How to Become a RDN

Not all nutritionists are dietitians. But, all dietitians are nutritionists.

Step 1: Bachelors Degree
- Obtain a Bachelors of Science* from an ACEND® accredited program
- ACEND® certifies colleges to offer degree programs in dietetics
- Idaho State University is ACEND® accredited

Step 2: Dietetic Internship
- Complete an ACEND® accredited Dietetic Internship
- Internships give you 1,200 or more hours of supervised experience
- ISU has programs in Pocatello, Meridian and Twin Falls

Step 3: Registration & Licensure
- Study, study, study and then, sign up to take the exam
- Pass the exam and you may use the RDN credential
- Apply for a state license to practice as a dietitian

*In January 2024, the education requirement will increase to a minimum completion of a masters degree from a regionally accredited US college/university or foreign equivalent.
Why Choose ISU

Cutting-Edge Programs
- Smart Cooking on the Run Every Day (SCORE$^{SM}$) is a healthy eating program for student athletes
- Dietetic students can volunteer to work with the RDN, a former ISU athlete, who manages SCORE

Hands-on Learning
- Students gain clinical experience by reviewing patient charts and working in foodservice departments
- Classes tour community nutrition sites, volunteer at food pantries, and give nutrition presentations to community

Inter-Professional Focus
- Today’s health care requires a team approach
- Students participate in collaborative case studies, assessing “real patients” with teams of health professionals in training

Science-in-Action
- In an Experimental Foods class, two students developed a tasty iron-fortified chocolate bar
- They presented their research at FNCE, the leading national scientific meeting for RDNs!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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