

**“Fact Sheet”****Standards of Practice and Standards of Professional Performance**

**Standards of Practice (SOP) and Standards of Professional Performance (SOPP) are tools for credentialed dietetics practitioners to use in professional development. They serve as guides for self-evaluation and to determine the education and skills needed to advance an individual’s level of practice. Although not regulations, the standards may be used by regulatory agencies to determine competency for credentialed dietetics practitioners.**

- The published *American Dietetic Association Revised 2008 Standards of Practice in Nutrition Care and Standards of Professional Performance for Registered Dietitians and Dietetic Technicians*, Registered are *minimum competent levels* of dietetics practice and professional performance that guide RDs and DTRs in all practice settings. The standards apply to all credentialed dietetics practitioners.
- These 2008 SOP in Nutrition Care and SOPP function as the “core” resource upon which practice-specific SOP and SOPP are based.
- Practice-specific SOP and SOPP are Generalist, Specialty and Advanced levels of dietetics practice and professional performance for RDs. Currently published practice-specific standards include diabetes care, oncology nutrition, behavioral health care, nutrition support, management of food and nutrition systems, sports dietetics, and education of dietetics practitioners.
- The SOP relate directly to patient care and are based on the 4 steps of the Nutrition Care Process (NCP):
  - Nutrition Assessment
  - Nutrition Diagnosis
  - Nutrition Intervention
  - Nutrition Monitoring & Evaluation
- The SOPP represent 6 domains of professionalism:
  - Provision of Services
  - Application of Research
  - Communication and Application of Knowledge
  - Utilization and Management of Resources
  - Quality in Practice
  - Competency and Accountability
- The SOP and SOPP are companion documents to be used for self-evaluation. They are to be used as part of the Commission on Dietetic Registration’s Professional Development Portfolio to develop goals and to focus continuing education efforts.
- The standards are not regulations. They are consensus standards. Consensus is group opinion based on expert knowledge and experience.
- To view the “core” SOP in Nutrition Care and SOPP and practice-specific SOP and SOPP, please visit the Scope of Dietetics Practice Framework on the ADA website – [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org):
  - Log on using your ADA member number and password
  - On the homepage, left hand side, click on the “Practice” link
  - Click on the “Scope of Dietetics Practice Framework” link
  - Click on “Standards of Practice and Standards of Professional Performance” under Putting the Framework into Practice