

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

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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>

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.

How does this program help me become an RDN/RD?

This certificate program/dietetic internship provides the knowledge and supervised practice requirements necessary to be eligible to take the RDN/RD credentialing exam. In order to be eligible to take the RDN/RD exam, individuals must have completed a bachelor's degree, a DPD program, and a Dietetic Internship. This program provides the last step in this process. Upon completion of all program requirements, graduates will be given a verification statement stating they have completed an accredited Dietetic Internship Program. The Program Director will submit graduates to the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) stating eligibility to take the RDN/RD exam. After

successfully passing the exam, graduates may put the credential of RDN or RD after their name.

The state of California does not currently have licensure for dietitians. However, California does have a Business & Professions Code which provides title protection for Registered Dietitians and describes scope of practice. Employers in California who typically hire dietitians, such as hospitals, health clinics, skilled nursing facilities, dialysis units, and public health departments, usually require the RDN/RD credential.

Most other states in the United States have state licensure for RDNs/RDs. A graduate of this program who passes the RDN/RD credentialing exam would be eligible for licensure in these other states as long as they meet that state's licensure requirements (may require application, fees, verification forms, transcripts, evidence of continuing professional education, etc...).

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, graduates will be prepared for entry-level work as Registered Dietitian Nutritionists/Registered Dietitians (RDNs/RDs) 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

Program outcomes data are available on request

Goal 1: Graduates of the program will be prepared for entry-level practice as Registered Dietitian Nutritionists/Registered Dietitians (RDNs/RDs).

Objective 1: At least 80% of program graduates complete program requirements within 16 months (150% of the program length - standard completion time is 11 months).

Outcome: 100% finished within 16 months.

Objective 3: 95 percent of program graduates take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within 12 months of program completion.

Outcome: 100% of graduates took the RD exam within 12 months of program completion.

Objective 3: The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%

100% of graduates passed the credentialing exam within 1-year (95% of graduates passed exam on the first attempt).

Goal #2: Graduates of the program will become gainfully employed as Registered Dietitian Nutritionists/Registered Dietitians (RDNs/RDs).

Objective 1: Of graduates who sought employment in dietetics, 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: 82% of graduates found employment within 3 months ,and 96% within 12 months

Objective 2: 80% of employers of DI graduates will consider them to be prepared for employment.

Outcome: 86% of employers who responded to the survey considered graduates to be prepared.

Objective 3: At least 80% of graduates will be employed in a nutrition/dietetics related position located in the greater San Francisco Bay Area one year after program completion.

Outcome: 84% of graduates, one-year post program completion, are employed in the Bay Area.

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

3 DFM 785 Seminar in Medical Nutrition Therapy

6 DFM 881 Internship in Dietetics

12 Total

Spring Semester

Units

3 DFM 755 Seminar in Human Nutrition and Metabolism

6 DFM 881 Internship in Dietetics

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 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, unsatisfactory grades, excessive absenteeism or tardiness, or unprofessional behavior can 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 Nutritionist/Registered Dietitian (RDN/RD) exam which is given by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). Upon successful completion of this program and all its requirements, graduates receive a verification statement from the DI Director. Graduates are then eligible to sit for the RD exam.

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 program submitted a Self-Study in August 2018 for re-accreditation. The Re-accreditation Site Visit took place in November 2018 and the program will hear about its reaccreditation status in Summer 2019.

Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)
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