

**PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE DIVISION[645]**

**Notice of Intended Action**

**Proposing rulemaking related to licensure of dietitians  
and providing an opportunity for public comment**

The Board of Dietetics hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 81, “Licensure of Dietitians,” Iowa Administrative Code, and to adopt a new chapter with the same title.

*Legal Authority for Rulemaking*

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code chapter 152A and sections 147.36, 272C.3 and 272C.10.

*State or Federal Law Implemented*

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapters 17A, 147, 152A and 272C.

*Purpose and Summary*

The intended benefit of proposed Chapter 81 is to set minimum standards for entry into the dietetics profession. Iowa residents, licensees, and employers benefit from the chapter because it articulates the processes by which individuals apply for licensure as a dietitian in the state of Iowa, as directed in statute. The chapter publicly illustrates the process that will be used to license dietitians, including renewal and reinstatement, to ensure public safety through review of the integrity and competence of the practitioner. The chapter describes the application process, educational qualifications, and examination requirements.

No public comments were received at the November 21, 2023, public hearing.

*Fiscal Impact*

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

*Jobs Impact*

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

*Waivers*

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Board for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 645—Chapter 18.

*Public Comment*

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written or oral comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 14, 2024. Comments should be directed to:

Venus Vendoures Walsh  
Division of Licensing  
Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing  
6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100  
Des Moines, Iowa 50321-1270  
Phone: 515.242.6529  
Email: [venus.vendoures-walsh@dia.iowa.gov](mailto:venus.vendoures-walsh@dia.iowa.gov)

*Public Hearing*

Public hearings at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

February 13, 2024  
2:10 to 2:30 p.m.

6200 Park Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Video call link:  
[meet.google.com/jji-jaoj-uqy](https://meet.google.com/jji-jaoj-uqy)  
Phone numbers:  
[tel.meet/yxd-hmkw-ppo?pin=1779851586643](https://tel.meet/yxd-hmkw-ppo?pin=1779851586643)

February 14, 2024  
2:10 to 2:30 p.m.

6200 Park Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Video call link:  
[meet.google.com/jji-jaoj-uqy](https://meet.google.com/jji-jaoj-uqy)  
Phone numbers:  
[tel.meet/yxd-hmkw-ppo?pin=1779851586643](https://tel.meet/yxd-hmkw-ppo?pin=1779851586643)

Persons who wish to make oral comments at a public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking.

Any persons who intend to attend a public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

*Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee*

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rulemaking action is proposed:

ITEM 1. Rescind 645—Chapter 81 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

*DIETITIANS*

CHAPTER 81 LICENSURE OF DIETITIANS  
CHAPTER 82 CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR DIETITIANS  
CHAPTER 83 DISCIPLINE FOR DIETITIANS

CHAPTER 81  
LICENSURE OF DIETITIANS

**645—81.1(152A) Definitions.**

*“Active license”* means a license that is current and has not expired.

*“Board”* means the board of dietetics.

*“Consultation”* means the practice of providing professional advice to another dietitian or other professional in a particular case and for a limited time, in affiliation with, and at the request of, a dietitian licensed in this state.

*“Dietetics”* means the integration and application of principles derived from the sciences of nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, food management and from behavioral and social sciences to achieve and maintain an individual's health.

*“Grace period”* means the 30-day period following expiration of a license when the license is still considered to be active.

“*Inactive license*” means a license that has expired because it was not renewed by the end of the grace period. The category of “inactive license” may include licenses formerly known as lapsed, inactive, delinquent, closed, or retired.

“*Licensee*” means any person licensed to practice as a dietitian in the state of Iowa.

“*License expiration date*” means the fifteenth day of the birth month every two years following initial licensure.

“*Nutrition assessment*” means the evaluation of the nutrition needs of individuals and groups based upon appropriate biochemical, anthropometric, physical, and dietary data to determine nutrient needs and to recommend appropriate nutritional intake, including enteral and parenteral nutrition.

“*Nutrition counseling*” means advising and assisting individuals or groups, with consideration of cultural background and socioeconomic status, about appropriate nutritional intake by integrating information from the nutrition assessment with information about food and other sources of nutrients and meal preparation.

“*Reactivate*” or “*reactivation*” means the process as outlined in rule 645—81.15(17A,147,272C) by which an inactive license is restored to active status.

“*Reciprocal license*” means the issuance of an Iowa license to practice dietetics to an applicant who is currently licensed in another state that has a mutual agreement with the Iowa board of dietetics to license persons who have the same or similar qualifications as those required in Iowa.

“*Registered dietitian*” means a dietitian who has met the standards and qualifications of the Commission on Dietetic Registration, a member of the National Commission for Certifying Agencies.

“*Reinstatement*” means the process as outlined in rule 645—11.31(272C) by which a licensee who has had a license suspended or revoked or who has voluntarily surrendered a license may apply to have the license reinstated, with or without conditions. Once the license is reinstated, the licensee may apply for active status.

“*Supervision of nonlicensees*” means any of the following: delegation of duties, direct oversight, or indirect oversight of employees or other persons not licensed by the board.

**645—81.2(152A) Nutrition care.** The primary function of dietetic practice is the provision of nutrition care services that include:

1. Assessing the nutrition needs of individuals and groups and determining resources and constraints in the practice setting.
2. Establishing priorities, goals, and objectives that meet nutrition needs and are consistent with available resources and constraints.
3. Providing nutrition counseling concerning health and disease.
4. Developing, implementing, and managing nutrition care systems.
5. Evaluating, making changes in, and maintaining appropriate standards of quality in food and nutrition services.

**645—81.3(152A) Requirements for licensure.** The following criteria apply to licensure:

**81.3(1)** Submit a completed online application for licensure and pay the nonrefundable licensure fee specified in rule 645—5.6(147,152A).

**81.3(2)** No application will be considered by the board until the applicant satisfactorily completes the registration examination for dietitians administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). The board will accept the passing score set by the CDR. Verification of satisfactory completion may be established by one of the following:

- a. The applicant sends to the board a copy of the CDR registration card;
- b. The CDR sends an official letter directly to the board to verify that the applicant holds registration status; or
- c. The CDR posts web-based verification that the applicant holds registration status.

**81.3(3)** A license is not required for dietitians who are in this state for the purpose of consultation, in accordance with rule 645—81.1(152A), when they are licensed in another state, U.S. territory, or country,

or have received at least a baccalaureate degree in human nutrition from a U.S. regionally accredited college or university.

**81.3(4)** Incomplete applications that have been on file in the board office for more than two years will be considered invalid and destroyed.

**645—81.4(152A) Educational qualifications.**

**81.4(1)** The applicant shall possess a baccalaureate degree or postbaccalaureate degree from a U.S. regionally accredited college or university with a major course of study in human nutrition, food and nutrition, nutrition education, dietetics, or food systems management, or in an equivalent major course of study, that meets minimum academic requirements as established by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) and is approved by the board.

**81.4(2)** A foreign-trained dietitian shall:

*a.* Provide an official letter sent directly from the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) to the board to verify that the applicant has met the minimum academic and didactic program requirements of the CDR. Foreign degree equivalency evaluation requirements of the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) are listed on the ACEND website, and

*b.* Provide evidence of meeting all other requirements in these rules.

**645—81.5(152A) Supervised experience.** The applicant shall complete an accredited competency-based supervised experience program approved by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND).

**645—81.6(152A) Licensure by endorsement.** An applicant who has been a licensed dietitian under the laws of another jurisdiction may file an application for licensure by endorsement with the board office. The board may receive by endorsement any applicant from the District of Columbia or another state, territory, province or foreign country who:

**81.6(1)** Meets the requirements of rule 645—81.4(152A).

**81.6(2)** Provides verification of license(s) from every jurisdiction in which the applicant has been licensed, sent directly from the jurisdiction(s) to the board office. Web-based verification may be substituted for verification direct from the jurisdiction's board office if the verification provides:

- a.* Licensee's name;
- b.* Date of initial licensure;
- c.* Current licensure status; and
- d.* Any disciplinary action taken against the license.

**645—81.7(152A) License renewal.**

**81.7(1)** The biennial license renewal period begins on the sixteenth day of the licensee's birth month and ends on the fifteenth day of the licensee's birth month two years later. The licensee is responsible for renewing the license prior to its expiration.

**81.7(2)** An initial license issued by the board may be valid for an 18- to 29-month period. When an initial license is renewed, it will be placed on a two-year renewal period identified in subrule 81.9(1).

**81.7(3)** A licensee seeking renewal shall:

*a.* Meet the continuing education requirements of rule 645—82.2(152A) and the mandatory reporting requirements of subrule 81.9(4). A licensee whose license was reactivated during the current renewal compliance period may use continuing education credit earned during the compliance period for the first renewal following reactivation; and

*b.* Submit the completed renewal application and renewal fee before the license expiration date.

**81.7(4)** Mandatory reporter training requirements.

*a.* A licensee who, in the scope of professional practice or in the licensee's employment responsibilities, examines, attends, counsels or treats children and dependent adults in Iowa will

complete the applicable department of health and human services training relating to the identification and reporting of child and dependent adult abuse as required by Iowa Code section 232.69(3) “b.”

b. Written documentation of training completion should be maintained for three years.

c. The requirement for mandatory training for identifying and reporting child and dependent adult abuse is suspended if the board determines that suspension is in the public interest or that a person at the time of license renewal:

(1) Is engaged in active duty in the military service of this state or the United States.

(2) Holds a current waiver by the board based on evidence of significant hardship in complying with training requirements, including an exemption of continuing education requirements or extension of time in which to fulfill requirements due to a physical or mental disability or illness as identified in rule 645—4.14(272C).

d. The board may select licensees for audit of compliance with the requirements in paragraphs 81.9(4) “a” and “b.”

**81.7(5)** Upon receiving the information required by this rule and the required fee, a two-year license will be administratively issued. In the event the board receives adverse information on the renewal application, the renewal license will be issued but the board may refer the adverse information for further consideration or disciplinary investigation.

**81.7(6)** The license certificate and proof of active licensure will be displayed in a conspicuous public place at the primary site of practice.

**81.7(7)** *Late renewal.* A license not renewed by the expiration date will be assessed a late fee as specified in 645—subrule 5.6(3). Completion of renewal requirements and submission of the late fee within the grace period are needed to renew the license.

**81.7(8)** *Inactive license.* A license not renewed by the end of the grace period is inactive. A licensee whose license is inactive continues to hold the privilege of licensure in Iowa, but may not practice as a dietitian in Iowa until the license is reactivated. A licensee who practices as a dietitian in the state of Iowa with an inactive license may be subject to disciplinary action by the board, injunctive action pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.83, criminal sanctions pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.86, and other available legal remedies.

**81.7(9)** *Renewal of a reactivated license.* A licensee who reactivates the license in accordance with rule 645—81.15(17A,147,272C) will not be required to renew the license until the next renewal two years later if the license is reactivated within six months prior to the license renewal date.

**645—81.8(17A,147,272C) License reactivation.** To apply for reactivation of an inactive license, a licensee shall:

**81.8(1)** Submit a reactivation application and pay the reactivation fee as specified in 645—Chapter 5.

**81.8(2)** Provide verification of current competence to practice dietetics by satisfying one of the following criteria:

a. If the license has been on inactive status for five years or less, an applicant must provide the following:

(1) Verification of the license(s) from every jurisdiction in which the applicant is or has been licensed and is or has been practicing during the time period the Iowa license was inactive, sent directly from the jurisdiction(s) to the board office. Web-based verification may be substituted for verification from a jurisdiction’s board office if the verification includes:

1. Licensee’s name;
2. Date of initial licensure;
3. Current licensure status; and
4. Any disciplinary action taken against the license.

(2) Verification of completion of 30 hours of continuing education within two years of the application for reactivation.

b. If the license has been on inactive status for more than five years, an applicant must provide the following:

(1) Verification of the license(s) from every jurisdiction in which the applicant is or has been licensed and is or has been practicing during the time period the Iowa license was inactive, sent directly from the jurisdiction(s) to the board office. Web-based verification may be substituted for verification from a jurisdiction's board office if the verification includes:

1. Licensee's name;
2. Date of initial licensure;
3. Current licensure status; and
4. Any disciplinary action taken against the license.

(2) Verification of completion of 60 hours of continuing education within two years of application for reactivation.

**645—81.9(17A,147,272C) License reinstatement.** A licensee whose license has been revoked, suspended, or voluntarily surrendered must apply for and receive reinstatement of the license in accordance with rule 645—11.31(272C) and must apply for and be granted reactivation of the license in accordance with rule 645—81.15(17A,147,272C) prior to practicing dietetics in this state.

**645—81.10(152A,272C) Telehealth visits.** A licensee may provide dietetic services to an individual or a group utilizing a telehealth visit if the dietetic services are provided in accordance with all the requirements of this chapter.

**81.10(1)** "Telehealth visit" means the provision of dietetic services by a licensee to an individual or a group using technology where the licensee and the individual or group are not at the same physical location for the therapy session.

**81.10(2)** A licensee engaged in a telehealth visit will utilize technology that is secure and HIPAA-compliant pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-191, August 21, 1996, 110 Stat. 1936, and any amendments as of December 15, 2023, and that includes, at a minimum, audio and video equipment that allows two-way real-time interactive communication between the licensee and the individual or group. A licensee may use non-real-time technologies to prepare for a session or to communicate with an individual or a group between sessions.

**81.10(3)** A licensee engaged in a telehealth visit will be held to the same standard of care as a licensee who provides in-person dietetic services. A licensee will not utilize a telehealth visit if the standard of care for the particular services cannot be met by using technology.

**81.10(4)** Any licensee who provides a telehealth visit to an individual or a group located in Iowa shall be licensed in Iowa.

**81.10(5)** Prior to the first telehealth visit, a licensee is to obtain informed consent from the individual or group specific to the services that will be provided in a telehealth visit. At a minimum, the informed consent shall specifically inform the individual or group of the following:

- a. The risks and limitations of the use of technology to provide dietetics services;
- b. The potential for unauthorized access to protected health information; and
- c. The potential for disruption of technology during a telehealth visit.

**81.10(6)** A licensee will identify in the clinical record when dietetic services are provided utilizing a telehealth visit.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A, 147, 152A, and 272C.