



## Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship

### Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionists

The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship welcomes Licensed Dietitians/Nutritionists (LDN) in Florida who want to become Registered Dietitians to apply to the program. The Florida Department of Health Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (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.

#### What has changed?

The internship is no longer accepting applicants into the Prior Assessed Learning (PAL) Track which was the point of entry for most LDNs participating in the internship. Moving forward, LDNs are welcome to apply to the WIC Track. LDNs in the WIC Track will be able to submit a work portfolio after acceptance into the internship to earn credit towards supervised practice hours, competency attainment, and didactic hours.

	WIC Track	From PAL Track to WIC Track
<p><b>Priority selection admission requirements for candidates who are WIC employees. (Fall)</b></p>	<p>Current Florida WIC employee that has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a minimum of one-year (2080 hours) of regular scheduled hours in a Florida WIC agency prior to the application deadline</li> <li>• approval of a Florida WIC Agency to sponsor the intern during the internship</li> <li>• met the admission requirements for the internship as listed in the "Admission Requirements" under Important Documents on the homepage.</li> </ul> <p>As a graduate level internship, candidates must either have a graduate degree or agree to complete the Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics, Dietetic Professional Studies (online) program</p>	<p>Same as WIC Track with the additional requirement to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be a licensed dietitian nutritionist (LDN) in Florida</li> </ul> <p>As a graduate level internship, candidates must either have a graduate degree or agree to complete the Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics, Dietetic Professional Studies (online) program offered by University of North Florida (UNF) concurrently with the internship to qualify for admission.</p> <p>Find additional information on the graduate program in the "UNF MS Degree Information</p>

	<p>offered by University of North Florida (UNF) concurrently with the internship to qualify for admission.</p> <p>Find additional information on the graduate program in the “UNF MS Degree Information Sheet” under Important Documents on the homepage.</p>	<p>Sheet” under Important Documents on the homepage.</p>
<p><b>DICAS admission requirements for candidates who are not WIC employees. (Fall and Spring)</b></p>	<p>The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship will be accepting applications through the Dietetic Internship Centralized Application Services (DICAS) in the Fall and Spring using the timelines set by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). These timelines have not been finalized yet.</p> <p>Employment with WIC is not required to apply through DICAS.</p> <p>See admission requirements in the "Admission and Application Information – Not Priority Selection" under Important Documents on the homepage.</p>	<p>Same as WIC Track with the additional requirement to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be a licensed dietitian nutritionist (LDN) in Florida</li> </ul>
<p><b>Class Size</b></p>	<p>Class size is 21 interns. The internship is only accepting full-time interns moving forward.</p>	<p>Class size is 21 interns. LDNs will fill one of these spaces.</p> <p>LDNs will be in a full-time status as well although they may not have as many hours to complete due to the ability to receive credit for past work.</p> <p>The reduction in hours could result in break periods between rotations. However, when assigned to a rotation, LDs will have the same Monday through</p>

		Thursday, 8am to 5pm schedule as non-LDN interns.
<b>Regional Sites</b>	<p>Interns are placed in the following regional sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duval County – four interns</li> <li>• Miami-Dade County – four interns</li> <li>• Palm Beach County – four interns</li> <li>• Pasco County – six interns</li> <li>• Escambia County - three interns</li> </ul> <p>Candidates can request a preferred location, but placement in that region is not guaranteed.</p>	<p>LDNs will be assigned one of the regional sites.</p> <p>LDNs will no longer be able to find supervised practice on their own and must complete rotations in one of the regional sites.</p> <p>The internship assumes responsibility for finding supervised practice rotations and preceptors for all interns in the program.</p>
<b>Estimated Time Frame</b>	<p>Estimated time to complete the program is nine months. The internship begins in August and ends in June.</p> <p>Interns are expected to complete all program requirements within 24 months.</p> <p>Interns participating in the UNF graduate program will start the program in August prior to the internship and end in August after the internship. Thus, estimated time frame for these interns is 12 months.</p> <p>Based on their acceptance date and UNF application deadlines, interns may be able to start graduate work in the Spring or Summer prior to the start of the internship.</p>	<p>Estimated time to complete the program is nine months. The internship begins in August and ends in June.</p> <p>Interns are expected to complete all program requirements within 24 months.</p> <p>Interns participating in the UNF graduate program will start the program in August prior to the internship and end in August after the internship. Thus, estimated time frame for these interns is 12 months.</p> <p>Based on their acceptance date and UNF application deadlines, interns may be able to start graduate work in the Spring or Summer prior to the start of the internship.</p> <p>LDNs may complete to program faster based on credit received</p>

		for past work and if they do not need to complete the graduate program.
<b>Supervised Practice Hours</b>	<p>The internship provides a minimum of 1000 supervised practice hours and a minimum of 168 didactic education hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clinical rotations (minimum of 320 hours)</li> <li>• community rotations (minimum of 320 hours)</li> <li>• foodservice rotations (minimum of 320 hours)</li> <li>• management rotations (minimum of 40 hours)</li> </ul>	<p>LDNs will be able to submit a work portfolio for prior assessed learning and receive credit for some of their supervised practice hours. However, at a minimum, all LDNs must complete at least 520 hours of supervised practice experience directly with the internship.</p> <p>Prior assessed learning credit is awarded based on proven competence in the internship's CRDN's as determined by ACEND.</p> <p>If the LDN has passed the RD exam within five years of their expected internship completion date, they will only be expected to complete didactic assignments like the Literature Review Presentation that are considered primary activities of the program.</p>
<b>Program Fee</b>	Program fee for the WIC track is \$250 dollars	<p>LDNs no longer pay a larger program fee. Their cost is that for the WIC track of \$250.</p> <p>LDNs must now complete a work service obligation to the state by working at a FL WIC agency in lieu of a larger program cost.</p>

<p><b>Work Service Obligation</b></p>	<p>Graduates of the program are expected to pay back the internship through a work service obligation.</p> <p>Work must be completed at a WIC Agency in Florida.</p> <p>Employee interns that are sponsored into the program work for 3120 hours (1.5 years full time) to pay back the internship. Sponsored interns must return to their sponsoring agency.</p> <p>Non-employee interns who apply through DICAS work for 4680 hours (2.25 years full time) to pay back the internship. DICAS interns can complete their work service obligation at any WIC agency in Florida.</p> <p>The work service obligation is included in the contract interns sign with the State WIC office prior to the start of the internship.</p>	<p>All graduates of the program, including LDNs, are expected to pay back the internship through a work service obligation.</p> <p>Work must be completed at a WIC Agency in Florida.</p> <p>Employee interns that are sponsored into the program work for 3120 hours (1.5 years full time) to pay back the internship. Sponsored interns must return to their sponsoring agency.</p> <p>Non-employee interns who apply through DICAS work for 4680 hours (2.25 years full time) to pay back the internship. DICAS interns can complete their work service obligation at any WIC agency in Florida.</p> <p>The work service obligation is included in the contract interns sign with the State WIC office prior to the start of the internship.</p>
<p><b>Prior Assessed Learning Credit</b></p>	<p>Prior assessed learning credit is only offered to Licensed Dietitian Nutritionists (LDN) in the internship.</p>	<p>Prior assessed learning credit is only offered to Licensed Dietitian Nutritionists (LDN) in the internship.</p> <p>LDNs will be asked to submit a work portfolio upon acceptance into the program. The work portfolio will contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• work samples</li> <li>• letters from supervisors attesting to competence</li> <li>• justifications from the intern as to how their prior work shows competence gained in</li> </ul>

		<p>the ACEND core and program specific competencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• proof of licensure</li> <li>• RD exam results</li> <li>• any other items deemed pertinent</li> </ul> <p>LDNs will receive a document with detailed instruction on expectations for the portfolio.</p> <p>The director reviews submitted portfolios and compares the quality of the submitted work to the expectations and standards of the internship and awards credit towards hours, competency attainment, and didactic work. The intern is provided a summary of the review and written documentation of what credit has been awarded and what deliverables remain to meet program completion requirements.</p>
<b>DI Verification Statement</b>	Dietetic Internship Verification Statement of Completion is awarded upon completion of all internship requirements, including completing of a graduate degree.	Dietetic Internship Verification Statement of Completion is awarded upon completion of all internship requirements.

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.
- Can sign paperwork to defer student loan repayment while in the internship.

Financial aid may be available to those interns participating in the graduate program through the University of North Florida.