Florida Department of Health in Pasco County
Dietetic Internship

Admission Requirements

Requirements for Admission to the WIC and PAL Track:

- Minimum of a Bachelor’s degree from a U.S. accredited college or university
- Verification of Completion of a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) or the “Intent to Complete” form from an U.S. accredited DPD program
- Completion of DPD verification less than 5 years* prior to November 1st
- Evidence of DPD or Overall GPA of 3.0 or greater

Additional Requirements for Admission to the WIC Track include:

- A state of Florida Department of Health or contract WIC agency nutrition employee with at least one year (continuous 2080 hours of regular scheduled hours [overtime is excluded]) of current work experience in a Florida state or local WIC agency, or in a Florida public health nutrition program with the WIC agency that will be the sponsoring agency prior to application to the DI Program. Employment must be current and with the sponsoring agency prior to application prior to application deadline to the DI Program leading up to the November 1st application deadline.
  - Applies to Career Service and OPS employees
  - Approval for application to the internship is required from the sponsoring agency

Additional Requirements for Admission to the PAL Track include:

- Licensed Dietitian or Non-Licensed Candidate with evidence of significant experience in dietetics
  - Non-licensed Candidates must have varied and extensive post graduate dietetic paid work experience in the following practice areas: Clinical Nutrition, Public Health/Community Nutrition, Foodservice Administration and Management. Work experience must be at least 2 years combined in 2 of the 3 practice areas.
- After acceptance to the internship, the PAL Track intern must submit a portfolio for prior learning credit consideration to the Internship Program Director before the internship start date in August. The portfolio documentation must support analysis of prior learning experience with the ACEND Core Competencies for the RDN. Submission of a Portfolio may include samples of projects, reports, presentations, and professional practices that demonstrate proficient knowledge and skill in the area(s) of dietetics.

*Recency of Education Policy:

The following Recency of Education Policy is a policy statement for those applicants with a signed verification statement that is dated more than 5 years before the year the Dietetic Internship begins. The courses taken to satisfy the requirements of this policy must be
completed at a U.S. college or university that houses an accredited DPD program.

1) If the signed verification statement is dated within the last 5 years, then no extra coursework is required.

2) If the signed verification statement is dated within 5 - 9 years from the starting date of the internship program, then the applicant must have completed with a grade of B or better in 3 credit hours of DPD coursework within the past 2 years prior to the application deadline. The following courses are highly recommended:
   - A graduate or advanced level medical nutrition therapy or clinical nutrition course

3) If the signed verification statement is dated 10 years or more from the starting date of the Dietetic Internship, then the applicant must have completed with a grade of B or better in 6 credit hours of DPD coursework within the past 2 years prior to the application deadline. The following courses are highly recommended:
   - A graduate or advanced level medical nutrition therapy or clinical nutrition course
   - Another advanced level DPD nutrition course