Which route is the best fit?
The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship has two tracks and two selection periods. Knowing which one is the best fit for a candidate will help when reviewing the following track descriptions. Use the following table to find the best fit as a candidate. More specific information on each track follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WIC Track</th>
<th>PAL Track</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>**Pre-Selection</td>
<td>Current nutrition employee/volunteer of a Florida WIC or a Florida Public Health Nutrition Program. Must have: • a minimum of one-year (2080 hours) of regular scheduled hours prior to the application deadline • approval of a WIC Agency in Florida to sponsor the intern during the internship • met the admission requirements for the internship</td>
<td>Current nutrition employee/volunteer of a Florida WIC or a Florida Public Health Nutrition Program. Must have: • met the admission requirements for the internship • be a licensed dietitian nutritionist (LDN) in Florida OR have significant paid work experience in dietetics after graduation from their DPD program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Fall)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dietetic Internship Match (Spring)</strong></td>
<td>Candidates applying through the Dietetic Internship Match must meeting the admission requirements for the internship and must apply via DICAS and D&amp;D Digital. Candidates do not have to be Florida WIC or Florida Public Health Nutrition Program employees or volunteers although they can be if they don’t meet the minimum work requirements or have approval from their sponsoring agency. If these candidates are selected, they will have to resign from their state employment prior to starting the internship. <strong>Of note:</strong> The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship only participates in the Dietetic Internship Match if spaces remain to be filled after the Pre-Selection in the Fall.</td>
<td>Candidates applying through the Dietetic Internship Match must meet the admission requirements for the internship and must apply via DICAS and D&amp;D Digital. Candidates in this track must also be a licensed dietitian nutritionist (LDN) in Florida OR have significant paid work experience in dietetics after graduation from their DPD program. <strong>Of note:</strong> The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship only participates in the Dietetic Internship Match if spaces remain to be filled after the Pre-Selection in the Fall.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children-(WIC) Track

Description
The Florida Department of Health Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children pathway (WIC Track) prepares dietetic practitioners to meet the nutritional needs of diverse populations in Florida as well as support the professional staffing needs of WIC.

Applicants
Candidates are eligible to apply for participation in the Dietetic Internship if they have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree from a US Accredited institution (or foreign equivalent), have been issued a Verification Statement for a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) or the “Intent to Complete” form by an ACEND accredited DPD program, have evidence of an Overall, DPD, or graduate level GPA of 3.0 or greater, and meet one of the following criteria:

A. State of Florida Department of Health (DOH) nutrition employee, DOH OPS nutrition employee, contract WIC agency employee, or contract WIC agency OPS employee with at least one year (continuous 2080 hours) of current work experience in a Florida state or local WIC agency, or in a Florida Public Health Nutrition program. One-year work experience is from the employee hire date to the application due date
   - Employment with the Florida Department of Health must be current and at least one year (2080 hours) of continuous regular scheduled hours (i.e. overtime is excluded) with the sponsoring agency.
   - Approval for application to the internship is required from a sponsoring county WIC Program in Florida.

B. State of Florida DOH or contract WIC agency nutrition volunteer with at least one year (continuous 2080 hours) of current volunteer experience in a Florida state or local WIC agency, or in a Florida Public Health Nutrition program. One-year volunteer experience is from the volunteer start date to the application due date.
   - Volunteer time with the Florida Department of Health must be current and at least one year (2080 hours) of continuous regular scheduled hours with the sponsoring agency.
   - Approval for application to the internship is required from a sponsoring county WIC Program in Florida.

C. Candidates who are not state employees or volunteers and candidates that are state employees or volunteers that do not meet criteria A or B may be eligible to apply to the program if internship seats remain available after the initial state employee selection process is completed. Interested candidates participate in the Spring Dietetic Internship Match. Information on this option can be found at: https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/dietetic-internship-match-students

Work Service Obligation
Instead of paying tuition, interns will be required to sign and fulfill a work service obligation agreement with the Florida Bureau of WIC Program Services upon completion of the internship. The duration of the work service obligation includes the following:
• Graduates who are Florida DOH employees will be required to fulfill a 3,120-hour work service obligation with the Florida WIC Program in the local health department agency that sponsored the intern.

• Graduates who are not Florida DOH employees will be required to fulfill a 5,200-hour work service obligation with the Florida WIC Program in a local health department agency.

Class Size
Total of 18 interns with 16 at full-time status and up to two (2) at part-time status

Interns are placed in one of four regional internship sites:
• Duval County - Four interns
• Miami-Dade County - Four interns
• Palm Beach County - Four interns
• Pasco County - Six interns

Applicants for the program may rank one or more locations as their preferred choice. Selecting a preference for a regional site is not a guarantee of placement. Placement is at the discretion of the Internship Director based on ranking and regional availability.

Estimated Time Frame
Interns participating in the WIC Track pathway begin the program in August each year. For full-time interns, the program duration is typically nine months. For part-time interns, the program duration is up to 14 months. Duration for full-time and part-time interns to complete this pathway will not exceed 24 months.

Supervised Practice and Didactic Hours
The WIC Track consists of a minimum of 1200 supervised practice hours and 168 didactic education hours.

Supervised Practice
Mandatory completion of 1200 supervised practice hours:
• Community/Public Health Nutrition: 440 hours
• Clinical Nutrition: 400 hours
• Food Service Management: 360 hours

Didactic Education
Mandatory completion of a minimum of 168 didactic education hours:
• Advanced Clinical Nutrition: 70 hours
• Advanced Public Health Nutrition: 52 hours
• Advanced Administrative Food & Nutrition Management: 46 hours
The Prior Assessed Learning (PAL) Track

Description
The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship has a process for granting internship supervised practice hours based on an assessment of prior learning in relation to meeting the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) Core Competencies for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). Applicants who are licensed as a dietitian nutritionist (LDN) in Florida or who are non-licensed with significant work experience often bring knowledge and experiences that have been acquired in settings other than the traditional academic and supervised practice locations. For the Prior Assessed Learning (PAL) Track, an applicant's previous experiences may qualify them for PAL supervised practice hours.

Interns are self-directed for this track since the PAL track is also our Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway (ISPP) option. Interns must choose supervised practice locations in the State of Florida.

Applicants
Florida Licensed Dietitian Nutritionists (LDN) or non-licensed candidates with significant dietetic experience.

Non-licensed candidates must have varied and extensive post-graduate, paid work experience in the following practice areas: Clinical Nutrition, Public Health/Community Nutrition, Foodservice Administration and Management. Work experience must be at least two (2) years combined in two of the three practice areas.

Class Size
Total of three (3) interns part time

Supervised Practice and Didactic Hours
The PAL Track requires a minimum of 1200 supervised practice hours. After application and acceptance to the internship, the intern must submit a portfolio for prior learning credit consideration to the Internship Director before the internship start date in August. The portfolio documentation must support 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. ACEND Core Competencies for dietetic internships can be found on pages 10-12 of the ACEND Accreditation Standards here.

Licensed Dietitian Nutritionists (LDN)
- Granted up to 900 supervised practice hours (300 in each of the three domains: Clinical Nutrition, Public Health/Community Nutrition, Foodservice Management)
- Mandatory completion of a minimum of 300 hours
- Will be mandatory to complete didactic education hours if required to take the registration examination upon program completion. Intern will complete didactic weeks with the class in the scheduled region and didactic Fridays in the Pasco Region.
Non-Licensed candidates with significant work experience in dietetics

- Granted up to 560 supervised practice hours
- Mandatory completion of a minimum of 640 hours
- Mandatory completion of a minimum of 168 hours in didactic education. Intern will complete didactic weeks with the class in the scheduled region and didact Fridays in the Pasco Region.

**Internship Pathway Comparison – WIC Track and PAL Track**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pasco County Dietetic Internship Track Descriptions</th>
<th>Florida Department of Health Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Track</th>
<th>Prior Assessed Learning (PAL) Track</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Concentration</strong></td>
<td>Community/Public Health Nutrition</td>
<td>Community/Public Health Nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Location</strong></td>
<td>Florida Regions: Duval County, Miami-Dade County, Palm Beach County, or Pasco County</td>
<td>Supervised practice within Florida. Didactic work in Pasco County or scheduled region for didactic week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Estimated Time Frame</strong></td>
<td>Supervised practice begins the third week in August.</td>
<td>Supervised practice begins the third week in August.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Duration: Typically, 9 months (full time)</td>
<td>Duration: Depends on number of supervised practice hours to complete. Duration will not exceed 24 months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Typically, 14 months (part time)</td>
<td>Note: For those participating, graduate degree coursework begins in January prior to the start of the internship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Will not exceed 24 months.</td>
<td>Note: For those participating, graduate degree coursework begins in January prior to the start of the internship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Interns Accepted</strong></td>
<td>Total 18: 16 full-time and 2 part-time available</td>
<td>3 part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Part-time positions are available in Pasco County only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Application Deadline</strong></td>
<td>First Monday in October (October 5, 2020 for the Class of 2022)</td>
<td>First Monday in October (October 5, 2020 for the Class of 2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eligible Applicants</strong></td>
<td>Graduate of an accredited DPD program. Candidate will have worked continuously for 1 year (2080 continuous hours) in a Florida DOH Nutrition/WIC Local Agency as a current employee prior to the internship application due date and has sponsoring agency approval. A work</td>
<td>Graduate of an accredited DPD program. Florida licensed dietitian/nutritionist (LDN) or Non-licensed candidate that has extensive work experience in dietetics.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
service obligation of 3,120 continuous, paid hours in a Florida WIC Program post-graduation is required.

Additional candidates may apply through the Spring Dietetic Internship Match computer matching if seats are available after the pre-selection period. A work service obligation of 5,200 continuous, paid hours in a Florida WIC Program post-graduation is required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall GPA</th>
<th>At least a 3.0 GPA; DPD GPA and Graduate degree GPA considered if overall GPA below a 3.0. Extensive work, volunteer, and leadership experience may bolster an application despite a GPA less than 3.0 if candidate is able to provide proof of that experience.</th>
<th>At least a 3.0 GPA; DPD GPA and Graduate degree GPA considered if overall GPA below a 3.0. Extensive work, volunteer, and leadership experience may bolster an application despite a GPA less than 3.0 if candidate is able to provide proof of that experience.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Fees</td>
<td>Program Fee: $250 See “Program Expenses and Fees” link for a complete list of potential expenses and fees</td>
<td>Program Fee (Tuition): $2,500 See “Program Expenses and Fees” link for a complete list of potential expenses and fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Completion Requirements: Supervised Practice Hours</td>
<td>Total Supervised Practice Hours: 1200 All Interns • Public Health Nutrition: 440 hours • Clinical Nutrition: 400 hours • Food Service Management: 360 hours</td>
<td>Total Supervised Practice Hours: 1200 Florida licensed (LDN) Candidates: Prior learning assessment not to exceed 900 practice hours as follows: • Community Nutrition: Not to exceed 300 hours • Clinical nutrition: Not to exceed 300 hours • Food Service Management: Not to exceed 300 hours Non-Licensed Candidates: Prior learning assessment not to exceed 560 practice hours as follows: • Community Nutrition: Not to exceed 280 hours • Clinical Nutrition: Not to exceed 120 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Program Completion Requirements:**

**Didactic Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Didactic Hours</th>
<th>Total Didactic Hours: 168</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Clinical Nutrition: 70 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Public Health Nutrition: 52 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Administrative Food &amp; Nutrition Management: 46 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Licensed Dietitian Nutritionists will be required to complete didactic education only if required to take the registration examination upon program completion.

Non-licensed candidates will be required to complete didactic education.

Didactic weeks will rotate between regional site locations: Pasco county, Duval county, Palm Beach county, and Miami-Dade County. Didactic Fridays occur in the intern’s assigned region.

**Upon program completion student receives:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ACEND Verification Statement of Dietetic Internship completion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACEND Verification Statement of Dietetic Internship completion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: Florida Department of Health in Pasco County is not an eligible educational institution and therefore:

- Does not offer financial aid
- May not issue the Form 1098-T
- May not issue the F-1 or I-20 student visas