

Dietetic Technician Registered

Professional Activities

Help dietitians provide food service and nutritional programs. Under the supervision of dietitians, may plan and produce meals based on established guidelines, teach principles of food and nutrition, or counsel people.

According to the American Dietetic Association (ADA), registered technicians can work in a variety to settings. They may work in hospitals, HMOs, clinics, nursing homes, retirement centers, hospices, home healthcare programs, and research facilities, helping to treat and prevent disease and administering medical nutrition therapy as an important part of healthcare teams.

They may also work in schools, day-care centers, correctional facilities, restaurants, health care facilities, corporations, and hospitals, managing employees, purchasing, and food preparation, and preparing budgets within food service operations.

Some registered technicians work for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) programs, public health agencies, Meals on Wheels, and community health programs, developing and teaching nutrition classes for the public.

Some work in health clubs, weight management clinics, and community wellness centers, helping to educate clients about the connection between food, fitness, and health.

Food companies, contract food management companies, or food vending and distributing operations also hire registered technicians to develop menus, oversee food service sanitation and food safety, and prepare food labeling information and nutrient analysis.

Educational Requirements

According to the ADA, you must complete at least a two-year associate's degree at a U.S. regionally-accredited college or university; and complete a dietetic technician program approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) of the ADA, including 450 hours of supervised practice experience in various community programs, healthcare, and food-service facilities.

To earn the dietetic technician, registered (DTR) credential, you must pass a national, written examination administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). To maintain the DTR credential, you must complete continuing professional educational requirements.

Academic Programs

[Harper College](#)

Employment/Salary Outlook

Salary levels vary with region, employment setting, geographical location, scope of responsibility, and supply of Dietetic Technicians.

State and National Wages

Location	Pay Period	2021		
		Low	Median	High
United States	Hourly	\$10.96	\$14.19	\$22.66
	Annual	\$22,790	\$29,520	\$47,120
Illinois	Hourly	\$11.00	\$12.83	\$15.78
	Annual	\$22,880	\$26,680	\$32,830

State and National Trends

United States	Employment		Employment	Job Openings ¹
	2020	2030		
Dietitians and Nutritionists	26,8000	28,800	7%	2,200
Illinois	Employment		Employment	Job Openings ¹
	2018	2028		
Dietitians and Nutritionists	3,330	3,270	-2%	260

¹Job Openings refers to the average annual job openings due to growth and net replacement.

Professional Organizations

American Dietetic Association (eatright.org)

References

Occupational Outlook Handbook, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
(<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dietitians-and-nutritionists.htm>)

O*NET OnLine (<http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/29-2051.00>)

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