

# What's the difference?

## LEARN THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A DIETITIAN AND NUTRITION MANAGER

### DIETITIAN

#### CREDENTIAL

A Dietitian completes a 4-year BSc degree plus a 36-40 week practice education placements; then writes the national certification exam (CDRE). Once registered with the professional college, they may use the initials RD behind their name to indicate Registered Dietitian.

#### PROFESSIONAL BODY

Must be a full registrant with the College of Health and Care Professionals of BC  
Membership with [Dietitians of Canada](#) is optional.

#### EDUCATION

Completion of Bachelor of Science (Dietetics) degree (5 years in total).

In BC, UBC is the only post-secondary institution to offer a dietetics degree, 3rd year admission. The program has a limited number of seats available per year. Students may complete the first two years of prerequisite courses at any post-secondary institution but only Langara offers formal programs developed in partnership with UBC for transfer purposes.

Dietitians find careers in different environments:

#### CAREER OPTIONS

- Acute or outpatient care – clinical care
- Residential care – admin & clinical care
- Community – population health
- Private practice
- Administrative
- Research

Clinical care deals with varied health conditions.

Population health promotes healthy eating to large groups of people.

Administrative Dietetics is the management of food service operations

Research is in both applied and theoretical nutrition.

### NUTRITION MANAGER

A Nutrition Manager completes an accredited diploma program and is a member of the national association, CSNM. They may use the initials NM and can work towards acquiring the CNM – Certified Nutrition Manager designation.

In BC the Nutrition Manager (or Food Service Supervisor) must be a member of the [Canadian Society of Nutrition Management \(CSNM\)](#) to work in health care facilities of 50 beds or more.

Nutrition and Food Service Management at Langara is a full time 2-year diploma. It can be completed on a part-time basis within 6 years. The program can be done completely or partially online.

In BC, Langara is the only post-secondary institution to offer the diploma program, which is also university transferable to a business degree. Langara offers 4 different completion streams for this diploma.

Graduates coordinate and manage food service operations, including the product, labour, budgets, and service in:

- Acute care
- Residential care
- Retail or commercial operations
- School systems
- Correctional institutions
- Sales

Work responsibilities usually include working in collaboration with Registered Dietitians.

Careers can progress from Food Service Supervisor, to Food Service Manager, to Support Service Manager depending on experience and aptitude.

#### RESOURCES

[Langara Food, Nutrition, and Health Transfer Diploma](#)  
[UBC Dietetics](#)

[Langara Nutrition and Food Service Management Diploma](#)

#### CONTACTS

[LFS and Dietetics](#)

Langara: [nutrition@langara.ca](mailto:nutrition@langara.ca)

#### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

[Langara Nutrition Management Career Blog](#)

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