



**COLLEGE OF DIETITIANS
OF ALBERTA**

College Statement on Current Practice

Being a regulated member of the College of Dietitians of Alberta means that Registered Dietitians have the skills and in-depth knowledge required to offer safe, competent and ethical dietetic services. The College has the obligation to the public to maintain the integrity of the title RD by making sure its regulated members are always qualified to practice their profession. Regulation is about ensuring competence for public protection.

The College policy for current practice states that regulated members are deemed current if they have practiced dietetics at minimum 600 hours over the previous three consecutive years. During registration renewal, all regulated members will be required to declare whether they meet the current practice policy.

When declaring currency of practice as part of the renewal process (checking whether you meet currency requirements or not), consider these tips when deciding if you have “practiced dietetics” or not:

1. Dietetic practice includes hours of dietetic/food and nutrition services provided (in client care, food service systems, community and population health, and/or management of organizations) *or* hours engaged in research, education, and/or administration with respect to health or the practice of dietetics.
2. If you are working in a position within health care, and your status as a regulated health professional is relevant to your role (and/or if your status as a regulated health professional helped you secure your position), you can count your employment hours towards currency of dietetic practice.
3. If you manage organizations/work units in a health-related area, you can count your employment hours towards currency of dietetic practice.
4. If you promote health, and/or develop and/or deliver health education, programs and/or policies you can count your employment hours towards currency of practice.

5. If you work in a food, nutrition, health and/or health education related setting as a practitioner, manager, educator, and/or researcher you can count your employment hours towards currency of practice.
6. If you **do not work** in any of the above settings, i.e. you do not work within a food, nutrition, health or health education, health research or health management related setting, you **may not** be considered current in dietetic practice unless you have documented dietetic, food and/or nutrition related **volunteer hours** equivalent to 600 hours over the last three consecutive years.

If you are a new graduate, you are considered current for three years from the time of graduation.

If you declare that you have not practiced dietetics for the minimum required hours over the previous three years, you may still choose to maintain your practice permit, which consists of completing registration renewal including Continuing Competence Program requirements each year.

If you declare that you have not practiced dietetics for the minimum required hours over the previous three years and you decide to return to dietetic practice, you are required to contact the College office prior to doing so. The College will complete an assessment to determine if there are any deficiencies to be addressed prior to returning to dietetic practice.

If you have any further questions, please contact the College office.

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