

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN DIETETICS (DIETETIC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM)

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The Dietetic Internship Program at SFSU is part of the graduate Certificate in Dietetics. The program provides the knowledge and practice requirements necessary to be eligible to take the Registered Dietitian (R.D.) examination. Interns will be placed in rotations in hospitals, long-term care/skilled nursing facilities, community nutrition programs, and other health/community organizations in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area for practical experiences. In addition to the internship portion of the program, interns will be required to take graduate level academic courses in nutrition that will cover the lifespan. The Dietetic Internship Program at SFSU is a full-time, 9-10 month program, from mid-August through May.

Before being considered for acceptance to this certificate program, the student must first be eligible in accordance with all university requirements as outlined in the Certificate Program section at www.sfsu.edu/~bulletin/current/certif.htm . This same section also includes university program guidelines and procedures to be followed in filing for the award of the certificate when it is completed.

Admission to Program

- Completion of a Commission on Accreditation of Dietetics Education (CADE) accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) and a minimum of a bachelor's degree from a U.S. regionally accredited college or university, or validated foreign equivalent is required.
- Applicants must participate in the American Dietetic Association's (ADA) computer matching process by the posted deadline to apply to our program.
- A complete application packet must be submitted to Consumer & Family Studies/Dietetics: Dietetic Internship Program by the posted deadline.
- A committee composed of dietetics faculty and other members will review the applications based on established criteria.
- Applicants will be notified by the computer matching company if they were matched to our program. Matched applicants must accept the match to SFSU by the posted date.
- Matched applicants must then apply to the University via CSU Mentor. They will enroll as matriculated post-baccalaureate students in the unclassified status.
- Admission to the certificate program does not guarantee admittance into the M.A. program.

Criteria for Selection:

- Applicant must meet all deadlines for submitting applications to the computer matching company as well as to the CFSD department. Late and incomplete application packets will not be considered.
- All courses in the DPD Program are to be completed with a grade of C- or better. A minimum overall GPA of 2.7 and a DPD GPA of 3.0 is required. The program is very competitive, and most admitted interns have a DPD GPA ≥ 3.3 .
- Other criteria that will be evaluated include work and/or volunteer experience preferably in dietetics, personal statement, letters of recommendation, and resume. Some applicants will receive a phone interview.
- Preference may be given to SFSU DPD graduates whose qualifications are competitive with other applicants.

- To learn more about applying to this program and criteria for selection, go to: <http://cfsd.sfsu.edu/pdfs/gradCertDieteticsPacket.pdf>

San Francisco State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, sex/gender, or HIV/AIDS status in the recruitment, admission, or educational programs or activities it conducts.

Program Description

This is a full-time program consisting of 32 hours per week of practical experiences and 6 units of academic coursework per semester. Courses are generally held one day a week on campus and internship rotations are done the other four days of the week. No part-time enrollment is allowed.

Fall Semester

Units

- 3 DFM 751 Seminar in Nutritional Assessment Across the Lifespan
- 3 DFM 758 Seminar in Foodservice and Nutrition Program Management
- 6 DFM 881 Internship in Dietetics
- 12 Total

Spring Semester

Units

- 3 DFM 755 Seminar in Human Nutrition and Metabolism
- 3 DFM 785 Seminar in Medical Nutrition Therapy
- 6 DFM 881 Internship in Dietetics
- 12 Total

Supervised practice experiences (DFM 881) are completed under the direction of a dietitian or other qualified health care or foodservice management professional in a facility or program serving children, adults, and/or older adults in a healthcare or community setting. The internship is based on specific experiences and competencies set forth by CADE. A total of 1200 practice hours is required in the internship in order to meet the requirements of CADE. Both Fall and Spring semester enrollment are required.

Rotations will generally include the following:

- 16-17 weeks in an acute care clinical hospital
- 5-8 weeks in a long-term care/skilled nursing facility, outpatient, or other clinical setting
- 5 weeks in a foodservice systems management rotation
- 3-7 weeks in community nutrition and/or public health organizations
- 3 weeks in an elective

Total weeks in rotations must be at least 38 weeks and 1200 hours. The array of clinical, community, and food service rotations will allow the intern to have a variety of experiences in dietetics, with a concentration in medical nutrition therapy. Interns will have a minimum of 21 weeks (672 hours) of experience working in clinical settings. Interns will have experiences working with different populations across the lifespan. Each intern must have at least one rotation experience working specifically with the older adult population (5 weeks or more) and one rotation experience working with infants/children (3 weeks or more).

Rotations will begin in mid-August and end the following year at the end of May or the first week of June. Interns will be given two weeks off during December/January, and one week off for

Spring Break. Since this is an intensive program, interns should not expect to hold outside jobs while enrolled in the program.

Estimated Costs of the Program	
(costs subject to change)	
Non-refundable application fee to CFS/D Dept.	\$50
Non-refundable application fee to Graduate Division	\$55
Two semesters of College of Extended Learning Fees (\$5400/semester)	\$10,800
Graduate Certificate fee	\$7
Transcript fee	\$4
Lab coats and dress shoes	\$200
Professional work clothes	\$300
Required immunizations, TB test	\$200
Personal health insurance	\$1,300
Books and supplies	\$400
Living expenses such as rent, food, etc.	\$11,000
Transportation to practice sites, via car or public transportation	\$1,200
Attendance at Professional Conference (more if travel is required)	\$300
American Dietetic Association Membership	\$50
Membership in local Dietetic Association	\$20
Additional costs not calculated:	
Fingerprinting/background check/drug testing/CPR certification if required by site	
Personal car insurance if personal automobile will be used for transportation	

Financial Aid

Those enrolled in the Certificate in Dietetics/Dietetic Internship are eligible for a Federal Direct Student loan. Those interested in financial aid should complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) application after admittance. For more information, visit SFSU's Financial Aid Website at: <http://www.sfsu.edu/~finaid/>

Applicants are encouraged to apply for American Dietetic Association and other scholarships. Private student loans are also available.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Consumer and Family Studies/Dietetics is to prepare scholarly professionals who contribute to the well-being of individuals, families, consumers and the institutions, industries and businesses serving them within a highly diverse, urban and global community.

The mission of the San Francisco State University Dietetic Internship is to provide a high-quality program that prepares interns in the areas of medical nutrition therapy (concentration), community nutrition, and management. Upon completion of the program, interns will be prepared for entry-level work as dietitians to provide services to individuals, families, consumers and the institutions, industries and businesses serving them in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area.

Program Goals and Measured Outcomes

Goal 1: The DI Program will provide a positive learning experience for its interns.

Outcome 1: Over a 5-year period, interns will recommend at least 80% of the preceptors used for each internship class be used again in the future.

Outcome 2: Over a 5-year period, at least 90% of interns for each internship class will rate the program as excellent or very good.

Goal 2: The DI Program will successfully prepare interns for entry-level practice as Registered Dietitians.

Outcome 1: Over a 5-year period, 90% of enrolled interns will complete the internship and all its requirements within 15 months of starting the program (standard completion time is 10 months).

Outcome 2: Over a 5-year period, the pass rate of first-time test takers on the RD registration examination will be at least 80%.

Outcome 3: Over a 5-year period, 80% of graduates who sought employment in dietetics will be employed within three months of program completion.

Outcome 4: Over a 5-year period, 80% of employers of DI graduates will consider them to be prepared or very well prepared for employment.

Goal 3: The DI Program will prepare interns for dietetics employment in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area.

Outcome 1: Over a 5-year period, at least 80% of graduates' will be employed in dietetics located in the greater San Francisco Bay Area.

Program Completion Requirements

- Achieve an overall G.P.A. of 3.0 with a minimum of "C-" in all required academic courses and "credit" in all of the internship components of the program. Meet all ADA competencies for supervised practice as evidenced by assignments, case studies, and papers.
- Evaluation forms – interns must demonstrate dietetics competencies in all three areas: foodservice system management, clinical/patient care and community dietetics with a minimum evaluation score of a 3 (satisfactory) or better on all of evaluation forms.
- Those completing the program will be able to function as entry level dietitians as demonstrated by satisfactory performance as relief dietitians at the major acute care hospital site for a minimum of two (2) weeks.
- Interns that satisfactorily meet the above completion requirements will receive a Verification Statement to certify that the individual is eligible to sit for the RD exam.
- Interns are expected to complete the program in ten months. Interns who are unable to meet completion requirements within 15 months of start date will be terminated from the program unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Accreditation

A Dietetic Internship (DI) is an accredited program by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) through the American Dietetic Association. A DI offers the practicum experiences required prior to taking the Registered Dietitian (RD) exam which is given by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). Upon successful completion of a DI, interns receive a verification statement from their DI Director. They are then eligible to sit for the RD exam.

In order to be eligible for a DI, an individual must have a bachelor's degree and have completed all coursework from a CADE-approved Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) and have a verification statement of completion from their DPD Director.

Most individuals will apply to a DI the semester/two quarters prior to completing their DPD, with the expectation that they will complete their DPD prior to the start of the DI. Most DI programs,

including the one at SFSU, participate in the national computer matching process. SFSU participates in the Spring match for admittance in the Fall.

In July 1997, San Francisco State University's Dietetic Internship Program was granted an initial accreditation for a period of ten years by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education by the American Dietetic Association. A 5-year interim report was submitted in February 2002. The Self-Study was submitted February 2009 and the re-accreditation site visit was in May 2009. The program is waiting for CADE's decision regarding re-accreditation.

Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education
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<http://www.eatright.org/cps/rde/xchg/ada/hs.xsl/CADE.html>