

**DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA
MUNICIPAL
REGULATIONS
for
DIETETICS**

CHAPTER 44 DIETETICS

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4400 GENERAL PROVISIONS

4400.1 This chapter shall apply to applicants for and holders of a license to practice dietetics.

4400.2 Chapters 40 (Health Occupations: General Rules), 41 (Health Occupations: Administrative Procedures), and 45 (Nutrition) of this title shall supplement this chapter.

4401 TERM OF LICENSE

4401.1 Subject to § 4401.2, a license issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at 12:00 midnight of November 1st of each odd-numbered year.

4401.2 If the Director changes the renewal system pursuant to § 4006.3 of Chapter 40 of this title, a license issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at 12:00 midnight of the last day of the month of the birthdate of the holder of the license, or other date established by the Director.

4402 EDUCATIONAL AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

4402.1 Except as provided in § 4403, an applicant for a license shall furnish proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant holds a baccalaureate or higher degree, with a major in human nutrition, foods and nutrition, dietetics, or food systems management, from an institution that was approved by an accrediting body recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation or the Secretary of the United States Department of Education at the time the applicant graduated, in accordance with § 702(a) of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1207.01(a) (2001).

- 4402.2 An applicant shall have completed an American Dietetic Association approved, planned, continuous, preprofessional experience component in dietetic practice of not less than nine hundred (900) hours under the supervision of a registered dietitian or licensed dietitian.
- 4402.3 An applicant who provides evidence of current registration as a registered dietitian with the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the American dietetic Association (CDRADA) shall be deemed to have met the education and experience requirements of this section.
- 4402.4 An applicant, including a registered dietitian deemed to be qualified under § 4402.3, shall submit a certified transcript of the applicant's educational record(s) and an official certificate of graduation to the Board with the completed application.

4403 APPLICANTS EDUCATED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

- 4403.1 The Board may grant a license to practice dietetics to an applicant who completed an educational program in a foreign country, if the applicant meets all requirements of this chapter except § 4402.1.
- 4403.2 An applicant under this section shall submit with the application a certification from one of the following that the applicant's foreign education is equivalent to the applicable requirements of the Act and this chapter:
- (a) A private education evaluation service approved by the Board; or
 - (b) A college or university approved by an accrediting body recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation or the Secretary of the United States Department of Education.
- 4403.3 If a document required by this chapter is in a language other than English, an applicant shall arrange for its translation into English by a translation service acceptable to the Board and shall submit a translation signed by the translator attesting to its accuracy.

4404 NATIONAL EXAMINATION

- 4404.1 To qualify for a license by examination, an applicant shall receive a passing score on the certification examination sponsored by the CDRADA.
- 4404.2 Except as provided in § 4404.3, an applicant shall submit the applicant's examination results, which have been certified or validated by CDRADA, to the Board with the completed examination.

- 4404.3 An applicant who provides written verification of current registration as a registered dietitian from CDRADA shall be deemed to have met the requirements of this section.
- 4404.4 The Board shall waive the examination requirements of the Act and this section for any applicant who presents evidence satisfactory to the Board of the following:
- (a) That the applicant meets the educational requirements of the Act and this chapter; and
 - (b) That the applicant was employed in the practice of dietetics on a substantially full-time basis for at least three (3) of the five (5) years immediately preceding March 25, 1986.
- 4404.5 The application for the waiver shall be received by the Board prior to March 1988.
- 4404.6 An applicant under this section shall demonstrate the experience qualifications under §§ 4404.4 and 4404.5 by submitting the following:
- (a) Evidence documenting that at least four thousand five hundred (4,500) hours of substantially full-time practice were completed over at least three (3) of the five (5) years immediately preceding March 25, 1986;
 - (b) Locations and time periods;
 - (c) Hours of supervised practice;
 - (d) Nature of practice;
 - (e) Performance rating or letter of reference from a supervisor; and
 - (f) The supervisor's name and position.
- 4404.7 For purposes of this section, the term "substantially full-time" means at least thirty (30) hours per week.

**4405 SUPERVISED PRACTICE BY STUDENTS AND GRADUATES
(REGISTERED DIETITIANS ELIGIBLE (RDE))**

- 4405.1 The following unlicensed persons may practice dietetics under supervision:
- (a) A student fulfilling educational requirements in a program that meets the requirements of §§ 4402.1, 4402.2, and 4402.3; and

(b) A graduate enrolled in a postgraduate training program recognized by the Board.

- 4405.2 Only a supervisor shall be authorized to supervise the practice of a student or graduate.
- 4405.3 A student or graduate may practice dietetics only in accordance with the Act and this subtitle.
- 4405.4 A student or graduate who practices pursuant to this section shall practice only at a hospital, nursing home, health facility, health education center, business, or other health care facility considered appropriate for the practice of dietetics.
- 4405.5 A student or graduate under this section shall not assume administrative or technical responsibility for the operation of a program dietetics, clinical service, or unit.
- 4405.6 All supervised practice shall take place under general or immediate supervision.
- 4405.7 A student or graduate shall identify himself or herself as such before practicing under supervision.
- 4405.8 A supervisor shall be fully responsible for all practice by a student or graduate during the period of supervision and shall be subject to disciplinary action for any violation of the Act of this subtitle by the student or graduate.
- 4405.9 A student or graduate shall not receive compensation of any kind directly or indirectly from a patient, except for a salary based on hours worked under supervision.
- 4405.10 A graduate eligible to practice under § 4405.1(b) may practice for no more than twelve (12) months or for the duration of the graduate's postgraduate training program.
- 4405.11 A student or graduate shall be subject to all of the applicable provisions of the Act and this chapter. In accordance with Chapter 41 of this title, the Board may deny an application for a license by, or take disciplinary action against, a student or graduate who is found to have violated the Act of this chapter.
- 4405.12 As used in this section:
- (a) "General supervision" means supervision in which the supervisor is available on the premises or within vocal communication either directly or by a communication device at the time the student or graduate is practicing.

- (b) “Immediate supervision” means supervision in which the supervisor is with the student or graduate and is either discussing or observing the student’s or graduate’s practice.
- (c) “Supervisor” means a registered dietitian licensed under the Act who is responsible for the supervision of a student or graduate.

4406 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

- 4406.1 Subject to § 4406.2, this section shall apply to applicants for the renewal, reactivation, or reinstatement of a license for a term expiring April 30, 1991, and for subsequent terms.
- 4406.2 This section shall not apply to applicants for an initial license by examination, reciprocity, or endorsement, nor shall it apply to applicants for the first renewal of a license granted by examination.
- 4406.3 A continuing education credit shall be valid only if it is part of a program or activity approved by the Board in accordance with § 4407.
- 4406.4 An applicant for renewal of a license shall submit proof of having completed thirty (30) hours of approved continuing education credit during the two-year (2) period preceding the date the license expires.
- 4406.5 To qualify for a license, a person in inactive status within the meaning of § 511 of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.11 (2001), who submits an application to reactivate a license shall submit proof of having completed fifteen (15) hours of approved continuing education credit for each license year after April 30, 1989, that the applicant was in inactive status, up to a maximum of thirty (30) hours.
- 4406.6 To qualify for a license, an applicant for reinstatement of a license shall submit proof of having completed fifteen (15) hours of approved continuing education credit for each year after April 30, 1989, that the applicant was not licensed, up to a maximum of thirty (30) hours.
- 4406.7 An applicant under this section shall prove completion of required continuing education credits by submitting with the application the following information with respect to each program:
 - (a) The name and address of the sponsor of the program;
 - (b) The name of the program, its location, a description of the subject matter covered, and the names of the instructors;
 - (c) The dates on which the applicant attended the program;

(d) The hours of credit claimed; and

(e) Verification by the sponsor of completion by signature or stamp.

4406.8 An applicant for renewal of a license who fails to submit proof of having completed continuing education requirements by the date the license expires may renew the license up to sixty (60) days after expiration by submitting this proof and by paying the required additional late fee.

4406.9 Upon submitting proof of having completed continuing education requirements and paying the late fee, the applicant shall be deemed to have possessed a valid license during the period between the expiration of the license and the submission of the required documentation and payment of the late fee.

4406.10 If an applicant for renewal of a license fails to submit proof of completion of continuing education requirements or pay the late fee within sixty (60) days after the expiration of applicant's license, the license shall be considered to have lapsed on the date of expiration.

4406.11 The Board may, in its discretion, grant an extension of the sixty (60) day period to renew after expiration if the applicant's failure to submit proof of completion was for good cause. For purposes of this section, "good cause" includes the following:

(a) Serious and protracted illness of the applicant;

(b) The death or serious and protracted illness of a member of the applicant's immediate family.

4407 APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

4407.1 The Board, in its discretion, may approve continuing education programs and activities that contribute to the growth of an applicant in professional competence in the practice of dietetics and that meet the other requirements of this section.

4407.2 The Board may approve the following types of continuing education programs, if the program meets the requirements of § 4407.3:

(a) An undergraduate or graduate course given at an accredited college or university;

(b) A seminar or workshop;

(c) An educational program given at a conference.

4407.3 To qualify for approval by the Board, a continuing education program shall do the following:

- (a) Be current in its subject matter;
- (b) Be developed and taught by qualified individuals; and
- (c) Meet one of the following requirements:

(1) Be administered or approved by:

- (A) A national, state or local dietetics organization recognized by the Board;
- (B) A health care facility accredited by the Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Hospitals; or
- (C) A college or university approved by an accrediting body recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation or the Secretary of the United States Department of Education; or

(2) Be submitted by the program sponsors to the Board for review no less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the presentation and be approved by the Board.

4407.4 The Board may issue an update a list of approved continuing education programs.

4407.5 An applicant shall have the burden of verifying whether a program is approved by the Board pursuant to this section prior to attending the program. The applicant shall also have the burden of verifying the number of continuing education credits the Board will accept for a program under this section.

4407.6 The Board may approve the following continuing education activities by an applicant:

- (a) Serving as an instructor or speaker at a conference, seminar, workshop, or in-service training;
- (b) Publication of an article in a professional journal or publication of a book or a chapter in a book or publication of a book review in a professional journal or bulletin;
- (c) Participation in research as a principal investigator or research assistant.

- 4408.1 The Board may grant continuing education credit in whole hours only, with a minimum of fifty (50) minutes constituting one (1) credit hour.
- 4408.2 For approved undergraduate or graduate courses, each semester hour of credit shall constitute fifteen (15) hours of continuing education credit, and each quarter hour of credit shall constitute ten (10) hours of continuing education credit.
- 4408.3 The Board may grant credit to an applicant who serves as an instructor or speaker at an approved program for both preparation and presentation time, subject to the following restrictions:
- (a) The maximum amount of credit which may be granted for preparation time shall be twice the amount of the associated presentation time;
 - (b) The maximum amount of credit which may be granted pursuant to this subsection shall be fifty percent (50%) of an applicant's continuing education requirement;
 - (c) If an applicant has previously received credit in connection with a particular presentation, the Board shall not grant credit for a subsequent presentation unless it involves either a different subject or substantial additional research concerning the same subject; and
 - (d) The presentation shall have been completed during the period for which credit is claimed.
- 4408.4 The Board may grant an applicant who is an author or editor of a published book fifteen (15) continuing education credits, if the book has been published or accepted for publication during the period for which credit is claimed, and the applicant submits proof of this fact in the application.
- 4408.5 The Board may grant an applicant who is an author of a published original paper six (6) continuing education credits, subject to the same restrictions set forth for books in § 4408.4.
- 4408.6 The Board may grant an applicant who is the sole author of a published book review, review paper, or abstract, two (2) continuing education credits, subject to the same restrictions set forth for books in § 4408.4.
- 4408.7 The Board may grant an applicant who is able to demonstrate participation in research, either as a principal investigator or as a research assistant, six (6) continuing education credits.
- 4408.8 The Board may grant an applicant who is the co-author of a published book review, review paper, abstract, or original paper two (2) continuing education credits, subject to the same restrictions set forth for books in § 4408.5. A

maximum of four (4) continuing education credits per year may be granted pursuant to this subsection.

4499 **DEFINITIONS**

4499.1 As used in this chapter, the following terms and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed:

Applicant – a person applying for a license to practice dietetics under this chapter.

Board – the Board of Dietetics and Nutrition established by § 202 of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1202.02 (2001).

CDRADA – Commissioner on dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association.

Dietitian – a person licensed to practice dietetics under the Act. Licensure to practice dietetics pursuant to this chapter shall also entitle the licensee to use the title of nutritionist.

Nutritionist – a person licensed to practice nutrition under the Act.

Registered dietitian – a person registered as a dietitian by the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association.

4499.2 The definitions in § 4099 of Chapter 40 of this title are incorporated by reference and are made applicable to this chapter.