

RDs are the ONLY Nutrition Professionals with Demonstrated, Verified, and Validated Competencies

	Registered Dietitians	Certified Clinical Nutritionists	Certified Nutrition Specialists	Nutritionists
Education				
Programs are accredited for content, requiring measured student achievement, monitor graduates' exam performance, and ongoing curricular improvement.	√			
Accrediting body recognized by the US Department of Education for meeting national quality standards.	√	No degree in nutrition required, simply BS with 15 hours of nutrition coursework and some online preparation ⁱ	√	
Provides uniform standards for consistent educational program quality.	√			
Supervised Practice Experience				
1200 Hours	√	ZERO Hours	Either 500 hours or 1000 hours, depending upon applicant ⁱⁱ	
Internship Program Requires Oversight, Supervision, Monitoring, Preplanning, and Accreditation	√			
Demonstrates Achievement of 35 Detailed Competencies	√		iii	
Documentation Must Be More than a Simple Letter and Applicant's Resume or C.V.	√			

<p>Accrediting body ensures facilities providing supervised practice are compatible with competencies and preceptors are qualified</p>	<p>√</p>			
<p>Exam</p> <p>Taken only after completion of internship</p> <p>Focus on evidence-based science rather than herbology or homeopathy</p> <p>Has an impressive reliability coefficient of .91</p> <p>Successfully administered to over 125,000 qualified practitioners since 1970.</p> <p>Based on a role delineation of actual practice</p>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p>			

**Meets Objective,
Unbiased Third-Party
Standards**

Meets the National Commission for Certifying Agencies' gold standard for certification of professional competence to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the public.

Willing and able to share accreditation standards to regulators and the public to enable comparative analysis and ensure protection of the public.

Recognized by Institute of Medicine as "currently the **single identifiable group** of health-care professionals with standardized education, clinical training, continuing education and national credentialing requirements necessary to be directly reimbursed as a provider of nutrition therapy."^{iv}

RD credential recognized by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services regulations as the gold standard qualifications, training, and competence for medical nutrition therapy and reimbursable dietetics and nutrition services.

Credentialing body adheres to the *Joint Technical Standards and the Code of Fair Testing Practices* for test development and administration.

✓ Since 1982

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

Unwilling/unable to share standards

Unwilling/unable to share standards

Recertification	Accrued 75 hours of approved continuing professional education within a specific five-year reporting period ^v	“Attendance at “three out of four” IAACN Annual Scientific Symposiums” ^{vi}	Accrued 75 hours of approved continuing professional education within a specific five-year reporting period	
Validated, Evidence-Based Effectiveness	v			

ⁱ <http://www.cncb.org/CORE%20ACADEMIC%20REQUIREMENTS-2011.pdf>, accessed 29 June 2012.

ⁱⁱ <http://cbns.org/certification/cns-certification-requirements-and-instructions/>, accessed 29 June 2012.

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://cbns.org/certification/cns-certification-requirements-and-instructions/>, accessed 29 June 2012 (“Submit documentation of professional experience as a nutritionist. Documentation of professional experience may take the form of a resume or curriculum vitae.”)

^{iv} Committee on Nutrition Services for Medicare Beneficiaries. “The Role of Nutrition in Maintaining Health in the Nation’s Elderly: Evaluating Coverage of Nutrition Services for the Medicare Population.” Washington, DC: Food and Nutrition Board, Institute of Medicine; January 1, 2000 (published) at 2, 267 (internal citations omitted).

^v CDR’s recertification system has been recognized by the IOM as “an approach that allows health professionals to select a portfolio of continuing education activities based on reflection upon the gap between what they know now and what they need to know in order to change professional practice and performance” “Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality” the Institute of Medicine Committee on the Health Professions of the Board on Health Care Services(2003).

^{vi} <http://www.cncb.org/requirements%20to%20maintain%20your%20ccn%20credential.htm>, accessed 29 June 2012.