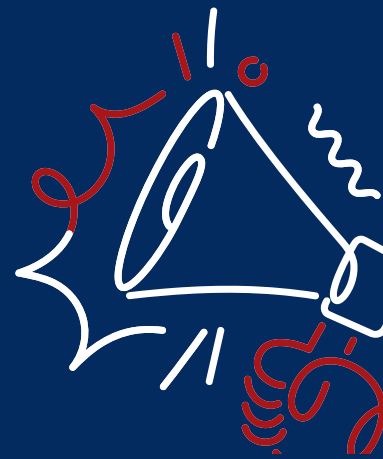


# Past Interns

The Minneapolis VA dietetic internship provided a variety of rotations and experiences that prepared me to become more than confident as an entry level dietitian. The preceptors are committed to intentionally teaching and guiding you through their respective rotations to ensure that you are successful. I am forever grateful that I was a part of this rigorous, prestigious program!

*-Hillary Green, Class of 2020*



My experience as a dietetic intern with the Minneapolis VA Health Care system was truly the best. Every single preceptor was kind, patient and genuinely invested in making sure that interns got the best learning experience possible in their rotation. Interns are involved in direct patient care from day 1 of rotations, which can feel overwhelming at first, but is the best way to get comfortable interacting with veterans and grasping the whole nutrition care process. The experience is challenging and rigorous, but preceptors' high expectations prepare interns well to be able to handle complex, high-acuity cases with confidence. This internship is special in that most of your rotations are within the VA hospital (inpatient and outpatient), which provides great continuity and the opportunity to build relationships with fellow interns, dietitian preceptors, and other clinical staff. I would often reach out to the same speech therapists, social workers, pharmacists, etc. during different clinical rotations and it was great to be able to have familiar contact points and feel like I was truly integrated in the team. Rotations with outside organizations help fill the gaps in experiences that the VA can't provide (ex. Pediatrics, school nutrition). All of these experiences gave me the confidence to feel prepared taking on an outpatient primary care RD role in a busy clinic immediately after graduation. I can't recommend the Minneapolis VA Internship program enough!

*-Samantha Mathur, Class of 2022*

My time as a dietetic intern at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center made a monumental impact on my future career as an RD. Throughout the internship, interns were given opportunities to explore all interests we had, from shadowing wound care nurses to learning more about the impact of nutrition on healing to presenting patient tube feeding treatment plans in the ICU rounds! My preceptors and managers made sure to fully prepare us to find a job after graduating with individual support, interviewing skill classes, resume building, and reference letters which led to me and other interns securing jobs in and out of the VA health care system even before the internship ended! After my internship I felt extremely prepared to start my career and pass the RD exam. I will be forever grateful to the Minneapolis VA for having such a positive start to my dietetic career.

*-Lacey Wedell, Class of 2023*



I couldn't have asked for a better dietetic internship experience! The Minneapolis VA Dietetic Internship is a fantastic program that gave me so much knowledge and experience to a wide variety of nutrition areas. I loved the clinical rotations they provided, especially the ones unique to the VA itself (spinal cord, polytrauma, MOVE), and the off-site rotations were a great insight to a lot of different types of settings that dietitians can work in. This program also allows interns to work more independently in order to really get a sense of what a dietitian's duties are like. I loved my staff relief rotations, as they gave me more confidence in being able to take on a dietitian's role in the healthcare system, which was very helpful for preparing me for my first job. Additionally, the preceptors and healthcare teams at the VA are the best! They encourage you to ask questions and step up to challenges in order to get the most out of the internship. They also do an excellent job to make sure you feel confident at the end of the year to be a great RD and pass the exam. I felt very fortunate to be able to work with such a great team for 10 months and would go back and do it all over again!

*-Ashlee Alberts, Class of 2018*

Embarking on a dietetic internship at the Veteran's Affairs has been a profoundly enriching experience. Each day, I had the privilege of working with a diverse group of individuals who have served our country, and I was continually inspired by their resilience and determination. The guidance and mentorship I received from the experienced Dietitians and healthcare professionals at the Minneapolis VA was invaluable, and allowed me to develop my skills and knowledge in the field of Nutrition and Dietetics. This internship not only enhanced my professional growth but also instilled in me a profound sense of purpose and gratitude for the service and sacrifices of our nation's heroes. This program truly set me up for success with its 100% RD exam pass rate, clinical nutrition emphasis, and continued support and encouragement from the staff. I continued my career at the Minneapolis VA and will continue to encourage Dietetic students to pursue this program for a fulfilling and rewarding experience. The opportunity to make a positive impact on the health and well-being of our Veterans is truly fulfilling, and I am grateful for the chance to be a part of a team dedicated to improving Veterans' lives through nutrition.

*-Allison Novak, Class of 2023*

My experience during the Minneapolis VA Dietetic Internship was invaluable for my dietetics career! During my time in Minneapolis, I appreciated both the breadth of clinical experiences while on-site at the VA hospital as well as the variety of community rotations. Each of these opportunities offered insights into many roles of the dietitian and hands-on training experiences to continue to build upon throughout the 10 month program. I am grateful for the expertise, support, and feedback from the dedicated team of preceptors along the way who would push me out of my comfort zone, created a supportive learning environment, and allowed space to each intern to grow and explore their curiosities in this pivotal period in our dietetics career. I felt this rigorous training allowed me to successfully enter the world as an entry-level dietitian, with the assurance that the skills, knowledge, and experiences I had gained would help me flourish in my next career steps. I feel very blessed to have gotten such a dynamic and comprehensive dietetics training at the Minneapolis VA!

*-Emily Anthony, Class of 2022*

