The mission of the Dietetic Internship at Northern Illinois University is to prepare graduate-level professionals to demonstrate knowledge, skills and values which enhance individuals and community health through dietetics practice.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Dietetic Internship at Northern Illinois University (NIU) resides in the School of Health Studies within the College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS).

This Dietetic Internship (DI) is affiliated with the Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Nutrition and Dietetics at NIU. Dietetic interns complete graduate degree requirements while engaging in “supervised practice” (internship) experiences. The first two semesters (fall and spring) are comprised of graduate coursework only. The subsequent two semesters are comprised of both course work and supervised practice experience. One summer semester is comprised of full-time supervised practice (no course work) in a community hospital. The final semester is comprised of both course work and supervised practice. At the end of the program interns will have completed the requirements for the M.S. degree in Nutrition and Dietetics and will be eligible to take the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) registration examination to become a Registered Dietitian (RD).

The program’s concentration is Community Nutrition and Health Promotion which includes 1224 hours of dietetic internship experiences: 540 hours in community nutrition, lifecycle and health promotion; 504 hours in medical nutrition therapy (at one hospital), and 180 hours in food service (NIU Dining Services).

The dietetic internship program accepts eight - fourteen interns annually through the D&D Digital spring match.

The graduate program in Nutrition and Dietetics focuses on applied nutrition and dietetic practice, and offers both a thesis and non-thesis option. Acceptance into the graduate program at NIU is required for acceptance into the Dietetic Internship. Although admission criteria is similar, acceptance into the graduate program does not guarantee acceptance into the Dietetic Internship as admission is competitive and limited to fourteen interns each year. Applicants apply to both programs at the same time. The application deadline date for the Graduate School is January 15.

PROGRAM SEQUENCE

Step 1 - Graduate Coursework: During the first two semesters interns are enrolled in graduate coursework only. Graduate course work is completed during these two semesters, which are referred to as the “pre-practicum semesters”. During the second pre-practicum semester, interns enroll in a one-semester hour workshop (NUTR 652). This workshop orients interns to both the internship and profession. Interns may be encouraged to take course work in summer in order to complete all requirements of the graduate degree simultaneously with DI completion.

Step 2 - Supervised Practice Experiences and Graduate Coursework: After completion of the pre-practicum semesters, interns begin on-site supervised practice experiences while continuing to complete graduate coursework.
Interns are engaged in supervised practice experiences during four semesters: fall, spring, summer and fall. Interns are typically on-site Monday, Wednesday and Friday for 20 - 24 hours per week and on-campus for graduate classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the fall and spring semesters. During the summer semester, interns work on-site in a hospital, full-time for thirteen weeks; other graduate coursework is not possible during the summer Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) practicum.

By taking course work each semester, interns can expect to finish the internship and M.S. degree simultaneously. After completing both the requirements of the internship and graduate program, program graduates’ names will be submitted to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics’ Commission for Dietetic Registration (CDR) for eligibility to take the registration examination, and will graduate with a M.S. degree in Nutrition and Dietetics.

### Dietetic Internship (Supervised Practice) Course Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On-site Internship Courses</th>
<th>Type of Internship Experience</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours on Site per week</th>
<th>Length of Practicum</th>
<th>Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUTR 617</td>
<td>Food Service</td>
<td>NIU Dining Services</td>
<td>20 hours per week</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
<td>Fall or spring semester only</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUTR 610</td>
<td>Lifecycle</td>
<td>WIC, School Nutrition, Campus Rec, LTC</td>
<td>20 hours per week</td>
<td>9 weeks</td>
<td>Fall or spring semester only</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUTR 624</td>
<td>MNT</td>
<td>1 hospital</td>
<td>40 hours per week</td>
<td>13 weeks</td>
<td>Summer only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTR 619</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>4-5 different sites</td>
<td>24 hours per week</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
<td>Fall semester only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTR 630</td>
<td>Professional Practice</td>
<td>1 site</td>
<td>24 hours per week</td>
<td>5 weeks</td>
<td>Fall semester only</td>
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**ON-SITE PLACEMENT**

- **Food Service Management practicum**: interns are assigned to the NIU Residential Dining.
- **Lifecycle Nutrition practicum**: interns are assigned to four different locations (WIC, school nutrition program, NIU Campus Recreation, and Long-term Care facility).
- **MNT practicum**: interns are assigned to 1 community hospital located within driving distance of DeKalb
- **Community Nutrition practicum**: interns are assigned to four sites (examples of sites are listed below):
  - Out-Patient Counseling Clinics
  - Diabetes Education Clinics
  - Corporate Sites: Integrated Inventory Technology, Inc.; Wilton Industries
  - Wellness & Health Promotion Sites
  - County Health Departments
  - Northern Illinois Food Bank
  - Grocery Stores
  - Sports Nutrition Sites
  - AND Headquarters in Chicago
- **Professional Practice practicum**: interns return to a site that is an ‘area of interest’ for semi-staff relief.

**Competency Assessment to Credit Prior Experience**

Applicants who have significant experience in the field may request to have their experiences evaluated for credit toward supervised practice hours. The applicant would be asked to review the program competencies and provide a written statement and documented evidence regarding how the prior experiences achieved those competencies. The Program Director, a site preceptor working in that professional area, and a member of the Admissions Committee will review the documentation submitted by the applicant to determine what credit, if any, would be given.
PROGRAM COMPLETION
You will have satisfactorily completed the Dietetic Internship when you have successfully completed all the internship courses and all Graduate School requirements. Interns are strongly advised to work closely with their academic advisor regarding their graduate course schedule to be sure that sufficient course work is being taken each semester for simultaneous completion of both the M.S. degree program and the Dietetic Internship program. You will receive the official "Verification Statement of Dietetic Internship Completion" only when all requirements of the M.S. degree program in Nutrition and Dietetics have been satisfied. At that time your name will be submitted to the Commission of Dietetic Registration and you will be eligible to sit for the RD exam and apply for licensure in the State of Illinois, if applicable.

PROGRAM COSTS & FINANCIAL SUPPORT
Tuition: Dietetic Interns pay tuition for both MS courses and DI courses. Please note that tuition usually increases annually. Check the Office of the Bursar for most current costs at http://www.niu.edu/bursar/tuition/graduate.shtml

Graduate Assistantships: All interns, and especially those who are from out-of-state, are strongly encouraged to apply for a graduate assistantship. Although we cannot guarantee that every applicant will receive an assistantship, every effort is made to provide this benefit for interns. A graduate assistantship provides a partial tuition waiver and modest stipend. It does not pay for course fees or medical insurance. Graduate assistantships require that a student work for a faculty person for 10-20 hours per week assisting with teaching and/or research.

Insurance - Health and Professional Liability: Interns are required to have health (medical) insurance while enrolled in the program. Health insurance is available through NIU for full-time students. Professional Liability insurance is provided through the College.

Loans and Grants: The NIU Student Financial Aid Office is available to assist students with loans, deferments and grants. Student loans may be deferred during the internship experiences and graduate studies.

Other Costs: There are other costs associated with this program. Hospitals require extensive health documentation to verify immunity to diseases including titers and immunizations. These titers and immunizations may be obtained for a fee at NIU Health Services. Other required documentation that has associated costs includes criminal background checks, food sanitation certifications and an advanced level CPR certification. Other costs include membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, textbooks, and appropriate professional on-site attire including uniforms and lab coats, and registration fees for professional meetings. Since this is a commuting program, a reliable car is also required. Housing and transportation costs are also the responsibility of the intern.

TRANSPORTATION
All internship sites are within driving distance of NIU. One of the strengths of this program is its proximity to many locations where dietitians are employed. Sites are located throughout the western suburbs of Chicago, DeKalb, Sycamore, and Rockford, IL. Most often commuting time is less than one hour, although on occasion, distances and/or driving time may be longer. Consideration will be given to the distance between your residence and sites when planning your site placement schedule, however, when you accept a position in this internship, you also accept the program’s right to assign you to appropriate sites to meet your learning needs.

HOUSING
Student housing is not provided through the internship. Interns are responsible for locating and paying for their own housing. Residence halls are available on campus and many safe and adequate student apartments are available in the cities of DeKalb and Sycamore. For help with on-campus housing visit http://www.niu.edu/housing for help with off-campus housing visit http://www.niu.edu/commontrad/
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
- Dietetic Internship Program Application (completed via the online DICAS system)
- 2.75 Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA on 4.0 scale) required
- 3.0 Major Grade Point Average (GPA on 4.0 scale) required
- 3.0 Science Grade Point Average (GPA on 4.0 scale) preferred
- Completion of (or intent to complete) Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) program (via DICAS)
- Personal Statement - 1000 words or less (via DICAS)
- 3 Letters of Recommendation-preferably 2 from academic instructors, 1 from work supervisor (via DICAS)
- Completion of a minimum of 150 hours of dietetics-related work experience (via DICAS)
- Official Transcripts of Undergraduate coursework (sent to DICAS)
- GRE: Satisfactory scores are required
- Graduate School Application - Deadline dates for submission of the Graduate School application are different than to the Dietetic Internship.
- Submission of computer matching application to D&D Digital
- Application Notification Form and $25.00 application fee for Dietetic Internship to NIU

APPLICATION PROCESS
Three separate applications are required:
1. Application to the Dietetic Internship program online through DICAS
2. Application to D&D Digital to participate in computer matching, and
3. Application to the Graduate School for admission to the M.S. degree program in Nutrition and Dietetics.

- Application to the Dietetic Internship is separate from the application to the M.S. degree programs. The Graduate School requires a completely separate application and letters of recommendation, and has different deadline dates. Students need to apply to the graduate program using the application process and form specified by the NIU Graduate School at http://www.grad.niu.edu/ Please note that in order to be eligible for a graduate assistantship; you must be fully admitted to the Graduate School.

- Students need to apply to the Dietetic Internship using the on-line centralized internship application, DICAS, which may be accessed at: https://portal.dicas.org; email: DICASinfo@DICAS.org. Further information about the application process is available on our website at http://www.chhs.niu.edu/nutrition/dieteticinternship

- Admission to the Dietetic Internship also requires participation in the national computer matching process. You can obtain the material from D&D Digital System at: http://www.dnddigital.com/ada/index.html

CONTACT PERSON AND PROGRAM ADDRESS:
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