Description

The Dietetic Internship Program is a post baccalaureate supervised program in dietetics. All students who have completed a baccalaureate degree and hold a valid Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPDP) verification statement are eligible to apply. The Dietetic Internship offers a challenging learning experience and is committed to the preparation of each individual with emphasis on ensuring the attainment of knowledge and practical skills necessary for the successful completion of the registration examination. The internship incorporates the accreditation standards for entry level education for students to acquire the competencies to function as entry level registered dietitians. Graduates of this program are qualified to take the registration examination for dietitians.
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About the Program

The Dietetic Internship (DI) Program is offered through the Department of Agriculture Nutrition and Human Ecology at Prairie View A&M University. The program is based upon Accreditation standards established by The Commission on Accreditation for Dietetic Education (CADE) of The American Dietetic Association (ADA), 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60606-6995, 312/899-0040, ext. 5400, www.eatright.org. Students who successfully complete the Internship and the M.S. degree will be verified for eligibility to write for the ADA Registration Examination, leading to credentialing as a registered dietitian (RD).

Dietetic Internship Mission & Philosophy

The mission of the Prairie View A&M University Dietetics Internship (DI) Program is to provide excellent supervised practice experience and high quality education that will provide the interns with the necessary education and professional competencies essential to entry level dietetic practitioners.

Dietetic internship program goals and outcome measures

The goals of Prairie View A&M University dietetic internship program are to:

Goal 1. Attract, retain and graduate qualified students.

Outcome Measures:
1. 95% of students admitted will successfully complete the program in the established time of 32 weeks.

2. Alumni will achieve 80% pass rate over a 5 year period for first time test takers on the RD exam.

3. 95% of students will rate the advisors, preceptors and faculty as satisfactory or better when surveyed.
Goal 2. The DI will prepare competent, ethnically diverse entry level practitioners

Outcome measures
1. Over a 5 year period, 80% of the DI graduates will successfully complete the registration examination as first time takers.

2. 80% of graduates seeking employment or admission to graduate programs will be successful within 3 months of program completion.

3. 95% of employers will rate PV graduates’ performance as satisfactory or better when evaluated.

4. Graduates of the DI will be from a diverse population with at least 25% being non white over a 5 years period.

5. 95% graduates will rate the program as satisfactory or better.

Goal 3. Prepare students for a career as registered dietitians.

Outcome measures
1. Over a 5 year period 75% of employers surveyed will rank graduates knowledge and skills as satisfactory or better.

2. When surveyed at least 90 of graduates will rate themselves as “prepared” or “well prepared” by the program.

Dietetic Internship Learning Outcome

Upon completion of the DI program graduates will:
- Demonstrate effective communication skills and the ability to use various communication tools in disseminating nutrition information.
- Exhibit professional skills and behavior including ethical practice in collaborating with other professionals.
- Demonstrate professional competencies as outlined by the American Dietetic Association.
- Effectively and efficiently perform as entry level dietitians in variety of settings.
- Demonstrate problem solving and critical thinking skills in making informed decisions.
- Be committed to professional growth and enhancement.
Admission Requirements for the Dietetic Internship

(Complete Application Materials are to be postmarked on or before February 14th of each year. Please submit entire DI Application Materials in one sealed package.)

1. Application form and fee ($50.00 non-refundable check or money order payable to PVAMU Dietetic Internship).

2. Official copies of transcripts, from all colleges/universities attended.

3. A typed personal letter of application describing professional and educational goals and interests, as well as an assessment of abilities/achievements.

4. Declaration of Intent to Complete Degree from an ADA approved Didactic Program in Dietetics or Verification Statement signed by Didactic Program Director.

5. Three letters of recommendation using the standard form prepared by The American Dietetic Association with recommender’s signature across back of sealed envelope. These should be from professors, supervisors, or other professional persons well acquainted with the applicant’s work habits, scholastic achievements, personality and attitudes.

6. Appointment Day Information form including the complete address and telephone number where the applicant may be reached on Match Day during the hours of 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

7. Entry into the ADA Dietetic Internship Match Program.

8. Minimum Grade Point Average of 2.8 on a 4.0 scale.

9. Varied work experience in the field of dietetics.

10. GRE scores (Required for admissions to the University)

Note: In compliance with requirements of the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetic Education (CADE) and the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR), upon completion of your degree and (undergraduate or graduate) the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) requirements, please have the following sent to: Sharon McWhinney, Ph.D., RD, P.O. Box 519; Mail Stop 2004, Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX 77446.

1. Official copy of transcript with the date of the degree and the degree confirmed by the university.
2. Original DPD Verification Statement signed by the DPD Director
**Affiliated Practice Sites**

The Dietetic Internship will provide students with supervised practice in a variety of settings.

The following is a partial listing of the affiliated practice sites: Alief Independent School District, Cypress Fairbanks Independent School District, Houston Independent School District, Tomball Regional Hospital, DaVita Inc., Prairie View A&M University Sodexo Facility, Houston Department of Health and Human Services, Harris County Hospital District, Renal Care Group, Triumph Hospital, Department of State and Health Services, Harris County Hospital District, The Methodist Hospital, and Sava Senior Care, Spring Branch Medical Center Hospital, The Houston Foodbank, Gulfcoast Community Head Start.
APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Note: Students accepted into the internship program must submit a separate completed application packet to the graduate school for admission to the university. Transcripts, recommendations and other information submitted to the internship program are not part of the graduate school application, and should be submitted to the university with the graduate application after the match process and upon admission to the internship program. See graduate admissions at http://www.pvamu.edu/ for more detail.

DIETETIC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Application Packet should include the following:

___ Standard ADA application

___ Official Transcript(s)

___ Application fee $50.00 (Money order payable to Prairie View A&M Dietetic Internship)

___ Recommendation Forms

___ Personal essay or application cover letter

___ Declaration of intent to complete Degree is not completed

___ Verification Statement if degree is completed and all DPD requirements are met

All students applying to the internship must apply to D&D Digital for computer matching
APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The following must be postmarked by February 14 of each year for the Fall Dietetic Internship class.

- Dietetic Internship Application
- Official transcript of all course work completed prior to and after earning a baccalaureate degree.
- Original signed and dated Declaration of Intent to Complete Degree form or Verification Statement from the DPD.
- Three completed recommendation forms. This should include one recommendation from food and nutrition professor, and one from a work or practicum supervisor.
- Letter of application outlining professional goals and personal intent.
- Cashier’s check or money order payable to PVAMU Dietetic Internship for $50.00 (non-refundable).
- Recency of Education (date of graduation to application deadline).
  - 0-3 years – updating not required
  - 3-5 years – updating of upper division courses in medical nutrition therapy, and food service system management.
  - 5 years or longer – meet current ADA Didactic Program requirement
- Interns are selected by a Committee and application evaluation is based on:
  - Grade point average (GPA)
  - Work experiences in dietetics
  - Work experience in other fields
  - Letter of application
  - Academic and work references
  - Extracurricular activities/honors
  - Overall neatness and compliance with application requirements

Submit complete application packet to the following address:
Sharon McWhinney, Ph.D., RD, LD
Professor & Internship Director
Prairie View A&M University
P.O. Box 519; Mail Stop 2004
Prairie View, TX 77446

Complete application must be postmarked by February 14 of each year.

Your application packet must be complete, include the following items, and be submitted in one envelope. All information must be word processed or typed. Click on each link below to view important information forms and instructions:

1. Letter of application
2. ADA standard application form
3. Official transcript(s)
4. Declaration of Intent to Complete the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) form or Verification Statement
5. Recommendation forms
6. Application fee - $50.00
7. Application checklist

All applicants must participate in computer matching. Applicants should request instructions and a mark/sense card to prioritize internship preferences. Materials may be requested from any ADA-accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics or from D& D Digital Systems. There is a $50.00 charge for computer matching that is due with the applicant’s prioritized ranking.

Address request to:
D & D Digital Systems
304 Main Street, Suite 301
Ames, IA 50010
Phone: (515) 292-0490
Fax: (515) 663-9427

Application and instructions are available from the director of your didactic program in dietetics or by contacting D&D Digital (http://www.dnddigital.com) at (515) 292-0490 or email, dnd@netins.net.

For more information, contact the Internship Program Director, Prairie View A & M University, P.O. Box 519; Mail Stop 2004, Prairie View, TX. 77446. Tel. (936) 261-2510 Fax (936)261-2501, Email: slmcwhinney@pvamu.edu

**Letter of Application**

The letter of application is an opportunity to express your unique personality to the Selection Committee. Your letter should represent who you are and tie together your background and experience that support your application: Please include the following types of information in your letter:

- Why you entered the field
- Your current professional goals
- How the Prairie View A&M University Dietetic Internship will help you achieve your goals
- Autobiographical information
- Why you should be selected for the internship
- Other information you believe will be helpful to the Selection Committee
Official Transcripts

An official transcript of all academic work must accompany each application. This transcript is kept on file in the department and cannot be forwarded to graduate admissions. Students accepted into the program and applying for admission to the graduate school must submit a complete graduate admission packet which is separate from the internship program.

Declaration of Intent to complete Degree or Verification Statement.

This form is available on request from your DPD program director. It should be signed by the program director only. Only forms with original signatures will be accepted.

Appointment Procedure for Dietetic Internship

A letter or email notifying you of your computer match or appointment will be sent in mid April by D & D Digital System.

The applicant will contact the Dietetic Internship Director to respond to the appointment during the following hours: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CST, immediately following notification.

The applicant will inform the Director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics or his/her Advisor of the computer match and appointment, and of the final decisions made regarding the appointments.

Application Procedure for the Graduate School:

Students may apply for admission to the graduate school at any time following notification of computer matching. Applicants must submit: Graduate School application form, transcripts, recommendations, GRE scores, graduate school application fees.

Selection Practices:

Recruitment and selection practices are non-discriminatory.

Selections are made by an ad hoc committee made up of faculty within the department of Agriculture, Nutrition and Human Ecology.
COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

The nine month internship begins in August and ends in April for duration of nine months. The requirements below are needed to complete the program.

1. Successful completion all rotations and the 1280 hours of supervised practice.

2. Completion of HUSC 5326 and 5336 Practicum in Dietetics; and HUSC 5253 and 5353 Dietetics Seminar.

3. Complete all projects and assignments.

4. Complete pre-rotation and post-rotation examinations with each major rotation.

5. Demonstrate and meet all the abilities and expectations below:

   Candidates must be able to observe demonstrations and procedures in the patient care food service areas.

   Candidate must be able to learn, analyze, synthesize, solve problems, and reach diagnostic, therapeutic, and administrative judgments.

   Candidate must have sufficient use of the senses to perform clinical nutritional assessments or any food and nutrition service function.

   Candidates must be able to relate reasonably to patients, health care professionals, and food and nutrition service staff and establish professional relationships with all groups.

   Candidates are expected to be able to communicate the concepts of nutritional care to the patient and to his/her colleagues with accuracy, clarity, and efficiency.

   Candidates are expected to display good judgment in the assessment and treatment of patients and management of food and nutrition service staff.

   Candidates are expected to be able to accept criticism and respond by appropriate modification of behavior.

   Candidates are expected to possess the perseverance, diligence, and consistency to complete the Dietetic Internship curriculum and enter dietetic practice as a professional.

*Students successfully completing all requirements will be issued a verification statement within one week of program completion.
GENERAL INFORMATION

Entrance Requirements (see requirements stated earlier)

Date of Admission - April prior to the academic school year.

Length of Dietetic Internship Program: - Nine months (Fall and Spring Semesters).

Living Accommodations & Meals - Students are responsible for their own housing arrangements and meals.

Uniforms - Each Dietetic Intern will provide his/her own laboratory coat to be worn over appropriate street clothes.

Transportation - Because the affiliated practice facilities are located throughout Houston & surrounding areas, each intern will need access to private transportation and must carry sufficient automobile insurance coverage for collision and liability. **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IS NOT AVAILABLE**

Professional Liability Insurance – The University secures liability insurance for each student prior to the start of the internship.

Number of Dietetic Interns - 10 interns will be accepted each year.

Holidays - The Dietetic Internship program observes the University calendar for the following holidays: Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring Break.

Work Responsibilities - The work-week is a minimum of 36 hours. There may be some weekend and evening assignments. Students are expected to utilize evenings and weekends to study or complete projects.

Scholarships - Prospective students should explore scholarships available to them from their state dietetic association, state, family & consumer sciences association, ADA and AAFCS prior to starting the internship. Most deadlines for scholarships are in January or February preceding the school year so interested students should start seeking scholarship money as early as possible.

Association Membership - All Dietetic Interns are required to join ADA as Associate Student Members.

RD Eligibility - After successful completion of the Dietetic Internship program, students will be eligible for active membership in the American Dietetic Association and will be eligible to write the registration examination.

Prior learning – The internship does not consider prior learning experiences as substitute for practice hours.
General University Information

The program is offered on a full-time basis. Students register for 9 semester credit hours each semester (fall and the spring) for a total of 18 hours over the duration of the program. In addition to becoming registry eligible, as a Dietetic Internship graduate, you can expect to achieve competence in nutrition assessment; nutrition care planning; nutrition counseling and education; personnel management; problem solving, decision making; and personal growth and development.

The University is located approximately 40 miles northwest of Houston on Highway 290. Students of this institution enjoy all the benefits of a small town with easy access to the large metropolitan city of Houston. Interns within the program reside within the Houston area where majority of the practice facilities are located.

Prairie View A & M University is a comprehensive public institution of higher education. Part of the Texas A&M University System, it is a land grant university authorized under Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890.

The University is committed to fostering an educational community that is culturally and socially diverse. The participation of persons from various backgrounds serves to enhance this program. While striving to maintain excellent instruction and strong curriculum, the university understands its role to include the nurturing of students academic development and intellectual curiosity, by providing stimulating and healthy physical and cultural environments and services.

Prairie View A & M University is a member of the Texas A&M University System and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by the Texas A & M University System or any of its component institutions on any basis prohibited by applicable law, including (but not limited to) race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or handicap.

The Dietetics Internship at Prairie View A&M University is currently on Probationary Accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) of the American Dietetic Association (ADA). The address and phone number of CADE are 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60606-6695, (312)899-4876, ext. 5400. Website:http://www.eatright.org.
Internship Organization

The internship will consist of a total of 1280 practice hours with a maximum class size of 10 interns annually.

One class is admitted each academic year which begins in August and ends in April. Interns register for 9 credit hours in the fall and 9 credit hours in the spring semesters.

The program follows the university academic calendar and observes all university holidays.

Internship rotations include community & public health, hospital and administration, clinical, medical nutrition therapy, foodservice administration, and management, and staffing.

The Dietetics Internship at Prairie View A&M University is currently on Probationary Accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) of the American Dietetic Association (ADA). The address and phone number of CADE are 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60606-6695, (312)899-4876, ext. 5400. Website:http://www.eatright.org.
Program Cost

The current is the per semester costs for 2009-2010*

*Fees are subject to change annually

Tuition for 9 SCH $2,031.50 (Resident) and $4,524.50 (Non Resident)

Additional fees are indicated:

- Student service fee $126.00
- Technology fee $126.00
- Student center fee $40.00
- Student health fee $74.00
- Computer access fee $108.00
- Records processing fee $17.00
- Athletic fee $90.00
- Identification Card $5.00
- Recreational fee $20.00
- Books and Supplies $150.00
- International Education Fee $3.00
- Library Access $126.00
- Professional liability insurance fee $85.00 (Payable to the internship upon admissions to the program)

Additional costs should be factored in for travel to and from facilities, car insurance, housing and meals.

Please note that public transportation from the university to practice sites is not available. Students must have access to or own a private vehicle to participate in the Dietetic Internship Program.