

SECTION: ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PRACTICES

SUBJECT: Local Agency Staff Requirements

ITEM: Masters Degreed Nutritionist (MDN): Requirements and Responsibilities

Purpose

To define the role and responsibilities for Masters Degreed Nutritionist (MDN) in the WIC program.

Policy

The Masters Degreed Nutritionist (MDN) shall possess a master's degree in a *clinical* nutrition-related field. The California Business and Professional Code Section 2585 – 2586 allows these individuals to provide the services of nutritional assessment, education, and treatment, if they possess a masters degree or higher in a field covering clinical nutrition services from a college or university accredited by a regional accreditation agency.

Authority

7 CFR 246.2 and 7 CFR 246.6 (b) (2)
California Business and Professional Code Section 2585 – 2586
State Mandate

Requirements

- I. A MDN shall possess a masters degree or higher in a field covering clinical nutrition services from a college or university accredited by a regional accreditation agency.
- II. See the DN *Standards for Competency* worksheet in WPM 130-50, for a list of degrees in nutrition-related fields. If the degree is not on this list, consult with your Regional Nutritionist for approval.
- III. Local Agency (LA) shall complete and maintain the *Standards for Competency* worksheet and college transcripts. Upon request, a LA shall provide the State Agency (SA) with verification of the MDN's qualifications

- IV. If an employee has previous WIC experience, the LA shall request and retain copies of these forms and documents, from the previous agency or from the employee.
- V. The LA shall retain the verification forms and documents for a minimum of three years following the termination of an employee.
- VI. Every five years a MDN shall complete 75 continuing education units that are equivalent to those allowable for an RD or DTR.

Responsibilities

MDNs may provide services to participants with any nutrition need.