

Seek Experience and Reapply in the Future

Students who do not match should evaluate the situation and identify why they did not match. Often students have a deficiency in their resume and/or portfolio such as work experience that inhibits a DI match. Students who do not match and have limited work experience should consider building their resume or portfolio by gaining work experience in a related area to reapply in the future. Applicants should plan to apply to a DI program within four years of graduation; most DI programs will not consider an applicant's application five or more years after their completion of the DPD program requirements without requiring they take additional coursework.

Post DI Match Application Checklist (After the Match) For Students Who Matched a DI

- _____ Contact the DI Director immediately to confirm your match; the DI Director will provide additional instructions
- _____ Email Dr. Karen Beathard at karen.beathard@ag.tamu.edu to notify her of your match status and future plan
- _____ Notify the professionals who wrote your letters of recommendation of your match status
- _____ Obtain an original copy of your Verification Statement and submit it to your DI Director; Dr. Karen Beathard will automatically mail the verification statements to graduates after graduation
- _____ Order your final transcript that posts final grades and the actual date of graduation and submit it to your DI Director

Post DI Match Application Checklist (After the Match) For Students Who Did Not Match a DI

- _____ Contact Dr. Karen Beathard at karen.beathard@ag.tamu.edu to notify her of your match status and future plans
- _____ Notify the professionals who wrote your letters of recommendation of your match status
- _____ Consider options 1, 2, or 3 below. Order your final transcript that posts final grades and the actual date of graduation and submit it to your DI Director

Option 1

- _____ Go to the D & D Digital website (<http://www.dnddigital.com>) to identify DI programs with openings and decide if you are going to apply for the second-round match
- _____ If you are going to participate in the second-round match, go to the specific DI programs website to identify the second-round match protocol. Follow the specific protocol of the DI program(s) you are interested in applying to.

Option 2

- _____ Consider applying for an ISSP. View DI programs that offer ISPPs by visiting <http://eatright.org/acend>.
- _____ Research the ISSP program eligibility requirements, including the requirements to self-locate preceptors before contacting the program director. Follow the specific protocol of the ISSP you are interested in applying

Option 3

- _____ Consider becoming a NDTR, work and gain more experience before applying for DI programs in the future
- _____ Complete and submit the NDTR Intent form located in the DPD Google Drive and email the completed form, official transcripts and a Verification Statement to Dr. Karen Beathard to initiate processing

See <https://www.cdrnet.org/program-director/grad-info-dpd-pathway-iii> for details

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Networking during your academic career can help you develop professionally and find employment. Tips for success include:

- Use social media platforms such as the Texas A&M University DPD LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12431424/> to network and connect with fellow Texas A&M graduates who are NDTRs or RDNs
- Continue your membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- Use resources available on the Academy website including the career development tool kits
- Identify and join DPGs and/or MIGS within the Academy that align with your interest
- Get involved and network in the Texas Academy and Texas Academy Regions
- Attend and network at professional meetings and conferences such as the Academy Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo (FNCE) and the Texas Academy Annual Conference and Expo (ACE)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the requirements to join the DPD Program? Why do eligibility requirements exist?

Eligibility requirements for participation in the DPD program were established by the DPD Accreditation Advisory Committee to help DPD graduates qualify for DI Programs. DI Programs are competitive, and most programs have minimum grade point requirements of 3.0. Eligibility requirements for participation in the DPD program can be viewed in this handbook in the ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE DIDACTIC PROGRAM IN DIETETICS (DPD) PROGRAM section.

What are the benefits of participating in the Texas A&M University DPD Program?

The Texas A&M University program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) and prepares graduates for career opportunities as a NDTR and RDN. A DPD graduate is qualified to take the NDTR exam or to apply and continue their education in a DI Program. Completion of the DI Program qualifies the graduate to take the national RDN exam.

The 2021 DI match rate of Texas A&M University graduates was 96%. DPD graduates have a strong, science-based curriculum which prepares them for a DI Program.

If I get a "C" in a core science course, will it affect my chances of matching a DI?

DI Programs are competitive and the impact of course grades is dependent on the DI Program competitiveness and grade qualifications. A low science GPR may impact the chance of matching if the DI Program has a minimum science GPR. The Applicant Guide to Supervised Practice Experience (located on the DPD website at <https://nutrition.tamu.edu>), can be used to determine the DI Program's competitiveness by evaluating the number of applicants who applied to each program for the last two years and comparing it to the number of intern positions available. This resource also provides the program grade point requirements and average grade point of current interns.

Many students who have received a "C" in various courses, including core science courses, have successfully matched to a DI of their choice.

What happens if I make lower than a "B" in a nutrition course or lower than a "C" in a non-nutrition DPD course? How will this impact my participation in the DPD Program?

According to the DPD Eligibility Requirements, DPD students must make a "B" or better in nutrition courses and a "C" or better in all non-nutrition DPD courses. Students who do not meet grade requirements will be placed on DPD