Florida Department of Health in Pasco County
Dietetic Internship

Admission Requirements

Admission Requirements for WIC Track and PAL Track: Additional WIC track and PAL track specific requirements below

- Minimum of a bachelor’s degree from a U.S. accredited college or university

- Evidence of an Overall GPA, DPD GPA, or graduate degree GPA of 3.0 or greater. Leadership, work, and volunteer experience could bolster a candidate with a GPA less than 3.0 if the candidate provides evidence of that experience and how it relates to their ability to succeed in the internship

- Official Verification Statement of Completion or “Declaration of Intent to Complete” form from a U.S. accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)

- DPD Verification statement signed within five (5) years of the year in which the internship starts. For the internship class of 2022, if the candidate’s verification statement is dated prior to 2016, the candidate will need to show recency of education

Recency of Education

Candidates with a DPD verification statement of completion date in a calendar year greater than five years from the year in which the internship starts must show evidence of recent coursework in dietetics. A candidate that is beyond the five-year cut off time but within 10 years must complete three (3) credit hours of DPD coursework with a grade of B or better within the past two years prior to the application deadline. A graduate or advanced level medical nutrition therapy or clinical nutrition course is highly recommended.

Candidates with a DPD Verification Statement of Completion date in a calendar year greater than 10 years from the year in which the internship starts must show evidence of recent coursework in dietetics. A candidate that is beyond the 10-year cut off time must complete six (6) credit hours of DPD coursework within the past two years prior to the application deadline. A graduate or advanced level medical nutrition therapy or clinical nutrition course is highly recommended in addition to another advanced level DPD nutrition course.

Additional Requirements for Admission to the WIC Track (Only for applicants participating in the pre-selection prior to the Dietetic Internship Match):

A Florida Department of Health or contract WIC agency nutrition employee with at least one year (2080 hours) of current work experience in a Florida state or local WIC agency, or in a Florida public health nutrition program. This work experience:

- Must equal a continuous 2080 hours of regular scheduled hours (overtime is excluded)
- Must be completed with the WIC agency that will be the sponsoring agency for the internship
• Must be completed prior to the application deadline for the internship which is October 5, 2020

The opportunity to participate in pre-selection for the WIC Track applies to Career Service and OPS employees.

Approval for application to the internship is required from the sponsoring agency. See “WIC Eligibility Statement” in the Important Documents of the homepage for the approval form.

Additional Requirements for Admission to the PAL Track include:

Applicants for the PAL track must meet one of the following criteria:
1. Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist in Florida
2. Non-Licensed Candidate with evidence of significant experience in dietetics. Experience should be post graduate, paid work in the following areas: clinical nutrition, public health/community nutrition, and foodservice administration and management. Work experience must be at least two (2) years combined in two (2) of the three (3) practice areas.

After acceptance to the internship, the PAL Track intern must submit a portfolio for prior learning credit consideration to the Dietetic Internship 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 practice that demonstrates proficient knowledge and skill in the area(s) of dietetics.