

NUTRITIONIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision of a higher level professional nutritionist, provides nutrition services and nutrition education as part of an overall departmental program, including developing and implementing nutritional care plans, providing diet counseling to individuals and conducting group nutrition education programs, in order to improve participants' health and nutrition and to promote their healthy growth and development. Participates in in-service training programs for agency staff and may supervise paraprofessionals or students who assist in nutrition education activities, and subordinate clerical and technical personnel. Work is performed in an automated systems environment. This level is distinguished from the Staff Nutritionist in that this is the entry-level position and the higher level requires registration by the American Dietetic Association. Does related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Interviews clients and conducts medical/nutritional assessments to determine program eligibility according to established nutritional risk criteria and applicable Federal and State regulations, for example:

- ◆ Reviews clinical blood levels for values indicative of low blood iron or overt anemia;
- ◆ Obtains anthropometric data of applicants, plots obtained heights and weights on standardized growth grids and evaluates results for patterns of inadequate growth;
- ◆ Assesses diet history of applicants to evaluate intake of nutrients, including vitamins and minerals;
- ◆ Certifies applicants for program enrollment and classifies them by severity of nutritional risk;

Develops individualized nutrition care plans for all participants based on nutritional needs as well as cultural, economic and life-style patterns, to establish goals for improved nutrition and health. Provides follow-up care as needed to monitor progress;

If assigned to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), prescribes packages of WIC-approved foods, issues WIC checks for purchasing the foods in WIC vendor markets, provides nutrition education and counseling, and refers participants when appropriate to ensure that they receive adequate health care and social services;

Confers with physicians and other health-care professionals, in order that appropriate dietary regimens and food packages may be determined for those with specific health problems;

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only) (Cont'd.)

Develops, reviews and supervises the presentation of nutrition education materials and visual aids as a means of relaying nutrition information to program participants, and thus to make them aware of the need for good nutrition;

Educates participants, according to their individual needs, in the basic principles of nutrition, proper food selection, storage and preparation, in order to promote the consumption of good nutritious foods at reasonable cost;

Identifies program participants with special needs and makes appropriate referrals to local and community health and resource services, including food assistance programs, in order to correlate nutrition care with provision of total health and human services;

Instructs clients regarding how to purchase appropriate foods and how to manage budgets so available funds are best utilized to improve the participants' nutritional status;

May supervise Dietetic Technicians and clerical personnel including training the technicians with regard to nutritional assessment techniques, interviewing skills, proper documentation and record keeping;

Updates documentation to evaluate participants' progress toward achieving dietary goals;

Uses computer applications or other automated systems such as spreadsheets, word processing, calendar, e-mail and database software in performing work assignments;

May perform other incidental tasks, as needed.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Good knowledge of the principles of normal and therapeutic nutrition; skill in the application of current scientific principles of nutrition to patient care; ability to implement and interpret nutrition care plans and to coordinate nutrition care with total health care; ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; ability to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships; ability to accept and utilize supervision; ability to teach the principles of nutrition to lay and professional groups; ability to deal with people effectively and to receive their cooperation; ability to use computer applications such as spreadsheets, word processing, e-mail and database software; ability to read, write, speak, understand and communicate in English sufficiently to perform the essential tasks of the position; sensitivity to persons of differing cultural backgrounds and traditions; initiative; resourcefulness; good judgment; integrity; good organizational skills; tact; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Either: (a) a Bachelor's Degree* in Nutrition, Dietetics, Nutrition Science or Foods and Nutrition; or (b) a Bachelor's Degree* and satisfactory completion of an approved Didactic Program in Dietetics.

NOTE: For those without the requisite Bachelors Degree*, a Masters Degree* in any of the above listed fields may be substituted.

NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, only experience gained after attaining the minimum education level indicated in the minimum qualifications will be considered in evaluating experience.

*SPECIAL NOTE: Education beyond the secondary level must be from an institution accredited or recognized by the Board of Regents of the New York State Education Department as a post-secondary, degree-granting institution.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Possession of a valid driver's license to operate a motor vehicle in New York State.

West. Co.
J. C.: Competitive
DBB7

Job Class Code: C0734
Job Group: IX