

STAFF NUTRITIONIST (HEALTH SERVICES)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under the general supervision of a higher level professional nutritionist, an incumbent of this class plans and conducts nutrition services within assigned departmental programs. An incumbent performs nutritional assessments to develop nutritional care plans; conducts educational programs and counseling services for nutritionally vulnerable target groups and high risk individuals; coordinates nutrition services with health and medical services; monitors and evaluates nutritional care and provides appropriate follow-up; conducts training and staff development programs for professional, technical, and paraprofessional staff. This level is distinguished from Nutritionist level through the coordination of nutrition services and the higher degree of complexity of program assignments. Supervision may be exercised over support staff assisting in the implementation of nutritional care plans. Does related work as required

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Plans and conducts nutrition services in accordance with overall departmental program and service objectives;

Assesses nutritional needs of target population groups and high-risk individuals who are in need of specialized nutritional care;

Formulates nutrition care plans to meet identified needs; integrates nutritional care with medical management as required; determines diet prescription in collaboration with patient's physician; records nutrition care plan as part of the total treatment plan;

Counsels patients with specialized nutritional needs;

Makes field visits, plans and conducts group nutrition education programs for health promotion, risk reduction, or management of special nutritional needs for high-risk medical conditions;

Initiates referrals for health care, food assistance, community services, etc., to achieve the objectives of the nutrition care plan;

Monitors and evaluates nutritional care; records progress in patient's record; revises plans as needed; plans and provides appropriate follow-up based on needs assessment;

Participates as a member of a health care team in evaluation and revision of care plans for individuals and groups;

Supervises nutritionists, dietetic technicians, and paraprofessionals who assist in nutritional care services for individuals and groups;

Evaluates, selects, and develops nutrition education materials and visual aids;

Conducts training and staff development programs for professional and paraprofessional staff;

Participates in community surveys and research projects;

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

Advises physicians, nurses, health educators, and other members of the health care team on the application of current nutrition research to health promotion and risk reduction programs and to patient care management;

May perform other incidental tasks, as needed;

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

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Thorough knowledge of the principles of normal and therapeutic nutrition and practical application to community health programs; ability to use computer applications such as spreadsheets, word processing, e-mail and database software; ability to work cooperatively with others and to maintain effective inter- and intra-agency and community relationships; ability to assess nutritional needs and to formulate appropriate nutrition care plans; ability to teach the principles of nutrition to patients and to professional health workers; ability to speak and write effectively; ability to accept and utilize supervision; sensitivity to persons of differing cultural values and traditions; initiative; tact; resourcefulness; good judgment; integrity; ability to read, write, speak, understand, and communicate in English sufficiently to perform the essential duties of the position; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: At the time of appointment must be registered as a Dietician by the American Dietetic Association and possess a Bachelor's Degree* in Nutrition, Dietetics, Nutrition Science, Foods and Nutrition or Institutional Food Management and two years experience as a public health nutritionist.

SUBSTITUTION: A Master's Degree* in a field of nutrition or public health nutrition may be substituted for one year of the above stated experience.

*SPECIAL NOTE: Education beyond the secondary 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.

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 REQUIREMENTS: Possession of a valid license to operate a motor vehicle in the State of New York.