

Curriculum and Cost Details

Curriculum

This program of practice is in compliance with the Educational Competencies required for entry-level dietetic practice. The curriculum is delivered in several ways:

- In the Application process, a list of “Required Assignments and Experiences” is used to define what needs to be done and can be used as a reference in choosing facilities. The list defines two generalist rotations, *clinical/community* and *foodservice*. A minimum of 400 hours must be completed in each of these two general rotations. This leaves a balance of 220 required supervised practice hours. These may be used to define a specialized area, for a total of 1,020 practice hours. The list is further used during the internship process as a checklist of activities. The same list is coordinated to “Rotation Evaluation Forms” to be used for evaluating intern competencies.
- After acceptance into the program, interns attend a 3-day orientation period in Greeley, CO. The orientation provides interns with administrative details of the program, Professional Development, and Community Nutrition.
- This internship program provides 4 academic graduate credits. These credits are required courses to be completed online during the first 2 weeks of the internship. The courses are designed to orient interns to the program standards of practice and to ensure that each intern has the resources to attain competence in each area of study / practice.
- A testing system is implemented at the beginning of the program to provide interns with the opportunity to evaluate their basic knowledge and boost their test-taking skills.
- An “Intern Manual” is provided to the interns online so that they may review it adequately before beginning their rotations. The manual includes policies of the institution and policies of the internship program, suggested learning activities, study questions, learning exercises and support notes.
- The achievement of competencies is documented through the use of Rotation Evaluation Forms that include the Competencies and are referenced to the Required Assignments and Experiences outline.
- Although each intern has his / her own program of study, all of the “Required Experiences and Assignments” must be completed by all interns, in not less than 1,020 practice hours. A minimum of 400 hours must be scheduled in rotation schedules for each of the Clinical/Community and Foodservice sets of rotations.
- A “Preceptor Manual” is available at the Dietetic Internship Program Web site. This manual provides important information for preceptors. Interns are responsible for informing preceptors about the manual and insuring they have access to its contents.
- During the course of the practice experience, a primary method of communication is through email. Because each intern is essentially completing his / her own individual internship program, much individualization takes place through ongoing counseling and communication with the Program Director.

Scheduling the Curricula and Activities

Interns are required to complete specific assignments outside of practice hours. Homework hours are not considered part of the required 1,020 supervised practice hours. Interns may arrange with preceptors to complete practice hours on a full-time or part-time basis. This choice must be declared at the time of application. Full-time interns are required to practice a minimum of 32 hours per week and average not less than 38 hours/week; part-time interns will need to practice a minimum of 20 hours per week.

To organize the proposed Rotation Schedule that is submitted in the application process, it is suggested that the applicant follow these guidelines:

- Try to maintain continuity of practice in a given area of practice. Due to scheduling and other difficulties inherent in the work world, it is possible to have fragmented rotation experiences. This results in numerous difficulties with the learning process; consequently, blocks of time in specific areas are suggested.
- Vacation, holidays and work schedules are determined by the preceptor and intern together. Plan for these times while organizing the Proposed Rotation Schedule for the application to the program.
- All interns should complete the program within 12 months of beginning rotations. Rotations should begin no later than 6 weeks from the end of Greeley orientation. Exceptions to these rules are on a case-by-case basis after the intern has begun the program. Exceptions result from family emergencies, illness or other considerations and are negotiated with the Program Director.
- A word of caution: Applicants who are presently employed by a prospective internship support facility must define with the preceptors the internship activities and assignments EXCLUSIVE of employment responsibilities. Internship status should be defined and evaluated SEPARATELY from employment performance appraisals.

Estimated Program Costs

Each intern is responsible for the following costs and related items:

- Professional Liability Insurance: This may be covered by the sponsoring facility or the intern may purchase it.
- Health Insurance (personal).
- Costs of coming to the University of Northern Colorado campus for orientation. This includes: transportation, housing and food.
- Tuition: Approximately \$4650. Down payment due at time of acceptance, remainder may be paid according to arrangements made with UNC Accounts Receivable Office.
- \$50 non-refundable application fee.
- D&D Digital application fee
- Textbooks.
- Costs for email access/account.
- Postage to mail completed projects and evaluations to Program Director.
- Facility related requirements such as, but not limited to, costs for background checks, a tuberculosis test, drug tests and immunizations (e.g., MMR, Hepatitis B, Tetanus). Facilities have different requirements; therefore, interns should check with preceptors at each facility.
- Application fee for registration exam at completion of program.

Please note: there are no federally funded financial aid programs available for the internship through UNC at this time. Applicants may apply to ADA for scholarships at the same time they apply to the internship program. Limited scholarship funds are available for UNC didactic graduates only. Additionally, several major banking institutions provide educational loans.