



Pasco County Health Department Dietetic Internship

Mission:

To educate nutrition graduates for leadership roles in the profession of Dietetics in a stimulating environment which is both conducive to learning and committed to excellence, where full realization of human potential and commitment to improving health status of the community are pursued.

The major goals of the program are:

Goal 1: To prepare entry-level professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to practice evidence-based dietetics, with an emphasis on the competencies associated with public health and community nutrition.

Goal 2: To increase the number of registered, licensed dietitians specializing in public health and community nutrition in the state of Florida.

Goal 3: To assure a competent public health workforce by providing training opportunities for eligible staff to develop and expand their skills through participation in the Dietetic Internship and related professional organizations.

Outcome Measures:

1. 95% of interns admitted into the dietetic internship will complete the program within 15 months.
2. 85% of employed graduates will rate themselves as well prepared for their first employment position as public health/community nutrition professionals.
3. 100% of interns will receive a rating of 3 or above for all entry-level competencies, as evaluated by preceptors.
4. 100% of interns will receive a rating of 3 or above for all community emphasis competencies, as evaluated by preceptors.
5. 75% of employers will rate graduate employees as “meets expectations” or higher when evaluating competency level and overall preparation as public health nutritionists.
6. Over a 5-year period, 80% of program graduates will successfully complete and pass the registration examination for dietitians (RD exam) on the first attempt.
7. 85% of graduates who take the RD exam will have passed within the first 12 months.
8. 85% of non-state employee graduates will obtain employment within a local county health department within six months of graduation from the program.
9. 90% of employee graduates will complete their contractual work service obligation.
10. 100% of eligible Florida Department of Health nutrition educators are offered the opportunity to apply for the dietetic internship.
11. 50% of interns will be selected from the pool of state-employee applicants each year.
12. 80% of graduates responding to the post-graduation survey will respond that they participate in their local or national Dietetic Association, are willing to mentor/precept future interns and participate in lifelong learning.

Data from program outcome measures are available upon request