

# American Dietetic Association

## Scope of Dietetics Practice Framework

<b>Block One: Foundation Knowledge</b>			
<p><b>Definition of Dietetics as a Profession:</b> "The integration and application of principles derived from the sciences of food, nutrition, management, communication, and biological, physiological, behavioral, and social sciences to achieve and maintain optimal human health" within flexible scope of practice boundaries to capture the breadth of the profession.</p>			
5 Characteristics of the Profession	Professionals Who Demonstrate This Characteristic...	Core Professional Resources	
Code of Ethics	Follow a Code of Ethics for practice	Code of Ethics	Ethics Opinions
Body of Knowledge	Possess a unique theoretical body of knowledge and science-based knowledge that leads to defined skills, abilities, and norms	Philosophy and Mission: • Research Philosophy and Diagram	Research, Position Papers, Practice Papers, Published Literature
Education	Demonstrate competency at selected level by meeting set criteria and passing credentialing exams	CADE (Core Competencies and Emphasis Areas)	CDR Certification (RD, DTR)
Autonomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are reasonably independent and self-governing in decision-making and practice</li> <li>• Demonstrate critical thinking skills</li> <li>• Take on roles that require greater responsibility and accountability both professionally and legally</li> <li>• Stay abreast of new knowledge and technical skills</li> </ul>	The CDR Professional Development Portfolio Process offers a framework for credentialed professionals to develop specific goals, identify learning needs, and pursue continuing education opportunities. This may encompass certificates (such as weight management), specialty certificates (such as CSR), advanced practice certification, or advanced degrees.	
Service	Provide food and nutrition care services for individuals and population groups and other stakeholders. Additional functions may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage food and other material resources</li> <li>• Market services and products</li> <li>• Teach dietitians and other professionals or students</li> <li>• Conduct research</li> <li>• Manage human resources</li> <li>• Manage facilities</li> </ul>	Nutrition Care Process and Model	Nationally Developed Guidelines ADA Evidence-Based Guides for Practice ADA Nutrition Care Manual
		Practice Based Evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dietetics Practice Outcomes Research</li> <li>▪ Dietetics Practice Audit</li> </ul>	

The Framework consists of three building blocks with flexible boundaries. The blocks describe the full range of responsibilities, roles, and activities that dietetics professionals are educated and authorized to perform. The flexible boundaries allow for new roles to emerge. Because of the complexity of our profession, it is impossible to present this information as a list of isolated activities that are parceled out at different levels. Rather, a stepped algorithmic approach is needed to capture the breadth of the profession, allow individual practitioners to draw from the full range of resources, and lend the scope of practice the flexibility it needs to evolve as new research in dietetics and practice emerge.

From an individual perspective, whether an activity is within your scope of practice is influenced by every level of the Framework – our Foundation Knowledge, Code of Ethics, Standards of Practice and Standards of Professional Performance, as well as by licensure and certification laws, research, guides for practice and expert opinion, new research, etc.

<b>Block Two: Evaluation Resources</b>			
<p>The evaluation resources listed here are intended for use in conjunction with relevant state, federal and licensure laws. Together with the laws, they serve as a guide for ensuring safe and effective dietetics practice. Practitioners can use them to determine whether a particular activity falls within their legitimate scope of practice, evaluate their performance, make hiring decisions, and as a basis for initiating regulatory reform. The core standards are based on the Nutrition Care Process and Model (NCPM) and Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) educational core competencies.) Specialty and advanced standards can evolve for specific practice areas.</p>			
<b>Code of Ethics</b>	<b>DTR Standards of Practice in Nutrition Care</b> <b>RD Standards of Practice in Nutrition Care</b>	<b>Standards of Professional Performance for Dietetics Professionals</b>	
	↓	↓	
	<b>RD Specialty or RD Advanced Standards of Practice</b>	<b>RD Specialty or RD Advanced Standards of Professional Performance</b>	

<b>Block Three: Decision Aids</b>		
<p>The healthcare environment in which we work is highly diverse and evolving. The resources listed here are intended to help dietetics professionals respond to new demands. By using the Decision Tree and Decision Analysis Tool, professionals can fully consider whether a new role or activity falls within their legitimate scope of practice, and thereby grow their practice to encompass new areas. This is particularly helpful when state, federal, organizational and educational guidelines have not yet expanded to address a need. The other resources can be applied to seek guidance when making such decisions, or when effecting change at the local or national level to reflect emerging trends and needs.</p>		
<b>Decision Analysis Tool</b>	<b>Decision Tree</b>	<b>Definition of Terms</b>
<b>Supporting Documentation for use with Decision Tree And Decision Analysis Tool</b>		
<p><b>Licensure/ Certification/Credentials</b> Examples include: State Licensure, CDR Credentials, Specialty Certification, Advanced Practice Certification, or Advanced Degrees.</p> <p><b>Organizational Privileging</b> <b>Individual CDR Professional Development Portfolio</b> <i>Portfolio Learning Plan and Learning Activities Log</i></p>	<p><b>Best Available Evidence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADA's Evidence Library, ADA Position and Practice Papers, Ethics Opinions Published Literature and National Evidence Databases</li> </ul> <p><b>Practice Guidelines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Nationally-Developed Guidelines and ADA Guides for Practice</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Practice Based Evidence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dietetics Practice Outcomes Research</li> </ul>	

The arrows reflect the flexible, dynamic nature of the Framework. At both the individual practitioner level and our collective professional level, developments in one area of the Framework influence others. For example, as new trends in dietetics practice emerge, education, certification, and standards of practice and professional performance will change to address them. Likewise, as a practitioner tailors his or her individual scope of practice through experience and training, this will influence the resources utilized at every level.