

Rowan University
Department of Health and Exercise Science
Application Packet for the Coordinated Program in Dietetics
Cohort 10 – Fall 2026 Start

Rowan University's Coordinated Program in Dietetics (CPD) provides a direct higher education pathway for graduates to become eligible to take the national registration exam required to earn the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) credential. The CPD includes undergraduate and graduate-level courses, as well as 1,000 supervised practice hours at affiliated clinical sites. This comprehensive CPD requires students to exhibit maturity, initiative, self-discipline, and academic competence to maximize their learning, in program, concomitant with gaining new skills under the supervision of various industry professionals and dietetic mentors. The CPD is accredited by the American Council on Education for Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

The CPD takes three and a half years to complete. Simultaneous CPD coursework and participation in pre-professional experiences in the third and fourth undergraduate years allows students to earn a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Nutrition. CPD students who are in good academic standing at the completion of the BS in Nutrition can begin taking graduate-level courses offered through Rowan Online. Upon the successful completion of all graduate-level CPD program requirements, graduates will earn their Master of Science (MS) in Nutrition and Dietetics. The CPD program director will verify that the academic and clinical experiences of the graduate demonstrate that they are eligible to take the RDN credential examination with the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR).

The Application Process

An application for acceptance into the Rowan University CPD program should be made in the fourth semester of enrollment in the BS in Nutrition program to ensure that required acceptance prerequisites have been met. Acceptance and continued enrollment in the CPD have identified minimum GPA requirements. The applicant's grades, work history, volunteer activities, leadership positions, extracurricular activities, and letters of recommendation are important components of the overall application process. CPD program acceptance is highly competitive as there are only 17 students admitted into each cohort in accordance with the program's ACEND accreditation status.

The CPD application process includes both a comprehensive digital application packet, as well as a formal applicant interview. The application process for acceptance into the CPD first requires students to meet with their academic advisor to discuss their intention to apply for the Dietetic concentration of the Nutrition BS degree. The academic advisor will provide potential applicants with a GPA verification statement if they are eligible to apply to the CPD program. The complete CPD program application packet must be submitted by January 20, 2026. Applications for the CPD will be reviewed by an admissions committee that consists of the program director, program faculty members, affiliated facility preceptors, and professionals from the HES Department. Applicants will be notified of the committee interview no later than February 1st.

Program Application Components:

- Meeting with the Academic Advisor prior to the application to verify the completion of all prerequisite coursework, as well as sufficient GPA standing.
- Complete all components of the digital CPD application packet.
- Submission of a digital copy of the application packet to the Dietetic Program Clinical Coordinator, Kristen Heuser, MA, RDN at heuser@rowan.edu by January 20, 2026.
- Completion of an interview with the CPD admissions committee by first week of February 2026.
- Notification of acceptance will be sent out on or before March 13, 2026

Program Application Grade Requirements

- A minimum grade of “D” in all general education courses
- All prerequisite science coursework must be completed prior to beginning CPD courses:
 - Chemistry I and II with lab
 - Anatomy and Physiology I and II with lab
 - Organic Chemistry I with lab
 - Human Metabolism in Nutrition
 - You can be currently enrolled in Human Metabolism in Nutrition to apply
 - Foundations of Biology I and II with lab
 - Biology 1 and or 2 does not transfer in for these courses
 - You can be currently enrolled in Foundations of Biology 2 to apply
- A minimum grade of “C” is required in the following Nutrition courses:
 - Basic Nutrition
 - Intro to Nutrition Professions

Note: Applicants must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 as well as Science/Nutrition GPA of 3.0 in order to move the application forward for admission consideration.

The Digital Application Packet:

Applicants need to include the following in their digital application packet:

- Cover letter
 - Introduce yourself and highlight your skill set.
 - Make sure to put a link to your e-portfolio in your cover letter.
- GPA Verification Statement, signed by the Academic Advisor
- Copies of unofficial transcripts from other institutions (if the applicant has transferred to Rowan) and unofficial Rowan transcripts of the coursework completed prior to the application ("Issued to student" copies of transcripts are acceptable to the CPD).

- Professional Resume
 - Jobs and work experience-organization, job title, date, and responsibilities
 - Volunteer work you have completed or are in progress
 - Education goals and objectives
 - Awards and scholarships
 - Volunteer work you have completed or are in progress
 - Leadership Experiences
 - Extracurricular activities
 - Conferences and training workshops in nutrition and other health-related areas that you have attended
 - Nutrition and health-related certifications that you hold
 - Other involvement in health-related organizations and projects

- A formal self-assessment statement for the concentration of the program you choose, between 400 and 800 words. The self-assessment statement should address the following:
 - A statement of three career goals or other pertinent long-range personal goals
 - Reasons that you are interested in dietetics as a career.
 - Why have you chosen to apply to the CPD at Rowan University?
 - Why you believe you should be accepted into the CPD?
 - What would you like to do with a degree in Dietetics?
 - What kind of work do you see yourself doing upon graduation?
 - What are your personal strengths and weaknesses?
 - Three specific professional goals that you want to accomplish when you enter the CP (the following 3 years). These goals should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely.

- Two (2) letters of recommendation from a work experience supervisor or a college faculty member (does not need to be from the HES department).
 - *Note: Only one letter of recommendation should be from HES faculty members.*

Scoring Guide for Application: [100 total points per application]

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| ○ GPA in Nutrition Major | Maximum of 15 points |
| ○ GPA in Sciences | Maximum of 15 points |
| ○ Interview | Maximum of 20 points |
| ○ Digital Application Packet | Maximum of 50 points |
| ○ Presentation skills | 10 points |
| ○ Content quality | 10 points |
| ○ Demonstration of goals | 10 points |
| ○ Letter of recommendation | 10 points |
| ○ Overall Writing and Grammer | 10 points |

Note: A minimum score of 75 points must be achieved for consideration for program admission.