The Dietetic Internship Program at SFSU is part of the graduate Certificate in Dietetics. This program is for students who are pursuing the Registered Dietitian (RD)/Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) credential. The program provides both didactic instruction as well as a minimum of 1200 hours of supervised practice experience to meet required competencies. Satisfactory completion of both the coursework and the supervised practice components are required to receive a dietetic internship verification statement, stating the program graduate is eligible to take the Commission on Dietetic Registration’s RD/RDN exam. After successful completion of the RD/RDN exam, the individual can use the RD/RDN credential.

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 RD/RDN exam. 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 and dietetics. 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 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.
Objective 1: Over a 5-year period, 80% of interns will rate preceptors and rotations as excellent or very good.
Outcome: Over the last 5 years, 90% of interns rated their preceptors as excellent or very good.
Objective 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, at least 90% rated the program as excellent or very good and overall, 97% 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.
Objective 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 a 5-year period, 97% of interns finished the program in 11 months and 100% finished within 15 months.
Objective 2: Over a 5-year period, the pass rate of first-time test takers on the RD registration examination will be at least 80%, and 95% of interns will pass the exam within 1-year of program completion.
Outcome: Over a 4-year period, 96% of program graduates passed the RD exam on the first attempt and 100% passed within 1-year.
Objective 3: 95% of program graduates will take the RD/RDN CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within 12 months of program completion.
Outcome: Over a 4-year period, 100% of graduates took the RD exam within 12 months of program completion.
Objective 4: Over a 5-year period, of graduates who sought employment, 50% will be employed within 3 months of program completion (and after starting job search) in nutrition and dietetics or related fields, and 95% within 1 year
Outcome: Over a 4-year period, 82% of graduates found employment within 3 months and 96% within 12 months
Objective 5: Over a 5-year period, 80% of employers of DI graduates will consider them to be prepared for employment.
Outcome: Insufficient data (86% of employers who responded to the survey state that graduates are prepared, but there were not enough respondents).

Goal 3: The DI Program will prepare interns for dietetics employment in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area.
Objective 1: Over a 5-year period, at least 80% of graduates will be employed in nutrition and dietetics located in the greater San Francisco Bay Area one year after program completion.
Outcome: Over a 5-year period, 84% of alumni are employed and employed in the Bay Area one year after program completion.
Program Description

Each cohort class consists of 14 interns. Interns are required to take three 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. The following academic schedule is subject to change.

Summer Session
Units
3 DFM 751 Seminar in Nutritional Assessment Across the Lifespan

3 Total

Fall Semester
Units
3 DFM 758 Seminar in Foodservice and Nutrition Program Management
6 DFM 881 Internship in Dietetics
9 Total

Spring Semester
Units
3 DFM 755 Seminar in Human Nutrition and Metabolism
3 DFM 785 Seminar in Medical Nutrition Therapy
6 DFM 881 Internship in Dietetics
12 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 Bay 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/Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (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, dialysis, 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 and parking fees 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/RDN 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 2018.

Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000
Chicago, IL 60606-6995
Phone 800-877-1600 ext 5400
http://www.eatrightpro.org/resources/acend