Admission Procedures

Admission requirements to the dietetic internship (DI) program include an original DPD Verification Statement from an accredited US didactic program director, a minimum overall GPA of 3.0, and a mean score of 30th percentile from verbal and quantitative reasoning sections of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) taken within the past five years.

Application packets are available at http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/nutr/internship/.

MS-DI Program:
Applications are due through DICAS system by December 18 for preselect process. A fee is charged.

DI Only:
Applicants must participate in the February computer matching process through D&D Digital and DICAS for two separate fees.

If matched to the program:
Interns must be admitted to East Carolina University Graduate School. Interns who already have a master’s degree apply as non-degree seeking. Note: Financial aid is ONLY available to full-time, degree-seeking students. If matched to the program, interns and track preceptors interview to finalize the track placement. There is no guarantee for a site in Greenville. Matched interns receive their first letter with more details on physical exam, criminal record, drug testing, and other requirements.

Program Schedules

The internship requires two semesters of full-time equivalent practice.

Full-time Schedule:
The full-time schedule begins with a 1-credit online orientation and a 3-credit management course in late June through July. Supervised practice courses begin every August and finish in May. NOTE: Full-time interns should not hold jobs or assistantships during supervised practice as they will be working in assigned facilities for 40+ hours per week.

Part-time Schedule:
The part-time schedule begins with a 1-credit online orientation and a 3-credit management course in late June through July. It continues with supervised practice courses (20 hours per week) in the fall and spring. Part time generally includes two fall semesters, one spring semester, and two summer sessions. Supervised practice continues into fall as needed by the intern. Part-time students may schedule no more than 20 hours per week of job responsibilities.

Program Completion Requirements

1. “Meets or Exceeds” for overall performance evaluations.
2. All assignments related to ACEND competencies completed to the satisfaction of preceptors and program director.
3. All required hours have been documented.
4. Any disciplinary actions have been resolved.
5. All work completed within 15 months (full-time) or 24 months (part-time).
6. The CDR practice exam is completed with 80 percent+ score.

Verification Statement

The program director provides a Verification Statement of program completion when the full-time or part-time intern

• completes all rotation assignments, including staff relief;
• receives a B or higher grade for completion of the internship in the following courses: NUTR 4800, 6600, 6031, 6032, 6033, and 6102;
• has a GPA in graduate studies of 3.0 or higher.

Interns who receive a Verification Statement will be eligible to sit for the national RD examination through the Commission on Dietetic Registration.

ACEND

Program accreditation is through the following agency:

Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics
120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190
Chicago, IL 60606

E-mail: acend@eatright.org
Phone: 312-899-0040, ext. 5400
Fax: 312-899-4817

More information is available at www.eatright.org/ACEND/.

Program outcomes data is available upon request.
**Academic Program**

The dietetic internship program is a post-baccalaureate, supervised practice program with a concentration in rural health. The program 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 five years is mandatory.

The internship requires one orientation course online, five graduate courses, and supervised practice in a variety of settings. Based on interests and career goals, interns are matched with a regional track. Sites offer intern experiences in food and nutrition programs in large and small hospitals, medical clinics, WIC programs, wellness programs, health departments, child nutrition programs, long-term care facilities, and consulting/business opportunities.

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, food-service systems, management, leadership development, critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making. Interns acquire an interest in professional growth and lifelong learning.

With a component in rural health, this opportunity supports the work of the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, where family medicine is a priority.

**Program Mission**

The ECU dietetic internship program focuses on the needs of rural North Carolina, while maintaining national recognition, for highly qualified registered dietitians who have been educated in an atmosphere of intellectual challenge and practical application.

**Program Goal 1:**

Provide the supervised practice experiences necessary for interns to perform successfully on the job in rural North Carolina and on the Registration Examination for Dietitians.

**Objectives over a five-year period:**

- 70 percent or more of DI graduates who seek employment in dietetics will be employed in the field within 12 months of program completion.
- The pass rate for DI graduates taking the RD exam will be at least 80 percent for first time test takers.
- 95 percent of graduates will complete the program within 150 percent of established timeframe.

**Program Goal 2:**

Prepare interns for entry-level positions in the profession of dietetics by building and maintaining a strong knowledge base.

**Objectives over a five-year period:**

- 90 percent of program graduates will be rated at a competency level of “Satisfactory” or higher by themselves.
- 90 percent of program graduates will be rated at a competency level of “Satisfactory” or higher by their employers.
- 33 percent of graduates accept employment in rural communities.
- 75 percent or more of graduates acquire either an advanced degree or an additional professional credential.

**Costs**

Current tuition and fees are included in the application packet and on the ECU website. Additional costs include health and liability insurance; travel to and from practice sites, including car insurance; housing; academy 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.

**Combined Master’s-Internship Program**

The master’s degree in nutrition requires a minimum of 33 semester hours of graduate work. Requirements include graduate courses in nutritional and research methods and techniques as well as a thesis. A non-thesis option is also available. Graduate assistantships are available for students who can be assigned on campus.