



Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship

Program Description

See the end of this document for changes adopted for the 2024-2025 class year.

The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship is a 9-month program that begins each August and ends the next June. The internship provides a minimum of 1000 supervised practice hours in clinical (minimum of 320 hours), community (minimum of 320 hours), food service (minimum of 320 hours), and management (minimum of 40 hours) rotation. We also provide a minimum of 168 hours of didactic education to assist in rotation readiness and RD exam preparation. The internship accepts up to 21 interns on a full-time basis each class year. Interns are assigned to one of our five regional locations (Duval County, Escambia County, Pasco County, Palm Beach County, Miami-Dade County). 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 didactic weeks held in Pasco County (8 nights), for a one-day Regional Orientation held in their region during the summer, and for Public Policy Week (2 nights) when they will spend two days in Tallahassee. Interns assigned to Miami-Dade have additional overnights (2) during Public Policy Week. Interns assigned to Duval and Pasco region will also travel to Gainesville, FL for a pediatric specialty rotation at the University of Florida (4 nights). Travel costs are at the expense of the intern. Number of nights for each activity is subject to change.

As a graduate level dietetic internship, interns need to have a graduate degree to complete program requirements and receive their Dietetic Internship Verification Statement. Interns entering the internship without a graduate degree must apply to the Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics, Dietetic Professional Studies (online) program at the University of North Florida (UNF). The online graduate program starts in August and ends the following August, two months after the internship ends in June. Interns accepted in the Fall prior to the start of the internship can start graduate work in the Spring or Summer. Interns accepted in the Spring prior to the start of the internship can start graduate work in the Summer. Interns must abide by the application deadlines set by UNF to take advantage of this opportunity to reduce their graduate workload during the internship. Click on "UNF MS Degree Information Sheet" under "Important Documents" for more information on the graduate program.

The internship provides nutrition employees from WIC agencies in Florida an opportunity for priority selection into the internship. If a WIC employee qualifies for sponsorship into the

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internship, their applications are accepted from the first Monday in August to the first Monday in October each year. Admission and Application information is found under "Important Documents."

The internship also accepts interns who are not Florida WIC employees. These candidates will apply through the Dietetic Internship Centralized Application Services (DICAS). Candidates will be accepted in the Fall and Spring within the notification and acceptance timelines set by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). These timelines have not been finalized yet. Click on "Admission and Application Information – Not Priority Selection" under "Important Documents" for the most up to date information we have on the application process for non-employee candidates.

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 through a work service obligation with Florida WIC. The payback time is 3120 hours for employee (sponsored) interns and 4680 hours for non-employee (DICAS) interns. The Florida Department of Health is an equal opportunity provider.

Upon completion of all program requirements, including proof of graduate degree, 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.

New for the Class of 2025:

Due to the increased demands of the graduate program requirements, the internship is adopting a 32-hours a week rotation schedule. Interns will participate in supervised practice rotations Monday through Thursday and will have most Fridays to work on graduate assignments (if in the graduate program), work on internship assignments (didactic), make up a day missed during the week due to a holiday or illness, schedule appointments unrelated to the internship (like dental or auto), and work (if in good standing with the internship and approved to work on those Fridays). For Fridays that are scheduled as didactic Fridays or part of didactic weeks, interns are expected to devote that time to the internship. These Fridays are included in the intern's rotation schedule for planning ahead.