VAGLA Dietetic Internship

**PROGRAM INFORMATION**

VAGLAHS is a teaching hospital that values education, hands-on training, and evidence-based care.

We offer a Medical Nutrition Therapy concentration with non-degree and combined degree program tracks:

- **Non-Degree Track (4 positions)**
- **Combined Tracks (3 positions total)**
  - MPH track with University of California, Los Angeles
  - MS track with California State University (CSU), Long Beach or CSU Northridge

The program is full-time (40 hours a week) and offers a stipend of $16,581.60* for the combined tracks and $13,372.80* for the non-degree track.

Health benefits are available through VAGLA starting at approximately $100 a month.

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**VAGLA DIETETIC INTERNSHIP TRACKS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track Type</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Degree Track</td>
<td>Starts in June</td>
<td>10 months in length</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combined - MPH at UCLA</td>
<td>Starts in September</td>
<td>22 months in length</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combined - MS at CSULB</td>
<td>Starts in August</td>
<td>24 months in length</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combined - MS at CSU</td>
<td>Starts in August</td>
<td>30 months in length</td>
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**Application Requirements**

- U.S. Citizenship prior to application due date
- Bachelor’s degree from a U.S. accredited university or college or foreign equivalent
- Completion of an ACEND-accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)
- See our website for recent education requirements
- Application to UCLA, CSUN, or CSULB graduate program (combined tracks only)

The VAGLA Dietetic Internship program **values diversity** and uses a holistic approach for intern selection:

- No minimum GPA
- All work experience is considered, including non-dietetics related, paid, or unpaid
- Soft skills, including leadership, teamwork, adaptability, flexibility, & diverse perspective, are worth 25% of the application score

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**Supervised Practice Experiences**

*Rotations are subject to change*

- Administrative Dietetics & Food Services - 8 weeks
  - Food Production, Services, & Supervision
  - Food Service Informatics
  - Clinical Supervision
- Inpatient Clinical Dietetics - 9 weeks
  - General Acute Medicine
  - Critical Care (medical & surgical)
  - Community Living Center (long-term care)
- Outpatient Clinical & Community Dietetics - 12 weeks
  - Ambulatory Care
  - Home Based Primary Care
  - Renal
  - Weight Management
  - Eating Disorders
  - WIC
  - National Nutrition Month
- Inpatient & Outpatient Clinical Staff Relief - 4 weeks
- Special Interest - 2 to 4 weeks
- Evidence Analysis Project (research)
- Advocacy/Public Policy Project

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**Curriculum**

- Food Production, Services, & Supervision
- Food Service Informatics
- Clinical Supervision
- General Acute Medicine
- Critical Care (medical & surgical)
- Community Living Center (long-term care)
- Ambulatory Care
- Home Based Primary Care
- Renal
- Weight Management
- Eating Disorders
- WIC
- National Nutrition Month
- Diversity, Equity, & Belonging Curriculum

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Program Mission and Goals

The mission of the dietetic internship program at VAGLAHS is to develop entry-level or above entry-level dietetic professionals who will provide evidence-based care in clinical, community, or food services nutrition.

Program Goals:
- All interns will graduate with at least entry-level skills, and most will graduate with above entry-level skills
- Graduates will function as a valuable member of the interprofessional healthcare team in clinical, community, and supervisory nutrition and dietetics
- Graduates will successfully complete the registration examination and obtain employment in nutrition and dietetics.
- Provide the most effective learning environment possible

Educational Philosophy:
- Learn by doing
- Development of critical thinking skills and independence
- Continuous constructive feedback
- Collaborative approach
- Cultural competence and humility in practice

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Internship Contact

Jillian Redgate MS, RD, CNSC
Director, Dietetic Internship
Nutrition and Food Services (120)
11301 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90073
310-268-3120
jillian.redgate@va.gov
www.dieteticinternship.va.gov/LosAngeles/index.asp

"The VAGLA internship - an experience I will cherish for a lifetime. It gave me not only some of the best of friends, it gave me a skillset second to none and provided an incredible foundation for my career! Its leadership, its preceptors, and the breadth of the experience it provides defines this internship."
- Kaitin Reid MPH, RD
Class of 2016

"It has truly been an honor and delight to work with the Veterans. I have so much gratitude for my experience as a VA intern... from the seamless planning and coordination...to the diverse learning opportunities provided within each rotation. ...The program is supported by high caliber preceptors who challenged me in the best ways possible."
- Veronica Buacharern MS, RD
Class of 2019

The VAGLA Dietetic Internship is granted accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)