Know Your Nutrients

At one point in time you may have heard of the word “macronutrients”, but have you ever really understood how macronutrients (carbohydrates, proteins and fats) work in your body? Contrary to popular fad diets, carbohydrates and fats are just as important in your diet as protein. We need a balance of all three in order to maintain a healthy diet.

**Protein**

Known as the building blocks of life, this macronutrient is essential for growth, development and helping your body repair old cells and create new ones.

Sources of animal protein found in the dining hall include meats, dairy, fish and eggs.

Plant sources include soy, legumes, nuts and grains like quinoa. Combine multiple plant proteins during meals for a more complete protein source.

**Fats**

While there are many sources of fats available in the dining halls, some of the healthiest options include: olive oil, avocados, nuts, and fatty fish like salmon or tuna.

**Carbs**

Carbs are the energy powerhouse for your body. Fiber, an indigestible carb, acts as fuel for good gut bacteria. A diet high in fiber can help you maintain a healthy weight and optimal digestion.

Sources of fiber-filled foods include: oatmeal, beans, whole grain breads, and whole grain cereals.

Questions? Follow us on our Facebook (RU Healthy Dining Team), Twitter (@RUHDT), Instagram (@RU_HDT), SnapChat (RU_HDT) or e-mail us at peggyp@dining.rutgers.edu. Our mission is to educate students about nutrition and encourage them to make healthier food and lifestyle choices. For more info, nutrient analysis and past newsletters, visit our web page at http://food.rutgers.edu.