

Dietetics

Department of Dietetics, Fashion Merchandising and Hospitality, College of Education and Human Services



Program of Study

The WIU Department of Dietetics, Fashion Merchandising and Hospitality offers four undergraduate degree programs: dietetics, apparel and textile merchandising, hospitality management and nutrition and foodservice management. Students completing the dietetics program earn a Bachelor of Science degree in dietetics. Students enter into the program as pre-dietetics majors and become dietetics majors after completion of 60 semester hours earned with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00. Transfer students who have earned 60 credit hours prior to matriculation at WIU and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 will enter as fully declared majors into the program. Graduates are prepared for many different careers, including management positions in hospitals, corporations, clinics and government agencies.

The mission of the didactic program in dietetics is to provide quality education that prepares students for competent practice in present and future roles in the dietetic and nutrition profession. The curriculum is designed to facilitate the intellectual, personal and professional growth, as well as lifelong learning students. The program develops problem solving, critical thinking and leadership skills to prepare students for the evolving diverse community and work place. Graduates are prepared for supervised practice experiences or for graduate studies.

The dietetics program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND). The educational goal of our students is to complete the undergraduate degree and then participate in a specialized internship at an ACEND-accredited site. After completing the internship, students may take the exam to be a registered dietitian (RD). Graduates may also choose to further their education through graduate school and professional certifications.

Faculty

Each faculty member has specialized education and industry or research experience in his or her area of instruction. Faculty hold membership and leadership roles in state and national organizations. They have earned master's and doctoral degrees in their fields of expertise. They have certifications as registered dietitians (RD) and certified diabetes educators (CDE).

Scholarships

The department offers more than \$10,000 in scholarships every year for eligible students in the major, based on grade point average, participation in extracurricular activities and leadership. Students should contact the academic advisor about criteria for scholarship eligibility.

Additional information about scholarships is found on the departmental website (wiu.edu/dfmh), through the University Scholarship Office at (309) 298-2001, or on the Scholarship Office page at wiu.edu/Scholarship.

Student Activities

Students have many choices in their selection of departmental organizations. Any student may be selected to join DFMH Ambassadors, a group of students representing the department at University functions, or Kappa Omicron Nu (KONu) honorary society, which is open to any student with a minimum of 45 overall semester hours

and a 3.2 GPA at WIU. Dietetics students are involved in the Student Association for Nutrition Education (SANE), which offers leadership opportunities and chances to learn information on nutrition and food-related topics and includes fundraisers. The Food and Culture Club is a University group organized by DFMH faculty in which cultural customs and diversity of food and dress are recognized and celebrated.

Special Opportunities

Students are involved in a variety of activities to put classroom theory into practice, including glucose screenings, food demonstrations and industry-based nutrition education research.

Staff is involved with the Bella Hearst Diabetes Institute, which began as a grant project funded by an area doctor, Dr. Bella Hearst. Research is conducted on the prevention and control of diabetes, which includes helping freshmen make healthy independent meal choices. Individual treatment plans for nutrition and exercise are developed with participating students.

A minor in nutrition is available in this program. Dietetics is not a GradTrac program.

Centennial Honors College Admission Requirements

To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15 percent of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class. Comparable SAT score is acceptable. Transfer and current WIU students who wish to join the Honors College (including the Quad Cities Honors Program) must have a 3.4 grade point average on a 4.0 scale based on 12 or more semester hours. Honors credit is given for honors coursework completed at other accredited institutions. To find out more, visit wiu.edu/Honors.

After College

Many graduating students continue on for master's degrees in community health or public health, while other students focus on their AND internship leading to the RD credential.

For More Information

Additional materials about the dietetic field of study may be found in the Occupational Outlook Handbook, found online at bls.gov and on the AND website (eatright.org).

Higher Values in Higher Education

Located in Macomb (population 20,000), with a campus in the Quad Cities (Moline, IL), Western offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 10,000 students in west-central Illinois. Western students have all the advantages of a large public university—strong faculty, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities—in an atmosphere free from distractions. Western offers a broad-based athletics program, sponsoring 19 NCAA Division I intercollegiate varsity sports. Football competes in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision through the Missouri Valley Football Conference; all other varsity sports compete at the Division I level through The Summit League. Western's presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,400 students. The core values that are at the heart of the University are academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth and social responsibility.

Western's GradTrac and Cost Guarantee programs ensure that students can achieve their degrees within four years while paying a fixed rate for tuition, fees and room and board.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes discrimination based on an individual's membership in the following classes: sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status, and any other classes protected by state or federal law.

wiu.edu/dfmh

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