

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 2000
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 prepare graduate students in the University service area 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. to prepare graduates to meet eligibility requirements for becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist 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; and
3. to prepare dietetic professionals who will develop, implement evidence based nutrition education interventions to enhance the health and well being of individuals and populations 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 (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 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 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 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:	17 weeks (680 hours)
Food Service Administration Rotation:	8 weeks (320 hours)
Community Nutrition Rotation:	7 weeks (280 hours)

The MNT rotation is completed at acute care facilities in northern California, including Enloe Medical Center, Mercy Medical Center, Shasta Regional Hospital, Adventist Health and Rideout Memorial Hospital, St. Elizabeth Community Hospital, and Oroville 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

A prospective intern may apply to the program while completing graduate level coursework at CSU, Chico. **The student may not actually enroll in the program 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 (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 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. **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 Lauren McNamara, 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

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 1, 2019, and applicant interviews will be held in mid-November. The applicant will be notified on or before December 31, 2019, 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.

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 in fall, winter, and spring)	\$180
Immunizations, TB test, CPR/blood born pathogen training	Varies
Castle Branch Background Check	\$58
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 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.

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 be 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

530-898-5959

Student Services Center 170

arcdept@csuchico.edu

DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION & FOOD SCIENCE FACULTY

Stephanie Bianco, MS, RDN, Associate Professor & Associate Director CHC

Joan Giampaoli, PhD, RDN, Associate Professor and Department Chair

Maria Giovanni, PhD, Associate Professor

Keiko Goto, PhD, Professor, Graduate Coordinator

Julie Holland, PhD, Associate Professor

Lauren Housely, PhD, RDN, Assistant Professor and DPD Director

Faye Johnson, EdD, RD, Professor Emeritus

Barbara A. Kirks, MPH, EdD, RDN, Professor Emeritus

Seth Klobodu, PhD, Assistant Professor

Lauren McNamara, MS, RDN, Assistant Professor and DI Director

Michelle Morris, PhD, RDN, Professor & Faculty Diversity Officer, Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Kathryn Silliman, PhD, RDN, Professor

Cindy Wolff, MPA, PhD, RDN, Professor Emeritus

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact the Dietetic Internship Director:

Lauren McNamara, MS, RDN

Department of Nutrition & Food Science

California State University, Chico

Chico, CA 95929-0002

Phone: 530-898-6264

E-mail: lmcnamara@csuchico.edu

Revised 8/23/2019