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# A TEAM APPROACH

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## PREFACE

The Profession of Dietetics: A Team Approach is written for students interested in finding out more about the profession of dietetics. Understanding who dietetics professionals are, what dietetics professionals do, and how to become a certified dietary manager; a nutrition and dietetics technician, registered; or a registered dietitian nutritionist is a complex task. Few other professions offer so many educational routes for entry or so many ways to practice one's trade. While this diversity is a strength, it often confuses those who wish to enter the profession, as well as prospective customers who are trying to understand who dietetics professionals are or why they should consult one.

It is the goal of this book to present a clear and up-to-date picture of the profession of dietetics and to try to answer some basic questions:

- What is a profession and how does dietetics qualify as a profession?
- How has the history of the profession shaped dietetics practice today?
- Who are members of the dietetics team and how do they work together?
- What is the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (formerly the American Dietetic Association) and why should one become a member?
- What is involved in the credentialing of dietetics professionals and why is it important?
- What kinds of positions do dietetics professionals fill?
- Why are communication and teamwork so important in the dietetics profession?
- How can a person develop effective communication skills and become a good team player?
- What are some ways to successfully make the transition from student to professional?
- What does the future hold for dietetics practice?

Features throughout the text are designed to help students connect with the material presented. Suggested Activities at the end of each chapter allow students to explore topics further and offer opportunities for thoughtprovoking research outside the classroom. Selected websites direct students to view related content online and to peruse a variety of Web pages pertaining to the field of dietetics. The ever-popular Profile of a Professional feature includes real interviews with individuals who work in various positions as dietetics professionals. Each professional who is profiled offers advice and words of wisdom for students entering the field.

#### x Preface

Qualified instructors can also receive access to instructor resources including a test bank, slides in PowerPoint format, and an instructor's manual.

The profession of dietetics is dynamic, exciting, and in need of enthusiastic, energetic, and visionary men and women who wish to join the team. It is our hope that this book enlightens, informs, and inspires those who read it. If this occurs, then our dream for this book will have been achieved.

# NEW TO THIS EDITION

This edition of *The Profession of Dietetics: A Team Approach* reflects the latest standards, developments, and data in the dynamic and constantly evolving field of dietetics. Key changes for this edition include the following:

- Seventeen all-new *Profile of a Professional* features, spotlighting the experiences and accomplishments of both dietitians and dietetic technicians
- The latest numbers relating to the growth of the profession, including employment outlook, median salary expectations, and new program accreditation
- The highlighting of digital portfolios and the utility of LinkedIn and other digital career resources
- Updated information regarding education requirements, reflecting the most recent changes announced by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Major chapter-specific updates are listed below.

#### Part I: The Past

#### Chapter 1: The Profession Is Born

- Adds references to the recently introduced RDN and NDTR credential
- Updates timeline of selected milestones in dietetic history
- Includes discussion of Marjorie Hulsizer Copher's contributions during World War I

#### **Part II: The Present**

#### **Chapter 2: The Dietetics Profession**

- Updates the discussion surrounding the various titles and credentials a dietitian may use
- Features the latest statistics on
  - RDN and NDTR median salaries
  - Top-paying states and metropolitan areas for professionals
  - Projected growth in employment through 2022
- Integrates today's understanding of food's role in preventing and treating diseases
- Discusses the Academy's development of Board Certification in some specialty areas of dietetic practice

#### Chapter 3: Join Together: The Team Approach

• Incorporates current titles and credentials for all team members

#### Chapter 4: Beginning Your Path to Success in Dietetics

- Updates portfolio (now profile) information to emphasize digital career resources like LinkedIn and other social media platforms
- Adds a section on digital portfolios (e-portfolios)
- · Incorporates new formatting and stylistic tips for résumés
- Adds and updates interviewing tips
- Supplies a variety of online resources for assistance with online selfmarketing, job searching, e-portfolios, and interviews

### Part III: Preparing for Practice

#### **Chapter 5: Dietetics Education and Training**

- Describes the two current options for becoming a dietetic technician
- Details ACEND's recommendation that the master's degree become the standard for all entry-level dietitians and the controversy surrounding this move
- Incorporates information regarding the differences in salaries between RDNs with a master's degree and those with a bachelor's degree

#### **Chapter 6: The Supervised Practice Experience**

- Addresses the dietetic internship shortage in a new section, providing the latest statistics and explanations for why the shortage is occurring
- Delves into reasons why students are increasingly taking more than 4 years to graduate with a bachelor's degree
- Provides more detail regarding distance internships and their admission criteria

#### Chapter 7: Credentialing

- Provides the latest statistics for the number of dietitians, dietetic technicians, and various specialty credentials
- Addresses the Academy's new Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics program
- Provides advisory information on researching and preparing for state licensure

#### Part IV: Professional Organizations

#### Chapter 8: Why Join a Professional Association?

- Updates the distinction between active members, retired members, and academy associates of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- Updates the presentation of the Academy's vision, mission, and values

- Adds the Academy's Governing Structure Infographic to outline the membership, functions, management responsibilities, and frequency of meetings for both the Board of Directors and the House of Delegates
- Updates the listing of Dietetic Practice Groups (DPGs) and Member Interest Groups (MIGs)
- Expands the list of awards and grants offered by the Academy
- Lists and describes affiliate award programs

#### **Part V: The Future**

#### Chapter 9: Trends, Predictions, and Your Future

- Describes the change drivers and trends for the dietetics profession that have been identified by the Council on Future Practice
- Delves into the implications of these change drivers and trends on dietetic practice

#### Chapter 10: Crossing the Bridge: From Student to Professional

• Distinguishes Standards of Practice (SOP) from Standards of Professional Performance (SOPP) and describes by whom and how they are used

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We owe a debt of gratitude to Karen Lechowich at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics who, because of her love of this profession and its history, went "above and beyond the call of duty" in her efforts to help us with this project. We would also like to express special thanks to our editorial and production staff at Jones & Bartlett Learning for their patience while working with us and for their support and encouragement for the completion of this revision, especially Sean Fabery, who pushed and prodded us at the right times, always with tact and diplomacy, to make sure this book was published on time. His guidance and wise suggestions made this a better book.

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