

# DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DIETETIC INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

**VA**



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration

PRESENTED BY VA DIETETIC INTERNSHIP DIRECTORS

SPRING MATCH 2024

# GENERAL INFORMATION

- All programs are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) and participate in the Spring application cycle through DICAS and the Spring match via D&D Digital.
- There are **no additional application fees** to apply to any of the VA programs.



# MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- United States citizenship at the time of application to qualify for stipend
- Registered for selective service (males)
- Minimum GPAs vary with programs. Range from 3.0 – 3.3
- Strong reading ability and solid written and verbal communication skills
- Well-developed organizational and time management skills
- Ability to work well independently AND on teams
- Enjoy learning and working in a fast-paced environment
- Prefer working with adults
- Fluency in reading, writing and speaking in English
  - Fluency in both English and Spanish for Puerto Rico internship



# VA INTERNSHIP BENEFITS

- **Stipend** provided (at most VA-sponsored programs)
- **No application fee or internship tuition**
- **Paid federal holidays and vacation** (varies with program)
- Hands-on training focus with minimal simulation or shadowing
- Well-rounded programs provide a variety of MNT, community, and food service management/leadership experiences
- I:I RD preceptor clinical guidance
- High graduate satisfaction rate; many prefer to work at a VA after graduation
- High graduate employment rate in dietetics
- High employer satisfaction rate: Graduates rated **“Above Entry Level”** in first job



# VA INTERNSHIP BASICS

- Full-time internships
  - See each program's website for more information
  - [Dietetic Internship Program Home \(va.gov\)](#)
- A variety of projects and assignments to meet ACEND requirements, which vary from program to program.
  - Examples includes case study presentations, newsletters, quality improvement, process improvement or research projects, waste/food sustainability projects, journal club presentations, and more



# VA RESOURCES AVAILABLE ONSITE

- Dedicated intern office and classrooms – with computers
- FREE online access to eNCPT, NCM, up-to-date online databases and other resources
- FREE online access to top quality medical journals and virtual medical center library resources
- FREE copier access and printing services
- FREE onsite access to medical media services



# PROGRAM TYPES AND LOCATIONS

## Internship **ONLY** Programs:

- California – San Diego
- Florida – Tampa
- Illinois – Chicago (Hines)
- Kentucky-Lexington
- Nevada – Reno
- Puerto Rico – San Juan
- Texas – Temple (Central Texas)

## Masters + Internship Programs:

- Arizona – Tucson
- Florida – Bay Pines

## Internship Only and Masters + DI Programs Options:

- California – Los Angeles
- Colorado-Denver
- Minnesota – Minneapolis
- Missouri – St. Louis
- Nevada – Las Vegas
- New York – Bronx
- Ohio – Cleveland
- Tennessee- Johnson City
- Tennessee – Memphis
- Texas – Houston



# INTERNSHIP ONLY PROGRAM – SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

- Program concentration: MNT in Inpatient & Outpatient Settings
- Ten-month program
  - (41 weeks) August thru May
- Stipend (2023-2024) = \$24,600 Six interns (April match)

## Selection Criteria

- Minimum GPA 3.0
- Master's Degree and DPD Verification upon start of program.
- Effective for 2023-2024

Questions: [Amanda.Hibshman@va.gov](mailto:Amanda.Hibshman@va.gov)

## Rotation Summary:

- Orientation (2 weeks)
- Food Service/Management Rotations (7 weeks)
- Clinical Rotations (21 weeks) All areas of the hospital (SCI, ICU, CLC, Med/Surg), PACT clinics, Advanced Practice (Diabetes, Renal, Oncology, Eating Disorders/Mental Health, Bariatric), Home Based Primary Care
- Community Rotations (5 weeks) School Nutrition, WIC, Public Health
- Clinical Staff Experience (4 weeks) Inpatient and Outpatient
- Vacation (1 week)





# INTERNSHIP ONLY PROGRAM – TAMPA, FLORIDA

- **Masters Degree Required to apply**
- **Highlights:**
  - Clinical Care – 26 weeks
    - Staff Relief – 3 weeks inpatient and 2 weeks outpatient
  - Administrative – 6 weeks
  - Specialty Rotations: NFPE, Research, Professional Practice
  - Evidence-Based Emphasis
    - Practice-Based Research Project
    - Evidence Analysis Project
    - Case Study
    - Emphasis on professional writing for publication
- **Class specifics:** Takes 6 interns for 10-months/42 weeks (Aug-May)
- **Stipend:** \$19,706 (pre-tax)



# INTERNSHIP ONLY PROGRAM – HINES/CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

- **Program Concentration:** Medical Nutrition Therapy
- Rotations include wide variety of clinical areas including spinal cord injury, oncology, cardiology, surgery, intensive care units, long term care and many more.
- **Class specifics:** Takes 10 interns for 10-months/42 weeks (Aug-June)
- **Stipend:** \$19,299 (pre-tax)

**Effective 2023-2024** – Only students with a master's degree will be eligible to apply



# INTERNSHIP ONLY PROGRAM – LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

- New program, we will take our first cohort August 2024.
- Master's degree required to apply.
- Program Concentration: Clinical nutrition concentration focusing on Medical Nutrition Therapy for both inpatients and outpatients utilizing the Nutrition Care Process.
- Program Length: 29 weeks total.
- Stipend: To be determined.
- Interns per Cohort: 3
- Rotations Include:
  - Clinical + outpatient – 17 weeks
  - Staff relief – 4 weeks
  - Foodservice Management – 4 weeks
  - Community – 2 weeks



# INTERNSHIP ONLY PROGRAM— RENO, NEVADA

Program started fall 2022

- 1 – 4 interns per class
- Outpatient MNT concentration
- Total length = 31 weeks (October—May annually)
- Applicants required to have master's degree
- Stipends TBD

## Rotations

- Acute Care/Critical Care
- Rehab/Long-term Care/Wounds
- Primary Care & Women's Health
- Health Promotion & Wellness
- Home Based Primary Care
- Hospital in Home
- MOVE! Weight Management
- Healthy Teaching Kitchen
- VA Food Service
- Evidence Based Practice/ Research
- Leadership and Administration
- Intern Choice/Staff Experience Rotation



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System

# INTERNSHIP ONLY PROGRAM – SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

- **Masters Degree Required to apply**
- **Program concentration:** Clinical Nutrition
- **Rotation Summary:**
  - Orientation (3 weeks)
  - Clinical Rotations (26 weeks)
  - Food Service/Management Rotations (10 weeks)
  - Community Rotations (WIC, Pediatric, Sport, 3 weeks)
  - Professional Dietetic Experience/Staff Relief (3 weeks)
  - Vacation (1 week)
  - Research week (1 week)
  - Social Media (1 week)
- **Class specifics:**
  - Accepts 8 interns annually
  - Eleven-month program (47 weeks) August thru June
  - Stipend: \$15/hr (pre-tax)
  - Minimum GPA 3.2
  - Proficiency in both English and Spanish is required for applicants.



# INTERNSHIP ONLY PROGRAM – TEMPLE, TEXAS (CENTRAL TEXAS VA)

- **Masters Degree Required to apply**
- **Program concentration:** Clinical Nutrition
- **Class specifics:**
  - Accepts 6 interns annually
  - Eleven-month program (46 weeks) August thru June
  - Stipend: \$15/hr (pre-tax)
  - Minimum GPA 3.2

## Rotations

- Diabetes Management
- General Outpatient Nutrition Clinic
- Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)
- Oncology Clinic
- Home Based Primary Care
- Eating Disorder Clinic
- MOVE! Weight Management
- Women's Clinic
- Food Service Management
- Clinical Management
- General Acute Medicine
- Cardiology
- Critical Care
- Acute Psychology
- Community Living Center (CLC) with Hospice care



# INTERNSHIP AND MASTER'S PROGRAM— TUCSON, ARIZONA

- 3-4 Interns per class
- Concentration: MNT/Clinical Concentration
- Concurrent completion of graduate degree from University of Arizona
- Total length = 52 weeks (4 semesters – summer, fall, spring, summer)
- **Stipend: approx. \$19,000 (TBD)**
- Looking for:
  - Well-rounded students with experience and competitive GPA
  - Video interviews conducted for top applicants

## Rotations

- Acute Care (Cardiology, GI/Hepatic, Surgery)
- Critical Care
- Rehab/Long-term Care/Wounds
- Primary Care & Women's Health
- Health Promotion & Wellness
- Oncology
- Renal/Dialysis
- Home Based Primary Care
- MOVE! Weight Management
- Pediatrics
- VA Food Service
- School Food Service
- Evidence Based Practice / Research
- Executive Leadership
- 2 Staff Relief Rotations – Inpatient & Outpatient



# INTERNSHIP AND MASTER'S PROGRAM – BAY PINES, FLORIDA

- 24-month program
- Class size: 6 interns
- Stipend: \$24,360 (pre-tax)
- Affiliated with the University of South Florida (USF) offering an integrated Master of Public Health (MPH) degree with a concentration in Nutrition and Dietetics (42 credit hours)
- MPH coursework is completed online and begins in fall semester with the 47-week supervised practice portion beginning the second August in the program.
- All interns receive a stipend while in supervised practice only.



**UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH FLORIDA**  
A PREEMINENT RESEARCH UNIVERSITY



# INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAMS OPTIONS— GREATER LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

- **Positions available:** 7 total; 3 non-degree and 4 combined masters

- **Program Tracks:**

Non-Degree (internship only)  
10 mos, Jun-Apr

Combined Degree (internship + MPH or MS)  
MPH, UCLA: 22 mos, Sep-Jun  
MS, CSULB or CSUN: 23+ mos, Aug-Jun+

- **Stipend: \$25,200 (pre-tax)**

- **Supervised Practice Rotations (Nutrition Therapy Concentration):**

Administrative – 8 weeks  
Inpatient Clinical – 12 weeks

Ambulatory Care/Community –  
11 weeks  
Special Interest – 2 weeks

- **Projects:**

Evidence-Based Practice Project  
Patient education development  
Professional development

Precepting/mentoring  
DEIA readings, discussions, and application  
Active participation in new intern selection



# INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM – DENVER, COLORADO

**Class Size:** 4 interns FY24-25 (Spring Match)

**Stipend:** To be determined but approved for FY24-25

## **Internship Only Option:**

- 42-week supervised practice (10 month-program)
- Applicants must have a DPD Verification Statement from an ACEND accredited program *and* MS in Nutrition or other related field with proof of completion before internship start date August 2024

## **MS + Internship Option (18-month):**

- Fully-online 30-credit hour Master of Science degree in partnership with the University of Alabama (UA)
- 42-week supervised practice (10 months)
- Applicants must have a DPD Verification Statement from ACEND accredited program



## **Program Highlights:**

- Preceptor-to-intern ration of 1:1 or 1:2 for individualized support
- Opportunity to work with advanced practice dietitians in specialized areas

# INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM OPTIONS- MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

- **Program concentration: Medical Nutrition Therapy**

- **Program Tracks:**

Stand-alone (internship only)  
10 mos, Aug-Jun

MPS/DI with University of Minnesota Twin Cities  
22 mos, Sept-June



- **Stipend: \$25,200 (pre-tax)**

- **Supervised Practice Experiences:**

Clinical– 26 weeks  
(i.e. spinal cord, rehab, ICU, etc)  
Food Service- 5 weeks

Community- 6 weeks  
(i.e. extension, school nutrition, WIC, etc.)  
Management- 2 weeks

- **Highlights:**

8 intern class-size  
1:1 preceptor/intern ratio  
Eating Disorder rotation

Rotate through all areas of hospital  
Dedicated and engaged preceptors  
100% one-year CDR exam pass rate



# INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM OPTIONS – ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

- **Program concentration:**
  - **Clinical focus:** Medical nutrition therapy and nutrition focused physical exams
  - **Community focus:** Cultural competency and advocacy
  - **Administrative focus:** Foodservice management and leadership
- **Program specifics:**
  - Accepts 4 students annually who are concurrently enrolled in the University of Alabama Master of Science program in Human Nutrition plus an additional 2 students each year who already have a Master's degree.
  - The internship starts in August and will be completed in early June.
  - A stipend of approximately \$25,200 (before taxes and deductions)
- **Unique experiences:**
  - Rotate through the Spinal Cord Injury Unit
  - Teach classes in the substance abuse and domiciliary programs.
  - Make home visits while on the Home-Based Primary Care Rotation
  - Host a booth at the annual employee health fair.
  - Attend Legislation Day at the state capital.
  - Work with our Integrative and Functional Nutrition dietitian.
  - Write for a nationally recognized nutrition blog.



# INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM OPTIONS – LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

- Accepts up to 4 interns annually (Spring match)
- Stipend not available for 2024-2025
- 36 weeks of supervised practice, 32 hours/week
- Provides at least 1152 supervised practice hours
- **Supervised Practice Rotation Areas:**
  - Food Service- Production, Service, Management, and Informatics
  - Administration- Management, Quality Improvement, and Research
  - Inpatient - Medicine (Neurology, Dysphagia, GI), Wounds, Critical Care, Surgery, Pulmonary, Nutrition Support
  - Outpatient- Mental Health
  - Outpatient - MOVE! Weight Management Program
  - Outpatient - Primary Care
  - Specialty Outpatient - Diabetes, Oncology, Dialysis, Home-Based Primary Care
  - Whole Health
  - Healthy Teaching Kitchen

- **Program Options:**

- DI Only (9 months- August to April)
  - Applicants must have completed an ACEND-approved DPD program and a minimum of master's degree by program start date
- DI + MS (16 months- September to December)
  - Applicants must have completed an ACEND-approved DPD program and a minimum of bachelor's degree, while also obtaining acceptance into Rutgers University Master of Clinical Nutrition Program



# INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM OPTIONS – BRONX, NEW YORK

- **Concentration:** Medical Nutrition Therapy
- **Class size:** 7 interns annually (Spring match)
- **Stipend:** \$24,000 (pre-tax)

## Internship Only Option (12-month)

- **Length:** 49-week program with 1,400 supervised practice hours
- **Rotations:**
  - 6 weeks-Food Service, Diet Education and Clinical Nutrition Mgt
  - 13 weeks Clinical Inpatient — Spinal Cord Injury, Extended Care, Med/Surg, ICU
  - 15 weeks Clinical Outpatient — Oncology, Whole Health/Culinary Nutrition, Primary Care, Wt Mgmt, Renal, Home Care
  - 6 weeks at 3 affiliate sites: BronxWorks (Community), Pediatrics/Entrepreneurial, GI
  - 2 weeks paid vacation and 4 weeks Applied Nutrition Practicum

For this option, applicants must have a **DPD Verification Statement and MS in clinical nutrition.**

## MS + Internship Option (16-month)

- Concurrently complete 34-credit Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition at New York University along with 49-week supervised practice Dietetic Internship.
- Interns complete a minimum of 19-credits during DI with 1 additional full-time semester to finish MS!



Questions? Connect with [Verzhine.Owens@va.gov](mailto:Verzhine.Owens@va.gov)

# INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM OPTIONS — CLEVELAND, OHIO

- **Positions Available:** Accepts 12 interns annually
- **Program Length:**
  - Internship Only: 12 months (August – July)
    - For applicants with a Master's Degree
  - Internship + Master's Degree: 18 months (30 credits)
    - No GRE required
- **Concentration:** Medical Nutrition Therapy
- **Stipend:** \$25,200 (2023-2024, pre-tax), during internship
- **Supervised Practice Rotations:**
  - Clinical (Inpatient): 17 weeks    Management-Clinical & Food Service: 9 weeks
  - Clinical (Outpatient)/Community: 13 weeks    Special Interest: 3 weeks
  - Staff Experience: 3 weeks
- **Projects/Assignments/Training:**

Career Portfolio	Business Plan
Simulation Training	Cultural Presentation and assignments
National Nutrition Month	Advocacy Day



## **Admission Requirements:**

- \*DI only: Verification Statement from an ACEND accredited DPD program & a completed Master's degree
- \*DI + MS degree: Verification Statement from an ACEND accredited DPD program & a completed Bachelor's degree

# INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM OPTIONS – JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE

- Accepts 4 interns annually
- Stipend Provided
- 40 weeks of supervised practice to provide a minimum of 1200 hours (August to May)
- **Program Concentrations:** Medical Nutrition Therapy and Food Operations Management
- **Program Specifics:**
  - Inpatient medical/ surgical
  - ICU
  - Nursing home (community living center)
  - Mental Health
  - MOVE! Weight Management and Bariatric Program
  - Diabetes Clinic
  - Healthy Teaching Kitchen
  - Whole Health and Integrative Functional Nutrition
  - Retail
  - Interdisciplinary Focus
  - Telehealth
- **Program Options:**
  - DI Only (8 months)
    - Applicants must have- completion of an ACEND-approved DPD program and a minimum of master's degree
  - DI + MS (22 months )
    - Applicants must have- completion of an ACEND-approved DPD program and a minimum of bachelor's degree, while also obtaining, acceptance into University of Alabama MS in Human Nutrition (all online)





# INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM OPTIONS – MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

- Accepts 8 interns annually
- Stipend Provided: \$24,000 (pre-tax) for 23-24 year
- Concentration in Ambulatory Care
  - Includes outpatient care, counseling motivational interviewing, and healthy teaching kitchen with a clinical focus
- 40 weeks offering a minimum of 1200 supervised practice hours
- Serves more than 206,000 veterans living in a 53-county tri-state area (TN, AR, and MS)
  - Includes both an urban and rural patient population
- Advanced Practice RDNs
  - Order Writing and Laboratory ordering privileges for RDNs
  - Interdisciplinary Focus
- **Admission Requirements:**
- DI only track:
  - Completion of an ACEND-approved DPD program and a minimum of a master's degree
- Combined MS track:
  - ✓ Completion of an ACEND-approved DPD program and a minimum of a bachelor's degree.
  - ✓ Acceptance to University of Alabama online MS in Nutrition.
  - ✓ Successful completion of MS degree required to receive Verification statement.



# INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM OPTIONS – HOUSTON, TEXAS

**Class Size:** 8 interns annually (Spring Match)

**Stipend-** \$26,000 (pre-tax)

## **Internship Only Option:**

- 50-week supervised practice (12 month-program)
- Applicants must have a DPD Verification Statement from an ACEND accredited program and MS in Nutrition or other related field with proof of completion before internship start date August 2024

## **MS + Internship Option (16-month)**

- Interns must apply to Texas Woman's University (TWU) graduate school for MS-Nutrition
- 50-week supervised practice (12 months)
- Final semester will be focused on Masters completion
- Applicants must have a DPD Verification Statement from ACEND accredited program



# SELECTION PROCESS REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum GPA requirement (varies with program from 3.0 to 3.3)
- Strong letters of recommendation (3)
- Dietetics-related experiences are helpful – includes paid and volunteer clinical, food service
- Personal Statement/letter
  - Be insightful & honest about yourself. Make your statement unique to you.
  - Explain how your professional goals MATCH with what we can provide (i.e., WHY do you want to attend this specific program?)
  - Letter should be customized to each program you're applying to.
- Recency of education requirement:
  - DPD Verification Statement and MNT courses must be within past 3 years
- Know which programs conduct interviews and which are application only
  - Be prepared to interview!
  - Be prepared to provide writing samples.
- **REVIEW EACH WEBSITE for specific instructions on how to apply!**
  - [www.dieteticinternship.va.gov](http://www.dieteticinternship.va.gov)

# VA EMPLOYMENT AFTER GRADUATION

Largest employer of dietitians in the U.S. with 171 VA Medical Centers & over 1113 clinics

National opportunities after graduation for VA employment

Excellent professional growth & career advancement opportunities

Competitive starting salary surpasses private sector

Excellent healthcare benefits (medical, dental, vision, life, disability coverage, etc)

401K/TSP option with 4% employer matching

Retirement pension and supplemental healthcare (Medicare Parts B & D)



Choose **VA**

For questions about specific programs, contact the individual Internship Director. Their contact information is located on each program website.



**VA**  
**HEALTH**  
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in the 21st Century