

California State University, Chico

DIETETIC INTERNSHIP

Accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in
Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
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www.eatright.org/ACEND

MISSION

The mission of the California State University, Chico Dietetic Internship Program in Dietetics is to prepare graduate students to become competent entry-level Registered Dietitian/Nutritionists (RDN) 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. Program graduates will meet eligibility requirements for becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist as established by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR); and
2. Program graduates will be able to fulfill employment requirements for entry-level dietitians; and
3. Program graduates will become competent dietetic professionals who will develop and implement evidence-based practice and work effectively with other team members to enhance the health and well-being of individuals and populations served (Applies to MS/DI Students only).

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The steps to becoming a Registered Dietitian (RD) include: 1. completing a minimum of a graduate degree at a U.S. regionally accredited university or college and course work accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND), 2. completing an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program called a Dietetic Internship (DI) (consisting of a minimum of 1000 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 ACEND accredited CSU, Chico DI is a full-time nine-month program starting in August and ending in April of the following year. The DI provides 1,000 hours of supervised practice that fulfills the core competencies for entry-level dietitians to meet #2. above. **The 27-week full-time program is divided into three segments of supervised practice:**

Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) Rotation:	14 weeks (520 hours)
Food Service Administration Rotation:	7 weeks (240 hours)
Community Nutrition Rotation:	7 weeks (240 hours)

The MNT rotation is completed at acute care facilities in northern California. The Food Service Administration rotation is completed at acute care facilities and in school districts, and the Community Nutrition rotation consists of placements at public health nutrition programs and community nutrition agencies in northern California. An exit interview is scheduled at the beginning of May of the following year. **The DI is officially completed when the exit interviews are finished.**

All applicants to the CSU Chico DI are pre-selected with priority being given to the CSU Chico students with a graduate degree.

DI COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS & ISSUING OF DI VERIFICATION STATEMENT

The DI Director will issue a DI Verification statement of program completion at the exit interview after confirming that 1,000 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 DI Verification is a statement that the intern is ready to sit for the registration examination for RDNs and demonstrates the skills necessary to practice as an entry-level dietitian. Continuous evaluation toward these goals will be performed throughout the 27-week experience. After issuing the DI Verification statements, the DI Director will submit intern names to the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) for eligibility for the RDN exam. Interns are expected to meet all program completion requirements within this schedule.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS & APPLICATION PROCESS

A prospective intern may apply to the program while completing graduate level. **The student may not actually enroll in the program until a graduate degree has been obtained.**

Applications must include documentation of the following:

1. A **DICAS style letter of application** addressing why you want to enter the dietetics profession, your short and long-term goals, your strengths and weaknesses or areas needing improvement. In addition, discuss any experiences that have helped prepare you for your career, and any other information you would like the committee to know. Please submit one hardcopy with DI application and one copy submitted electronically to the DI Director;

2. A non-refundable **application fee of \$50.00** made payable to **Chico State Enterprises**;
3. A Master's Degree from an accredited institution;
4. **Verification Statement** of completion of an ACEND accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) within the past five years or a Letter of Intent from the DPD Director;
5. **Official transcript showing the Master's degree has been awarded** (minimum 3.0 GPA);
6. **Two letters of recommendation**, one from previous or current employer or supervisor, and one from a CSU, Chico NFSC professor **on the form provided**. **These letters must have a completed release of information for letters of recommendation/reference attached in addition to the AND letter of reference form**;
7. Resume including work experience in nutrition/dietetics including at least 40 hours of experience in an acute or long-term care type setting (**this must be completed prior to the submission of your application**) (**current resume**). Additionally, work experience in foodservice management and community settings will be considered in the selection process. Please submit one copy as a hardcopy with DI application packet and one copy submitted electronically to the DI Director.

Please place all materials in a sealed manila envelope with your name written across the seal.

Submit your DI packet to Joan Giampaoli, Interim DI Director, either in person (office in Holt 324), or in her mailbox in Holt 369.

SELECTION PROCESS

The CSU, Chico Dietetic Internship participates in a preselection process. In the preselection process, the program can select a maximum of four dietetic interns per year who have met all the above admission requirements for those who plan to participate in the preselect process, the deadline for receipt of applications is the beginning of November, and applicant interviews will be held in late November to mid-December. The applicant will be notified on or before the end of the year, confirming their acceptance 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.

PROGRAM COSTS (fees subject to change)

Approximate costs for program completion include:

Application fee:	\$50
Program fees:	\$8,000
Housing:	Varies
Transportation:	Varies
(Interns must have reliable transportation)	
Registration for DI Experience for non-adjunct DI's (NFSC 689)	
(1 unit in fall, winter, and spring)	\$225
Immunizations, TB test,	
CPR/blood born pathogen training	Varies
PreCheck Background Check	\$39.50
Drug Screening	\$42.00
Professional Liability Insurance:	\$40
White Lab Coat	\$25
Texts/Reference Materials:	\$200
AND Student Membership:	\$50
Medical Insurance	Varies
General Liability Insurance	No cost

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 provided.

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Candidates who are selected to begin the program in August and complete it in April of the following calendar year. Program fee payments are made payable to the Research Foundation. Two installments of \$3,000 are due September 1 and January 1.

BECOMING A REGISTERED DIETITIAN NUTRITIONIST (RDN) IN CALIFORNIA

There are four steps to becoming a RDN in California:

1. Complete an ACEND Accredited Dietetics Program
2. Complete a Dietetic Internship
3. Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) Exam
4. Maintain Your California (CDR) Registration

California Registered Dietetic Education

CDR mandates that all Registered Dietitians Nutritionists in California complete education that is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). The educational tracks to become a RDN in California are through a Coordinated Program in Dietetics (CP) or through a Didactic Programs in Dietetics (DPD). California State University, Chico offers the DPD track that results in either an undergraduate or graduate degree which must be followed by separate supervised practice rotations [a Dietetic Internship (DI)], or a graduate degree can be obtained while completing supervised practice hours in the MS/DI program.

Complete a Dietetic Internship

After completing your DPD coursework to become an RDN, and obtaining a graduate degree you must complete a DI which is offered at CSU, Chico. The CSU, Chico DI follows a pre-select process (the DI Program does not participate in the DICAS match process) and priority is given to CSU, Chico Graduate students. The CSU, Chico DI consists of 1,000 hours of supervised practice and is 9 months long. The DI is a full-time, non-degree program and consists of supervised practice rotations in Medical Nutrition Therapy, Foodservice Administration, and Community Nutrition. During the DI, the Intern will gain valuable experience in the field of nutrition and dietetics. At the completion of your 1,000 hours, the DI Director will provide you with a Verification Statement indicating that you are eligible to sit for the RDN Exam.

Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) Exam

The Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) requires that you pass the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Exam to practice in California. You will receive an e-mail from CDR when you have completed steps 1 and 2 above indicating you are eligible to take the exam. You have one year from your date of eligibility status to complete the exam. The exam payment is \$200.00, and once received, you will be sent an e-mail from PSI Exams Online, the centers that host the online exam. Exam Centers near Chico, California include Redding and Sacramento, California.

Maintaining Your CDR Certification as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist in California

To maintain your CDR certification in California, you must complete 75 continuing professional education units (CPEU's) every five-year cycle. One unit every five years must be in ethics. According to California code, dietitians must be registered if they want to practice in the state. RDN's practice under California Business and Professions Code Section 2585-2586.8. California does not have a state licensure requirement for RDN's.

ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ARC)

Americans with Disabilities Act

If you need accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with the Dietetic Internship Director as soon as possible. Please also contact the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) as they are the designated department responsible for approving and coordinating reasonable accommodations and services for students with disabilities. ARC will help you understand your rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide you further assistance with requesting and arranging accommodations.

Accessibility Resource Center

530-898-5959

Student Services Center 170

arcdept@csuchico.edu

DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION & FOOD SCIENCE FACULTY

Angela Alger, PhD, Instructor
Deborah Bellis, MS, RDN, Instructor
Stephanie Bianco, MS, RDN, Associate Professor & Director CHC
Laura Curtis, MS, RDN, Instructor
Joan Giampaoli, PhD, RDN, Associate Professor and Interim DI Director
Maria Giovanni, PhD, Professor Emeritus
Keiko Goto, PhD, Professor, Department Chair
Julie Holland, PhD, Associate Professor
Faye Johnson, EdD, RD, Professor Emeritus
Barbara A. Kirks, MPH, EdD, RDN, Professor Emeritus
Cynthis Klobodu, Ph.D., MPH, MBChB, Assistant Professor and Graduate Coordinator
Seth Klobodu, PhD, Associate Professor
Susan Krug, MS, RDN Instructor
Lauren McNamara, EdD, RDN, Assistant Professor (on leave 25-26)
Michelle Morris, PhD, RDN, Professor & Director of Diversity and Inclusion
Kathryn Silliman, PhD, RDN, Professor Emeritus
Cindy Wolff, MPA, PhD, RDN, Professor Emeritus

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact the Interim Dietetic Internship Director:

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