Dietetic Internship PROGRAM

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Who We Are

The Division of Food, Nutrition, and Wellness (FNW) administers the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, Afterschool Snack Program, Summer Food Service Program, Seamless Summer Option Program and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for the State of Florida. The division is committed to ensuring that every child in Florida benefits from nutritious meals that foster better learning and a lifetime of good health.

Program Overview

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ (FDACS) Dietetic Internship Program has been an accredited program since 2004, when it was first accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Students who successfully complete this nine-month program are eligible to take the Commission on Dietetic Registration's (CDR) Registration Examination for Dietitians. State licensure can also be obtained by those who have passed the registration examination.
About the Program

The Dietetic Internship Program is a nine-month program that runs from September through May and accepts two interns per year. The program is based upon the Accreditation Standards for Internship Programs in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The program provides students with supervised practice and didactic experiences that meet ACEND Core Competencies for the registered dietitian requirements. An emphasis for entry-level practitioners in USDA Child Nutrition Programs and School Food Service Management is provided through this internship program experience.

Program Outcomes

Outcome measures for the program include intern retention, program completion rates, first-time pass rate on the Registration Examination for Dietitians, intern rates of employment in dietetics, and responses on graduate and employer surveys.

To date, all interns have completed the internship program. Most of the graduates have been employed in dietetic positions within six months of program completion, with a large percentage of graduates employed in school food service positions, including school food service directors and nutrition educators. Graduates and their employers positively rank the program's ability to prepare interns for entry-level practice. Raw outcome data is available upon request.
Program Mission
The mission of the Dietetic Internship Program is to provide quality supervised practice and didactic training, with a focus in school food service management consistent with the preparation of entry level registered dietitians.

Program Vision
Interns will develop the expertise and skills necessary to apply the nutritional knowledge and theory of their didactic education in the professional work environment.

Program Goals

• The program will prepare graduates to be competent for entry-level positions as registered dietitians.

• The program will prepare graduates to have a positive impact on child nutrition and enhance the quality of school food service programs.

Program Rotations

LENGTH OF ROTATIONS:

• Clinical: 12 weeks
• Food Service: 8 weeks
• Community: 17 weeks

Required practice hours are satisfied in school and hospital food service settings, clinical and renal dialysis facilities, cooperative extension service offices, county and state health departments, and other state agencies in Tallahassee and the surrounding area.

Out-of-town rotations include a two-week pediatric pulmonary rotation in Gainesville, Florida, and a four-week school food service rotation with the Sarasota County School Food Service Department in Osprey, Florida. The Administrative Review of a school district may require out-of-town travel for one week.
Admission Requirements

• Proof of a minimum of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. A final transcript or letter from registrar indicating degree is conferred can be provided.

• Proof of current medical liability, health, and automobile insurance and a recent physical exam is needed.

• A successfully completed employment screening and security background investigation conducted through FDACS and a local hospital.

Completion Requirements

Satisfactory performance on all required assignments, projects, curricula, rotation objectives, case studies, presentations and exams, and compliance with agency policies and procedures are required for the successful completion of the Dietetic Internship Program. In addition, interns must demonstrate behaviors consistent with the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics and must demonstrate good communication, customer service and employability skills.
Application Requirements

Applications will be accepted through Dietetic Internship Centralized Application Services at www.portal.dicas.org. It is the responsibility of all applicants to contact D&D Digital Systems at www.dnddigital.com and complete the computer match of intern/internship selection process. A fee applies to this service. The deadline for entering the spring computer match is February 15 for the April appointment.

Required application documents include:

- An official Verification of Completion of the Academy Didactic Program requirements or a completed Declaration of Intent to Complete Degree and/or ACEND--Approved Minimum Academic Requirements form (available from your academic advisor);*
- A completed and signed application form;
- A formal letter that describes applicant’s career goals and how they relate to the internship's emphasis in School Food Service/Child Nutrition Programs and program goals;
- Official transcript(s). Points for applicant rankings begin at grade point averages of 3.0; and
- A minimum of two letters of recommendation.

*Candidates accepted to the internship program must provide original copies of these documents to the internship program director.

Selected final applicants will be contacted for a telephone interview.
Program Costs

There are no application or enrollment fees, but interns will need to plan for the following anticipated expenses:

- D&D Digital computer matching fee: $50
- Laboratory coat for clinical rotations: $30
- Nonslip shoes for school food service rotation: $50
- Physical exam including TB test and titers: $100-$200
- Two background check clearances and drug screen: $100-$150
- Professional liability insurance: $25
- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics membership fees: $62
- For out-of-town rotations, costs of housing, food and transportation is estimated between $5,000-$7,000

Interns are responsible for housing, food, transportation and any additional expenses. Interns must have a car to travel to rotation sites.

For additional program information related to expected program completion requirements, graduate outcomes, or any other questions, please contact the internship director in writing to the address below, or by calling 850-617-7400. You may also visit FreshFromFlorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Food-Nutrition-and-Wellness/Dietetic-Internship-Program for additional information.
The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Dietetic Internship Program has been granted accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

For more information on ACEND, please contact the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics.

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 
120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000 
Chicago, IL 60605-6995 
800-877-1600 x 5400.

EatRightPro.org/resources/acend

Information on licensure in the state of Florida is available at FloridaHealth.gov

Division of Food, Nutrition and Wellness

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.