

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DIETETIC INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

PRESENTED BY VA DIETETIC INTERNSHIP DIRECTORS

FALL 2024

GENERAL INFORMATION

- All programs are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) and will be accepting applications via DICAS.
- There are **no additional internship application fees** to apply to any of the VA programs.
- VA Dietetic Internships are tuition free



MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- United States citizenship at the time of application to qualify for stipend
- Registered for selective service (males)
- Minimum GPAs vary with programs. Range from 3.0 – 3.3
- Strong reading ability and solid written and verbal communication skills
- Well-developed organizational and time management skills
- Ability to work well independently AND on teams
- Enjoy learning and working in a fast-paced environment
- Prefer working with adults
- Fluency in reading, writing and speaking in English
 - Fluency in both English and Spanish for Puerto Rico internship



VA INTERNSHIP BENEFITS

- **Stipend** provided (at most VA-sponsored programs)
- **No application fee or internship tuition**
- **Paid federal holidays and vacation** (varies with program)
- Hands-on training focus with minimal simulation or shadowing
- All rotations planned for interns, no finding your own sites or preceptors
- Well-rounded programs provide a variety of MNT, community, and food service management/leadership experiences
- 1:1 RD preceptor clinical guidance
- High graduate satisfaction rate; many prefer to work at a VA after graduation
- High graduate employment rate in dietetics
- High employer satisfaction rate: Graduates rated **“Above Entry Level”** in first job



VA INTERNSHIP BASICS

- Full-time internships
 - See each program's website for more information
 - [Dietetic Internship Program Home \(va.gov\)](#)
- A variety of projects and assignments to meet ACEND requirements, which vary from program to program.
 - Examples includes case study presentations, newsletters, quality improvement, process improvement or research projects, waste/food sustainability projects, journal club presentations, and more



VA RESOURCES AVAILABLE ONSITE

- Dedicated intern office and classrooms – with computers
- FREE online access to eNCPT, NCM, up-to-date online databases and other resources
- FREE online access to top quality medical journals and virtual medical center library resources
- FREE copier access and printing services
- FREE onsite access to medical media services



PROGRAM TYPES AND LOCATIONS

Internship **ONLY** Programs:

- California – San Diego
- Florida – Tampa
- Illinois – Chicago
(Hines)
- Kentucky-Lexington
- Michigan – Ann Arbor
- Nevada – Reno
- Texas – Temple
(Central Texas)

Masters + Internship Programs:

- Florida – Bay Pines

Internship Only and Masters + DI Programs Options:

- Arizona – Tucson
- California – Los Angeles
- Colorado-Denver
- Minnesota – Minneapolis
- Missouri – St. Louis
- Nevada-Las Vegas
- New York – Bronx
- Ohio – Cleveland
- Puerto Rico – San Juan
- Tennessee- Johnson City
- Tennessee – Memphis
- Texas – Houston



INTERNSHIP ONLY PROGRAM – SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

- Program concentration: MNT in Inpatient & Outpatient Settings
- Ten-month program
 - (41 weeks) August thru May
- Stipend (2023-2024) = \$24,600 Six interns (April match)

Selection Criteria

- Minimum GPA 3.0
- Master's Degree and DPD Verification upon start of program.



Rotation Summary:

- Orientation (1 week)
- Food Service and Management Rotations (6 weeks)
- Clinical Rotations:
 - Inpatient (Spinal Cord Injury, Community Living Center, Medical/Surgical, Intensive Care Unit) - 8 weeks
 - Outpatient (PACT Clinics throughout San Diego) - 5 weeks
 - Advanced Practice (Diabetes, Renal, Oncology, Eating Disorders/Mental Health, Home Based Primary Care) - 10 weeks
- Community Rotations (4 Weeks)
 - School Nutrition, WIC, Public Health
- Clinical Staff Experience (4 weeks)
 - Inpatient and Outpatient
- Elective Rotation of Choice (1 Week)
 - Choice of all the above, eating disorder private practice, pediatric private practice
- Vacation (1 week)

Questions: Amanda.Hibshman@va.gov



INTERNSHIP ONLY PROGRAM – TAMPA, FLORIDA

- **Completion of an ACEND-approved DPD program and a master's degree required to apply**
- **Highlights:**
 - Clinical Care – 26 weeks
 - Phase 4/Capstone rotation – 3 weeks inpatient and 2 weeks outpatient
 - Administrative – 6 weeks
 - Specialty Rotations: NFPE, Research, Professional Practice
 - Evidence-Based Emphasis
 - Practice-Based Research Project
 - Evidence Analysis Project
 - Case Study
 - Emphasis on professional writing for publication
- **Class specifics:** Takes 6 interns for 10-months/42 weeks (Aug-May)
- **Stipend:** \$19,706 (pre-tax)

INTERNSHIP ONLY PROGRAM – HINES/CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

- **Program Concentration:** Medical Nutrition Therapy
- Rotations include wide variety of clinical areas including spinal cord injury, oncology, cardiology, surgery, intensive care units, long term care and many more.
- **Class specifics:** Takes 10 interns for 10-months/38 weeks (Aug-May)
- **Stipend:** \$19,299 (pre-tax)

Effective 2023-2024 – Only students with a master's degree will be eligible to apply



INTERNSHIP ONLY PROGRAM – LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

- Master's degree required to apply.
- Program Concentration: Clinical nutrition concentration focusing on Medical Nutrition Therapy for both inpatients and outpatients utilizing the Nutrition Care Process.
- Program Length: 29 weeks total.
- Stipend: To be determined.
- Interns per Cohort: 3
- Rotations Include:
 - Clinical + outpatient – 17 weeks
 - Staff relief – 4 weeks
 - Foodservice Management – 4 weeks
 - Community – 2 weeks



INTERNSHIP ONLY PROGRAM— ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

- Currently holds Candidacy for Accreditation Status through ACEND
- Admissions requirements include a master's degree (or be enrolled in a master's degree near completion) and the completion of an ACEND-approved DPD program.
- Program Concentration:
 - Medical Nutrition Therapy
- Program Details:
 - Accepts 4 interns per academic year
 - 37-weeks total (August – April)
 - 1 week Orientation
 - 12 weeks Clinical Nutrition
 - 12 weeks Community Nutrition
 - 6 weeks Foodservice Systems Management
 - 4 weeks Professional Practice (Clin Mngt + Staff Relief)
- Unique Feature:
 - Enrichment Experience days every Monday
 - Dietetic Internship Director acts as primary preceptor
 - Opportunities for simulations, case studies, field work, community exposure, and interprofessional team immersion



- Additional Details:
 - Training opportunities include indirect calorimetry, simulated nasogastric tube insertion, swallow evaluation with Speech Language Pathology, blood pressure demonstration, and more.
 - Stipend offered: \$15.00 per hour (pre-tax)

INTERNSHIP ONLY PROGRAM— RENO, NEVADA

Program started fall 2022 – Graduated two classes

- 2 – 4 interns per class
- Outpatient MNT concentration
- Total length = 31 weeks (August – April annually)
- Applicants required to have graduate degree prior to internship start
- No minimum GPA
- Stipend: \$15/hr (pre-tax)

Rotations

- Acute Care/Critical Care
- Rehab/Long-term Care/Wounds
- Primary Care & Women's Health
- Health Promotion & Wellness
- Home Based Primary Care
- Hospital in Home
- MOVE! Weight Management
- Healthy Teaching Kitchen
- VA Food Service
- Evidence Based Practice/ Research
- Leadership and Administration
- Intern Choice/Staff Experience



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System

INTERNSHIP ONLY PROGRAM – TEMPLE, TEXAS (CENTRAL TEXAS VA)

- **Masters Degree Required to apply**
- **Program concentration:** Clinical Nutrition
- **Class specifics:**
 - Accepts 6 interns annually
 - Eleven-month program (46 weeks) August thru June
 - Stipend: \$15/hr (pre-tax)

Rotations

- Diabetes Management
- General Outpatient Nutrition Clinic
- Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)
- Oncology Clinic
- Home Based Primary Care
- Eating Disorder Clinic
- Dialysis Center
- MOVE! Weight Management
- Women's Clinic
- Food Service Management
- Clinical Management
- General Acute Medicine
- Nutrition Support
- Residential Behavioral Health/Acute Psychology
- Community Living Center (CLC) with Hospice care



INTERNSHIP AND MASTER'S PROGRAM— TUCSON, ARIZONA

- 4 Interns per class
- Concentration: MNT/Clinical Concentration
- 3 tracks:
 - Concurrent graduate degree with University of Arizona
 - Concurrent graduate degree with University of Alabama
 - Internship only
- Total length = 52 weeks (4 semesters – summer, fall, spring, summer)
- **Stipend: approx. \$15/hour pre-tax**

Rotations

- Acute Care (Cardiology, GI/Hepatic, Surgery)
- Critical Care / Nutrition Support
- Rehab/Long-term Care/Wounds
- Primary Care & Women's Health
- Health Promotion & Wellness
- Oncology
- Renal/Dialysis
- Home Based Primary Care
- MOVE! Weight Management
- Pediatrics
- VA Food Service
- School Food Service
- Evidence Based Practice / Research
- Executive Leadership
- 2 Practicum Rotations – Inpatient & Outpatient
- Elective / Enrichment Rotation



INTERNSHIP AND MASTER'S PROGRAM – BAY PINES, FLORIDA

- 24-month program
- Class size: 6 interns
- Stipend: \$24,360 (pre-tax)
- Affiliated with the University of South Florida (USF) offering an integrated Master of Public Health (MPH) degree with a concentration in Nutrition and Dietetics (42 credit hours)
- MPH coursework is completed online and begins in fall semester with the 47-week supervised practice portion beginning the second August in the program.
- All interns receive a stipend while in supervised practice only.



**UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA**
A PREEMINENT RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAMS OPTIONS– GREATER LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

- **Positions available:** 7 total; 3 non-degree and 4 combined masters
- **Program Tracks:**

Non-Degree (internship only) 10 months, Jun-Apr	Degree (internship + MPH/MS) MPH, UCLA: 22 mos, Sep-Jun MS, CSULA/CSUN: 23 mos, Aug-Jun
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- **Stipend: \$25,200 (pre-tax)**
- **Supervised Practice Rotations (Nutrition Therapy Concentration):**

Food Service Admin – 6 wks Clinical Admin – 2 wks PHFE WIC – 1 wk	Inpt+Outpt Clinical – 22 wks Eating Disorders – 1 wks Special Interest – 2 wks
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- **Highlights:**

Supportive, flexible, & inclusive learning environment Rotations at multiple VA sites	Integrated RD exam preparation Curriculum centered in cultural competence & humility
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INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM – DENVER, COLORADO

Class Size: 2 interns AY25-26

Stipend: \$20,160 (pre-tax) for FY25-26

Internship Only Option:

- 40-week supervised practice (9 month-program)
- Applicants must have a DPD Verification Statement from an ACEND accredited program *and* MS in Nutrition or other related field with proof of completion before internship start date in August 2025

MS + Internship Option (14 month or 18-month):

- Fully-online 30-credit hour Master of Science degree in partnership with the University of Alabama (UA)
- 40-week supervised practice (9 month)
- Applicants must have a DPD Verification Statement from ACEND accredited program



Program Highlights:

- Preceptor-to-intern ratio of 1:1 or 1:2 for individualized support
- Opportunity to work with multiple specialized areas of clinical and foodservice

INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM OPTIONS- MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

- **Program concentration: Medical Nutrition Therapy**

- **Program Tracks:**

Stand-alone (internship only)
10 mos, Aug-June

MPS/DI with University of Minnesota Twin Cities
22 mos, Sept-June

- **Stipend: \$25,200 (pre-tax)**

- **Supervised Practice Experiences:**

Clinical– 30 weeks
(i.e. spinal cord, rehab, ICU, eating disorders etc)
Food Service- 5 weeks

Community- 4 weeks
(i.e. extension, school nutrition, WIC, etc.)
Management- 2 weeks

- **Highlights:**

6 intern class-size
1:1 preceptor/intern ratio
Eating Disorder rotation

Rotate through all areas of hospital
Dedicated and engaged preceptors
100% one-year CDR exam pass rate



INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM OPTIONS – ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

- **Program concentration:**
 - **Clinical focus:** Medical nutrition therapy and nutrition focused physical exams
 - **Community focus:** Cultural competency and advocacy
 - **Administrative focus:** Foodservice management and leadership
- **Program specifics:**
 - Accepts 6 interns annually.
 - Applicants need to have a Master's degree or plan to concurrently enroll in the University of Alabama Master of Science program in Human Nutrition.
 - The internship starts in August and will be completed in early June.
 - A stipend of \$25,200 (before taxes and deductions)
- **Unique experiences:**
 - Rotate through the Spinal Cord Injury Unit
 - Teach classes in the substance abuse and domiciliary programs.
 - Make home visits while on the Home-Based Primary Care Rotation
 - Host a booth at the annual employee health fair.
 - Attend Legislation Day at the state capital.
 - Work with our Integrative and Functional Nutrition dietitian.
 - Write for a nationally recognized nutrition blog.



INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM OPTIONS – LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

- Accepts up to 4 interns annually
- Stipend not available for 2025-2026
- 36 weeks of supervised practice, 32 hours/week
- Provides over 1,000 supervised practice hours
- **Supervised Practice Rotation Areas:**
 - Food Service- Production, Service, Management, and Informatics
 - Administration- Management, Quality Improvement, and Research
 - Inpatient - Medicine (Neurology, Dysphagia, GI), Wounds, Critical Care, Surgery, Pulmonary, Nutrition Support
 - Outpatient - MOVE! Weight Management Program
 - Outpatient - Primary Care
 - Specialty Outpatient - Diabetes, Oncology, Dialysis, Home-Based Primary Care
 - Whole Health
 - Healthy Teaching Kitchen

- **Program Options:**

- DI Only (9 months- August to April)
 - Applicants must have completed an ACEND-approved DPD program and a minimum of master's degree by program start date
- DI + MS (15 months- June to following August)
 - Applicants must have completed an ACEND-approved DPD program and a minimum of bachelor's degree, while also obtaining acceptance into University of Alabama MS in Human Nutrition program.



INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM OPTIONS – BRONX, NEW YORK

- **Concentration:** Medical Nutrition Therapy
- **Class size:** 7 interns annually
- **Stipend:** \$24,000 (pre-tax)

Internship Only Option (12-month)

- **Length:** 49-week program with 1,400 supervised practice hours
- **Rotations:**
 - 6 weeks-Food Service, Diet Education and Clinical Nutrition Mgt
 - 13 weeks Clinical Inpatient — Spinal Cord Injury, Extended Care, Med/Surg, ICU
 - 15 weeks Clinical Outpatient — Oncology, Whole Health/Culinary Nutrition, Primary Care, Wt Mgmt, Renal, Home Care
 - 6 weeks at 3 affiliate sites: BronxWorks (Community), Pediatrics/Entrepreneurial, GI
 - 2 weeks paid vacation and 4 weeks Applied Nutrition Practicum

For this option, applicants must have a **DPD Verification Statement and MS in clinical nutrition.**

MS + Internship Option (16-month)

- Concurrently complete 34-credit Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition at New York University along with 49-week supervised practice Dietetic Internship.
- Interns complete a minimum of 19-credits during DI with 1 additional full-time semester to finish MS!



Questions? Connect with Verzhine.Owens@va.gov

INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM OPTIONS — CLEVELAND, OHIO

- **Positions Available:** Accepts 12 interns annually
- **Program Length:**
 - Internship Only: 12 months (August – July)
 - For applicants with a completed Master's Degree
 - Internship + Master's Degree: 18 months (30 credits)
 - No GRE required
- **Concentration:** Medical Nutrition Therapy
- **Stipend:** \$25,200 (2024-2025, pre-tax), during internship
- **Supervised Practice Rotations:**
 - Clinical (Inpatient): 19 weeks Management-Clinical & Food Service: 9 weeks
 - Clinical (Outpatient)/Community: 12 weeks Special Interest: 2 weeks
 - Staff Experience: 3 weeks
- **Projects/Assignments/Training:**

Career Portfolio	Business Plan
Simulation Training	Cultural Presentation and assignments
National Nutrition Month	Advocacy Day



Admission Requirements:

- *DI only: Verification Statement from an ACEND accredited DPD program & a completed Master's degree
- *DI + MS degree: Verification Statement from an ACEND accredited DPD program & a completed Bachelor's degree

INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM OPTIONS – JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE

- Accepts 4 interns annually
- Stipend Provided
- 1240 hours of supervised practice (August to May)
- **Program Concentrations:** Medical Nutrition Therapy and Food Operations Management
- **Program Specifics:**
 - Inpatient medical/ surgical
 - ICU
 - Nursing home (community living center)
 - Mental Health
 - MOVE! Weight Management and Bariatric Program
 - Diabetes Clinic
 - Healthy Teaching Kitchen
 - Whole Health and Integrative Functional Nutrition
 - Retail
 - Interdisciplinary Focus
 - Telehealth
 - Food Operations Management
- **Program Options:**
 - DI Only (8 months)
 - Applicants must have- completion of an ACEND-approved DPD program and a minimum of master's degree
 - DI + MS (20 months)
 - Applicants must have- completion of an ACEND-approved DPD program and a minimum of bachelor's degree, while also obtaining acceptance into University of Alabama MS in Human Nutrition (all online)



INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM OPTIONS – MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

- Accepts 8 interns annually
- Stipend Provided: \$24,000 (pre-tax) for 2024-25 year
- Concentration in Ambulatory Care
 - Includes outpatient care, counseling motivational interviewing, and healthy teaching kitchen with a clinical focus
- 40 weeks offering a minimum of 1200 supervised practice hours
- Serves more than 206,000 veterans living in a 53-county tri-state area (TN, AR, and MS)
 - Includes both an urban and rural patient population
- Advanced Practice RDNs
 - Order Writing and Laboratory ordering privileges for RDNs
 - Interdisciplinary Focus
- **Admission Requirements:**
- DI only track:
 - Completion of an ACEND-approved DPD program and a minimum of a master's degree
- Combined MS track:
 - ✓ Completion of an ACEND-approved DPD program and a minimum of a bachelor's degree.
 - ✓ Acceptance to University of Alabama online MS in Nutrition.
 - ✓ Successful completion of MS degree required to receive Verification statement.



INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM OPTIONS – HOUSTON, TEXAS

Class Size: 8 interns annually

Stipend- \$26,000 (pre-tax)

Internship Only Option:

- 50-week supervised practice (12 month-program)
- Applicants must have a DPD Verification Statement from an ACEND accredited program and MS in Nutrition or other related field with proof of completion before internship start date August 2024

MS + Internship Option (16-month)

- Interns must apply to Texas Woman's University (TWU) graduate school for MS-Nutrition
- 50-week supervised practice (12 months)
- Final semester will be focused on Masters completion
- Applicants must have a DPD Verification Statement from ACEND accredited program



INTERNSHIP ONLY AND MASTER'S PROGRAM— SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

- **Two options:**

DI Only Track

Designed for students who have a Verification Statement from a DPD and for applicants who either already have a Master's degree or are in the last steps of finishing it, or who are enrolled in a Master's degree and have already completed most of the courses and credits.

DI/Master Program Track

Intended for those who do not have a master's degree yet but have a Verification Statement from a DPD. We have partnered with Cedar Crest College to offer the DI/Master Program Track, which provides five diverse master's programs through distance learning.

- **Program concentration:** Clinical Nutrition
- **Class specifics:**
 - Accepts 8 interns annually
 - Eleven-month program (47 weeks) August thru June
 - Stipend: \$15/hr (pre-tax)
 - Minimum GPA 3.2
 - Proficiency in both English and Spanish is required for applicants.



SELECTION PROCESS REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum GPA requirement (varies with program from 3.0 to 3.3)
- Strong letters of recommendation (3)
- Dietetics-related experiences are helpful – includes paid and volunteer clinical, food service
- Personal Statement/letter
 - Be insightful & honest about yourself. Make your statement unique to you.
 - Explain how your professional goals MATCH with what we can provide (i.e., WHY do you want to attend this specific program?)
 - Letter should be customized to each program you're applying to.
- Recency of education requirement:
 - DPD Verification Statement and MNT courses must be within past 3 years
- Know which programs conduct interviews and which are application only
 - Be prepared to interview!
 - Be prepared to provide writing samples.
- **REVIEW EACH WEBSITE for specific instructions on how to apply!**
 - www.dieteticinternship.va.gov

VA EMPLOYMENT AFTER GRADUATION

Largest employer of dietitians in the U.S. with 171 VA Medical Centers & over 1113 clinics

National opportunities after graduation for VA employment

Excellent professional growth & career advancement opportunities

Competitive starting salary surpasses private sector

Excellent healthcare benefits (medical, dental, vision, life, disability coverage, etc)

401K/TSP option with 4% employer matching

Retirement pension and supplemental healthcare (Medicare Parts B & D)



Choose **VA**

For questions about specific programs, contact the individual Internship Director. Their contact information is located on each program website.



VA
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Defining
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in the 21st Century