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
- 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 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
- 1:1 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)](https://www.va.gov)
- Additional personal time needed to complete projects and prepare for rotations
- A variety of projects and assignments to meet ACEND requirements, which vary from program to program.
  - Examples include: case study presentations, newsletters, Quality 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 medical center library resources
- FREE copier access
- FREE access to printing services
**PROGRAM TYPES AND LOCATIONS**

**Internship ONLY Programs:**
- California – San Diego
- Florida – Tampa
- Illinois – Hines (Chicago)
- Nevada – Reno
- Puerto Rico – San Juan

**Masters + Internship Programs:**
- Arizona – Tucson
- Arkansas – Little Rock
- Florida – Bay Pines

**Internship Only and Masters + DI Programs Options:**
- California – Los Angeles
- Minnesota – Minneapolis
- Missouri – St. Louis
- New York – Bronx
- Ohio – Cleveland
- Tennessee – Memphis
- Texas – Houston
INTERNERSHIP ONLY PROGRAM – SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

- Program concentration: MNT in Inpatient & Outpatient Settings
- Ten-month program
  - (41 weeks) August thru May
- Stipend (2022-2023) = $12,792
- Six interns (April match)
- Minimum GPA 3.0
- Effective for 2023-2024
  - Only students with a master’s degree will be eligible to apply

Rotation Summary:
- Orientation (2 weeks)
- Food Service/Management Rotations (7 weeks)
- Clinical Rotations (21 weeks)
- Community Rotations (5 weeks)
- Clinical Staff Relief (4 weeks)
INTERNERSHIP 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)
**Program Concentration:** Medical Nutrition Therapy

Rotations include a 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)

**Effective 2023-2024** – Only students with a master’s degree will be eligible to apply
**INTERNSHIP ONLY PROGRAM—RENO, NEVADA**

*NEW* program started fall 2022

- 1 – 4 Interns per class
- Outpatient MNT concentration
- Total length = 31 weeks (October—May annually)

Looking for:
- Well-rounded students with experience and competitive GPA
- Video interviews conducted for top applicants

**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
- 2 Staff Relief Rotations – Inpatient & Outpatient

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System
INTERNSHIP ONLY PROGRAM – SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

- **Program concentration:** Clinical Nutrition

- **Rotation Summary:**
  - Orientation (3 weeks)
  - Clinical Rotations (26 weeks)
  - Food Service/Management Rotations (10 weeks)
  - Community Rotations (3 weeks)
  - 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: $14,219 (may vary)
  - Minimum GPA 3.2
  - Applicants must be fluent in both English and Spanish.

*Effective 2023-2024* – Only students with a master’s degree will be eligible to apply
INTERNERSHIP AND MASTER’S PROGRAM—TUCSON, ARIZONA

*NEW* program started Fall 2022
- 2 – 6 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)
- 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—LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

- **Program Concentration:** Medical Nutrition Therapy and Management in Clinical Practice and Foodservice Management

- **Program Specifics:**
  - Accepts 14 students annually who are concurrently enrolled in Graduate School at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
  - 15-month program that starts in May and is completed in August
  - Supervised practice + Graduate course work are coordinated together
  - Stipend approximately $10,127 while in supervised practice only
  - Estimated tuition $13,896 resident/$30,060 non-resident

- **Unique Experiences:**
  - Capstone Research Project
  - 2-week Pediatric Rotation
  - School Food Service Rotation
  - Healthy Teaching Kitchen
  - Whole Health/Functional Nutrition Rotation
  - Substance Abuse/Eating Disorders Program
  - MOVE! Weight Management Program
INTERNERSHIP AND MASTER’S PROGRAM – BAY PINES, FLORIDA

- 24-month program
- Class size: 6 interns
- 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.
INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER’S PROGRAMS OPTIONS—GREATERT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

- **Positions available:** 7 total; usually 4 non-degree and 3 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:** TBA; likely ~$13-$14/hour

- **Supervised Practice Rotations** (Nutrition Therapy Concentration):
  - Administrative – 7 weeks
  - Inpatient Clinical – 11 weeks
  - Ambulatory Care/Community – 13 weeks
  - Special Interest – 4 weeks

- **Projects:**
  - Evidence-Based Practice Project
  - Patient education development
  - Professional development
  - Precepting/mentoring
  - DEI readings, discussions, and application
  - Active participation in new intern selection
Internship Only and Master’s Program Options - Minneapolis, Minnesota

- **Program Concentration:** Medical Nutrition Therapy
- **Class specifics:**
  - Takes 8 interns for 10-months/42 weeks (September-June)
  - 24 weeks clinical, 4-5 weeks community, 5 weeks food service/administration, 2 weeks management, 1-2 weeks staff relief, 1 week vacation
- **NEW for 2023:**
  - Masters of Professional Studies option in conjunction with University of Minnesota
  - Fall of 2023- MPS, Fall of 2024- Minneapolis VA DI
  - 2 spots will be held in internship in 2024-2025 class (pre-select) for students that are accepted to the MPS program in 2023. For 2023-2024 class, 8 interns will be selected.
Program concentration: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- 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 6 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 obtained a Master's degree.
- The internship starts in August and will be completed in early June.
- A stipend of approximately $12,400 (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.
- Spend time in the Enteral Nutrition clinic.
INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER’S PROGRAM OPTIONS – BRONX, NEW YORK

- **Concentration:** Medical Nutrition Therapy
- **Class size:** 7 interns annually (Spring match)

**Internship Only Option**

- **Length:** 49-week program with 1,400 supervised practice hours
- **Rotations:**
  - 8 weeks Food Service, Healthy Teaching Kitchen, Diet Education and Clinical Nutrition Mgt
  - 13 weeks Clinical Inpatient — Spinal Cord Injury, Extended Care, Med/Surg, ICU
  - 13 weeks Clinical Outpatient — Oncology, Whole Health, Primary Care, Wt Mgmt, Renal
  - 6 weeks at 3 affiliate sites: BronxWorks (Community), Pediatrics Private Practice, GI
  - 2 weeks paid vacation and 4 weeks Staff relief
- Applicants must have a [DPD Verification Statement and MS in clinical nutrition](mailto:Verzhine.Owens@va.gov) to discuss!

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

- Apply to 34-credit MS in Clinical Nutrition at New York University
- Complete 19-credits required during DI with 1 additional full-time semester to finish MS!
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: 18 months (30 credits)
  - **Internship + Master’s Degree:** 18 months (30 credits)
- **Concentration:** Medical Nutrition Therapy
- **Stipend:** $15,120 (2022-2023, pre-tax), during internship
- **Supervised Practice Rotations:**
  - Clinical (Inpatient): 17 weeks
  - Clinical/Food Service Management: 9 weeks
  - Clinical (Outpatient)/Community: 13 weeks
  - Special Interest: 3 weeks
  - Staff Relief: 3 weeks
- **Projects/Assignments/Training:**
  - Career Portfolio
  - Business Plan
  - Simulation Training
  - Cultural Presentation and assignments
  - National Nutrition Month
  - Advocacy Day
INTERNERSHIP ONLY AND MASTER’S PROGRAM OPTIONS – MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

- Accepts 8 interns annually
- Stipend Provided: $13,755 for 22-23 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

- **Concentration** – Medical Nutrition Therapy

- **Selection Criteria**
  - Class size: Accepts 8 interns annually
  - Well rounded applicants with GPA minimum of 3.25 (last 60 hrs)
  - Video Interviews are conducted

- **Two options for enrollment**
  - Combined Masters (16-month program)
    - no GRE Required
  - Internship Only (12-month program)
    - for individuals with a Masters in Nutrition
## VA Internship Program Rotation Overview

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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
VA EMPLOYMENT AFTER GRADUATION

Largest employer of dietitians in the U.S. with 171 VA Medical Centers & over 1,113 clinics

Competitive starting salary surpasses private sector

National opportunities after graduation for VA employment

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

Excellent professional growth & career advancement opportunities

401K/TSP option with 4% employer matching

Retirement pension and supplemental healthcare (Medicare Parts B & D)
For questions about specific programs, contact the individual Internship Director. Their contact information is located on each program website.