

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 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 becoming an RD/RDN, DPD and Dietetic Internship programs, and dietetics education, go to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics website at:
<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend>

San Francisco State Dietetic Interns will be placed in rotations in hospitals, long-term care/skilled nursing facilities, community nutrition programs, and/or 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.

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 RD/RDN credentialing exam. In order to be eligible to take the RD/RDN 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 RD/RDN exam. After successfully passing the exam, graduates may put the credential of RD or RDN 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, typically require the RD/RDN credential.

Most other states in the United States have state licensure for RDs/RDNs. A graduate of this program who passes the RD/RDN 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 (RDs/RDNs) 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: 97% of interns from the last five years finished the program 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: 99% of graduates from the last five years 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%

96% of graduates, over the last five years, passed the credentialing exam within 1-year of program completion (84% pass the 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: 69% of graduates from the last five years found employment within 3 months, and 98% within 12 months

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

Outcome: 85% of employers who responded to the survey considered graduates from the last five years, 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: 86% of graduates from the last five years, one-year post program completion, were 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. Summer classes will be held two full days per week. From mid-August to early June, interns will have classes one day per week, and be in 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 NUTR 751 Seminar in Nutritional Assessment Across the Lifespan

3 Total

Fall Semester

Units

3 NUTR 758 Seminar in Foodservice and Nutrition Program Management

3 NUTR 785 Seminar in Medical Nutrition Therapy

6 NUTR 881 Internship in Dietetics

12 Total

Spring Semester

Units

3 NUTR 755 Seminar in Human Nutrition and Metabolism

6 NUTR 881 Internship in Dietetics

9 Total

Supervised practice experiences (NUTR 881) are completed under the direction of a dietitian, foodservice manager, or other qualified professional in a facility or program serving infants, 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.

This 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). ACEND requires 1200 hours of supervised practice, which may include up to 300 hours of alternate supervised practice (simulation/case studies) hours.

This internship requires a total of 38 weeks, 32 hours per week of supervised practice experience, resulting in 1216 practice hours. Alternate supervised practice hours are not typically used unless competencies are unable to be met in rotations. Summer, Fall, and Spring enrollment are required.

Rotations will generally include the following:

- Acute care clinical (hospital)
- Long-term care and/or nutrition education/counseling/outpatient
- Foodservice systems management rotation
- Community nutrition and/or public health nutrition
- Elective rotation

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. An intern's interests in specific areas of dietetics will be taken into consideration when scheduling supervised practice rotations. Internship 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 supervised practice 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 of the following areas: foodservice systems management, clinical/patient care, and community nutrition with a minimum evaluation score of a 3 (satisfactory) or better on all competencies on evaluation forms.
- Competency to be able to function as an entry-level dietitian is demonstrated by satisfactory performance completing staff relief 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 16 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, unprofessional behavior, or a violation of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Code of Ethics 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 (RD/RDN) 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/RDN 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 was granted continued accreditation through December 2027.

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