



Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship

Program Description

The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship is a 9-month program that begins each August and ends the next May. The internship provides 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 hours of didactic education. The internship accepts up to 21 interns on a full-time basis each class year. Interns are assigned to one of our four regional locations (Duval County, Pasco County, Palm Beach County, Miami-Dade County) with Escambia County as an option starting with the Class of 2024. Internship headquarters is in Pasco County.

In their region, interns complete supervised practice rotations in a variety of settings. Interns will be scheduled at least one specialty rotation in each area of nutrition and dietetics in addition to their main rotation in each area. Click on "Regional Supervised practice Facilities" under "Important Documents" for more information on the facilities interns may be placed in.

Although supervised practice rotations are scheduled locally, interns may have to travel during the internship for the three didactic weeks held in Pasco County, for a one-day Regional Orientation held in their region during the summer, and for Public Policy Week when they will spend two days in Tallahassee. Travel costs are at the expense of the intern.

The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship has recently been approved as a graduate level dietetic internship. Starting with the Class of 2024, interns need to have a graduate degree to complete program requirements and receive their Dietetic Internship Verification Statement. Through a partnership with the University of North Florida (UNF), interns entering the internship without a graduate degree must apply to the Master of Science (MS) Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics - online program at UNF. The MS online program starts in June prior to the internship which starts in August and ends in June after the internship which ends in May. Click on "UNF MS Degree Information Sheet" under "Important Documents" for more information on the graduate program.

The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship has two paths toward acceptance into the program. The program provides nutrition employees from WIC agencies in Florida an opportunity for pre-selection into the internship. Pre-selection applications are accepted from the first Monday in August to the first Monday in October each year. Any spots not filled through pre-selection will be filled through the Spring Dietetic Internship Match. Admission and Application information is found under "Important Documents" including information specific to the "Dietetic Internship Match Admission and Application" Information.

Funding for the Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship is provided by the Florida Department of Health Bureau of WIC Program Services and the Florida Department of Health in Pasco County. In lieu of a tuition, interns are expected to pay back the internship

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through a work service obligation with Florida WIC. The payback time is 3120 hours for employee (sponsored) interns and 5200 hours for non-employee (matched) interns. The Florida Department of Health is an equal opportunity provider.

Upon completion of all program requirements, graduates are eligible to receive a DI Verification Statement and take the Registration Examination for Dietitians administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration. Graduates of the program are also eligible to apply for State of Florida licensure as a dietitian/nutritionist. See "Program Completion Requirements and Requirements for the RDN and LDN Credential" in "Important Documents" for more information.

Program Mission, Goals, and Objectives

Mission:

To prepare entry- level registered dietitian nutritionists for leadership roles in the profession of dietetics committed to improving the health status of the community.

Goals and Objectives:

Goal #1: The FDOH in Pasco County Dietetic Internship will prepare graduates to be competent practitioners in public health and community nutrition.

Objectives for Goal #1:

- "The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%." *
- At least 80% of employed graduates will rate themselves as "well prepared" or "very well prepared" for their first employment position as public health professionals.
- At least 80% of employers will rate graduate employees as "meets expectations" or "exceeds expectations" when evaluating competency level and overall preparation as public health nutritionists. *
- At least 80% of graduates responding to the post-graduation survey respond that they participate in a nutrition or public health related association, organization, or group and/or maintain involvement in the internship through mentorship or precepting.

Goal #2: The FDOH in Pasco County Dietetic Internship will increase the number of registered, licensed dietitians specializing in public health and community nutrition in the state of Florida.

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Objectives for Goal 2:

- "At least 80% of interns complete program requirements within 14 months (150% of planned program length)." – full time option *
- "At least 80% of interns complete program requirements within 21 months (150% of planned program length)." – part time option *
- "At least 80% of program graduates take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within 12 months of program completion." *
- "Of graduates who seek employment, at least 90% are employed in nutrition and dietetics or related fields within 12 months of graduation." *
- At least 50% of interns for each class year will be selected from the pool of state-employee applicants.

*ACEND-required objectives

Program outcomes data are available upon request.