

Pepperdine University Nutritional Science Program

Program Description for the Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway (NSCP-ISPP)

The Nutritional Science Certificate Program-Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway (**NSCP-ISPP**), a certificate program only, is designed for students with a DPD verification statement and completion of a Master's degree or completion within 6 months of beginning the ISPP program. One route of the registration process for all individuals that have completed the requirements of a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) may be to participate in an Individual Supervised Practice Pathway (**ISPP**) that is recognized by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (**ACEND**) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (**AND**). The NSCP-ISPP at Seaver College will be a traditional residential experience for each student (non-distance). This program will offer field service volunteer experiences and associated professional/academic education in therapeutic nutrition, community nutrition, public health nutrition, and foodservice management. The NSCP-ISPP will be completed during a 9-month rotation that will include 1048 internship hours at locations located within a 60-mile radius of Malibu. Oversight for the program will be administered by qualified preceptors, staff, and faculty. This certificate program is designed for those preparing for the registration examination to become a Registered Dietitian, and graduate/professional programs in dietetics, nutrition, wellness, health, nursing, medicine foodservice management, and public health. Upon completion of the NSCP-ISPP, a Certificate of Completion will be offered. The Verification Statement received from completing a supervised practice program and completion of a Master's degree will allow the individual to be eligible to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians. Once the registration examination is passed, then the individual will earn the credential, RD (Registered Dietitian), and become entry-level prepared. The NSCP-ISPP provides two concentration areas in both service and leadership.

Admission Requirements

A verification statement is required which can be obtained by either completing an ACEND accredited bachelor's degree or Master's degree in nutrition or the completion of a degree in another discipline AND completion of the DPD nutrition pre-req course requirements. The Verification statement signed by the DPD Director from **ACEND** of the **AND** must be provided for review of application. ISPP candidates should meet the minimum admission standards of Pepperdine University with an overall and major GPA of 3.00.

Students are required to submit proof of medical clearance examination, immunizations (Hep B, TDAP, Varicella, MMR, Flu shot (Oct-Jan), TB test, and COVID vaccines. These must be up to date and records must be provided no later than two weeks prior to start of program. **These immunizations, as well as the COVID vaccine, are required by our affiliations in order to work in their facilities.**

*"Effective January 1, 2024, the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) will require a minimum of a master's degree to be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN). In order to be approved for registration examination eligibility with a bachelor's degree, an individual must meet all eligibility requirements and be submitted into CDR's Registration Eligibility Processing System (REPS) before **12:00 midnight Central Time, December 31, 2023**. For more information about this requirement visit CDR's website: <https://www.cdrnet.org/graduatedegree>. In addition, CDR requires that individuals complete coursework and supervised practice in program(s) accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).*

The Pepperdine ISPP program will permanently close and no longer be offered as an academic option beginning July 1, 2026, therefore all required supervised hours must be completed by this date in order to sit for the national credentialing exam.

Application Deadline

Applications open April 8th and will continue to be accepted until all spots are filled.

Mission of Nutritional Science Certificate Program-Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway (NSCP-ISPP)

The mission of the NSCP-ISPP program at Pepperdine University is to provide a strong supervised practice experience to educate and prepare our students to be highly competent and culturally sensitive dietetic professionals in compliance with external accreditation by the Council of Accreditation for Nutrition and Dietetics education (CAND), of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND). The curriculum is designed to meet the student learning outcomes and competencies for entry-level Registered Dietitians. The learning environment is structured to promote an appreciation for life-long learning, purposeful self-reflection, effective problem solving, and teamwork.

The Christian mission of Pepperdine serves as a foundation to our approach of serving others through the field of Dietetics, a helping profession, devoted to the health and well-being of our bodies which are described in I Corinthians 6:19 as temples of the Holy Spirit. In this program we seek to integrate our faith with our practice by utilizing talents God has given each of us (Romans 12:6). Through a purposeful selection of the rotations needed to complete the supervised practice hours, students will be provided with learning environments within our community where they can develop their God given talents as they serve others and exert a positive influence in our community.

James 2:14 asks, "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds?" In fulfilling Pepperdine's mission, our program will strive to instill a passion for a life of service and leadership. Both within the hours spent in the classroom and the hours spent in supervised practice, strengthening the students' passion for service and leadership will be at the forefront. Whether a student is caring for a person battling diabetes, teaching other students the importance of serving on a clinical team, or engaging in some other activity, service and leadership are a priority of our program.

In that God has made each of us individually, we seek to promote an environment that respects the diversity of humanity. Empathy and compassion are at the center of healthcare, and we hope to encourage and enhance these characteristics in our students. As future professionals in the field of nutrition, while promoting healthful living, our students will be exposed to diverse populations and experiences to build this respect for others.

In both the field experience and the didactic hours within the classroom, our aim is to nourish each student by developing his or her intellect and strengthening his or her character and faith.

NSCP-ISPP Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and Outcomes Measures Nutritional Science Certificate Program-Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway

Program Goals and Outcomes

Goal 1: The program will prepare students to secure employment as an entry-level registered dietitian nutritionist in various employment positions.

Objective 1.1: At least 80% of students will complete the program requirements within 15 months (150% of program length).

Objective 1.2: Within 12 months of employment, 80% of employed students who respond to the alumni survey will rate themselves as "prepared" or "well prepared" in their first position of employment.

Objective 1.3: At least 80% of program graduates take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within 12 months of program completion (150% of planned program length).

Objective 1.4: The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%

Objective 1.5: Within 1 year of program completion, employer satisfaction ratings should be at least 90% for "just as good", "better" or "best" as related to a graduate's preparation and level of nutrition knowledge at entry-level practice.

Goal 2: Graduate of the Pepperdine ISPP program will adhere to the professional code of ethics, integrate evidence-based research in practice, exhibit leadership qualities and be committed to community service and leadership.

Objective 2.1: At least 50% of students will indicate on an alumni survey that they participate in one or more community service and/or leadership activities.

Objective 2.2: Within 1 year of program completion, employer satisfaction ratings should be at least 90% for "just as good", "better" or "best" as related to a graduate's level of professionalism at entry-level practice.

Objective 2.3: Within 1 year of program completion, employer satisfaction ratings should be at least 80% for "agree" (yes/no) as related to a graduate's level of leadership qualities at entry-level practice.

Upon request, outcome data measuring achievement of program objectives are available to students, prospective students, and the public.

ISPP Rotations, Intern Hours, and NSCP Certificate Requirements

Clinical/Nutrition Therapy Rotation – 12 weeks and 384 hours

Students will spend 12 weeks in an acute care hospital gaining experience in the areas of cardiology, diabetes care, oncology, pediatrics, geriatrics, renal and dialysis care, maternal nutrition, obesity management, and tube and parenteral feedings. The final 2 weeks of the 12 are spent as staff relief. Students will provide nutrition screenings, assessment of patients, and nutrition education. An additional 2 weeks are spent in an outpatient clinical setting.

Clinical Staff Relief Experience – 2 weeks and 64 hours (included in total clinical hour)

The student will spend 2 weeks serving as the staff Dietitian in a selected facility.

Clinical Outpatient– 2 weeks and 64 hours

Students will spend 2 weeks in an outpatient setting such as dialysis, private practice, and bariatrics to practice providing counseling and education to various populations.

Outpatient Education- 2 weeks and 64 hours

Students will complete 64 hours providing education in an outpatient community or clinical setting.

Community Rotation – 8 weeks and 248 hours

Community nutrition will involve spending 8 weeks at various facilities to gain patient education experience in community/public health nutrition. Some examples of these areas include: Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Special Supplemental Nutrition Program, Head Start, Project Angel Food, University athletic and sports nutrition departments, outpatient clinics in diabetes, wellness centers, senior nutrition programs, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, and University health centers.

Food Service/Management – 6 weeks and 192 hours

Students will spend 10 weeks in food service management to gain experience in the areas of menu planning, food preparation and production, food purchasing and management systems. The facilities chosen for this area are university food services, including Malibu campus food service, hospital food services, and school food service.

Self-Select Rotation – 3 weeks and 96 hours

This rotation allows the student to choose an area of their interest to complete 64 hours. Some specialized areas include as sports nutrition, renal, pediatric nutrition, private practice, eating disorders, research and education. Facility must be approved prior to participation.

TOTAL hours: 1048

Additional hours: Orientation is completed in August, the week prior to beginning the rotations.

Students will be required to attend a weekly meeting on Mondays. The 3-unit seminar course is required in the Fall, Spring and May semesters for 9 units total, if completing only the ISPP program.

The seminar class includes presentations by professionals in the field of Dietetics on their areas of expertise to provide students with additional learning forums, as well as further education in the areas of cultural sensitivity training, clinical terminology, professionalism, communication and written skills, emerging trends, and counseling skills.

The 9-month program begins at the end of August for orientation and is completed at the end of May.

Cost of the Program

Tuition: The 2024-25 tuition for the full-time 9-month program is \$19,530 (out of pocket). This is based on tuition of \$2170 per unit (total 9 units).

There are scholarship/stipend opportunities for admitted students.

This cost includes the following:

Public Policy Legislation Day - \$100

Personalized lab coat - \$50

Background Check - \$50

RD Exam Review materials - \$385

Federal Student Financial Aid is not available for the standalone ISPP program, however, you may seek financial aid through private loans.

Estimated additional expenses and costs for the student (all fees are approximate and may vary):

- Housing Costs - It is the responsibility of the student to secure housing prior to starting the program. The expense of housing is the responsibility of the student. It is recommended that interns find housing within a one-hour commute of campus as sites will be within 60 miles of campus.

- Transportation and parking – On campus parking is free as are most of the parking facilities at sites.
- Auto insurance must be carried during the supervised practice and a car is required to complete the supervised hours (variable)
- Medical insurance (variable) Insurance is available through the University for an additional fee
- Professional liability insurance (\$35) 2 million per incident/5 million per year
- Housing and living costs (approximately \$1000/month)
- Books and supplies (\$300-400)
- California Food Handlers Card (\$10)
- AND student membership (\$50)
- Health physical and immunizations (variable)
- Drug/alcohol screening (required as part of clinical rotation) (\$50)
- Miscellaneous personal needs (variable)

Rotation Schedule and Calendar

Students will complete approximately 32 hours of supervised practice at their rotation sites Tuesday-Friday. They will attend the seminar class with other students and the Program Director and additional faculty on Mondays. There are three weeks of vacation, two at Christmas/Winter break and one in the Spring. Observed holidays are as follows:

1. Labor Day
2. Thanksgiving Holiday (Thursday and Friday)
3. Christmas Day
4. New Year's Day
5. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
6. Memorial Day

If the student is scheduled to work on an “observed” holiday, another day will be given off.

For the complete Pepperdine Seaver College calendar, click on the following link:

<http://seaver.pepperdine.edu/academics/calendar>

Program Completion

To receive a certificate of completion from the NSCP-ISPP program students must complete all 1048 supervised practice hours, meet all competencies for each area of practice, complete all coursework and projects, and attend all classes on campus. Once completed, the Program Director will submit verification statements to the Commission on Dietetic Registration for eligibility to sit for the Registered Dietitian examination.

Contact Information

For more information about the Nutritional Science Certificate Program please contact the NSCP-ISPP Director, Sunnie DeLano, DPHE, M.S., R.D. at sunnie.delano@pepperdine.edu.

The material and information included in these documents is provided to prospective students for general informational purposes only. Pepperdine University reserves the right to revise the schedule and expenses, as it deems necessary.