

# What's the Difference between Dietitians and Nutritionists?

Dietitians and nutritionists both work with food.

Is there even a real difference?

**Yes**

**Dietitian**

**Nutritionist**

## Education

- Complete approved coursework
- Complete supervised practice (aka an internship)
- Pass a certification exam

No set standards or regulations on education

## Credentials and Licensure

- Have RD, RDN or LDN after name
- Licensing through an accrediting board (so it's regulated), varies by state

No specific accrediting board

## Speciality Certifications

### 7 areas of specialization

- Pediatric
- Renal
- Gerontological
- Pediatric Critical Care
- Oncology Nutrition
- Sports Dietetics
- Obesity and Weight Management

- Can get CNS or CCN credentials
- Both require coursework, supervised practice, an exam and recertification

When seeking out a nutrition expert, choose a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN).

### Ready to work with an RDN?

Visit: [eatright.org](http://eatright.org) and click on "Find a Nutrition Expert."