

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

DIETETIC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Department of Nutrition Science



Mission

The mission of the ECU Dietetic Internship program is to meet the needs of citizens in eastern North Carolina and the nation by educating highly qualified Registered Dietitians in an atmosphere of intellectual challenge and highly practical application.

Program Schedules

Full-time Schedule

The full-time schedule is made up of a fall and spring semester. Each semester includes 3 credits in a graduate course plus 6 credits of supervised practice. Fall includes a 1-credit Orientation course. Interns pursuing the full-time program should not hold jobs or assistantships as they will be working in assigned facilities for forty+ hours per week.

Part-time Schedule

The part-time schedule generally includes two fall semesters, one spring semester, and one summer session. The first fall semester includes the 1 credit Orientation course, 3 credits of graduate study, and 3 semester hours of supervised practice. The spring semester involves 3 credits of supervised practice and 3 credits of graduate study. Supervised practice continues into summer and fall as needed by the intern. Part-time students may schedule no more than twenty hours per week of added responsibilities.

CONCENTRATION

Interns select a Concentration for their Staff Relief experience in either Clinical or Community/Public Health content areas.

Program Completion Requirements

1. Exit exams have been completed with a score of $\geq 80\%$
2. Competent or better is given on all performance evaluations
3. All assignments have been completed to the satisfaction of preceptors/faculty members
4. All required hours have been documented
5. Any disciplinary actions have been resolved Graduate courses are completed with a grade of B or better.

Verification Statement

Applicants must have a Verification statement (original copy) signed by their Didactic Program Director to meet expectations of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (A.N.D.) Interns who complete all requirements will also receive a Verification Statement for eligibility to sit for the RD examination through the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR.)

Additional Information

Dietetic Internship Program
College of Human Ecology
Department of Nutrition Science
East Carolina University
Mailstop 505, Rivers Building
Greenville, NC 27858
Telephone 252-328-1352
Fax 252-328-4276
E-mail: escottstumps@ecu.edu

Website: <http://www.ecu.edu/che/nutr/dieteticinternship.html>

East Carolina University is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, or disability. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, which accommodates the needs of individuals with disabilities.

Academic Program

The dietetic internship program is a post-baccalaureate, supervised practice program that qualifies graduates for the Registration Examination for Dietitians administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration. Successful completion of this examination qualifies graduates to be a Registered Dietitian (RD) and to apply to be licensed as dietitians in North Carolina and other states.

This program is available to students who have completed a baccalaureate degree and provide an original, signed Verification Statement from a didactic program in dietetics (DPD) Coursework within the previous 5 years is mandatory.

The internship provides Generalist supervised practice in a variety of settings plus 6 to 9 semester hours of graduate courses. Based on interests and career goals, interns are matched with a Track and sites that develop expertise in food and nutrition programs in large and small hospitals, School of Medicine clinics, WIC programs, wellness programs, health departments, child nutrition programs, long-term care facilities, and consulting/business opportunities.

The ECU program requires 1200 hours of supervised practice and promotes development of entry-level competence in dietetic practice. It can be completed in 9 months of full-time study or two years of part-time study. Concentration: Interns select either a clinical or community/public health concentration for their 4-week staff relief experience.

In addition to becoming registry-eligible, interns achieve competence in the Nutrition Care Process (nutrition assessment, nutrition diagnosis, intervention, monitoring and evaluation) as well as education, foodservice systems, management, leadership development, critical thinking, problem solving and decision making. Interns acquire professional growth and development and an interest in life-long learning.

Program Goals

- *Provide the supervised practice experiences necessary for interns to perform successfully on the job and on the Registration Examination for Dietitians.*
- *Prepare interns for entry-level positions in the profession of dietetics by building a strong knowledge base.*
- *Prepare graduates for the possibility of rural setting employment.*
- *Encourage continuing professional development for achieving and maintaining competent practice.*

Admission

Admission requirements to the Dietetic Internship Program include a) an Intent to Complete Degree Form or a DPD Verification Statement from an accredited U.S. didactic program director, a minimum overall GPA of 3.0, and a combined verbal and quantitative score greater than or equal to 850 on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE.)

All applicants must participate in the A.N.D. computer matching process through D & D Digital for a fee of \$50. After being matched to the program, interns and track preceptors meet on an interview day in early June to finalize placement site for the year.

Interns must be admitted to East Carolina University graduate program for at least 6 graduate credits. Program graduates may continue their masters studies in the department after graduation, or select another graduate degree program. The masters degree is available on-line, an advantage for busy practitioner!!

Application packets are available on the web site:

<http://www.ecu.edu/che/nutr/index.html>

Costs

Current tuition and fees are included in the application packet and on the ECU website. Additional costs include health, liability, and malpractice insurance; travel to and from practice sites including car insurance; housing; A.N.D. and district professional membership fees; books; and attendance at professional meetings in the state and region. At the end of the program, interns take a required RD Exam Review Course for a fee.

Graduate Program

The 12 semester hours of dietetic internship courses can apply toward the masters degree. The master's degree in nutrition requires a minimum of 33 hours of graduate work. Requirements include graduate courses in nutritional and research methods and techniques, and a thesis. A non-thesis option is also available. Graduate assistantships are available for students who live close to Greenville. Scholarships are available on a competitive basis through the College of Human Ecology and through several professional organizations.

