 hours of supervised pre-professional experience as the last step before being eligible to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians.   
This period of experience could take the form of a traditional Dietitian Internship (DI), a Coordinated Program (CP) or an Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway (ISPP) – all of which fulfill the experience requirement:

* **ACEND-Accredited DI** – Often referred to as a “traditional DI program,” this is a stand-alone DI program that you take after completing your DPD and bachelor’s degree.
* **ACEND-Accredited Coordinated Program**- Coordinated Programs (CP) combine DPD academic curriculum and a dietetic internship in a single program that integrates coursework and supervised practice. Since you will already have a bachelor’s degree, you would be interested in a CP offered at graduate level, resulting in a Master’s degree and internship requirements through one program.
* **Individualized Supervised Practice Pathways (ISPPs)-** Designed to address the shortage of DI placements nationwide and to give students other options to fulfill the DI requirement, ISPPs are supervised practice experiences that are tailored to the individual student’s needs. In an ISPP, you would be required to set up a supervised practice experience with a preceptor on your own. An ISPP can also take into account your previous dietetics-related work experience and give you some credit towards the ISPP.  Many students are able to coordinate a part-time job in dietetics with an ISPP, counting paid work hours towards ISPP hours. In order to qualify for an ISPP, you must meet one of the following criteria:
  + You graduated from a DPD program and hold a DPD verification statement, but you were not computer matched to a DI, OR,
  + You hold a doctoral degree from an accredited college/university (you do not need a DPD verification statement in this case). Depending on your educational background, you might need to take additional coursework before starting the ISPP.

All internship options – traditional, CP and ISPP – will run from eight to 24 months, with traditional internships generally running 9-12 months. However, length of program, date the program begins, full-time or part-time hours, tuition or fees charged, stipends, graduate credits, housing and availability of financial aid vary among programs and may be important decisions to make when selecting practice programs. There are traditional, online and distance options available for completing all three types of experience options.   
You can choose a DI based upon your interests and career aspirations, matching them to the DI’s emphasis. Examples of emphases in some DI programs include, but are not limited to:

* Medical nutrition therapy
* Clinical nutrition
* Research
* Pediatric nutrition
* Geriatric nutrition
* Community nutrition
* Communication
* Leadership
* Food systems management
* Public health nutrition education
* Sports nutrition

Your DPD director/advisor will help in making decisions that will fit your individual needs.

Placement in an accredited dietetic internship is very competitive, with limited spots for all those needing supervised practice after finishing their degree. Nationally, approximately 50% of applicants earn an appointment. You can improve your chances of earning an internship spot by gaining experience in the dietetics/foodservice arena, attending your local dietetic association events, volunteering in service related events, gaining leadership skills and doing your best in all courses to keep your GPA competitive. The more you learn about what dietitians do, and get involved in the profession as an undergraduate, the more competitive your application package will appear.

**XI. CDR Exam and State Licensure**

Once an accredited dietetic internship is successfully completed, you will be eligible to take the national Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) exam. Earning a scaled score of 25 or better grants you the right to use Registered Dietitians (RD) or Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) as your title. This is a national credential. However, some states will require an additional license, although California does not. You can see PLNU’s state licensure disclosure [here](https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/office-institutional-effectiveness-research/disclosures/state-state-licensure-disclosure), and AND’s map of licensure by state [here](https://www.eatrightpro.org/advocacy/licensure/licensure-map).

**XII. What is the employment outlook for dietitians?**

The job demand for individuals with a RDN credential is currently good. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “employment of dietitians and nutritionists is projected to grow 14 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations. In recent years, interest in the role of food and nutrition in promoting health and wellness has increased, particularly as a part of preventative healthcare in medical settings.” The Bureau credits the high rate of obesity as one issue. Many diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease, are associated with obesity. The importance of diet in preventing and treating illnesses is now well known. More dietitians and nutritionists will be needed to provide care for people with these conditions. Secondly, as the population grows older and looks for ways to stay healthy, there will be more demand for dietetic and nutrition services. Lastly, there will be demand for dietitians and nutritionists in grocery stores to help consumers make healthy food choices.

Along with medical hospitals, clinics and long term care facilities, dietitians are employed in foodservice operations in school districts, day care centers, corporate dining rooms, correctional facilities, as well as medical centers. In this setting, dietitians will oversee the entire foodservice process from purchasing through the service of food to managing the staff.

Government agencies hire dietitians for education, research, consumer liaisons, marketing, product development or working with the military. Many other opportunities are available in sports nutrition or corporate wellness, software engineering, recipe development, journalism, or teaching.

**XIII. Application** **and admission requirements at PLNU**

To be considered for admission into PLNU, you must have a complete application, including high school transcripts, SAT or ACT scores, and two letters of recommendation. You also have the option of conducting an interview with your admissions counselor.

[**https://www.pointloma.edu/undergraduate/admissions/how-apply**](https://www.pointloma.edu/undergraduate/admissions/how-apply)

**XIV. The courses below result in a Bachelor’s degree in Dietetics at PLNU. Those in bold constitute the DPD requirements at PLNU.**

Course # Course Name Units

**ACC 2000 Principles of Financial Accounting 3**

BIB 1001 Old Testament History and Religion 2

BIB 1002 New Testament History and Religion 3

**BIO 1030 Human Anatomy and Physiology I 4**

**BIO 1040 Human Anatomy and Physiology II 4**

**BIO 2010 Cell Biology and Chemistry 4**

**BIO 2020 Microbiology of Infectious Diseases 4**

**CHE 1052 General Chemistry I 4**

**CHE 1053 General Chemistry II 4**

**CHE 2094 Organic Chemistry I 4**

CHU 3095 Christian Tradition ***or*** THE 306 Life of Holiness 3

COM 1000 Principles of Human Communication 3

HIS 1010 World Civilization I 3

HIS 1011 World Civilizations II 3

LIT 2000 Literature and Culture 2

LIT 3050 World Literature 3

**MGT 2012 Principles of Management 3**

MTH 3003 Problem Solving 3

**NUT 1010 Fundamentals of Food 2**

NUT 1050 Human Development 3

**NUT 2025 Fundamentals of Nutrition 3**

**NUT 3000 Quantity Food Production 3**

**NUT 3003 Cultural Foods 2**

**NUT 3020 Nutrition Assessment 2**

**NUT 3030 Community Nutrition 3**

**NUT 3031 Community Nutrition Practicum 1**

**NUT 3035 Nutrition Research through the Life Cycle 3**

**NUT 3065 Advanced Nutrition 3**

**NUT 4014 Practices in Nutrition Education and Dietary Counseling 2**

**NUT 4015 Medical Nutrition Therapy 3**

**NUT 4017 Medical Nutrition Therapy Practicum 1**

**NUT 4035 Food Service Production & Management 2**

**NUT 4055 Food Science 3**

MUT 4097 FCS Senior Seminar 2

PED XX Physical Activity 1

**PHL 2011 Ethics 3**

PSY 1001 Psychology of Personal Development 3

**SOC 2001 Cultural Anthropology 3**

**SWF 1000 Living Justly in Contemporary Society 3**

**SWF 3006 Research Basics 3**

**SWF 3015 Health and Wellbeing 2**

WRI 1010 Freshman Composition 5

XXXX Fine Arts 2

XXXX Fine Arts 2

XXXX Foreign Lang 4

XXXX Foreign Lang 4

**XV. Plan for completing DPD requirements at PLNU in 4 years**

**DIETETICS**

# **Four Year Academic Plan**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Freshman Year (31) | **Sophomore Year (33)** |
| **Fall** SWF 1000 Living Justly in Contemporary Society (3)  NUT 1010 Fundamentals of Food (2)  BIB 1001 Old Testament History and Religion (2)  CHE 1052/L General Chemistry I (4)  PSY 1001 Psychology of Personal Development (3)  XXXX Fine Arts (2)\*\*  *Total Units 14* Spring CHD 1050 Human Development (3)  NUT 2025 Fundamentals of Nutrition (3)  CHE 1053/L General Chemistry II (4)  WRI 1010 Freshman Composition (4)  PED XXXX Physical Activity (1)  XXXX Fine Arts (2) \*\*  *Total Units 17* | Fall CHE 2094/L Organic Chemistry I (4)  COM 1000 Principles of Human Communication (3)  SOC 2001 Cultural Anthropology (3)\*\*  HIS 1010 World Civilization I (3)\*\*  XXXX Foreign Language (4)    *Total Units 17* Spring BIO 2010/L Cell Biology and Chemistry (4)  MGT 2012 Principles of Management (3)  LIT 2000 Literature and Culture (2)\*\*  BIB 102 New Testament History and Religion (3)  XXXX Foreign Language (4)  *Total Units 16* |
| **Junior Year (33)** | **Senior Year (32)** |
| Fall SWF 3006 Research Basics (3)  NUT 3000 Quantity Food Production (3)  BIO 1030 Human Anatomy and Physiology I (4)  CHU 3095 Christian Trad ***or*** THE 306 Life of Holiness (3)  PHL 2011 Ethics (3)  *Total Units 16* Spring ACC 2000 Principles of Financial Accounting (3)  NUT 3035 Nutrition Research through the Life Cycle (3)\*  NUT 4014 Practices in Nutrition Education and Dietary Counseling (2)\*  BIO 1040 Human Anatomy and Physiology II (4)  MTH 3003 Problem Solving (3)  SWF 3015 Health and Wellbeing (2)    *Total Units 17* | Fall NUT 3020 Nutrition Assessment (2)  NUT 3030 Community Nutrition (3)\*  NUT 3031 Community Nutrition Practicum (1)\*  NUT 3065 Advanced Nutrition (3)  BIO 2020 Microbiology of Infectious Diseases (4)  HIS 1011 World Civilizations II (3)\*\*  *Total Units 16* Spring NUT 3003 Cultural Foods (2)  NUT 4015 Medical Nutrition Therapy (3)\*  NUT 4017 Medical Nutrition Therapy Practicum (1)\*  NUT 4097 Senior Seminar (2)  NUT 4055 Food Science (3)\*  NUT 4035 Food Service Mgmt (2)\*  LIT 3050 World Literature (3)\*\*  *Total Units 16* |

\* Alternate Year Courses

\*\*Students are encouraged to take one or two courses in the summer to lighten their course load during the semester. Suggested summer school courses to lighten semester load: HIS 1010 (3), HIS 1011 (3), 2 Fine Arts (4), SOC 2001 (3), Literature and Culture (2), or Literature Masterpieces (3). Fall 2021

**XVI. Admission Requirements to PLNU**

**Admission Requirements for High School Seniors**

[**http://undergraduate.pointloma.edu/high-school-seniors**](http://undergraduate.pointloma.edu/high-school-seniors)

**Admission Requirements for Transfer Students**

[**http://undergraduate.pointloma.edu/transfer-students**](http://undergraduate.pointloma.edu/transfer-students)

**XVII. Advising**

Students must attend an advising meeting each semester with their academic

advisor, to plan next semester and keep on target with core courses. Since those

students wishing to be verified upon graduation must earn a grade of “C” or better

in all DPD courses, those courses with lower grades will need to be retaken. Additionally, a GPA of 2.8 or higher on a 4.0 scale must be obtained for dietetics verification. Students not achieving this goal will be counseled on their options. Students may continue in the dietetics major, but will not earn verification upon graduation, meaning he/she cannot apply to accredited dietetic internships.

**XVIII. Course Grade Appeal**

It is the responsibility of the faculty to evaluate student performance and assign grades. The university has established a course grade appeal policy, however, that may be used when a student believes the syllabus was not followed in the grade calculation or if it is thought that grading was done in a capricious and arbitrary manner.  The appeal policy does not include student dissatisfaction with a grade based on the faculty member's professional judgment. A Course Grade Appeal Form is available in the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Administration and must be filed within one year from the end of the course in which the grade was given.  Further information about the steps to be followed in a course grade appeal are also available in that office.

**XIX. Complaint Process**

A student has two avenues to file complaints regarding the accredited DPD program. The first is available to all PLNU students and can be found [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3hMXF5MXi6Ed3QtazBJOFhGV2s/view): <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3hMXF5MXi6Ed3QtazBJOFhGV2s/view>

This is the process outlined by WASC, the accrediting body for the whole campus. Secondly, ACEND is the accrediting body for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Their grievance process can be found [here](https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/public-notices-and-announcements/filing-a-complaint-with-acend/procedure-for-complaints-against-accredited-programs): <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/public-notices-and-announcements/filing-a-complaint-with-acend/procedure-for-complaints-against-accredited-programs>

**XX. Academic Calendar**

PLNU’s undergraduate academic calendar for 2022-2025 can be viewed [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VDavCb1ZqfHEFJK8ZkrmJTDo9C80JlY6/view): https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VDavCb1ZqfHEFJK8ZkrmJTDo9C80JlY6/view

**XXI. AND’s Code of Ethics for the Dietetic Practitioner**

Commitment to upholding the AND's Code of Ethics is an important concept in the PLNU Department. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and its Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics are in the forefront of professional associations and credentialing bodies that have adopted a voluntary enforceable code of ethics. This code, entitled the "Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics" challenges all members to uphold ethical principles. The 2018 Code of Ethics can be located [here](https://www.eatrightpro.org/-/media/eatrightpro-files/career/code-of-ethics/coeforthenutritionanddieteticsprofession.pdf?la=en&hash=0C9D1622C51782F12A0D6004A28CDAC0CE99A032).

The purpose of the code is to provide guidance to dietetic practitioners in their professional practice and conduct; it also assists in protecting the nutrition, health, safety, and welfare of the public by enforcing ethical behavior among ADA members and non-member RDs and DTRs.

**XXII. PLNU’s Academic Honesty Policy**

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one’s own when in reality they are the results of another person’s creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](https://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=52&navoid=2919#Academic_Honesty) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

**XXIII. PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy**

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center ([EAC@pointloma.edu](mailto:EAC@pointloma.edu) or 619-849-2486). Once a student’s eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan (“AP”) to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

**XXIV. Grading**

Traditional letter grades (A, B, C, D, F) including plus and minus grades are used to indicate the level of scholarship earned for each course. Once the degree has been posted on the student’s official transcript, no change of grade action is allowed. Courses within the DPD program will require a grade of “C” or better to earn a verification statement upon graduation.

**XXVI. Credit/No Credit**

No courses in the DPD curriculum will graded on a Credit/No Credit basis. All courses must earn a traditional letter grade.

**XXVII. Incomplete**

A grade of Incomplete is given for work which has been completed partially in a satisfactory manner, but which, for valid reasons such as illness or death in the family, is not finished. The grade of “I” is to be given only on the basis of extraordinary circumstances clearly beyond the student’s control.

The grade of “I” is regarded as a deficiency grade and may be removed by the assignment of additional work to make up the deficiency; or, in cases where the “incomplete” is assigned because of inability to take a final examination, by a special examination. A grade of “I” must be made up, if at all, by the end of the next regular semester. Until made up, a grade of “I” is considered as “F” in determining the student’s grade-point average, and eligibility for financial assistance and intercollegiate competition.

**XXVIII. Grade Points**

Letter grades are converted to numerical equivalents for computation according to the following scale:

A A- B+ B B- C+ C C- D+ D D- F

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

4.0 3.7 3.3 3.0 2.7 2.3 2.0 1.7 1.3 1.0 0.7 0

Students must earn a minimum of 2.8 GPA throughout their didactic education in order to be verified, and be eligible to apply to dietetic internships.

**XXIX. The Honors Scholars Program**

Near the end of the junior year, a student who has demonstrated exceptional scholarship and capacity for serious and creative study or research, and who has maintained a 3.500 cumulative GPA, may apply for entry into the Honors Scholars Program. With the guidance of a major professor, and in community with other Honors Scholars, the student will complete an honors project during the senior year. Successful scholars will receive due recognition at Commencement and on the University transcript or record. Criteria, qualifications, and procedures are available in the Deans’ Center, located on the lower floor, west side of the Bond Academic Center.

Students who are accepted into the Honors Scholars Program register in the fall semester of their senior year for Honors 498 (2 units). This represents the initial phase of work on the required project. In the spring of the senior year, students register for Honors 499 (1 unit) in order to complete the project.

**XXX. Phi Upsilon Omicron**

Phi Upsilon Omicron is a national honor society in Family and Consumer Sciences. Its purposes are to:

* recognize and encourage academic excellence
* develop qualities of professional and personal leadership
* provide opportunities for service to the profession and
* encourage professional and personal commitment to the area of family sciences.

PLNU’s collegiate chapter, Gamma Iota, is sponsored by the national honor society of Phi Upsilon Omicron. The membership is open to all, without discrimination, who meet the requirements for eligibility. A PLNU student shall be eligible to be elected as a collegiate member of Gamma Iota chapter if the individual:

* has completed a minimum of 40 semester hours, having at least one semester or summer term as a declared major under the umbrella of Sociology, Social Work and/or Family Sciences of which dietetic majors qualify;
* ranks in the top 35% within the department in general scholarship;
* exhibits the potential for professional and community leadership and service;
* demonstrates a spirit of service; and,
* exemplifies character through personal integrity and professional attitude.

Additionally, a transfer student shall be eligible for membership after one semester and after meeting eligibility requirements. A review of the individual’s cumulative record of scholarship, leadership and character must be made. Any student who has been invited to become a member once and declines is no longer eligible for membership.

**XXXI. Scholarships and Financial Aid**

The College of Health Sciences students are eligible to apply and compete for department and endowed scholarships within the department. The department scholarship dollar amount is dependent on the funds available, and divided among all departments. The department chooses recipients from each major (including dietetics and nutrition and food). Applications are scored based on financial need, GPA and strength of application. Faculty review the applications and choose candidates each spring. You can see a list of the available scholarships here:

https://www.pointloma.edu/undergraduate/cost-financial-aid/scholarships

Another scholarship available to dietetic majors is funded by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, San Diego District. In addition, students may also apply for scholarships through the National Honor Society of Phi Upsilon Omicron, or the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics at

<http://eatrightfoundation.org/scholarships-funding/#Scholarships>

**XXXII. Class Attendance**

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes in which a student is registered is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. Therefore, regular attendance and participation in each course are minimal requirements to be met. There are no allowed or excused absences except when absences are necessitated by certain University-sponsored activities and are approved in writing by the Provost.

Whenever the number of accumulated absences in a class, for any cause, exceeds 10% of classes (this is equivalent to 1½ weeks or longer in a 16-week semester course), the faculty member sends a written report to the Vice Provost for Academic Administration which may result in de-enrollment. If more than 20% (3 weeks or longer in a semester long course) is reported as missed, the student will automatically be de-enrolled. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of “F” or “NC”.

Absences are counted from the first official meeting of the class regardless of the date of the student’s enrollment. A student who registers late must monitor carefully regular attendance during the remainder of the semester. Registered students who neither attend the first class session nor inform the faculty of their desire to remain on the class roll may, at the request of the instructor, be dropped from the roll.

Exceptions to the foregoing attendance regulations due to extenuating circumstances may be granted only by appeal to the Vice Provost for Academic Administration. Students should consult the syllabus of each course for specific applications of and elaborations on the above attendance policy.

**XXXIII. Professional Dress Code for Dietetic Students**

DPD students are expected to maintain a professional appearance in all manner of dress and grooming habits, especially when off-campus engaging in professional enrichment (field trips, community meetings, mentoring projects, volunteer work, etc.). When working in food service laboratories, the dress code has been established that will conform to the sanitary requirements of foodservice and health care, and will always present a positive image to others. Some general guidelines when working in the foodservice facility include:

* Jewelry should be limited and in good taste.
* Hair should be combed daily and arranged neatly. Long hair must be

tied back, and in food service establishments, completely covered by a

hair net or surgical cap.

* Lab coats will be clean and pressed.
* Shoes need to offer support and protection, be closed-toed and have low heels.
* Gum chewing is not allowed.
* Excessive make-up and perfume should not be used.

**XXXIV. Approximate Costs (as per 2023-2024 catalog)**

Tuition/semester (12-17 semester units) $ 21300.00

Units in excess of 17 units (per unit) $ 1420.00

General fee per semester $ 475.00

Laboratory and course fees $20.00-250.00

Health Insurance $ 762.00

Graduation fee $ 120.00

Room and board\* per semester $ 6425.00

(\* shared room, 15 meals/week)

Additional costs can be found here: <https://www.pointloma.edu/undergraduate/cost-financial-aid>

**XXXV. Online Learning**

Traditional undergraduate courses tend to be face-to-face at PLNU; however, summer courses and some General Education courses are offered online. In addition, occasional dietetic core classes are offered in a hybrid fashion. In order to be successful in the online or hybrid environment, students need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [*Technology and System Requirements*](https://help.pointloma.edu/TDClient/1808/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=108349) information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers, microphone, or webcams compatible with their computer available to use. Please note that any course with online proctored exams require a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible) to complete exams online.

PLNU uses Honorlock which provides video identification during online exams. We also have an Academic Honesty Verification form built into all online/hybrid courses. Privacy is built into our LMS with blind copy emails.  Private student information is not shared. There is additional information in the online catalog about FERPA and privacy in our undergraduate catalog here:  <https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/aug-catalog/state-federal-policies/>

Online programs have community spaces in Canvas that provide links to student support services, including health services, counseling, tutoring and testing and financial aid resources. In addition, students have access to the student success bulletin and the student success team. This information is also included in the online catalog and most in each course syllabus.

Note: Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

**XXXVI. Credit for Prior Learning**

PLNU does not award credit for prior learning unless it is a course transferable from another accredited university. You can read about PLNU’s policy [here](https://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=52&navoid=2919#Non-Traditional_Delivery_Credits).