

Dietitians/Nutritionists

WHAT THEY DO

Organizes, plans, and conducts food service or nutritional programs to help promote health and control disease. May manage the activities of departments providing food services. May plan, organize, and conduct programs in nutritional research. Belongs to the Health Science cluster and Therapeutic Services pathway.



SKILLS YOU NEED

Basic Skills:

- Reading Comprehension
- Active Listening
- Writing
- Speaking
- Mathematics
- Science
- Critical Thinking
- Active Learning
- Learning Strategies
- Monitoring

Transferable Skills (applicable in other careers):

High level

- Counseling and advising people
- Giving health care instructions
- Planning and administering budgets
- Planning and giving information and help
- Planning staff work tasks
- Providing lodging or meal facilities

Workplace Skills:

Medium level

- Complex Problem Solving
- Coordination
- Instructing
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Persuasion
- Service Orientation
- Social Perceptiveness
- Time Management

Additional skills for this occupation may be found at <http://www.iowaworkforce.org/pubs/careers/cps>.

IS THIS FOR YOU?

Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model) by people who tend to succeed in this career:

- **Investigative** – You are a "thinker". When you have a problem, you like to analyze it and look at different ways to solve it. You like to work by yourself, and you don't like explaining your ideas to other people.
- **Social** – You are a "helper". You like being around people and helping them with problems. Socializing is fun for you.
- **Enterprising** – You are a "persuader". You like to sell things or ideas. Prestige and power are important to you. You like to use your language skills to convince other people of your ideas.

Work Values are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

- **Achievement** – It's very important to you that your work allows you to use your best abilities. You want to see the results of your work and get a feeling of accomplishment.
- **Relationships** – It's very important to you that you have friendly co-workers. You would like to be of service to others without compromising your sense of right and wrong.

Aptitudes reflect a person's ability to acquire skills and knowledge. The following aptitudes are important for success in the career:

- **General Learning Ability**
- **Verbal Aptitude**

Source: <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Title	2010 Estimated Employment	2020 Projected Employment	2010-20 Employment Change	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Total Annual Openings
Total All Occupations	1,717,020	1,948,700	231,680	1.3	64,525
Total Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	81,850	100,305	18,455	2.3	3,500
Dietitians & Nutritionists	775	905	130	1.7	40

Source: <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us/pubs/statewide/stateoccproj.pdf>

2012 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

Occupational Title	Average Wage	Average Salary	Entry Wage	Entry Salary	Experienced Wage	Experienced Salary
Total All Occupations	18.90	39,295	9.30	19,341	23.69	49,272
Total Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	31.16	64,824	15.94	33,163	38.78	80,655
Dietitians & Nutritionists	24.49	50,953	19.24	40,020	27.13	56,419

Source: <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us/pubs/statewide/stateoccproj.pdf>

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Education	Work Experience	Job Training
Bachelor's Degree	None	Internship/Residency

Becoming a dietitian or nutritionist usually requires at least a bachelor's degree in dietetics, foods and nutrition, food service systems management, or a related area. Graduate degrees also are available. Of the 48 States and jurisdictions with laws governing dietetics, 35 require licensure, 12 require statutory certification, and 1 requires registration. Requirements vary by State. As a result, interested candidates should determine the requirements of the State in which they want to work before sitting for any exam. The Iowa Board of Dietetic Examiners website at http://access.bridges.com/ext/cp/custom_state_data/iowa_licensed_occupations/29-1031.htm provides specific licensure and support information for the state of Iowa.

Source: <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us/pubs/statewide/stateoccproj.pdf> and <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

Skill	Median Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	4
Locating Information	4
Reading for Information	5

This ACT-developed credential demonstrates achievement and a certain level of workplace employability skills. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6).

Source: <http://www.act.org/workkeys/analysis/occup.html>



PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

(Where are Dietitians/Nutritionists Employed?)

- Hospitals
- Nursing and Residential Care Facilities
- Self Employed
- Ambulatory Health Care Services
- Food Services and Drinking Places
- Social Assistance
- Food and Beverage Stores

Source: <http://iwin.iwd.state.ia.us/pubs/statewide/stateoccproj.pdf>

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

This publication was produced by the Labor Market and Workforce Information Division of Iowa Workforce Development. Revisions and/or corrections made when necessary. Inquiries may be directed to Brent Paulson at 515.281.3439 or Brent.Paulson@iwd.iowa.gov. Visit <http://iwin.iowaworkforce.org/> to obtain the latest workforce data and trends including this document under the **Publications** tab. Published 10/2013.