



Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship

Program Completion Requirements & Requirements for the RDN and LDN Credentials

The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship must be successfully completed prior to taking the registration exam for dietitians (RD Exam). The RD Exam must be passed to become registered as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). Once a candidate becomes an RDN, they can apply for licensure in Florida to become Licensed Dietitian Nutritionists (LDN) in the state.

Upon successful completion of the internship, interns receive a Dietetic Internship (DI) Verification Statement of Completion and are entered into the Registration Eligibility Processing Systems (REPS) for approval by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) to take the RD exam.

Internship completion requirements to earn a DI Verification Statement of Completion:

Successful completion of the Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship requires interns to:

- Complete a minimum of 1000 supervised practice hours in community (minimum of 360 hours), foodservice/ management (minimum of 320 hours), and clinical rotations (minimum of 320 hours) and a minimum of 168 didactic hours. *
- Achieve an average competency rating on all ACEND core competencies and all program specific competencies of "3" (entry-level) or "4" (independent).
- Earn a grade of 80% or more in each didactic area (clinical, community, foodservice/management) as determined by assignment and exam scores.
- Complete all internship assignments (didactic and supervised practice).
- Attending all internship meetings (orientation, didactic days, and others as needed).
- Provide proof of a graduate degree in the form of a transcript showing date of degree awarded and type of degree earned or provide a letter on university letterhead bearing the original signature of the Registrar or Dean of the College/University verifying completion of all degree requirements, including thesis, if applicable, payment of all administrative fees, and the date the degree was conferred. **

*Interns entering the program as Florida LDNs may be able to receive credit towards supervised practice hours and didactic hours through a review of their work portfolio.

**Interns entering the program without a graduate degree must participate in the University of North Florida (UNF) Master of Science (MS) Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics – online program concurrently with the internship. See "UNF MS Degree Information Sheet" in "Important Documents" for more information on this program.

Requirements to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) and Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist (LDN) in Florida

The Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) identifies nine options to meet eligibility requirements to sit for the Registration exam for Dietitians (RD Exam). See the full list of options here: <https://www.cdrnet.org/RDNEligibility>

The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County fits into Option 1 – Dietetic Internship. To meet the eligibility requirements to sit for the RD Exam via a Dietetic Internship, candidates must:

1. Completion of a bachelor's degree granted by a university accredited by a USDE recognized accrediting agency or foreign equivalent. Effective January 1, 2024, a graduate degree will be required to take the RD Exam per CDR.
2. Completion of an Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)
3. Completion of an ACEND accredited Dietetic Internship (DI)

The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship only accepts candidates that have met the first two eligibility requirements. Candidates are accepted into the program via two paths. The first involves pre-selection of eligible WIC employees in the Fall. The second is through the Spring Dietetic Internship Match if all spots were not filled during pre-selection. See "Admission Requirements" and "Dietetic Internship Match Admission and Application Information" in the "Important Documents" table for more information on the program's admission requirements.

Successful completion of the Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship meets the third eligibility requirement as an ACEND-accredited DI. Program completion requirements are listed earlier in this document and include completion of a minimum of 1000 supervised practice hours.

After eligibility requirements are met, candidates must pass the RD exam before they can be credentialed as Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDN). The internship enters eligible candidates into the Registration Eligibility Processing System (REPS) after program completion to verify eligibility and get approval to take the exam.

More information on the Commission on Dietetic Registration can be found here: <https://www.cdrnet.org/>

Requirements to become a Licensed Dietitian in Florida

RDNs practicing in Florida are required to be licensed in Florida. Licensure in the State of Florida as a Dietitian Nutritionist (LDN) requires successful completion of:

- At least a bachelor's degree with a major course of study in human nutrition, food and nutrition, dietetics, or food management as outlined in sections 468.509 F. S and 64B8-42.002 F.A.C.
- 900 hours of pre-professional planned and continuous supervised practice in dietetics or nutrition as described in subsection 64B8-42.002(3) F.A.C.
- The dietitian exam offered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration.

Registered Dietitians are automatically eligible to apply for licensure in Florida through application by endorsement. (64B8-42.001, F.A.C.)

When a graduate successfully completes the Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship and passes the RD Exam, they can apply for licensure in Florida through "Endorsement of Status as a Registered Dietitian."

More information on licensing related to Dietetics Nutrition in Florida can be found here:
<http://www.floridahealth.gov/licensing-and-regulation/dietetic-nutrition/licensing/index.html>

For more information on State Licensure, CDR provides a link on their site <https://www.cdrnet.org/LicensureMap> and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics provides a link on their site <https://www.eatrightpro.org/advocacy/licensure>