

Table 1. Job titles and qualifications of nutrition-related health workers in Vietnam

Qualification	Educational background	Requirements for working at hospitals	Description
Qualified nutrition professionals (QNPs)	Bachelor of Nutrition (4-years program, job title: dietitian)	For new graduates: clinical nutrition certificate (6 months). For those already employed in a hospital nutrition department: 9 months of work experience in a hospital that have hospital nutrition activities, with a tutor who is a medical doctor holding a nutrition-related license.	Specific health workforce for nutrition field. Undergraduate training for a Bachelor of Nutrition equips students with basic scientific knowledge, specialized knowledge, and fundamental practical skills to address community nutrition issues, food safety and hygiene, and clinical nutrition and dietetics. Graduates will be capable of independently performing some basic techniques in the field to support preventive nutrition and nutritional care for patients. They will also have the ability for self-study and scientific research to meet the needs of public health care and protection.
	Medical doctors (6-years program, job title: nutrition doctor)	Clinical nutrition certificate (6 months)	A Medical Doctor is a professional who maintains and restores human health by studying, diagnosing, and treating diseases and injuries based on knowledge of the human body. Medical Doctors play an important role in the healthcare workforce due to their direct responsibilities in examining and treating patients.
Non-Qualified Nutrition Professionals (non-QNPs)*	Doctors of preventative medicine (6-years program)	According to Circular 18/2020, not eligible. According to Circular 03/2022, eligible for the job title nutrition doctor if holding a postgraduate degree in nutrition.	A Doctor of Preventive Medicine is capable of working in healthcare facilities, performing both primary care and preventive tasks. Preventive Medicine Doctors are trained in basic medical skills to identify, propose, and participate in solving individual and community health issues. They also possess the ability to conduct scientific research and engage in self-directed learning to enhance their professional skills, meeting the needs of protecting, caring for, and improving public health.
	Doctors of Traditional Medicine (6-years program)	None	Traditional Medicine is a field that trains specialized doctors in Traditional Medicine, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to examine, diagnose, and treat patients using Traditional Medicine. It also involves integrating Traditional Medicine with Modern Medicine.
	Bachelor of Nurse (4-years program)	None	Students pursuing a degree in nursing will be trained in skills such as assessment, care planning, performing care techniques, and developing health education plans for patients and their families in hospitals and communities.
	Bachelor of Public Health (4-years program)	None	Public Health is a science and art dedicated to preventing disease, prolonging life, and enhancing health and physical efficiency through community efforts. These efforts include environmental hygiene, controlling infectious diseases, educating the public on personal hygiene principles, organizing medical and nursing services for early diagnosis and disease prevention.
	Oral-maxillofacial doctor (6-years program)	None	Oral- Maxillofacial Doctor program trains healthcare professionals with the skills to examine, diagnose, treat, and prevent common oral diseases in medical facilities and communities.
	Dietetic Technician (3-year program)	None	Dietetic technicians possess basic and specialized knowledge, enhance practical skills, and have a clear understanding of the role, energy provision, and nutritional value of foods. This program has already stopped training in Vietnam after three batches since 2009.

*Non-QNPs who hold a postgraduate degree in nutrition and dietetics (e.g., a Master's or PhD) are not classified as dietitians, as an undergraduate qualification in the field is an essential minimum requirement.

Source: Hanoi Medical University (2024). Undergraduate training programs.

Vietnamese Ministry of Health (2020). Circular on Hospital Nutrition. No. 18/2020/TT-BYT.

Vietnamese Ministry of Health (2020). Circular on amendments to some regulations on criteria for title of healthcare public employees. No.03/2022/TT-BYT