

COLLEGE

Briefings

Fall 2017

Important Notice for Members:

The College reminds members that as regulated professionals, RDs have a duty to update their profile **within 30 days** of any change in the information required for the College's Register. This includes changes to your contact information (phone and email), mailing address, employment information or name changes. You may update your profile information online by logging onto the [Member Login](#).

Annual Report, Council and Recognition

Annual Report 2016

The College has posted the Annual Report for 2016/2017. You may access the report online by clicking on [this link](#) (under About Us – Annual Reports).

New Council for 2017/2018

The College of Dietitians of Alberta is pleased to introduce the 2017/2018 Council. The College welcomes two new members to Council, Kathryn Taxbock, RD and Raelyn Wilson, RD. Council biographies can be viewed on the College website under [Member Resources – Important Member Resources](#).

Jody Brudler, President
Kenton Delisle, President-Elect
Lorna Driedger, Past-President
Robin Anderson, Councilor
Anna Farmer, Councilor
Diane Hoy, Councilor
Jillyan Jay, Councilor
Kathryn Taxbock, Councilor
Raelyn Wilson, Councilor
Stephen Donaldson, Public Member

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Recognition Awards

The Preceptor Recognition Award was created to recognize excellence and dedication in preceptoring and mentoring in Alberta. The College is pleased to present the Preceptor Recognition Award for 2017 to Lalitha Taylor, RD from Edmonton.

The Dietetic Intern Bursary Program was introduced to support current dietetic interns who have demonstrated exceptional professionalism in practice while studying dietetics at the University of Alberta with the intention of becoming a Registered Dietitian. The recipients of the Dietetic Intern Bursaries for 2017 are Daniel Neuman, Nikol Robbins and Stephanie Rombough. The College wishes the recipients all the best as they embark on their careers.

The Preceptor Recognition Award and Dietetic Intern Bursaries were presented at an award recipient luncheon at the College's September Council meeting. The deadline for nominations and applications for the 2018 awards is July 1, 2018. Forms can be found on the College website under [For Dietitians – Awards](#).

Standards of Practice

The College of Dietitians of Alberta (CDA) is collaborating with the Saskatchewan Dietitians Association (SDA) to update the College's Standards of Practice. All regulated health professions must have a Standards of Practice. Standards serve the objective of protecting the public interest by describing what the public can expect with respect to quality, safe services from members. Standards apply to all registrants, regardless of their roles, responsibilities, level of experience, and practice environment.

The College recently completed a survey for the Standards of Practice revision project, sent to all members by email. We thank every member who provided their invaluable input. Please note, as with all College surveys, your responses are kept confidential. For those members who completed the survey, you should have received a thank you email from the College (through Survey Monkey) which contained the information required to use the survey completion towards your CCP learning goals for 2017/2018.

We expect the Standards of Practice project to be complete in December. The Alberta Government requires Standards of Practice to go through a stakeholder consultation; we will communicate with members in the new year following this process.

Continuing Competence Program – Important Information for College Members

Over the past year, the College of Dietitians of Alberta has been completing a review of the Continuing Competence Program (CCP). The *Health Professions Act* requires that all Colleges have a mandatory Continuing Competence Program in place. The program is designed to ensure regulated members remain competent and provide safe, ethical service that meets or exceeds professional standards.

Revision to CCP

The CCP review has consisted of revising the program to include the *Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice*, which replace the *Essential Competencies*. This revision is to bring the College in line with updated competencies for dietetic practice.

The College has **not** made any changes to how the CCP program is structured for member completion and submission. Members will continue to be required to identify and submit their CCP learning goals at the beginning of the registration year, work towards meeting their learning goals by completing learning activities throughout the year, and finally reflect upon and submit their CCP learning goals during registration renewal each year in order to obtain registration.

CCP Webinar

The College will be hosting a webinar on the Continuing Competence Program which will feature information on the update to the *Integrated Competencies* including expectations for submission during the upcoming renewal period (March 2018), the resources available to College members to assist in completion of the CCP each year, information on online submissions and what the College requires, and a summary of the CCP Review and Audit process and what to expect.

This is a great opportunity for new Regulated Members to familiarize themselves with the basics of the Continuing Competence Program and for all other Regulated Members to refresh their CCP knowledge.

The College will host the webinar on November 20. Further information on the webinar will be communicated to members by email in advance.

Review and Audit

The College completed its annual CCP reviews and audits in August of this year: 377 members had their online reflections reviewed and 40 had their entire program for the 2016/2017 year audited by the Continuing Competence Committee.

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Member CCP Resources

Please review the information posted on the For Dietitians section of the website, under [Registration Renewal – Continuing Competence Program](#), for information on the program and submissions.

The College also posts relevant resources for members on our website, such as the CCP Workbook.

At any time throughout the year, if you have questions about the Continuing Competence Program of the College, please do not hesitate to contact [Shannon Mackenzie, RD, Director of Professional Practice](#).

Important Reminder for Temporary Members regarding the Canadian Dietetic Registration Examination (CDRE)

This is a reminder for all Temporary members who are intending to write the November 2017 sitting of the CDRE: please note, you should have received from the College office information on scheduling your exam with Pearson Vue. Seats for the November 27-December 2 CDRE sitting are based on a first-come first-serve basis and therefore it is very important that if you have not already contacted Pearson Vue to schedule your exam at any location in Canada, that you do so as soon as possible. You will be required to provide a voucher number for the CDRE when scheduling, which the College provided to you in a separate letter after you were approved to the Temporary Register.

If you need to reschedule your exam to a different location, please contact the College office before contacting Pearson Vue, as we may need to re-issue the voucher for scheduling the CDRE.

If you have any questions regarding the CDRE, please check out our website [here](#) or [contact Lisa Omerzu, Executive Assistant & Registration Coordinator](#) at the College office.

News & Events

The College has posted [October 2017](#) and [November 2017](#) events on the website, under News & Events. Please check back often for new postings and any updates.

Update on Dietetic Training at the University of Alberta

The Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Alberta introduced the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Food Science, Dietetics Specialization in September 2016 which is replacing the BSc. in Food and Nutrition, Nutrition Major. Currently the University of Alberta offers both programs, with a plan to phase out the Nutrition Major by 2019. The Dietetics Specialization is a direct-entry program that includes dietetic practicum courses integrated in the curriculum which is part of the degree. Students no longer apply for a dietetic internship separate from their degree program.

Students apply to the Dietetics Specialization following the completion of the Pre-Professional year that requires courses such chemistry, biology, English, nutrition and statistics. Other admission requirements include two letters of reference and an interview in the format of a multiple mini interview. With this change, students will be focused at an early stage in their training toward a long-term career path in dietetics. The Dietetics Specialization currently has the capacity to support approximately 50 practicum placements in this cohort program.

For more information on the Dietetics Specialization, please visit <https://www.ualberta.ca/agriculture-life-environment-sciences/programs/undergraduate-programs/degree-programs/nutrition-food-science/dietetics-specialization>

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