

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DIETETIC INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

PRESENTED BY VA DIETETIC INTERNSHIP DIRECTORS
SPRING MATCH 2023

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
- 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 \(va.gov\)](#)
- 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



INTERNSHIP 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)



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)



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)

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

INTERNSHIP 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



INTERNSHIP 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– GREATER 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.



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

- **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**. Connect with 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
 - Internship + Master's Degree: 18 months (30 credits)
 - No GRE required
- **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



INTERNSHIP 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



	AZ—Tucson	AR—Little Rock	CA—Los Angeles	CA—San Diego	FL—Bay Pines	FL—Tampa	IL—Hines/Chicago	MN—Minneapolis	MO—St. Louis	NV—Reno	NV—Bronx	OH—Cleveland	PR—San Juan	TN—Memphis	TX—Houston
Cardiology MNT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Functional Nutrition/Whole Health		X			X	X		X	X		X	X			X
Geriatrics/Hospice/CLC/LTC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Health Promotion Disease Prevention	X	X					X		X						
Home -Based Primary Care	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Medicine MNT/ Liver MNT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MOVE! Weight Management	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Nutrition Support/Surgery MNT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oncology MNT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Outpatient/Diabetes MNT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pediatrics	X	X			X	X	X				X	X	X	X	
Psychiatry/ Mental Health	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Renal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Residential Treatment/Physical Rehab		X	X	X			X		X				X	X	X
Spinal Cord Injury				X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Substance Abuse / Eating Disorders	X	X	X	X				X	X			X		X	X
Staff Relief	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Administration/Food Service Mgmt	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
School Food Service/School Nutrition	X	X		X	X	X						X			X
Community Outreach		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
WIC		X	X	X		X	X	X	X				X		X
Masters Credit / degree	X	X	X		X			X	X		X	X		X	X
Minimum Overall GPA	3.0	3.0	N/A	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.2	3.25

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 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
CARE

Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century