



## **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 credentialed as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). Once a candidate becomes an RDN, they can apply for licensure in Florida to become Licensed Dietitian Nutritionists (LD/N) in the state. Licensure in Florida is required for RDNs to practice 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. Approval by CDR requires a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) Verification Statement, DI Verification Statement, and proof of graduate program completion (transcript or conferral letter).

#### **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 320 hours), clinical (minimum of 320 hours), foodservice (minimum of 320 hours), and management (40 hours) in addition to a minimum of 240 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) as determined by assignment and exam scores.
- Complete all internship assignments (didactic and supervised practice).
- Attend 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, Professional Studies in Dietetics – online program concurrently with the internship. See "UNF MS Degree Information Sheet" in "Important Documents" for more information on this program.**

**The 2026-2027 class year (Class of 2027) is the last year in which interns can complete the UNF Dietetic Professional Studies program concurrently with the internship. Please note that the state employee tuition waiver is no longer accepted for use in the UNF Dietetic Professional Studies program.**

### **Requirements to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN):**

The Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) identifies key requirements to become eligible for the RD Examination and multiple pathways to obtain the requirements. This information can be found at the following link: <https://www.cdrnet.org/RDNeligibility>

The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County fits into the DPD + DI pathway. To meet the eligibility requirements to sit for the RD Exam via the DPD + DI pathway, candidates must earn a:

1. Graduate degree from a U.S. Department of Education (USDE) recognized accredited institution or foreign equivalent.
2. Verification statement of completion from an Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)
3. Verification statement of completion from an ACEND accredited Dietetic Internship (DI)

Candidates who do not already have a master's degree must agree to participate in the University of North Florida (UNF) Master of Science (MS) Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics, Professional Studies in Dietetics – online program concurrently with the internship. Candidates who do not have a DPD verification statement of completion will not be accepted into the internship.

The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship accepts candidates from two pathways.

1. The first pathway is through priority selection of eligible WIC employees in the Fall application cycle. WIC employees that qualify for sponsorship into the program send their application materials directly to the internship director.
2. The second pathway is through the Dietetic Supervised Practice Application Process in the Fall and Spring application cycles. Candidates choosing this pathway submit their application materials through the Dietetic Internship Centralized Application Service



(DICAS). WIC employee candidates should view the “Admission Requirements” and “Application Packet Checklist” documents on the homepage for more information. Non-employee candidates should view the “Supervised Practice Application Process – DICAS” document on the homepage for more information on admission requirements and how to apply for the internship.

Successful completion of the Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship meets the third eligibility requirement as an ACEND-accredited DI. 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 for approval to take the exam.

### **Requirements to become a Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionist (LD/N) 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 eligible to apply for licensure in Florida through application “Examination with Waiver.” (468.509 (3)(a) F.S.)

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>