California State University, Chico
Dietetic Internship

Accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190
Chicago, IL 60606-6995
312-899-0040 ext. 5400
312-899-4817 (fax)
www.eatright.org/ACEND

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 competent entry-level Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (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 and OBJECTIVES INCLUDE:

Goal 1. To prepare graduates to meet the eligibility requirements for becoming a RDN as established by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR).

Objective 1. Program Completion
“At least 80% of program interns complete program/degree requirements within 13.5 months (150% of program length)”.

Objective 2. Pass Rate
“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%”.

Objective 3. Timeframe for Taking Registration Exam
“80% of program graduates take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within 12 months of program completion”.

Objective 4. Rotation Sites
80% of DI graduates or more will report that rotation sites were adequate to prepare them to become competent entry-level dietitians.

Goal 2. To prepare graduates who will be able to fulfill employment requirements for entry-level dietitians.

Objective 1. Graduate Employment
“Of graduates who seek employment, 80 percent are employed in nutrition and dietetics or related fields within 12 months of graduation”.

Objective 2. Employer Satisfaction
“80% of employers will rate graduates ability to meet performance requirements for entry-level dietitians at the proficiency or mastery level.”

Objective 3. Graduate Performance Related to Nutrition Education Responsibilities
75% of employers or more will rate DI graduates’ ability to meet performance requirements for their nutrition education responsibilities, specifically, at the
proficiency or mastery level.

**Goal 3.** To prepare dietetic professionals who will develop and implement evidence-based nutrition education interventions to enhance the health and well-being of individuals and populations served.

**Objective 1. Graduate Satisfaction**
Over a five-year period, 80% of graduates or more will indicate that the DI program developed their competency to meet performance requirements for entry-level dietitians and additional requirements related to the nutrition education concentration at the proficiency or mastery level.

**Objective 2. Graduate Employment in Northern California**
Over a five-year period, 60% of graduates or more will be employed in northern California and providing evidence-based nutrition education to patients/clients served.

**PROGRAM OUTCOMES**
Results from our 2017 self-study report shows that in the past five years 100% of program graduates have completed the program on time, 84% have successfully passed the registration examination on the first attempt, 84% were employed within three months of program completion, and a majority of those were employed in northern California providing evidence based nutrition education as part of their job responsibilities (82%). 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/Nutritionist (RDN) 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 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 1200 hours**), and 3. passing a national examination administered by Pearson Vue under the guidance of the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). CDR has mandated that beginning January 1, 2024, a minimum of a graduate degree will be required to sit for the RDN Exam. In addition, RDNs must complete continuing professional educational requirements to maintain registration (75 hours/5 years) and many states require that RDNs be licensed or certified.

The ACEND accredited CSU, Chico DI is a rural full-time nine-month program starting in August and ending in May of the following year. The DI provides a minimum of 1,200 hours of supervised practice that fulfills the core competencies for entry-level dietitians and additional competencies for a Nutrition Education Concentration. The DI is a 32 week program (excluding Spring Break or holidays) during the DI rotation. The 32-week full-time program is divided into three segments of supervised practice (weeks and hours of each rotation represent a **minimum** number of hours needed to complete each rotation). If days are missed during the DI due to illness or other circumstances, the Intern is responsible for making up those missed days at the facility in which they are currently Interning. The 1200 hours minimum to complete the DI must be completed at a supervised facility.
Below outlines the approximate weeks and minimum hours in each rotation and are subject to change.

- 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 rotation is completed at acute care facilities in northern California, including Enloe Medical Center, Feather River Hospital, Oroville Hospital, Rideout Memorial Hospital, and St. Elizabeth Community Hospital. 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, 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. **The DI is officially completed when the exit interviews are finished.**

All applicants to the CSU Chico DI are pre-selected (both Graduate and Undergraduate students) with priority being given to the CSU Chico Graduate students. If all slots to the CSU Chico DI are not filled by Graduate students, Undergraduate students may apply.

**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 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 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 32-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 FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

A prospective Intern may apply to the program while completing graduate level coursework at CSU, Chico. **The student may not enroll in the program until all graduate work, with the exception the final draft of the thesis or professional paper, have 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 (one copy submitted as a hardcopy with application packet and one copy submitted electronically to the DI Director);
2. A non-refundable application fee of $50.00 made payable to the Research Foundation;
3. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution (official transcript from undergraduate degree granting institution);
4. Verification Statement of completion of an ACEND accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) within the past five years;
5. Official transcript of graduate coursework (minimum 3.0 GPA);
6. Confirmation from MS committee chair that graduate coursework will be completed as well as significant progress toward completion of the 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. These letters must have a release of information for letters of recommendation/reference attached.
8. Resume including work experience in nutrition/dietetics including at least 40 hours of experience in an acute or long-term care type setting (current resume) (one copy submitted as a hardcopy with application packet and one copy submitted electronically to the DI Director).
9. Please place all materials in a sealed manila envelope with your name written across the seal.
10. Submit your DI packet to Joan Giampaoli, DI Director, either in person or in her mailbox in Holt 369.

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 prerequisite science courses, GRE scores, recommendation letters, and a statement of purpose. See information online at: http://www.csuchico.edu/nfsc/programs_nfsc/graduate/index.shtml

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS & APPLICATION PROCESS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

If not all available DI slots are filled by graduate students, any remaining slots may be filled by undergraduate students. A prospective Intern may apply to the program while completing undergraduate level coursework at CSU, Chico. 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 (one copy submitted as a hardcopy with application packet and one copy submitted electronically to the DI Director);
2. A non-refundable application fee of $50.00 made payable to the Research Foundation;
3. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution (official transcript from undergraduate degree granting institution);

4. Verification Statement of completion of an ACEND accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) within the past five years; or letter of intent from the DPD Director

5. Official transcript of undergraduate coursework (minimum 3.0 GPA);

6. 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. These letters must have a release of information for letters of recommendation/reference attached.

7. Resume including work experience in nutrition/dietetics including at least 40 hours of experience in an acute or long-term care type setting (current resume) (one copy submitted as a hardcopy with application packet and one copy submitted electronically to the DI Director).

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

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**SELECTION PROCESS**

The CSU, Chico Dietetic Internship participates in a preselection process. In the preselection process, the program can select a maximum of six dietetic Interns per year who have met all of the above admission requirements For those who plan to participate in the preselect process, the deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, November 2, 2018, and applicant interviews will be held in mid-November. The applicant will be notified on or before December 31, 2018, 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. The deadline for the February match is generally during the 2nd week of February.

**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)].

**Complete a Dietetic Internship**

After completing your DPD coursework to become a RDN, 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 (Undergraduate students may apply if all slots have not been previously filled by Graduate students). The CSU, Chico DI consists of 1200 hours of supervised practice and is 9 months long. The DI is a full-time, non-degree program with an emphasis is Nutrition Education 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 1200 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**
PROGRAM COSTS (fees subject to change)
Approximate costs for program completion include:

- Application fee: $50
- Program fees: $5,000
- Housing: Varies
- Transportation: Varies
  (Interns must have reliable transportation)
- Registration for DI Experience for non-adjunct DI’s (NFSC 689)
  (1 unit each in fall, January, spring) $180
- Immunizations/TB test/Background Check,
- CPR/blood borne pathogen training Varies
- Professional Liability Insurance: $40
- White Lab Coat $25
- Texts/Reference Materials: $200
- AND Student Membership: $50
- CastleBranch $125.00
- 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 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 $2,500 are due September 1 and January 1.
DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION & FOOD SCIENCE FACULTY

Stephanie Bianco, MS, RDN, Associate Professor & Associate Director
CHC
Courtney Clark, MS, RDN, DPD Director
Joan Giampaoli, PhD, RDN, Associate Professor and DI Director
Maria Giovanni, PhD, Associate Professor
Keiko Goto, PhD, Professor, Graduate Coordinator
Julie Holland, PhD, Associate Professor
Lauren Housely, PhD, RDN, Assistant Professor
Faye Johnson, EdD, RD, Professor Emeritus
Barbara A. Kirks, MPH, EdD, RDN, Professor Emeritus
Seth Klobodu, PhD, Assistant Professor
Lauren McNamara, MS, RDN, DI Clinical Coordinator
Michelle Morris, PhD, RDN, Professor & Faculty Diversity Officer, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Kathryn Silliman, PhD, RDN, Professor and Department Chair
Cindy Wolff, MPA, PhD, RDN, Professor Emeritus

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Contact the Dietetic Internship Director:

Joan Giampaoli, PhD, RDN
Department of Nutrition & Food Science
400 West First Street
Holt 326
CSU, Chico Dietetic Internship  
2017-18 Tentative Schedule***  
Sample

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**FOOD SERVICE ADMINISTRATION ROTATION (8 weeks)**

| 8/21-10/6   | (7) Feather River Hospital | Preceptor       |
| 10/9-10/13  | (1) Feather River Hospital Staff Relief |

**MNT ROTATION (16 weeks)**

| 10/16-12/1   | (7) Feather River Hospital |
| 12/4-12/15   | (2) Feather River Hospital Staff Relief |

| 12/18-12/29  | (2) Winter Break |

**COMMUNITY NUTRITION ROTATION (8 weeks)**

| 2/19-3/16 | (4) TBA |
|           |         |

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Rev. March, 2018
3/23 (1) Spring Break
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3/26-4/20 (4) TBA (Dates/weeks are subject to change)
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5/7/17 Exit Interviews

Work Schedule: Monday-Friday (weekends maybe required per preceptor), hours/additional days to be determined by site supervisor. Minimum hours required per rotation competencies.

Class Schedule: Meets Monday afternoons as scheduled at Enloe Conference Center, 1528 Esplanade, Chico. A half day of supervised practice is expected on class days. DI Class hours do not count toward supervised practice.

Holiday: Thanksgiving 11/23-11/24/17

*The first several weeks of the MNT rotation will be at the primary facility and then include assignments in outpatient, dialysis, and LTC settings before returning to the primary facility for additional weeks plus staff relief.

***All dates, rotations and length of the DI is subject to change at any time.