

# *California State University, Chico*

## **DIETETIC INTERNSHIP**

**Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education  
(CADE) of the American Dietetic Association (ADA)**

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### **MISSION**

The Mission of the California State University, Chico Dietetic Internship is to provide the opportunity for graduate students in the University service area to become Registered Dietitians who will enhance the quality of life and health of individuals and families through their service in institutions and agencies in northern California.

### **PROGRAM GOALS INCLUDE:**

1. To prepare graduates to meet eligibility requirements for becoming Registered Dietitians as established by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR).
2. To prepare graduates who will be able to fulfill employment requirements for entry-level dietitians.
3. To prepare dietetic professionals who will develop, implement, and evaluate evidence based nutrition education interventions to enhance the health and well being of individuals and populations served.

### **PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

In the past five years, 96% of program graduates have completed the program on time, 86% have successfully passed the registration examination on the first attempt, 92% were employed within three months of program completion, and a majority were employed in northern California providing evidence based nutrition education as part of their job responsibilities. In addition, program graduates and employers were satisfied with the level of preparation the program provided.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The steps to becoming a Registered Dietitian (RD) include: 1. completing a minimum of a bachelor's degree at a U.S. regionally accredited university or college and course work accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) of the American Dietetic Association, 2. completing a CADE-accredited supervised practice program called a Dietetic Internship (DI) (consisting of a minimum of 1200 hours), and

3. passing a national examination administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). RDs must complete continuing professional educational requirements to maintain registration and many states require that RDs be licensed or certified. In California, RDs practice under California Business and Professions Code Section 2585-2586.8.

The CADE accredited CSU, Chico DI is a full-time nine month program starting in August and ending in May of the following year. The DI provides 1,200 hours of supervised practice that fulfills the core competencies for entry-level dietitians and additional competencies for a Nutrition Education Concentration in order to meet #2. above. The 32-week full-time program is divided into three segments of supervised practice:

Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) Rotation:	16 weeks (600 hours)
Food Service Administration Rotation:	8 weeks (300 hours)
Community Nutrition Rotation:	8 weeks (300 hours)

The MNT and Food Service Administration rotations are completed at acute care facilities in northern California, including Enloe Medical Center, Oroville Hospital, Feather River Hospital and St. Elizabeth Community Hospital. The Community Nutrition rotation consists of placements at public health nutrition programs and community nutrition agencies in northern California, e.g., WIC, Cooperative Extension and the California Department of Education. The Food Service Administration rotation begins in late August, followed by the MNT rotation and then the Community Nutrition rotation. An exit interview is scheduled in mid May of the following year.

### **GRADUATION COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS & ISSUING OF VERIFICATION STATEMENT**

The DI Director will issue a Verification of program completion at the exit interview after confirming that 1200 hours of supervised practice in all three major rotations have been successfully completed, all core and nutrition education competencies have been met at the proficient level, and all assignments and evaluation tools have been completed. The Verification is a statement that the intern is ready to both sit for the registration examination for RDs and demonstrates the skills necessary to practice as an entry-level dietitian. Continuous evaluation toward these goals will be performed throughout the 32-week experience. After issuing verification statements the DI Director will submit intern names to the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) for eligibility for the RD exam. Interns are expected to meet all program completion requirements within the 32-week schedule.

### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS & APPLICATION PROCESS**

A prospective intern may apply to the program after completing graduate level coursework at CSU, Chico. The student may not actually enroll in the program, however, until all graduate work, except the final draft of the thesis or professional paper, has been completed. Applications must include documentation of the following:

1. A **cover letter of application** addressing preparation for the internship and how it relates to applicant's professional goals;
2. A non-refundable **application fee of \$50.00** made payable to the Research Foundation;
3. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution (**official undergraduate transcript**);
4. **Verification Statement** of completion of Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) accredited by the CADE of the ADA within the past five years;
5. **Official transcript of graduate coursework** (minimum 3.0 GPA);
6. Confirmation from MS committee chair that all graduate coursework has been completed as well as significant progress toward completion of the thesis/professional paper, i.e., an **approved and signed research proposal** on file with the Graduate Coordinator;
7. **Three letters of recommendation** from previous or current employers or supervisors on the form provided. No more than one may be from a CSU, Chico NFSC professor;
8. Work experience in nutrition/dietetics (**current resume**).

## **GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICATION**

Application and admission to the CSU, Chico Nutritional Science graduate program must be made separately and prior to the Dietetic Internship application. Requirements for admission to the graduate program include a grade point average of 3.0, completed courses in biochemistry and advanced nutritional sciences, GRE scores, letters of recommendation and a statement of purpose. See information on-line at: [www.csuchico.edu/nfsc/prospective/graduate.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/nfsc/prospective/graduate.shtml)

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

The CSU, Chico Dietetic Internship participates in a preselection process in addition to the computer matching process. In the preselection process, the program can select a maximum of five dietetic interns per year who are graduate students at CSU, Chico, and have met all of the above admission requirements. If all available positions are not filled, any remaining may be filled through the computer matching process. Persons applying through computer matching must have a MS degree in Nutrition.

For those who plan to participate in the preselect process, the deadline for receipt of applications is November 28, 2011, and applicant interviews will be held in mid December. The applicant will be notified on or before December 30, 2011, confirming whether or not they have been accepted into the program through the preselect process. If preselected, the applicant's name will be submitted to D&D Digital Systems, Inc. to ensure that the applicant will not participate in the computer match. If the applicant is not selected through the preselect process, she/he may reapply to this or any other DI through the computer matching process. The deadline for the February match is generally during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February.

## **PROGRAM COSTS**

Approximate costs for program completion include:

Application fee:	\$50
Program fees:	\$4,000
Housing:	Varies
Transportation:	Varies
(Interns must have reliable transportation)	
Professional Liability Insurance:	\$40
White Lab Coat	
(If required by clinical facility):	\$25
Texts/Reference Materials:	\$200
ADA Student Membership:	\$50

The Dietetic Internship is a supervised practice experience for which professional education is provided and for which no monetary compensation or financial aid will be made.

## **PROGRAM REGISTRATION**

Candidates are selected to begin the program in August and complete it in May of the following calendar year. Program fee payments are made payable to the Research Foundation. Two installments of \$2,000 are due August 1 and January 1, and are sent to the DI Director at the address below.

## **DI & DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION & FOOD SCIENCES FACULTY**

Michelle Neyman Morris, PhD, RD, Professor and Dietetic Internship Director  
Kathryn Silliman, PhD, RD, Department Chair and Professor  
Barbara A. Kirks, MPH, EdD, RD, Professor Emeritus & DI Advisor  
Stephanie Bianco-Simeral, MS, RD, Associate Professor  
Dawn Clifford, PhD, RD, Assistant Professor & DPD Director  
Keiko Goto, PhD, Associate Professor  
Faye Johnson, EdD, RD, Professor Emeritus  
Julie Schneider, PhD, Assistant Professor  
Cindy Wolff, MPA, PhD, RD, Professor

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

Contact the Dietetic Internship Director:

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