

**Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR)  
Entry-level Registration Examinations for Dietitians and Dietetic Technicians  
Frequently Asked Questions  
September 2017**

**Examination Format and Development Information**

**1. What is the difference between computer based testing (CBT) and computer adaptive testing (CAT)?**

Computer based testing (CBT) is an umbrella term used to describe several types of examinations administered by computer. These tests may range from conventional multiple-choice tests administered on a personal computer to virtual reality simulations.

Computer adaptive testing (CAT) is a specific type of computer based testing. An adaptive test is commonly shorter than a traditional paper-and-pencil test. CAT also results in more measurement efficiency as it administers questions that provide the most information about the examinee's competence.

**2. How often will the computerized examinations be administered?**

The examinations will be administered year round at over two hundred fifty (250) Pearson VUE test centers nationwide. Test sites are typically open Monday through Friday, with some centers also open on Saturdays.

**3. Where will the computerized examinations be administered?**

CDR's testing agency, Pearson VUE, has over two hundred fifty (250) approved examination test centers nationwide, conveniently located in professional office spaces. Candidates will receive the most updated test center listing at the time of test registration. Center locations are subject to change.

**4. How often does the examination content outline (test specifications) change?**

The content outline changes following the review and analysis of the Dietetics Practice Audit. The last Audit was conducted in 2015. The current content outline took effect January 1, 2017.

**2017-2021**

	<b>Dietitians</b>		<b>Dietetic Technicians</b>	
<b>Domain I</b>	Principles of Dietetics	25%	Nutrition Science and Care for Individuals and Groups	44%
<b>Domain II</b>	Nutrition Care for Individuals and Groups	40%	Food Science and Food Service	24%
<b>Domain III</b>	Management of Food and Nutrition Programs and Services	21%	Management of Food and Nutrition Services	32%
<b>Domain IV</b>	Foodservice Systems	14%		

**5. How many questions will be on the Registration Examination for Dietitians?**

The multiple-choice examination will be variable length. Each examinee will be given, and must receive, a minimum of one hundred and twenty-five questions: one hundred (100) scored questions and twenty-five (25) pretest questions in order for the examination to be scored. The maximum number of questions possible is one hundred and forty-five (145): one hundred and twenty (120) scored questions, and twenty-five (25) un-scored pretest questions. If less than 125 items are answered when the 2 ½ hour testing period has ended, the candidate will receive a failed score of 2, indicating inconclusive.

**6. How many questions will be on the Registration Examination for Dietetic Technicians?**

The multiple-choice examination will be variable length. Each examinee will be given, and must receive, a minimum of one hundred and ten (110) questions; eighty (80) scored questions and thirty (30) pretest questions in order for the examination to be scored. The maximum number of questions possible is one hundred and thirty (130); one hundred scored questions and thirty (30) un-scored pretest questions.

## **Examination Authorization and Fee Payment**

**7. How long after candidates complete registration eligibility requirements (academic and supervised practice) will it take to be authorized to test?**

The entire process, from the time the Commission on Dietetic Registration receives the program director candidate eligibility information to the time the candidate receives the Pearson VUE examination application email, is 2 to 3 weeks.

**8. How much is the examination application fee?**

The examination application fee for dietitians is \$200 and \$120 for dietetic technicians.

**9. Will the online examination application, sent with the link for the Handbook for Candidates by Pearson VUE, expire?**

The examination application expires one year after it is issued by Pearson VUE. (Refer to page 1 of the *Handbook for Candidates*.) If the examination application process and examination are not completed within this one-year time period, the examinee must contact the Commission on Dietetic Registration to request reauthorization and a new application.

**10. Does the authorization to take the examination expire?**

Yes. The CDR authorization to test expires after the test is taken or one (1) year after receipt of the examination application email, whichever occurs first. This means that examinees have 365 days from receipt of the application email from Pearson VUE to register, pay, schedule and complete the examination. If examinees take the test and are unsuccessful, they must contact CDR in order to re-establish eligibility to take the test again. It is important to note that some employers and licensure boards may establish shorter limits on the testing authorization period.

## **Examination Experience**

**11. How much time will examinees have to complete the examination?**

Examination testing appointments are three (3) hours; two and one-half (2 ½) hours to take the examination, twenty (20) minutes to complete an introductory tutorial, and ten (10) minutes to complete the post examination survey. The timer/clock will begin with question one of the examination. Examinees will have two and one-half (2 ½) hours to complete the examination once the timer/clock begins. The examinee will have the option to hide the clock during the examination. Examination candidates must respond to the minimum number of examination questions (125) in order for the exam to be scored. If the examinee does not respond to the minimum number of questions within the time allowed (two and one-half (2 ½) hours), the examination will shut down and the exam will be scored as a failure, since it was inconclusive. Please see the answer to Question 5 for more information.

**12. Will examinees be given an opportunity to become familiar with the computer before beginning the test?**

Yes. Examinees will be allowed to take a tutorial on the computer prior to beginning the actual examination. This tutorial will include detailed instructions on taking the computerized examination and provide an opportunity to respond to practice questions. In addition, prior to the exam appointment, there will be a

practice test available at [www.pearsonvue.com/CDR](http://www.pearsonvue.com/CDR) for candidates to download to experience the navigation of exams, and use of the online calculator.

**13. Will a calculator be provided at the test center?**

Yes. An online calculator is included in the exam and is the preferred calculator. A handheld test center simple calculator can be issued to the candidate, upon request. Examinees are not permitted to bring or use their own calculator. The calculator (either version) should be examined and tested prior to the beginning of the examination.

**14. Will the test questions be in multiple-choice format?**

Yes. Each question has four (4) answer options.

**15. Will the test questions be numbered?**

Yes. The examination questions will be numbered.

**16. Will examinees be allowed to change question responses, skip questions, or review question responses?**

No. Each question will require a response in order to continue the examination process. Once an examinee answers a question and continues to the next question, the examinee is not permitted to review or change previous examination questions/responses.

**17. Why are there more pretest questions on the Registration Examination for Dietetic Technicians than the Registration Examination for Dietitians?**

It is important that new questions be pre-tested for both examinations on a regular basis. The Registration Examination for Dietetic Technicians was only administered once per year until 1996, and coupled with a small examinee volume reduced the number of pretest questions administered each year. With computerized testing and year round administration, CDR has been able to pretest more questions and increase the bank of questions.

## **Examination Scheduling, and Test Center Issues and Protocols**

**18. How should I report scheduling problems?**

If you experience difficulty during scheduling, please contact Pearson VUE's Candidate Service Center at 888-874-7651.

**19. How should I report onsite testing problems?**

If you experience technical difficulties during testing, please notify the test center personnel/ proctor immediately. Candidates are responsible for following the instructions for notifying the proctor of a testing problem.

## **Special Accommodations**

**20. Will the Commission continue to make special accommodations for examinees with disabilities?**

Yes. Reasonable accommodations for candidates with disabilities, provided appropriate medical documentation is submitted with the request for special testing accommodations, will be made. Refer to the *Handbook for Candidates* section on testing with disabilities for specific documentation requirements. All evaluations will be done by Pearson VUE staff who are knowledgeable about the Americans with Disabilities Act.

## Study Guides

**21. Are there any other materials available to assist examinees in preparing to write the examination?**

The Commission on Dietetic Registration publishes two study guides; Study Guide for the Registration Examination for Dietitians and Study Guide for the Registration Examination for Dietetic Technicians. Both study guides include a comprehensive study outline, references and practice examination. A practice examination is provided in both hard copy and on-line computer versions. The online computer version has been designed to simulate the actual computerized examination.

The Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) does not endorse any particular preparation program or offering. We encourage examination candidates to use a variety of resources that reflect their learning styles and needs. Purchasing an examination preparation product is NOT required and CDR does not guarantee that an individual will pass based on the purchase of an examination preparation product.

## Score Reports: Candidates

**22. When will examinees receive their score report?**

Score reports will be distributed to examinees as they leave the test center.

**23. What information will be included on the examinee score report?**

The examinee score report will include the examinee's scaled score and the scaled score required to pass the examination. In addition, the score report will also document the candidate's scaled sub-scores.

### January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2021

	Sub-Score Titles	Registration Examination for Dietitians	Registration Examination for Dietetic Technicians
I	Food and Nutrition Sciences	Domains I and II	Domains I
II	Food Service Systems/ Management	Domains III and IV	Domains II and III

**24. Will the scaled score required to pass the examination change from the current minimum passing scaled score of twenty-five (25)?**

The minimum scaled score required to pass the examination will remain twenty-five (25) on a scale of one (1) to fifty (50).

**25. If the examinee decides to stop the examination before responding to the minimum number of questions required to make a pass/fail decision, will the examinee's score be reported as a "fail?"**

No. If an examinee chooses to stop the examination before answering or not responding to the minimum number of questions required to make a pass/fail decision, the examination will not be scored. The examinee will receive a form documenting their decision to quit the examination. The examinee must contact the Commission on Dietetic Registration to be reauthorized to test. Candidates seeking reauthorization must contact the CDR by email ([ebutler@eatright.org](mailto:ebutler@eatright.org)), by telephone (312-899-4859) or online at [cdrnet.org](http://cdrnet.org) to request an examination reauthorization. No refunds will be provided.

## Score Reports: Academic Programs

### 26. Will dietetics education program directors receive institutional score reports?

Yes. Program directors will receive institutional reports in February and August of each year. The institutional score report will include scaled scores for program graduates, percentile ranks, national mean scores, institutional examinee mean scores, and scaled sub-scores. Examinee names will only be included if the examinee authorized release of scores with examinee name.

## Examination Reauthorization

### 27. How soon can unsuccessful examinees retake the registration examination?

Examinees will be allowed to retest forty-five (45) days after taking the examination unsuccessfully. They must contact the Commission on Dietetic Registration to be reauthorized as examination-eligible and pay the current examination application fee.

### 28. Under what conditions must the examinee contact the Commission on Dietetic Registration to be reauthorized to test?

The examinee must contact the Commission to be reauthorized to test:

- when the examinee fails the examination,
- when the examinee's one-year authorization period ends,
- when the candidate fails to cancel the testing appointment within the specified timeline,
- when the candidate arrives late for the scheduled testing appointment, or
- when the candidate does not complete the examination during the testing appointment.

Candidates seeking reauthorization must contact the CDR by email ([ebutler@eatright.org](mailto:ebutler@eatright.org)), by telephone (312-899-4859) or online at [cdrnet.org](http://cdrnet.org) to request an examination reauthorization.

### 29. How often may examinees take the registration examination?

Once an examinee establishes eligibility to take the examination there is no limit on the number of times an examinee may take the examination, provided the examinee waits the required forty-five (45) days between test dates. State licensure candidates must check with their state licensure board for any state specific requirements regarding retesting for licensure purposes only.