

This is largely due to the emphasis that the medical community is placing on disease prevention through improved dietary habits. The growing aging population will also increase demand for dietetic technicians because they will need balanced meals and nutritional counseling in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. As in most other occupations, job openings will result from the need to replace experienced workers who retire or leave the profession for other reasons.

### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Dietetic Association  
216 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60606-6995  
Phone: (800) 877-1600  
Phone: (312) 899-0008  
Web: [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org)

American Society for Nutritional Sciences  
9650 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20814-3990  
Phone: (301) 530-7050  
Web: [www.faseb.org/asns](http://www.faseb.org/asns)

Society for Nutrition Education  
7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 901  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
Phone: (800) 235-6690  
Phone: (301) 656-4938  
Fax: (301) 656-4958  
Web: [www.sne.org](http://www.sne.org)

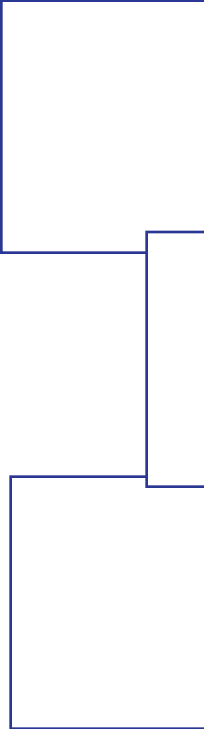


### MHA HEALTH CAREERS CENTER

6425 LAKEOVER ROAD (39213)  
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JACKSON, MS 39236-6444  
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## POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Dietetic Technicians work with, and under the supervision of, a registered dietitian. They assist in planning and implementing nutritional programs and services in facilities such as hospitals and schools. Dietetic technicians may specialize in a particular area, such as nutritional care or food service management. Nutritional care technicians determine the nutritional needs of their patients by interviewing them and reviewing their medical histories. They help patients plan meals that fit into their prescribed diet and food budget. They also report the patient's progress or any dietary problems to the supervising dietitian. Dietetic technicians in a food service management role conduct slightly different activities. Their activities include planning meals and menus for many people, ordering and stocking food and supplies, overseeing the production of meals and services, and maintaining quality control and safety standards. They may also be in charge of designing and implementing new food service systems to make facilities run more efficiently. These individuals may work with computer systems to verify diet orders, record laboratory data, and to calculate payroll. Dietetic technicians, regardless of specialty, are responsible for counseling and educating patients and community groups on proper nutrition that will lead to a healthy and productive lifestyle.

## WORK ENVIRONMENT

Dietetic technicians work in a variety of settings including school systems, colleges and universities, government agencies, hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, home health agencies, community health centers, long term care facilities, research facilities, and food related industries.

## HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

Students interested in a career as a dietetic technician should take high school courses in biology, chemistry, algebra, home economics, English, business, health occupations/medical professions education, physical education, psychology, and computer skills.

## COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Individuals entering a dietetic technician program should have a high school diploma or the equivalent. The majority of employers require an associate's degree from an accredited community college that is approved by the American Dietetic Association. These programs combine both classroom study as well as practical experience. Individuals must pass a national examination given by the Commission on Dietetic Registration to become certified and registered. Students interested in a dietetic technician program should contact schools for information on admission and course of study.

## EDUCATION

There are currently several educational programs available in the field of dietetics.

Black River College  
PO Box 468  
Pocahontas, AR  
Phone: (870) 385-2222

Delgado Community College  
615 City Park  
New Orleans, LA  
Phone: (504) 586-2222

Southwest Tennessee State University  
PO Box 780  
Memphis, TN  
Phone: (901) 526-2222

Pensacola Junior College  
1000 College  
Pensacola, FL  
Phone: (850) 433-2222

## Average Annual Salary Range

## Employment Outlook

Dietetic technicians are expected to grow at the average rate, which is 20% over the next 10 years.