

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS)

Dietetic Internship (DI) Program

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September 16 2024 Open House Agenda

12:00 pm	Jill Redgate, MS, RDN - VAGLAHS Dietetic Internship Program Overview
12:30 pm	Dena Herman, PhD, MPH, RD - UCLA MPH Program & MCH Nutrition Leadership Program
01:00 pm	VAGLAHS Dietetic Internship Preceptor Q&A
01:15 pm	VAGLAHS Dietetic Internship Class of 2025 Q&A

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About VA Greater Los Angeles (GLA) Healthcare System (HS)

Who We Serve

- Serves the health care needs of >84,000 Veterans across 5 counties
Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, & Kern counties
- >1.3 million outpatient visits + >8,000 inpatient visits annually
- Top medical diagnoses
PTSD, CVD, HTN, COPD, DM II
- Food & Housing Security
Of GLA Veterans screened, 8.2% + for food insecurity (vs 24% GLA adults)
4000 unhoused Veterans in GLA

Inpatient Services

- 716 operational beds in WLA & Sepulveda, including:
- 296 domiciliary beds
 - 224 CLC (long term care) beds
 - 82 gen med/surgical beds
Includes geriatric team + a variety of surgical teams (cardiac, thoracic, general/GI, ortho, urology, etc)
 - 48 intensive care beds
 - 46 inpt mental health beds
 - 20 physical medicine & rehabilitation beds

Outpatient Services

- In-person & telemedicine
- Primary care services
Homeless Patient-Aligned Care Teams (HPACT); Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC); Geriatric Care; Women's Clinic
- Specialty care clinics
Endocrinology (DM), Oncology, MOVE, Neurology (ALS), Dialysis/Renal including >20 HD beds
- Veteran Health Programs
LGBTQ+ Veteran Care (including gender-affirming care); Whole Health (including Healthy Teaching Kitchen (HTK) and complementary therapy)

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The map shows the following locations and facility types:

- San Luis Obispo County:** San Luis Obispo (Community Clinic)
- Kern County:** Bakersfield (Community Clinic)
- Santa Barbara County:** Santa Maria (Community Clinic), Santa Barbara (Community Clinic)
- Ventura County:** Ventura (Community Clinic)
- Los Angeles County:** Lancaster (Community Clinic), Sepulveda (Community Clinic), Los Angeles (Ambulatory Care Center), West Los Angeles (Medical Center), Gardena (Community Clinic), East Los Angeles (Community Clinic)

Legend:

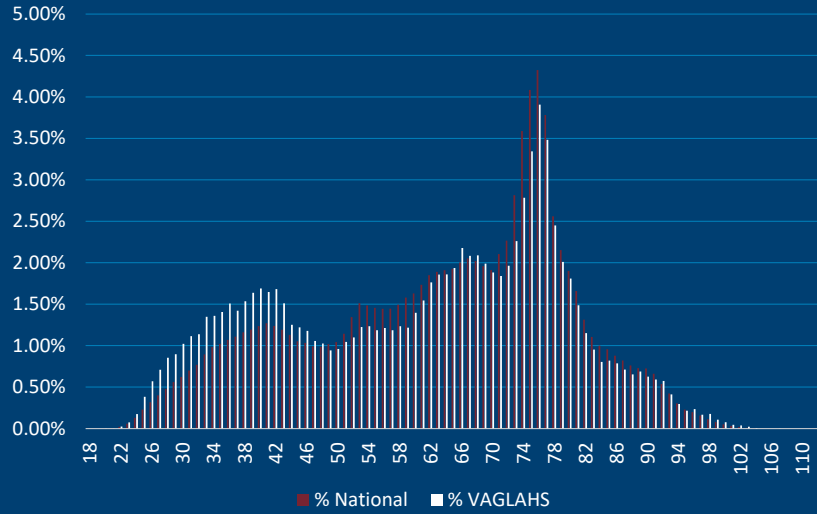
- Green square: Community Clinic
- Red square: Ambulatory Care Center
- Yellow square: Medical Center

Rotations usually only scheduled in WLA, Sepulveda, and Downtown Los Angeles

Interns may rotate at other locations by request

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% Veterans by Age - National & VAGLAHS

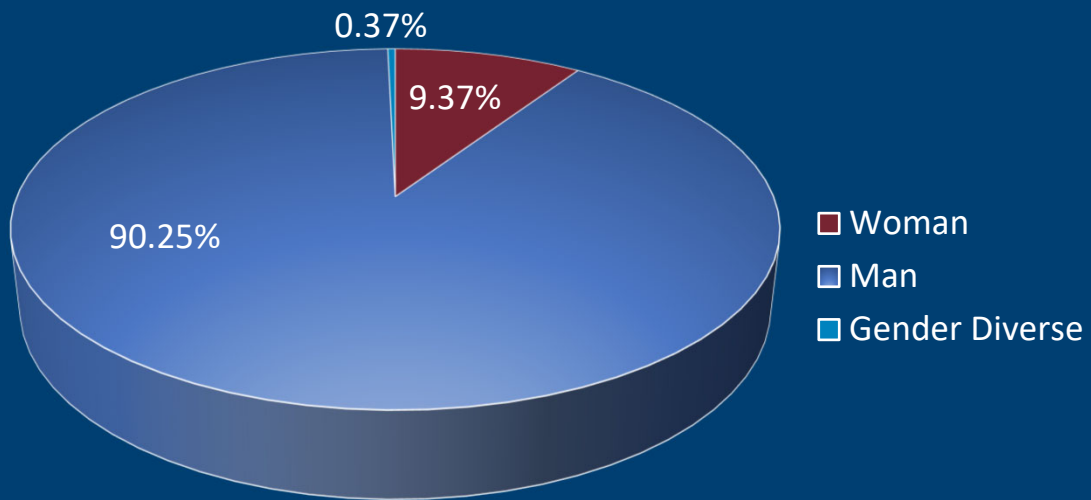


Age Range	% at VAGLAHS
18-44 yo	24.94%
45-64 yo	25.43%
65-84 yo	42.40%
>85 yo	7.23%

NEPEC PANDA Dashboard - Data as of 2/6/24, 7:03 AM

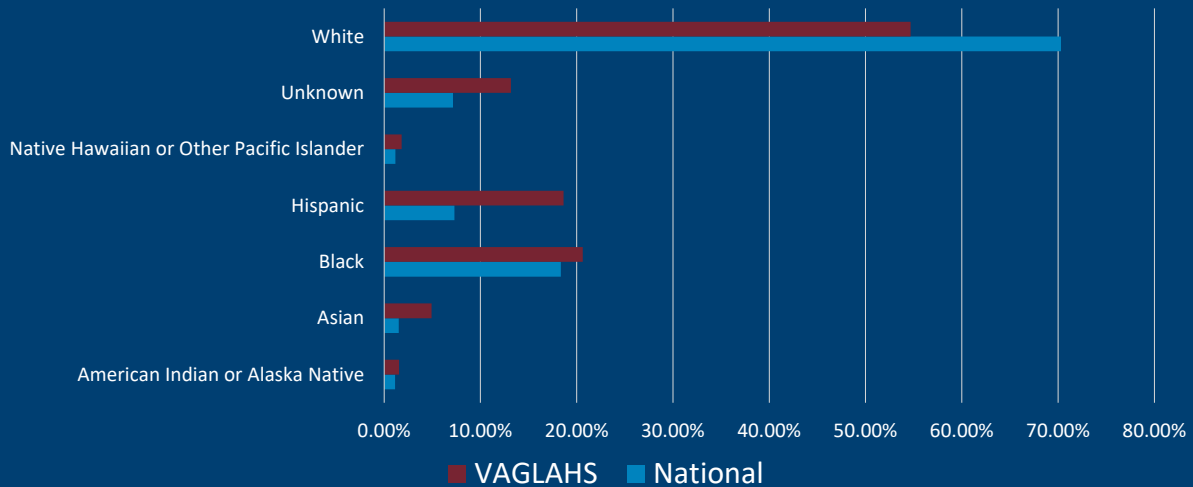
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Veteran Gender Identity at VAGLAHS



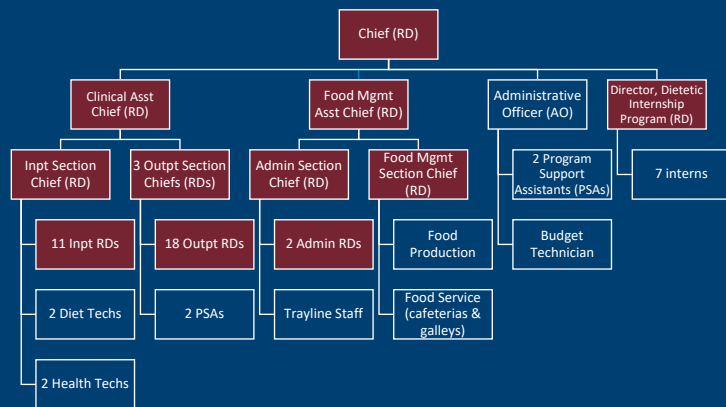
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Veteran Race/Ethnicity - National & VAGLAHS



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VAGLAHS Nutrition & Food Services (NFS)



- Over 200 staff, including >40 RDNs working in leadership, food services, acute care, nutrition support, long-term care, acute rehab, ambulatory care, home-based primary care, renal/dialysis, DM clinic, ALS clinic, and more
- Cook-chill foodservice system produces ~2350 meal equivalents each day

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Internship Overview

- Established in 1945
- Trained 969 dietitians and future dietitians as of June 2024

Class of 1950-something!



Class of 2023



Class of 2024



Class of 2025

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Program Mission Statement

The mission of the VAGLAHS DI program is to develop competent entry-level or above entry-level RDNs for evidence-based, inclusive and equitable practice in clinical, community, or foodservice nutrition and to support the mission, vision, and goals of the Veterans Healthcare Administration.

The program is structured for developing interprofessional teamwork and communication skills, cultural competence and humility, establishing a basis for self-reflection and life-long learning essential for maintaining a credentialed status, and providing the most effective learning environment utilizing highly trained staff preceptors and providing **support and flexibility for interns with diverse backgrounds and learning styles.**

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Program Statement on Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA)

The VAGLAHS DI is seeking applicants with diverse educational backgrounds and experiences. We acknowledge the history of racial discrimination and anti-LGBTQ+ biases by the Department of Defense, including Veterans Affairs.

We are actively working to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for all Veterans and their families, employees, and trainees.

We believe that choosing interns with diverse backgrounds and experiences will improve the care of Veterans at VAGLAHS, and we strive to provide a supportive learning environment where interns of all abilities, backgrounds, religions, and outside commitments can succeed.

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Benefits of the VAGLAHS DI Program

Stipend & benefits



\$15/hr (up to \$25,200) + health benefits
Paid time off (12 holidays + sick & annual leave)
VA laptop provided during supervised practice

Flexibility & support



Graduate mentor program
Telework, flexible schedules, & paid time off
Supportive, individualized learning environment

Training site for hundreds of disciplines



Environment of learning for future RDs, MDs, RNs, pharmacists, social workers, SLPs, & more
Learn from all disciplines while working closely with the interprofessional healthcare team

Variety of programs & medical services



Surgical (cardiac, thoracic, general/GI, ortho, urology, etc), acute physical & substance rehab, HD, MOVE!, HBPC, Whole Health/HTK, clinics for DM, oncology, CKD, on-site housing for Veterans, & more!

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Flexibility, Support, and Inclusion/Belonging

When interns and graduates were asked...

“Overall, how satisfied are you with the **flexibility, support, and inclusion/belonging** provided by the VAGLAHS Dietetic Internship Program?”

7/7 (100%) of Class of 2024 were “**Extremely Satisfied**”

and

5/7 (71%) of Class of 2023 were “**Extremely Satisfied.**”

(the remaining 2/7 (29%) were “Somewhat Satisfied”)

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About the VAGLAHS Dietetic Internship Program



Highly skilled & dedicated preceptor staff

Interns do not have to find preceptors – all preceptors are VAGLAHS staff or affiliates



RDN preceptors have autonomy in practice

Clinical privilege: order labs, diet orders, supplements
Well-respected by the interprofessional team



Intensive, Hands-on Intern Training

Majority of rotations 1:1 intern to preceptor ratio
Clinical skills taught at bedside and in medical simulation lab




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VAGLAHS DI Schedule Information

Program Track	Start Date	Program Length	Year 1 (June 2025-June 2026)	Year 2 (June 2026-June 2027)
Degree - MPH in Community Health Sciences @ UCLA	09.22.2025	22 months	Fall, Winter, & Spring Quarters at UCLA	Jun: Orientation Jul-Sep: Rotations Sep-Dec: Fall at UCLA Jan-Jun: Rotations
Degree - MS in Nutrition Science @ CSULA	08.18.2025	20-23 months	Fall & Spring Semesters at CSULA	Jun: Orientation Jul-Apr/Jun: Rotations
Degree - MS in Human Nutr @ CSUN	08.20.2025	23 months	Fall & Spring at CSULA	Jun: Orientation Jul-Sep: Rotations Sep-Dec: Fall at CSUN Jan-Jun: Rotations (+CSUN if needed)
Non-Degree	06.16.2025	10-12 months	Jun: Orientation Jul-Apr/Jun: Rotations	No second year





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VAGLAHS Dietetic Internship Schedule

Daily	Weekly	Monthly/Yearly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hours worked are called your "tour of duty" Intern tours are 8.5 hours (includes 30-minute unpaid meal break) For most rotations, tours start between 6:30-9:00am 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mon: Didactic activities & independent work; occasionally supervised practice rotation hours Tues-Fri: Supervised practice rotation hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 federal holidays off 1 week off for Thanksgiving 2 weeks off for winter break Addtl days (or weeks) of paid + unpaid leave, reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis 






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Supervised Practice Rotations

Administrative Rotations	Inpatient Clinical Rotations	Outpatient Clinical Rotations	Community Rotations
<p><u>Food Services & Production</u></p> <p>Interns work in groups of 3-4 to complete food production & service projects, including developing & overseeing production & service of a patient meal.</p> <p><u>Clinical Supervision</u></p> <p>Interns work with a clinical supervisor RD to practice supervising clinical staff & to complete projects related to management, clinical compliance, & evidence-based practice.</p> 	<p><u>Inpatient Clinical</u></p> <p>Interns work with inpatient RDs to care for Veterans in general medicine, surgical & medical specialties, and post-acute care.</p> <p><u>Critical Care</u></p> <p>Interns work with an RD specializing in critical care & nutrition support in medical & surgical intensive & progressive care units.</p> <p><u>Long-term Care (CLC)</u></p> <p>Interns work with RDs to care for Veterans residing in one of VAGLA's Community Living Centers (CLCs).</p> 	<p><u>Outpatient Clinical – Primary Care & Specialty Care</u></p> <p>Interns work with outpatient RDs to care for patients in primary care and a specialty care area of their choice (HBPC; MOVE; ALS; etc).</p> <p><u>Renal/Dialysis</u></p> <p>Interns work with an RD specializing in nutrition for chronic kidney disease. They will work with the interprofessional team & assess & educate Veterans receiving hemodialysis.</p> 	<p><u>National Nutrition Month</u></p> <p>Interns work together to plan educational nutrition events at VAGLAHS & in the community.</p> <p><u>PHFE-WIC</u></p> <p>Interns work alongside WIC RDs & nutritionists to learn about public health & policy & perinatal nutrition.</p> <p><u>Private Practice/Eating Disorders</u></p> <p>Interns work with an RD who owns & runs a private practice specializing in disordered eating.</p> 

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Supporting Projects & Assignments

 <p><u>Diversity, Equity & Belonging Curriculum</u></p> <p>Interns review & discuss videos, articles, podcasts, & activities related to I-DEA.</p>	<p><u>Pediatric Case Studies</u></p> <p>Interns complete case studies and review them with a pediatric RDN.</p> 
 <p><u>Mentoring Assignment</u></p> <p>Interns give a presentation to and mentor nutrition students.</p>	<p><u>Advocacy & Public Policy Project</u></p> <p>Interns research public policy issues related to nutrition, propose solutions, and educate others.</p> 
 <p><u>New Intern Selection</u></p> <p>Interns actively participate in selection of the next intern class.</p>	<p>+ PLUS professional development-related projects & assignments, rotation-specific homework and projects, and other new, exciting activities in development!</p>

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Registration Exam Preparedness

- RD exam preparation included in curriculum throughout the year
- RD exam preparation classes hosted by VHA and GLADIC
- VHA may pay for RD exam study materials (depending on facility budget)



Year of First Attempt	VAGLAHS First Time Pass Rate	National First-Time Pass Rate
2023	71.43%	62.21%
2022	83.33%	66.66%
2021	100.00%	63.47%
Total	85.71%	64.07%



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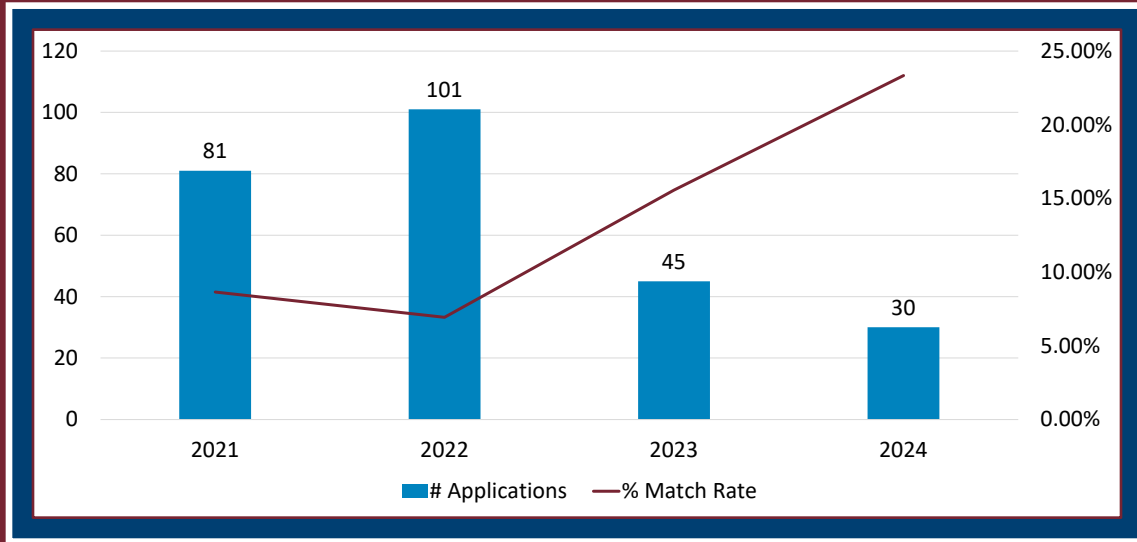
VAGLAHS DI Application Information

Program Track	Application Due Date	Application Fee	GRE	Minimum GPA	Past Education Requirements	Estimated Tuition
Degree - MPH Comm Health Sci @ UCLA	12.01.2024	\$285 (UCLA + SOPHAS)	Not Required	≥3.0 overall bachelor's or graduate	DPD + Baccalaureate or Graduate degree	\$37,952/ \$55,224
Degree - MS Nutr Sci @ CSULA	01.15.2025	\$70	Not Required	≥3.0 for last 60 semester or 90 quarter units	DPD + Baccalaureate or Graduate degree	\$8,684/ \$21,284
Degree - MS Human Nutr @ CSUN	01.15.2025	\$100 (Cal State Apply + ApplyWeb)	Not Required	≥3.0 overall bachelor's or graduate	DPD + Baccalaureate or Graduate degree	\$13,473/ \$28,593
Non-Degree	01.15.2025	\$50 (DICAS fee only)	Not Required	No minimum GPA	DPD + Graduate degree*	\$0

*Will consider applicants on a case-by-case basis who will complete their graduate degree by time of completion of supervised practice rotation portion of the program.





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VAGLAHS DI Application Numbers



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VAGLAHS DI Selection Criteria

25%	<h2>Academic Achievements</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade Point Averages (GPAs) (15%) Degrees & Certifications Publications & Presentations 	25%
	Additional Distinctions	
	<h2>Work Experience</h2> <p>Paid & non-paid - clinical, foodservice, customer service, and other types of experience are considered. We believe that all work experience can prepare you to be an intern!</p> 	
	5%	
	<h2>Soft Skills</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teamwork & Communication Adaptability & flexibility Creativity & innovation Leadership, initiative, & time-Management Clinical knowledge & critical thinking skills Response to constructive criticism Diverse perspective 	
25%		20%
	<h2>Good Fit</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veteran preference Experience working with Veterans Career goals align with VAGLAHS DI curriculum 	

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Additional Selection Criteria



- US Citizenship Preferred
- US Residents may be considered
- International students should not apply



DPD or graduate degree in Nutrition earned w/in the last 4 years

OR

Complete 'Recent Education & Practice' form (on website)



- Pre-interview questions (DICAS)
- Case study
- Performance-based interview



Admission to Partner University (degree track only)

- UCLA application due 12/01/2024
- CSUN/CSULA applications due 01/15/2025

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For more information

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