
Internship Points of Pride

- The Dietetic Internship (DI) focuses on developing nutrition assessment, counseling and presentation skills.
- In the past 5 years 100% of graduates seeking jobs in dietetics have obtained positions in the field.
- In the past 5 years, 90% of graduates have passed the RD exam on the 1st time taking it.

DI Sequence

The DI is in conjunction with the Master's (MS) in Nutrition (Nutrition Science or Public Health Nutrition) and doctoral graduate degrees. Study for the MS degree takes place during the first 4 semesters (fall, spring, summer, fall). A DI Course, introducing knowledge and skills to be used during the DI is taken the 2nd fall. The DI rotations follow in the spring and summer from January-August (30 weeks). The MS degree and DI are usually completed in two years.

If a student elects to participate in the MS-MPH-DI, coursework takes place during the first two years, the DI Course is taken the 3rd fall with the DI following in the spring. The MS-MPH-DI is usually completed in three years.

Financial Assistance

Over 75% of dietetic interns have obtained a graduate assistantship during the time they were completing the MS degree. Assistantships in teaching or research average 10 hours per week, can provide tuition, a stipend, and valuable work experience. The DI experience is full-time. Assistantships are unlikely during the 30 week internship. Public Health Nutrition Traineeships provide tuition and a stipend for four semesters. (Please see cost estimates on insert).

The DI is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) of the American Dietetic Association (ADA).

DI Program Schedule

Clinical (12 + weeks)

1-2 week rotations at various clinics and hospitals:

- Clinical (general including metabolic support)
- Cardiac
- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Renal Dialysis
- Pediatrics (Neonatal Intensive Care)
- Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition
- Long-term Care
- Mini-staff experience

Community Public Health (6+ weeks)

Educate clients in various out-patient settings, including the Health Department, WIC Program, fitness and wellness centers, bariatric programs, nutrigenomics practice, public schools, mobile meals and extension programs.

Personal Choice /Electives (3-4 weeks)

Gain experience in your areas of interest. Examples:

- Sports Nutrition and/or Eating Disorders
- Supermarkets and Food Companies
- Health, Food and Nutrition Magazines
- Clinical, Community Nutrition or Management
- Attend Tennessee Dietetic Association meeting and meet with legislators at Hill Day in Nashville

Food Service Management (4 weeks)

Develop, prepare, cost and market specialty menu items, monitor sanitation, conduct in-service.

Staff Experience (5-7 weeks)

Manage in-patient or out-patient nutrition care or complete community nutrition assessment and manage community nutrition project.

Admission Criteria for DI

- Bachelor's Degree and Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) Verification
- Minimum 3.0 grade point average
- GRE (1000 or more desired)
- Work experience in health care, food, or nutrition related area (500 hours or more desired)

MS/DI Applications

Students must complete 3 applications*:

1. Graduate School application including:
 - Original transcripts/GRE scores
 - \$35 fee to UT
2. Department of Nutrition application including:
 - Statement of long/short-term goals
 - 3 Recommendations on University Rating Forms
 - 1 copy of transcripts/GRE scores
3. Dietetic Internship application (ADA form) including:
 - Letter of Application (typed 1-2 page letter stating why you want to be a RD, highlighting your strengths and experience, and why you are choosing UT)
 - 3 Letters of Reference on ADA form
 - Verification Statement or Letter of Intent to Graduate

Applications must be completed and received by January 5 except the DI application which is due February 1st. The DI participates with D & D Digital computer matching. Forms are available on our web site or at www.dnddigital.com.

* A 4th application is necessary if you are applying for the MPH degree (contact the MPH Coordinator at 865-974-5041).

For more info on the DI & grad programs visit our web site: nutrition.utk.edu or contact Karen Wetherall, MS, RD, LDN at: kbalnick@utk.edu or 865-974-6256
