Dietetic Internship

Tulane
School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine
Department of Community Health Sciences
The Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine Dietetic Internship

is a graduate-level supervised practice program in dietetics. It is a full time non-degree program with a community nutrition concentration.

The internship, administered by the Department of Global Community Health & Behavioral Sciences at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, incorporates the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition & Dietetics (ACEND) Accreditation Standards for Interns to acquire the competencies to function as entry-level, registration-eligible dietitians. The Tulane Dietetic Internship provides practical training and experience in dietetics through administrative, clinical and community settings. Interns must satisfactorily complete all rotations (3.0 score) and pass the exit exam (80%) in order to graduate. Interns completing the Dietetic Internship program are eligible to take the CDR Registration Examination in Dietetics and become Registered Dietitians. Registered Dietitians may apply for licensure in their states.
training to become a Registered Dietitian

Program Mission

The Tulane Dietetic Internship prepares entry-level dietitians for leadership in community health practices through education, research and practice directed at health promotion and disease prevention among individuals and their communities. The purpose of the Dietetic Internship program at Tulane is to provide a comprehensive and intensive supervised practice experience, with the opportunities to acquire the competencies necessary to function as an entry-level practitioner and to make the student registration eligible in dietetics. The Dietetic Internship program will give the students the opportunity to apply clinically the nutrition and food management knowledge that they have learned in their Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD).

Program Goals

• The Dietetic Internship program will prepare graduates to be competent entry-level registered dietitians through application of dietetics theory to practice in healthcare and community settings.

• The Dietetic Internship program will prepare graduates to work or volunteer in community organizations or programs.
Objectives for the internship include:

Goal 1: The program will prepare graduates to be competent entry-level registered dietitians through application of dietetics theory to practice in healthcare community settings.

1.1. a. 80% of program graduates take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within 12 months of program completion.
   
   b. 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%.

1.2. Within 12 months of completing the program, at least 70% of graduates who were seeking employment related to their major will have obtained employment.

1.3. The mean rating of knowledge base that employers will give program graduates in their employ will meet or exceed the rating of satisfactory on surveys.

1.4. Eighty percent of the students who enter the program will complete it in 150% of the scheduled time (15 months for DI).

1.5. Eighty percent of the interns indicate on survey satisfactory or better scores with respect to the encouragement, motivation, and support provided by the faculty and/or preceptors.

1.6. Eighty percent of alumni will give a satisfactory or better rating to a question about encouragement, motivation, support given to them by the faculty and preceptors.

Goal 2: The Tulane Dietetic Internship will prepare graduates to work or volunteer in community organizations or programs.

2.1 Fifty percent of graduates will volunteer in a community organization or program.

2.2 Seventy five percent of students will consider employment in the community setting after becoming an RD.

2.3 Within 12 months of completing the program, at least 70% of graduates who are seeking employment in a community agency will have obtained employment.

Outcome data is available to interns, prospective interns, and the public upon request.

Interns making a difference...

in area hospitals, local schools, nursing homes, clinics and other community settings.

At Tulane, Dietetic Interns are exposed to a variety of practice settings which enhance their learning experience. The wealth of firsthand experience that Tulane provides truly prepares Interns for a career in nutrition.
The Dietetic Internship at Tulane lasts 10 months and provides approximately 1360 hours of supervised practice in community, medical nutrition therapy, and food service management areas.

The next program begins August 24, 2020 and will be completed on June 25, 2021. Supervised practice is completed 4-5 days per week—usually Monday through Friday. Field trips and class meetings are scheduled on some Fridays throughout the year.

The first two weeks of the program is designated as orientation. Prior to this time, the Intern registers for a 6 hour dietetic internship course. This is not part of a degree program at Tulane. Accounts Receivable will send a bill for half of the internship fee following registration.

During orientation, the class reviews the internship manual, all policies, the curriculum and program forms they will be utilizing and will participate in lectures. We will visit program facilities and will discuss the master rotation schedule and the schedule of planned classes. Labor Day often falls during orientation and it is considered a holiday.

Rotations begin the third week of the program. Interns will be split between Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT), Community, and Food Service Rotations. MNT is a 5 week hospital experience that includes an exam and a major case study presentation at the end of the rotation. The Community and Food Service rotations are 1-3 weeks long. Interns work independently or in groups of 2 or 3 for various rotations. When Pennington Biomedical Research Center has a seminar, all Interns attend. Interns may participate in the Shell Health Fair held in October. Thanksgiving day is a holiday and interns have the last two weeks of December off as vacation time for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Rotations resume in January. Interns again register for a 6 hour dietetic internship course before January. The second half of the tuition will be billed by Accounts Receivable. Mardi Gras is a designated holiday and usually occurs in February. Good Friday and Easter are six weeks after Mardi Gras. Dates for these vacation days will be discussed in orientation. There is a third registration period to cover June. No fees are billed following third registration.

All interns are required to attend the Louisiana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics annual conference that is in March or April. The mandatory RD Exam study course will be planned for the same week of the LAND conference. Near the end of the program, all interns will return to the hospital where they had MNT for a 2 week Staff Relief experience.

During the last week of the program, Interns will complete the exit exam, exit interview, survey, and portfolio review. They will complete required forms for submission to CDR (Commission on Dietetics Registration). Graduation is usually at noon on a Friday. Family, friends, and preceptors will be invited.

A list of rotations and facilities is on the next page. This is subject to change.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rotations and Hours</th>
<th>Rotation Facilities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orientation &amp; Didactic</td>
<td>Tulane School of Public Health (2 week orientation plus classes some Fridays)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNT (180 hours)</td>
<td>Tulane Hospital-Ochsner Hospitals--St Tammany Hospital-Slidell Memorial Hospital—West Jeff Hospital—VA Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diabetes (36 hours)</td>
<td>Ochsner — St Tammany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renal (36 hours)</td>
<td>DCI — Davita— New Orleans Kidney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transplant (36 hours)</td>
<td>Tulane — Ochsner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bariatrics (36 hours)</td>
<td>Ochsner—Tulane</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pediatrics (36 hours)</td>
<td>Childrens— Ochsner</td>
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<tr>
<td>NICU (36 hours)</td>
<td>Tulane Lakeside-Ochsner Baptist—Childrens</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV-NO AIDS and NCP (36 hours)</td>
<td>NO AIDS Task Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oncology (36 hours)</td>
<td>LSU/Tulane/Slidell/Ochsner/West Jeff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiac Rehab (36 hours)</td>
<td>Ochsner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research (36 hours)</td>
<td>Tulane</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main Squeeze (36 hours)</td>
<td>Main Squeeze</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIC (36 hours)</td>
<td>State Health Department/Access Health/Crescent City</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSU Ag (36 hours)</td>
<td>LSU Ag</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellness (72 hours)</td>
<td>Ochsner Fitness Eat Fit and Fuel Cafe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council on Aging (36 hours)</td>
<td>St Bernard Council on Aging</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developmental Disabilities (8 hours)</td>
<td>Lafourche Arc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goldring Center (72 hours)</td>
<td>Tulane Culinary Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Harvest (36 hours)</td>
<td>Second Harvest Food Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head Start (36 hours)</td>
<td>Jefferson Parish Head Start—Catholic Charities Head Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital Food Service (72 hours)</td>
<td>Ochsner Hospitals— St Tammany Hospital—Tulane Hospitals-West Jeff Hosp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lambeth House Food Serv (36 hours)</td>
<td>Lambeth House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Term Care (36 hours)</td>
<td>Many New Orleans area nursing facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peds Out patient (36 hours)</td>
<td>Childrens—Ochsner</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Food Service (72 hours)</td>
<td>St Charles Schools — St Bernard Schools — Jefferson Schools—Sodexo Charter Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialty-Intern’s choice (36 hours)</td>
<td>Choose your rotation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Relief (72 hours)</td>
<td>Tulane Hospital—Ochsner Hospitals—St Tammany Hospital-Slidell Memorial Hospital—West Jeff Hospital—VA Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition Support-Spec (8 hours)</td>
<td>Slidell Memorial Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Propellor—specialty (36 hours)</td>
<td>Propellor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psych —specialty (32 hours)</td>
<td>Northlake Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doc Griggs Foundation (36 hours)</td>
<td>Doc Griggs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corrections—specialty (36 hours)</td>
<td>Lafayette Parish Jail</td>
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<tr>
<td>LDA conference and RD exam study course (40 hours)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacation (80 hours)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduation Week (16 hours)</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The table lists various rotations and their corresponding facilities, along with the number of hours associated with each rotation. Some rotations are labeled as 'Specialty-Intern’s choice' or 'Choose your rotation', indicating flexibility in selection. The table also includes a column for 'Facilities', providing specific details about each rotation's location or partner institutions.
Seldess (left) receives her Internship completion certificate from Dr. Elaine Boston, Former Dean of Admissions (right).

“Tulane’s Dietetic Internship program provided me with experiences that have allowed me to feel confident and knowledgeable in my profession. The internship allowed me the opportunity to apply my dietetic skills in various environments and to work with diverse populations. It also gave me the chance to work in and observe many different nutrition-related avenues to better prepare me in choosing my specific area of interest.”

- Naomi Seldess
Tulane Dietetic Intern
Tuition and Fees

The approximate cost of the Dietetic Internship program will include the following and is subject to change:

1. Nonrefundable Tulane application processing fee: $40. There are also fees for DICAS application-$45+ and D & D Digital computer matching-$55.

2. Tuition is $9,000 total: $4,500 in the Fall and $4,500 in the Spring.

3. Group health insurance fee: approximately $2900 per year (unless proof of individual coverage elsewhere).

4. Professional liability insurance: approximately $24 per year.

5. LDA annual meeting and other conferences: approximately $ 400-500.

6. RD exam study course: approximately $ 500.

7. Books and supplies: $ 150-200

8. Uniform shirts: $90    Lab coat: $ 30-50    Non skid shoes: $30-100
   Black or khaki pants: approximately $ 90

9. Housing: $ 600-1000 per month

10. Car expenses: $ 30-60 per week for gas (plus $$ for upkeep and insurance)

11. Immunizations and TB test: approximately $ 300


13. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics student membership: $ 50

Each student is responsible for his/her own living expenses including room, board and transportation. Student must show proof of health and liability insurances and required immunizations.
Requirements

For general questions about becoming a Registered Dietitian or specific inquiries about the Tulane Dietetic Internship, contact the Dietetic Internship Director by phone at 504.988.2672 or through email at di@tulane.edu


To qualify for the Dietetic Internship program, an applicant must have:

1. DICAS application https://portal.dicas.org/
2. Verification statement demonstrating completion of a ACEND-accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics. (include in DICAS)
3. A bachelor’s degree.
4. Tulane’s two-page application* (send to Tulane DI Director)
5. Video answering questions provided by DI Director. (send jump drive to Tulane with application by February 15)
6. Grade point average of no less than 2.8 on a 4.0 point scale.
7. Three letters of recommendation. (include in DICAS)
8. Statement of career goals. (include in DICAS)
9. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores required from applicants of non-English speaking nations. (send to Tulane DI Director)
10. Official transcripts of all course work completed. (include in DICAS)
11. A nonrefundable $40 processing fee, made payable to Tulane (send with Tulane application to DI Director)
12. Favorable review and recommendation by the selection committee.

*Applications for admission must be completed by February 15 for Fall enrollment.
Lagniappe (LAN-yap)
a little something extra thrown in for good measure

Length
The Dietetic Internship is a 10-month program that begins in September and ends in June.

Living Accommodations
Graduate housing is available on the Health Sciences Center campus. However, students are responsible for their own housing arrangements.

Uniforms
Interns will order shirts with Tulane DI monogram from Uniforms By Bayou in Metairie. Black or khaki pants will be worn with the shirt.

Transportation
Although the city of New Orleans offers many public transportation options, the nature of the Tulane Dietetic Internship requires Interns to frequently travel outside of the city limits and into surrounding areas. Therefore, each Intern must have his/her own car and must carry a minimum coverage of liability insurance. Parking fees are required at some facilities.

Financial Aid
Dietetic Interns are eligible to defer student loans already in place as well as to apply for private student loans while at Tulane University. The Dietetic Internship is a full-time educational experience; therefore any outside employment must not interfere with the program.

AND Membership and Annual Meetings
All interns are required to join AND as Student Members. Interns must attend the LAND annual meeting.

The Tulane Dietetic Internship provides interns with a myriad of professional experiences from presentation opportunities to informal networking.
New Orleans has a flavor all its own. World-famous cuisine, a unique musical heritage and rich history all contribute to different aspects of the New Orleans experience. The city is known internationally for Mardi Gras, for the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage festival, and for the French Quarter. The Crescent City offers a spicy blend of art, literature, Cajun and Creole cooking and every type of music from Jazz to Gospel. Located in the Central Business District of New Orleans, Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine’s campus view spans the city, from the French Quarter and Mississippi River to the edge of the historic Garden District.
application checklist

Please read this entire brochure and the admission application carefully before applying.

Completed two-page Tulane application form (send to DI Director)

- Print the application and fill out by hand

- Answered all questions fully, accurately, and succinctly.

- Used additional pages only as needed and indicated.

- Signed and dated application in the space provided.

- A list of questions will be available. All applicants must make a video on a jump drive answering these questions. The video on jump drive is to be sent with the Tulane application to the DI Director. (by February 15) (May be loaded to youtube for viewing in place of the jump-drive)

- Dietetic Internship Computer Application Service (DICAS) application submitted (includes personal statement, 3 references, transcripts, verification statement or letter of intent)  
  https://portal.dicas.org/

- Completed by February 15 for September enrollment.

- Official transcripts from EACH undergraduate and graduate institution attended, mailed directly from each institution to DICAS

- Official copy of TOEFL scores, if applicable (mail to DI Director)

- Personal statement including career goals (send to DICAS)

- $40 nonrefundable application fee payable to Tulane University SPH&TM. (send with two-page Tulane application to DI Director)

- Register for computer matching online. Apply on D&D Digital Systems web site.  
  http://www.dnddigital.com/
Tulane
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Department of Global Community Health and Behavioral Sciences

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