

CERTIFICATE IN DIETETICS (DIETETIC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM) OVERVIEW AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Revised October 16, 2016

The Dietetic Internship Program at SFSU is part of the graduate Certificate in Dietetics. Only students who have completed or are near completion of a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) are eligible to apply for this internship and certificate program. A DPD is typically an undergraduate degree in dietetics, although there are other tracks. For more information about DPD and Dietetic Internship programs, go to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics website at: <http://www.eatrightpro.org/resources/career/become-an-rdn-or-dtr>

This certificate program provides the knowledge and supervised practice requirements necessary to be eligible to take the Registered Dietitian (R.D.) examination. Interns will be placed in rotations in hospitals, long-term care/skilled nursing facilities, community nutrition programs, and other health/community organizations in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area for practical experiences. In addition to the internship portion of the program, interns will be required to take graduate level academic courses in nutrition. The Dietetic Internship Program at SFSU is a full-time, 11-month program, from mid-July through early June.

Before being considered for acceptance to this certificate program, the student must first be eligible in accordance with the requirements set forth by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Commission on Dietetics Registration, as well as university requirements for admission into the Graduate School, which can be found at

http://www.sfsu.edu/~bulletin/previous_bulletins/1314/certif.htm

This same section also includes university program guidelines and procedures to be followed in filing for the award of the certificate when it is completed.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Consumer and Family Studies/Dietetics is to prepare scholarly professionals who contribute to the well-being of individuals, families, consumers and the institutions, industries and businesses serving them within a highly diverse, urban and global community.

The mission of the San Francisco State University Dietetic Internship is to provide a high-quality program that prepares interns in the areas of medical nutrition therapy (concentration), community nutrition, and management. Upon completion of the program, interns will be prepared for entry-level work as dietitians to provide services to individuals, families, consumers and the institutions, industries and businesses serving them in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area.

Program Goals and Measured Outcomes

Goal 1: The DI Program will provide a positive learning experience for its interns.

Target Outcome 1: Over a 5-year period, interns will recommend at least 80% of the preceptors used for each internship class be used again in the future.

Outcome: Over the last 5 years, interns would recommend 90.5% of their preceptors.

Target Outcome 2: Over a 5-year period, at least 90% of interns for each internship class will rate the program as excellent or very good.

Outcome: Over the last 5 years, 93% of interns rank the program as excellent or very good.

Goal 2: The DI Program will successfully prepare interns for entry-level practice as Registered Dietitians.

Target Outcome 1: Over a 5-year period, 90% of enrolled interns will complete the internship and all its requirements within 15 months of starting the program (standard completion time is 11 months).

Outcome: Over the last 5 years, 93% of interns completed the internship within 11 months and 99% of interns completed the program within 15 months.

Target Outcome 2: Over a 5-year period, the pass rate of first-time test takers on the RD registration examination will be at least 80%.

Outcome: For the last 5 years, 97% of first-time test takers passed the RD exam, and 100% passed within the first year.

Target Outcome 3: Over a 5-year period, 70% of graduates who sought employment in dietetics will be employed within three months of program completion.

Outcome: For the last 5 years, 60% of graduates found dietetics employment within 3 months of program completion/starting job search (96% found employment within 9 months of program completion). This outcome has been improving but was possibly negatively impacted previously by the slower economy.

Target Outcome 4: Over a 5-year period, 80% of employers of DI graduates will consider them to be prepared or very well prepared for employment.

Outcome: 100% of employers that responded to the survey considered DI graduates prepared for employment.

Goal 3: The DI Program will prepare interns for dietetics employment in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area.

Target Outcome 1: Over a 5-year period, at least 80% of graduates' will be employed in dietetics located in the greater San Francisco Bay Area.

Outcome: Over a 5-year period, 92% of graduates were employed in the greater San Francisco Bay Area after program completion. The majority of the rest moved/returned to Southern California.

Program Description

Each cohort class consists of 14 interns. Interns are required to take six units of academic dietetic internship preparation coursework in the summer, which will start in July. From mid-August to early June, interns will take classes on campus one day a week, and be in internship supervised practice rotations four days a week. No part-time enrollment is allowed.

Summer Session

Units

3 DFM 785 Seminar in Medical Nutrition Therapy

3 DFM 758 Seminar in Foodservice and Nutrition Program Management

6 Total

Fall Semester

Units

3 DFM 751 Seminar in Nutritional Assessment Across the Lifespan

6 DFM 881 Internship in Dietetics

9 Total

Spring Semester

Units

3	DFM 755 Seminar in Human Nutrition and Metabolism
<u>6</u>	DFM 881 Internship in Dietetics (pre-internship didactic requirements)
9	Total

Supervised practice experiences (DFM 881) are completed under the direction of a dietitian, foodservice manager, or other qualified professional in a facility or program serving children, adults, older adults, or the general population in a healthcare, community, non-profit, or business setting. Since the Greater San Francisco Area's population is diverse in ethnicities and culture, individuals who have strong verbal and written English skills who also speak a second language, especially Spanish, Chinese, or Vietnamese, are encouraged to apply. The internship is based on specific experiences and competencies set forth by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics/Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (ACEND). A total of 38 weeks, 32 hours per week of practicum experience, resulting in 1216 practice hours are required in the internship in order to meet accreditation requirements. Summer, Fall, and Spring enrollment are required.

Rotations will generally include the following:

- 16-18 weeks in an acute care clinical hospital
- 5-8 weeks in a long-term care/skilled nursing facility, outpatient, or other clinical setting
- 5-6 weeks in a foodservice systems management rotation
- 3-7 weeks in community nutrition and/or public health organizations
- 3 weeks in an elective

Interns will be placed in rotations in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area. Interns may be able to use public transportation for some rotations, but **access to a vehicle** for the entire duration of the internship is required. In the Bay Area, a one-hour commute each way by car is to be expected and is typical. There may be bridge tolls as well. Commuting by public transportation will likely require even longer commute times.

The array of clinical, community, and food service rotations will allow the intern to have a variety of experiences in dietetics, with a concentration in medical nutrition therapy. Rotations begin in mid-August and typically end the following year at the beginning of June. Interns will typically be given two weeks off during December/January, and one week off for Spring Break, but this time off is not guaranteed. Since this is an intensive program, interns should not expect to hold outside jobs or have other significant time commitments while enrolled in the program.

Program Completion Requirements

- Achieve an overall G.P.A. of 3.0 with a minimum of "C" in all required academic courses and "credit" in all of the internship components of the program. Meet all ACEND competencies for supervised practice as evidenced by assignments, case studies, and papers.
- Evaluation forms – interns must demonstrate dietetics competencies in all three areas: foodservice system management, clinical/patient care, and community dietetics with a minimum evaluation score of a 3 (satisfactory) or better on all of evaluation forms.
- Competency to be able to function as an entry-level dietitian is demonstrated by satisfactory performance completing staff relief at a clinical facility for a minimum of two (2) weeks.
- Interns that satisfactorily meet the above program requirements will receive a

Verification Statement to certify that the individual is eligible to sit for the RD exam.

- Interns are expected to complete the program in 11 months. Interns who are unable to meet completion requirements within 15 months of start date may be terminated from the program unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- Interns who have unsatisfactory evaluations from preceptors or unsatisfactory grades in academic coursework may be terminated from the program.

San Francisco State University is committed to policies of equal opportunity and nondiscrimination on the basis of race, national origin, gender or age.

Accreditation

This is an accredited Dietetic Internship (DI) program of the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) through the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND). A DI offers the practicum experiences and competencies required prior to taking the Registered Dietitian (RD) exam which is given by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). Upon successful completion of a DI, interns receive a verification statement from their DI Director. They are then eligible to sit for the RD exam.

In order to be eligible for a DI, an individual must have a baccalaureate degree, completed all coursework from an ACEND-approved Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD), and have a verification statement of completion from their DPD Director.

Most individuals will apply to a DI the semester/two quarters prior to completing their DPD, with the expectation that they will complete their DPD prior to the start of the DI. Final degree-conferring transcripts and DPD Verification statements must be received prior to internship rotations starting, but interns can start summer courses without these. Most DI programs, including the one at SFSU, participate in the national computer matching process through D&D Digital and the Dietetic Internship Centralized Application System (DICAS). SFSU participates in the Spring match for admittance in the Fall.

In July 1997, San Francisco State University's Dietetic Internship Program was granted an initial accreditation for a period of ten years by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE), now ACEND. A 5-year interim report was submitted in February 2002. The Self-Study was submitted February 2009 and the re-accreditation site visit was in May 2009. The program was granted continued accreditation for 10 years. The 5-year interim report was completed in November 2014 and approved for continued accreditation. The next Site Visit and Re-accreditation Report will take place in 2019.

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