

Executive Summary

The Job Analysis described in this report was conducted in 2017 and 2018 at the request of the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). The purpose of the study was to describe the job activities of an oncology dietitian in sufficient detail to provide a basis for the ongoing development of a professional, job-related certification examination.

The CDR Job Analysis Advisory Committee (AC) conducted the activities necessary to identify job responsibilities and develop the test specifications for the Specialist in Oncology Nutrition. The AC represented varied regions of the United States and practice settings. All AC members were experts in the duties and activities associated with the profession. Members had various numbers of years of experience so as to be representative of the population of oncology dietitians.

The study involved developing a job task list, knowledge list, and survey, distributing the survey, and analyzing the survey responses. Test specifications for the oncology dietitian were developed based on survey responses. The AC was responsible for the following tasks regarding job analysis survey development:

- a. developing a sampling plan for the survey,
- b. identifying tasks and knowledge areas for the survey instrument,
- c. determining the survey rating scales,
- d. determining the relevant demographic variables of interest, and
- e. integrating tasks and knowledge areas, rating scales and demographics into a survey instrument.

The draft job analysis survey was distributed to AC members and other subject matter experts. The AC directed PSI Services (PSI) project staff to modify and finalize the survey for distribution to a sample of 1,927 oncology dietitians.

A total of 1,927 oncology dietitians were sent electronic invitations to complete the web-based survey. Usable responses were received from 571 participants, for a corrected response rate of 29.6%.

Survey data were presented to the AC. Of the 12 original survey tasks, none were excluded based on the exclusion criteria. Of the 22 original knowledge areas, none were excluded based on the exclusion criteria. Respondents' comments were then reviewed. The detailed content outline was constructed from the 12 tasks and 22 knowledge areas. Taking into account psychometric considerations offered by PSI and programmatic guidance from the CDR, the AC decided that a 125-item examination would sufficiently sample the content domain to render a pass or fail decision based on examination scores. The resulting detailed content outline and test specifications will be used by the CDR Certification Examination Development Committee to assemble future test forms.