

## STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA CLASS SPECIFICATION

**Class Title: Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)**

**Class Code: 50332**

**Pay Grade: GI**

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### **A. Purpose:**

Provides professional nutrition services to individuals, groups and communities through Department of Health Public Health Programs to ensure the dietary and nutritional needs of clients are met.

### **B. Distinguishing Feature:**

The Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) performs duties as a registered dietitian or licensed nutritionist involving the integration and application of scientific principles of food, nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, management and behavioral and social science to achieve and maintain the health of people. Serves as the food and nutrition expert who translates the science of nutrition into practical solutions for healthy living.

The Nutrition Educator administers the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Food Program in an assigned region by providing technical assistance and nutrition education materials to participants.

### **C. Functions:**

*(These are examples only; any one position may not include all of the listed examples nor do the listed examples include all functions which may be found in positions of this class.)*

1. Assesses nutritional needs of clients based on appropriate biochemical, anthropometric, physical and dietary data.
2. Evaluates, incorporates, and maintains appropriate standards of quality in nutrition care.
3. Relates the concepts of theories of nutrition, sciences, and dietetics to growth, development, health and/or disease.
4. Provides client-centered nutritional counseling in health and disease for both normal and therapeutic needs.
5. Leads process to facilitate client/community identification of priorities, goals, and objectives to achieve optimum nutrition, fitness and health.
6. Provides direct service specific to nutrition assessment and education for participants of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program.
7. Participates in planning, developing, and completing nutrition education plans.
8. Participates in strategic planning and development of long-range program, division and department goals.
9. Completes documentation in compliance with program policies and professional standards.
10. Provides technical assistance, formal and informal training to staff members.
11. Initiates community interventions that address major health issues and instill awareness of maintenance of well-being through health promotion.
12. Advocates for and promotes individual, family, and community awareness of proper nutrition and health.

13. Works collaboratively with healthcare providers to approve nutrition products for individuals with special needs.
14. Facilitates referrals to community resources.
15. Performs other work as assigned.

**D. Reporting Relationships:**

Provides technical assistance related to nutrition to Public Health Specialists (Community Health Nurses) and nutrition educators. Takes work direction from and reports to Public Health Regional Manager and Public Health Program Directors.

**E. Challenges and Problems:**

Challenges include providing appropriate nutrition intervention and counseling to clients with multiple and complex needs. Applying specialized knowledge and techniques to nutrition problems of multi-ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic groups and maximizing productivity with workload.

**F. Decision-making Authority:**

Decisions include determining dietary needs/risks, and appropriate counseling for clients; determining methods for assisting clients to develop realistic nutritional goals, content of nutrition care plans; determining supplemental and/or special nutritional product needs and interpretation of policies, procedures, and regulations.

Decisions referred include approval of special projects, clarification of unusual policies and procedures, training and resource needs, requests from media outlets, and service delivery issues that cannot be appropriately addressed locally.

**G. Contact with Others:**

Daily contact with clients, groups or communities to conduct nutritional assessments, provide nutrition education, and develop nutrition care plans to help clients achieve and maintain optimal health. Weekly to monthly contact with health care providers to facilitate approval of special nutritional products; works collaboratively with healthcare and other agencies to coordinate services and referrals; collaborates with healthcare providers, other agencies and communities to facilitate nutrition/community based interventions to achieve optimum nutrition, fitness and health.

**H. Working Conditions:**

Located in a clinic setting and regular travel to satellite sites is possible. May be exposed to various communicable illnesses in workplace setting. Lifting required to complete anthropometric measurements of infants and children.

**I. Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

Knowledge of:

- fundamental theories, concepts, methods and basic sciences involved in nutrition and public health;
- effective communication skills, active listening and skilled motivational interviewing;
- providing services to clients in a public health setting.

Ability to:

- explain complex nutrition information at client level of understanding;
- exercise independent judgement in attaining program goals and activities while adhering to prescribed policies, procedures and protocols;
- establish and maintain good relationships with program staff, health care providers, the community and public health teams in multiple settings;
- organize, be flexible and prioritize complex situations;
- establish and maintain rapport with clients.

**J. Licenses and Certification:**

Possession of a Registered Dietitian or Licensed Nutritionist in the State of South Dakota in accordance with a South Dakota law.