

JUNE 2020

# FACT SHEET

## Nutritionists and Dietitians



Nutritionists and dietitians are professionals who maintain people's health by providing nutrition assessment and nutrition care services derived from integrating knowledge of food, nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, management, and behavioral and social science. Their primary responsibility is counseling of individuals or groups in the selection of food to meet normal nutritional needs, and the assessment of nutritional needs of individuals or groups by planning, organizing, coordinating, and evaluating the nutritional components of community health services. It is illegal to practice dietetics in North Dakota without a license.

### Licensed Nutritionists (LNs)

- Individuals must complete academic requirements required by the board of dietetic practice, and have received a baccalaureate degree in the field of dietetics or food and nutrition from an accredited college or university.
- Who had received a master's or doctorate degree in human nutrition, nutrition education, foods and nutrition, or public health nutrition from an accredited college or university, or related field that meets eligibility requirements of the commission on dietetic registration of the academy of nutrition and dietetics.
- Maintain membership in one of the following organizations: American Institute of Nutrition, American Society for Clinical Nutrition, or the American Board of Nutrition.

In North Dakota, there are 33 licensed nutritionists. That amounts to 0.4 licensed nutritionists per 10,000 North Dakota residents working in North Dakota. Licensed nutritionists working in North Dakota have been practicing for an average of 12 years, 7 months (SD = 10 yrs, 7 mos), and the median is 4 years, 6 months.

### Licensed Registered Dietitians (LRDs)

To be licensed as a dietitian in ND, an individual must satisfy all criteria as a nutritionist and:

- Complete the education and experience requirements for dietitians approved by the commission on dietetic registration of the academy of nutrition and dietetics or its predecessor or successor organization.

- Pass the examination approved and administered by the commission on dietetic registration of the academy of nutrition and dietetics or its predecessor or successor organization.

In North Dakota, there are 468 licensed registered dietitians. Currently there are 6.14 licensed registered dietitians per 10,000 North Dakota residents working in North Dakota. Licensed registered dietitians working in North Dakota have been practicing for an average of 13 years, 2 months (SD = 10 yrs, 11 mos), and the median is 6 years.

### Continuing Education

To renew a license, the individual must present proof of having attended continuing education approved by the board. The LRD licensee must have attended at least seventy hours of continuing education. For the licensed nutritionist, it is based on the year of initial licensure. Continuing education courses must be related to or increase the professional competence of the attendee.

### Conclusions

- Majority of dietetics had practiced more than 30 years, 48% for Nutritionists and 32% for Registered Dietitians.
- Continuing education is required for dietetics license renewal.

### Data

ND Board of Dietetic Practice (2020). Laws and Rules Governing Dietetic Practice. Retrieved from: [ndbodp.com](http://ndbodp.com)