



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
- Completing all internship assignments (didactic and supervised practice assignments)
- Attending all internship meetings (orientation, didactic days, and others as needed)

Starting with the Class of 2024, a graduate degree must be earned prior to receiving a DI Verification Statement of Completion. Interns must provide a transcript showing date of and type of degree achieved or provide an official letter from the registrar's office showing the same. Intern's 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.

***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.

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/rd-eligibility>

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 to have met the first two eligibility requirements. Candidates are accepted into the program via a pre-selection of eligible WIC employees in the Fall and 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 "Important Documents" for more information on the program 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 900 hours of supervised practice in dietetics or nutrition, as described in subsection 64B8-42.002, F.A.C. Licensure applicants must also successfully pass the Registration Examination for Dietitians.

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/>) to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Advocacy page here: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/advocacy> Midway down this page is a section on Licensure which includes information on Licensure and Professional Regulation and a Licensure Map which contains information on Licensure Statutes by State.