



Dietetic Internship

PROGRAM



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Nicole “Nikki” Fried, Commissioner



Who We Are

The Division of Food, Nutrition, and Wellness (FNW) administers the USDA 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 Programs 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.

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. Graduates of an accredited undergraduate or graduate university program 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 nine-month program runs from September through May and accepts two students per year. The program is based upon the 2017 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 Comprehensive Requirements for the registered dietitian nutritionist requirements. An emphasis for entry-level practitioners in USDA Child Nutrition Programs and School Food Service Management is provided through this internship program experience.

Outcomes

Outcome measures for the program include program completion rates, first-time pass rate on the Registration Examination for Dietitian Nutritionists, student rates of employment in dietetics, and responses on graduate and employer surveys. To date, all students 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. Program outcomes data are available on request.



Mission

The mission of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's Dietetic Internship Program is to educate and prepare future nutrition professionals to apply innovative approaches that improve the quality of school meals and impact the current and long-term nutritional status of children.

Vision

Graduates will be able to apply their expertise as nutrition professionals, transforming lives through dynamic Child Nutrition Programs that foster healthy lifestyles and eliminate food insecurity.

Goals

- The program will prepare graduates to be competent for entry-level positions as registered dietitian nutritionists.
- The program will prepare graduates to have a positive impact on child nutrition and enhance the quality of school food service programs.

Rotations/Schedule

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 site visit of a school district may require out-of-town travel for up to one week. The program includes one week of unpaid time off at Christmas.

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 application and 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, students 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 (DICAS)

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.dnndigital.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 in DICAS:

- 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 letter of intent describing the 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 three 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.





Costs

There are no application or enrollment fees and students are provided a monthly stipend of approximately \$915. Students will need to plan for the following anticipated program-related 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: \$25-40
- 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

Students are responsible for housing, food, a reliable form of transportation and related vehicle expenses for travel to rotation sites, and any additional living expenses.

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 [FDACS.gov/Divisions-Offices/Food-Nutrition-and-Wellness/Dietetic-Internship-Program](https://www.fda.gov/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 full 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.