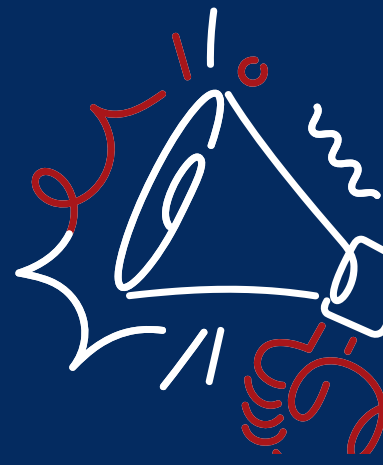


Past Interns

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



The internship experience provided by the Minneapolis VA was nothing short of transformative. From day one I was immersed in a dynamic environment with an expansive healthcare team including dietitians, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and physical and occupational therapists. I worked alongside of these seasoned professionals who shared their expertise in several areas with some of my favorites being renal, oncology, and diabetes. The dietitians mentored me through various challenges and encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone often. Through this incredible and nurturing learning environment I developed strong clinical skills, became equipped with confidence, found innovative nutrition interventions, and refined my own communication and professional skills. I am grateful that my rotation work was enhanced through ongoing opportunities to network and spread nutrition information in a variety of ways. Because of the support of staff and limitless opportunities at the VA, I was fortunate to present a capstone project to providers nationally, observe a bariatric surgery, and provide nutrition education at an annual Women's Retreat. The opportunities at the Minneapolis VA are truly endless. My internship experience solidified my love for nutrition and dietetics and will forever be a cherished cornerstone of my career development.

Kaylee Flatoff, Class of 2024

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

