



OHIO BOARD OF DIETETICS

77 SOUTH HIGH STREET, 18TH FLOOR
COLUMBUS, OH 43215-6119

Ph: (614) 466-3291
www.dietetics.ohio.gov

BULLETIN #4 LIMITED PERMIT TO PRACTICE DIETETICS

The purpose of Bulletin #4 is to inform dietetic students/interns, dietetic educators, potential employers and the general public of Ohio regulations regarding the dietitian licensure law and clarify requirements for a "Limited Permit" (LP).

Licensure is not optional for Ohio dietitians. It is important to emphasize that licensure requirements in no way restrict an employer from offering a job to a potentially qualified dietitian. However, it should be clearly understood by all parties that until a Limited Permit is issued by the Board, the individual **MAY NOT** practice dietetics (1). There are no exemptions entitling Limited Permit applicants to practice while their application is being processed. Merely having their work co-signed or supervised by a licensed dietitian is not sufficient.

Division 4759.06(F) of the Ohio Revised Code specifies:

- (F) The board may grant a limited permit to a person who has completed the education and pre-professional requirements of division (A)(5) and (6) of this section and who presents evidence to the board of his application to take the examination approved by the board under division (A)(1) of section 4759.05 of the Revised Code. A person holding a limited permit who has failed the examination shall practice only under the direct supervision of a licensed dietitian.

Rule 4759-4-08 of the Ohio Administrative Code specifies:

- (C) Limited permits shall expire the following October thirty-first for those issued between April first and September thirtieth and the following April thirtieth for those issued between October first and March thirty-first.
- (D) A limited permit may be renewed.
- (E) A limited permit holder who fails the examination must report the results to the Board office immediately.
 - 1) The first time the limited permit holder fails, the limited permit holder shall practice only under the direct supervision of an Ohio licensed dietitian as approved by the board.
 - 2) The second time the limited permit holder fails, the limited permit expires immediately.
- (F) A limited permit shall not be issued to a person who has failed the examination two or more times.

The intent of the Limited Permit is to provide an opportunity for qualified individuals, who are scheduled to take the Board approved examination, to practice while awaiting the results of their examination.

The Board recognizes the need for employers to fill vacant positions in a timely manner and accordingly, has authorized the Director to issue Limited Permits weekly. The application review process may be delayed, however, if information is missing or if information on the application can not be verified. Official academic transcript(s) are required from all college or university degrees conferred. An official transcript(s) should accompany the application or be issued directly from the college or university registrar's office to the Ohio Board of Dietetics.

A Limited Permit holder who passes the examination may use the R.D. credential once the Commission on Dietetic Registration authorizes its use and may add it to the L.P.#(number) i.e. R.D., L.P.#(number) until the date that the Limited Permit expires.

A Limited permit holder who fails the examination must inform the Ohio Board of Dietetics office immediately, and may only practice under the supervision of a licensed dietitian. Once supervision is in place, the Limited Permit holder may resume practice through the expiration date of the Limited Permit.

Limited Permit holders are entitled to all the rights and privileges set forth in the Ohio Revised Code until their permit expires. Therefore, it is the Limited Permit holder's obligation and responsibility to comply with all licensure regulations and to notify an employer of any restrictions placed on their practice.

It is important not to confuse the national credentials of the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) for Registered Dietitians (RD) with state licensure requirements. The "RD" is a trademark of the American Dietetic Association (ADA) and does not authorize Registered Dietitians to practice in Ohio without FIRST obtaining a license. Licensure laws are state specific, enacted through the legislative process and regulated by a professional licensing board or agency. It is a violation of Ohio law to practice without a valid license or permit and penalties do apply.

Please address your questions relative to Ohio's dietitian licensing regulations to:

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1 Chapter 4759 of the Ohio Revised Code, effective July 1, 1987, is a mandatory practice act, which protects the title and scope of practice of Ohio dietitians. Individuals who practice in dietetics as defined in Ohio law are required to be licensed. Section 4759.01(A) defines the "practice of dietetics" as follows:

- (1) Nutritional assessment to determine nutritional needs and to recommend appropriate nutritional intake, including enteral and parenteral nutrition;
- (2) Nutritional counseling or education as components of preventative, curative, and restorative health care;
- (3) Development, administration, evaluation, and consultation regarding nutritional care standards.