Internship Points of Pride
- The Dietetic Internship (DI) focuses on developing nutrition assessment, counseling & 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, 100% of graduates have passed the RD exam within the first year of taking it.

DI Sequence
The DI is in conjunction with the Master’s (MS) in Nutrition (Cellular and Molecular Nutrition or Public Health Nutrition) and doctoral graduate degrees. Study for the MS degree takes place during the first 4 semesters. 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 the MS-MPH-DI is selected, coursework takes place during the first two years, the DI Course is taken the 3rd fall with the DI the following spring. The MS-MPH-DI is usually completed in three years. The DI can be completed with a PhD.

Financial Assistance
Dietetic interns may obtain a graduate assistantship during the time they are completing MS coursework. 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 focus on maternal and child health and provide tuition and a stipend for 4 semesters. (Please see cost estimates on insert).

The DI is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

DI Program Schedule
- Clinical (12 + weeks)
  1-2 week rotations at various clinics and hospitals:
  - Clinical (general including metabolic support)
  - Cancer
  - Diabetes
  - Renal Dialysis
  - Pediatrics (Neonatal Intensive Care)
  - Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition
  - Out-patient (Weight management and GI)
  - 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, public schools, mobile meals and extension programs.
- Personal Choice /Electives (3 weeks)
  Gain experience in your areas of interest. Examples:
  - Sports Nutrition and/or Eating Disorders
  - Supermarkets and/or Food Companies
  - Clinical, Community Nutrition or Management
  - Attend Tennessee Academy 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 employee in-service.
- Staff Experience (5–7 weeks)
  Manage in-patient nutrition care or complete community nutrition assessment and manage community nutrition project.

Admission Criteria for DI
- Bachelor’s Degree & Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) Verification
- Minimum 3.0 grade point average
- GRE (150 each section is suggested)
- Work experience in health care, food, or nutrition related area (500 hours is suggested)

MS/DI Applications
Students must complete 3 applications*:
1. Graduate School application online:
   - Original transcripts/GRE scores
   - $60 fee to UT
2. Department of Nutrition application online (access this through the UT Graduate School application):
   - Rank 3 faculty members with whom you’d like to work
   - Opportunity to apply for assistantship
   - 3 Recommendations (preferably from faculty)
3. Dietetic Internship online application (DICAS) include:
   - Letter of Application (state why you want to be a RDN, & why chose UT, highlight your strengths & experience)
   - 3 Letters of Reference (at least one RDN)
   - Verification Statement or Letter of Intent to Graduate Applications must be completed and received by January 15 except the DI application which is due via the online DICAS by February 15th. The DI participates with D & D Digital computer matching. More info 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, RDN, LDN at: kbalnick@utk.edu or 865-974-6256
DI Experiences

Intern opportunities take place at hospitals, health departments, WIC clinics, supermarkets, elementary schools, health fairs, fitness and wellness centers.