

Admission Requirements

To be admitted to the program, the student, sponsoring facility AND the preceptors must all meet certain requirements. TOGETHER they are evaluated for potential success.

Minimum requirements for the applicant include:

- Completion of an approved / accredited undergraduate program resulting in a Baccalaureate degree from a U.S. regionally accredited college / university or a foreign degree equivalent to at least a U.S. baccalaureate degree.
- Verification of Completion form or Intent to Complete form signed by DPD Program Director of college/university where dietetics courses were taken.
- Grade Point Average (GPA): Undergraduate cumulative minimum must be 2.8 on a 4.0 scale; graduate cumulative must be 3.0.
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE): Required if undergraduate GPA is below 3.0, with minimum score of 800 (50th percentile) on the combination of the verbal and quantitative sections of the exam. Proof of score is required. (Not required for combined undergraduate and graduate course GPA of 3.0 or higher, or with completed graduate degree)
- E-mail address that is active throughout the internship experience, as well as internet access.
- A complete application packet, following the checklist provided in this packet is mandatory.
- Exceptions to these minimum requirements may include:
 - Documented learning disability.
 - TOEFL scores of not less than 260 on the Computer-based test OR 600 on the paper-based test, to accompany GRE-Verbal scores of 370 - 400.
 - Exceptions will be considered and acceptance will be decided by the review committee.

Minimum Requirements for Preceptors:

- Three "core" Preceptors must be registered dietitians
- Core Preceptors must be able to document appropriate continuing education for the previous two years.
- Preceptors must have adequate time to provide required supervision of the student
- Primary Preceptor (1) must be employed full-time wherever they are employed, have not less than five years professional experience and be a member of the American Dietetic Association
- Secondary Preceptors (2) must be employed full- or part-time wherever they are employed, have not less than three years professional experience and be a member of the American Dietetic Association or another appropriate professional organization.
- Other preceptors may be employed full-time or part-time
- For any preceptor having supervisory responsibility for the intern or verification of work completed, a Preceptor Application form must be submitted. This form is available in the Intern Application section.

- Definitions:
 - A "preceptor" is anyone who is supervising the practice experiences of an intern for 40 hours or more.
 - A "Primary Preceptor" is that individual who will keep a file for the intern, will vouch for the hours of practice the intern completes and who will maintain appropriate contact with the intern in terms of planning learning experiences and assignments.

Minimum Requirements for Sponsoring Facilities:

- At least one facility that is Joint Commission accredited.
- Any facility at which the intern would complete 40 hours or more of practice experience must have a preceptor available on staff.
- Sufficient educational resources to support an intern must be available in the overall combination of facilities represented in the application packet.
- A "primary sponsoring" facility (a location at which the intern will complete 80 hours or more of supervised practice experience) must have a full-time Registered Dietitian on staff who is available to precept an intern.
- Sufficient variety in the overall combination of facilities must be available to support the breadth and depth of experiences required by the Commission on Dietetic Accreditation Educational Competencies.
- For any facility where the intern will have patient/client contact or decision-making responsibilities, a Facility Application must be submitted. This form is available under Intern Application. After the intern has been accepted to the program, a standard Affiliation Agreement between the facility and the university will be completed and signed by both. If a potential sponsoring facility desires a review of the agreement prior to acceptance, they can request a blank draft copy from the program for review.

Preference for admission will be given to:

- Applicants having previous work experience and / or experience in a healthcare setting.
- Applicants that have demonstrated leadership skills in past experiences.
- Graduates of the UNC Didactic Program in Dietetics.