



## 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 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 240 hours of didactic education to assist in rotation readiness and RD exam preparation. The internship is accredited to accept 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.

**UPDATE: For the Class of 2026, our capacity is 16 due to no availability in the Palm Beach Region. For the Class of 2027, our capacity is 12 due to no availability in the Duval and Palm Beach regions.**

**Rotations:** 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.

**Schedule:** Interns are expected to spend a minimum of 32-hours a week in supervised practice rotations with most Fridays off 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), or
- work (if in good standing with the internship and approved to work on those Fridays).

The program has 14 Fridays designated for didactic work when interns are expected to devote their Friday to the internship. These Fridays are included in the intern's rotation schedule for planning ahead.

**Travel:** 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.



## Florida Department of Health in Pasco County Dietetic Internship

**Graduate program:** 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). Interns can start graduate work prior to the start of the internship since UNF allows students in this program to start in the Fall, Spring, or Summer. Interns are expected to complete graduate work no later than the summer semester after the internship ends. Click on "UNF MS Degree Information Sheet" under "Important Documents" for more information on the graduate program.

**Sponsored employee applicants:** 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 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."

**Not sponsored employee and non-employee applicants:** The internship also accepts applicants who are not Florida WIC employees or who are but were not sponsored to participate in the program. 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) for their Dietetic Supervised Practice Application Process. Click on "Supervised Practice Application Process - DICAS" under "Important Documents" for the most up to date information we have on the application process for applicants who are not sponsored.

**Work service obligation in lieu of tuition:** 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.

**Program completion.** 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.