



# New Mexico State Personnel Office

2600 Cerrillos Road  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-0127

## Classification Description

### DIETITIANS AND NUTRITIONISTS

<b>Class Title</b>	<b>Class Code</b>	<b>Pay Band</b>	<b>Alt Pay Band*</b>
<b>Dietitians and Nutritionists-B</b>	<b>K1031B</b>	<b>55</b>	
<b>Dietitians and Nutritionists-O</b>	<b>K1031O</b>	<b>60</b>	
<b>Dietitians and Nutritionists-A</b>	<b>K1031A</b>	<b>65</b>	

*\*In accordance with SPB Rule 1.7.4.10 NMAC, the assignment to alternative pay bands shall be reviewed annually to determine their appropriateness.*

#### Occupation Description

Plan and conduct food service or nutritional programs to assist in the promotion of health and control of disease. May supervise activities of a department providing quantity food services, counsel individuals, or conduct nutritional research.

#### Nature of Work

Dietitians and nutritionists plan food and nutrition programs, supervise meal preparation, and oversee the serving of meals. They prevent and treat illnesses by promoting healthy eating habits and recommending dietary modifications. Dietitians manage food service systems for institutions such as hospitals and schools, promote sound eating habits through education, and conduct research. Many dietitians specialize, becoming a clinical dietitian, community dietitian, management dietitian, or consultant.

#### Distinguishing Characteristics of Levels

*Note: Examples of Work are intended to be cumulative for each progressively higher level of work. The omission of specific statements does not preclude management from assigning other duties which are reasonably within the scope of the duties.*

#### Basic

- Employees in this Role provide direct nutrition services to clients including nutrition screening and assessment based on program guidelines, client education and management of records; collaborate and coordinate with other organizations within the community. Under the direction of a dietitian, employees assist in food and nutrition program in the department of dietetics to meet nutritional requirements.

#### Recommended Education and Experience for Full Performance\*

Associates Degree in Food Science, Nutrition, Dietetics, Home Economics, Family and Consumer Science or other Health degree with a minimum of nine (9) semester hours in Food Science or Nutrition and four (4) years of experience in Food Service, Dietetics or other health field.

## DIETITIANS AND NUTRITIONISTS

### Minimum Qualifications

High School Diploma or GED and (2) two years of experience in Food Service, Dietetics or other health field.

### Operational

- Employees in this Role provide and/or coordinate direct nutrition services to clients including nutritional screening, assessment, planning, intervention, and evaluation, client education, and management of records and educational presentations.
- Employees receive training in the higher-level functions of educational program development and activity coordination at the county level.

### Recommended Education and Experience for Full Performance

Bachelor's Degree in Food Science, Nutrition, Dietetics, Home Economics, Family and Consumer Science or other Health degree with a minimum of nine (9) semester hours in Food Science or Nutrition and two (2) years of experience in Food Service, Dietetics or other health field.

### Minimum Qualifications

Associates Degree in Food Science, Nutrition, Dietetics, Home Economics, Family and Consumer Science or other Health degree with a minimum of nine (9) semester hours in Food Science or Nutrition and two (2) years of experience in Food Service, Dietetics or other health field. Any combination of education from an accredited college or university in a related field and/or direct experience in this occupation totaling four (4) years may substitute for the required education and experience.

### Advanced

- Employees in this Role coordinate the development of a district, county or interagency level public health nutrition program or develop statewide nutrition education and nutrition promotion.
- Employees having expertise in their field or occupation plan, organize, develop, direct and evaluate activities to meet the nutritional requirements and goals of the organization.
- Employees provide advanced levels of nutritional care in specialized or complex areas such as nutritional support, diabetes education, geriatric or pediatric nutrition.

### Recommended Education and Experience for Full Performance

Bachelor's Degree in Food Science, Nutrition, Dietetics, Home Economics, Family and Consumer Science or other Health degree with a minimum of nine (9) semester hours in Food Science or Nutrition and four (4) years of experience in Food Service, Dietetics or other health field.

### Minimum Qualifications

Bachelor's Degree in Food Science, Nutrition, Dietetics, Home Economics, Family and Consumer Science or other Health degree with a minimum of nine (9) semester hours in Food Science or Nutrition or current status and two (2) years of experience in Food Service, Dietetics or other health field. Any combination of education from an accredited college or university in a related field and/or direct experience in this occupation totaling six (6) years may substitute for the required education and experience.

## DIETITIANS AND NUTRITIONISTS

### Knowledge and Skills

*Note: This information has been produced by compiling information and documentation provided by O\*NET. O\*NET™ is a trademark of the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.*

### Knowledge

**Biology** — Knowledge of plant and animal organisms, their tissues, cells, functions, interdependencies, and interactions with each other and the environment.

**English Language** — Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.

**Psychology** — Knowledge of human behavior and performance; individual differences in ability, personality, and interests; learning and motivation; psychological research methods; and the assessment and treatment of behavioral and affective disorders.

**Customer and Personal Service** — Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.

**Therapy and Counseling** — Knowledge of principles, methods, and procedures for diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of physical and mental dysfunctions, and for career counseling and guidance.

**Education and Training** — Knowledge of principles and methods for curriculum and training design, teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, and the measurement of training effects.

**Medicine and Dentistry** — Knowledge of the information and techniques needed to diagnose and treat human injuries, diseases, and deformities. This includes symptoms, treatment alternatives, drug properties and interactions, and preventive health-care measures.

**Chemistry** — Knowledge of the chemical composition, structure, and properties of substances and of the chemical processes and transformations that they undergo. This includes uses of chemicals and their interactions, danger signs, production techniques, and disposal methods.

**Mathematics** — Knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications.

**Administration and Management** — Knowledge of business and management principles involved in strategic planning, resource allocation, human resources modeling, leadership technique, production methods, and coordination of people and resources.

### Skills

**Active Listening** — Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.

**Speaking** — Talking to others to convey information effectively.

**Writing** — Communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience.

**Critical Thinking** — Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.

**Coordination** — Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions.

## DIETITIANS AND NUTRITIONISTS

**Reading Comprehension** — Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.

**Social Perceptiveness** — Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.

**Complex Problem Solving** — Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.

**Instructing** — Teaching others how to do something.

**Judgment and Decision Making** — Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.

### Statutory Requirements: N/A

**Conditions of Employment:** Working Conditions for individual positions in this classification will vary based on each *agency's utilization, essential functions, and the recruitment needs* at the time a vacancy is posted. All requirements are subject to possible modification to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities.

**Default FLSA Status:** Non-Exempt. FLSA status may be determined to be different at the agency level based on the agency's utilization of the position.

**Bargaining Unit:** This position may be covered by a collective bargaining agreement and all terms/conditions of that agreement apply and must be adhered to.

**Established:** 07/07/2001      **Revised:** 9/20/2011

*\*Adapted from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics and are intended to illustrate the typical education and experience required for this occupation.*

*Note: Classification description subject to change. Please refer to the SPO website [www.spo.state.nm.us](http://www.spo.state.nm.us) to ensure this represents the most current copy of the description.*