

# Commission on Dietetic Registration

the credentialing agency for the  
**eat right.** Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

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**Dietetic Technicians,  
Registered in  
Community & Public Health**



**Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTRs) are excellent candidates to serve the needs of your community as a public health professional.**

DTRs are equipped with the tools and knowledge to educate, monitor and advise clients and groups participating in federally funded nutrition programs, such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed). DTRs promote their clients' well-being and improved quality of life through healthful eating habits and lifestyle behaviors. They are valued for their scientific understanding of nutrition and dietetics and for their empathetic approach when interacting with clients. DTRs work in a complementary role to the agency's registered dietitian (RD), and are eager to serve their community and improve individuals' daily lives by making positive nutrition changes.

**Responsibilities of a DTR in community and public health settings, with supervision of the RD, include:**

- Providing general nutrition counseling and education
- Conducting nutrition screening and identifying nutrition risks
- Promoting well-being and improved quality of life through food and nutrition
- Assisting in the coordination of food and nutrition services during local, state, and national emergencies
- Assessing individual's eligibility for WIC services
- Providing breastfeeding assessment, education and ongoing client support
- Collaborating with other health care providers to provide additional health screening and preventative care services

DTRs are healthcare practitioners credentialed by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). All DTRs have a background in food science, nutrition, and food service management, have completed an education program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and have successfully passed the registration examination for dietetic technicians, administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration.

Not all individuals with the job title of "Dietetic Technician" are credentialed as Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTR).

	Diet Tech	DTR
Has met specific educational requirements in nutrition and dietetics	Sometimes	Yes
Has passed a computerized, practice-based credentialing exam	No	Yes
Meets rigorous continuing professional education standards to maintain the credential	No	Yes
Works under the supervision of a Registered Dietitian	Yes	Yes
Upholds the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics	No	Yes
Has an educational background in clinical nutrition and food service systems/management	Sometimes	Yes
Certification program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies	N/A	Yes

**DTRs are invaluable in the workplace—here's why:**

**"DTR's have the training required to perform in a variety of settings in nutrition practice. DTRs are exposed to a lot of different things in terms of education, so that they can come into the work force very prepared to handle any type of position."**

*Christine Hartney, RD, Illinois*

**"More employers should consider having DTRs on their staff as opposed to non-credentialed individuals. The DTR brings quite a few unique skills that you can't get without specialized nutrition training. They provide another layer of care."**

*Caroline Steele, RD, California*

For more information, visit [www.cdrnet.org](http://www.cdrnet.org)