

Program Description & Admission Requirements

Dietetic Internship Program

The UNLV Dietetic Internship (DI) is administered through the UNLV Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences. This program is 30 months in length and includes the required supervised practice component and the coursework to earn a Master's of Science degree in Nutrition Sciences. The Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics subplan of the MS degree in Nutrition Sciences degree program is 34 credits in length and includes 6 credits of the required supervised practice component. The supervised practice portion of the program consists of one week of program orientation plus 1000 hours minimum of supervised practice in community nutrition, food service management, and clinical nutrition and dietetics, plus additional hours for check in progress/activity meetings, homework, and professional meeting attendance. The UNLV DI is designed to provide well-trained, entry-level nutrition & dietetics professionals for the growing Southern Nevada region.

UNLV Dietetic Internship Program- 2 Options

- 1) Dietetic Internship- Supervised Practice Program Only
- 2) Combined Master's Degree & Dietetic Internship Supervised Practice Program

IMPORTANT NOTICE: UNLV Dietetic Internship Program (DI) graduates who have completed their baccalaureate degree, DPD and UNLV DI supervised practice requirements, by or before December 31, 2023, be processed for registration eligibility with CDR, to take the RDN exam.

To meet CDR's requirement for both a Master's degree and the Dietetic Internship supervised practice to become an RDN, a Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics (MS-DI) subplan within the existing M.S. Nutrition Sciences degree is offered through which the Master's degree and the Dietetic Internship supervised practice portion of the program are both completed within 2.5 years (30 months). Students complete graduate courses full time in the first year and a half, and the Dietetic Internship supervised practice in the last year.

Therefore, the UNLV DI will accept interns with a baccalaureate degree and DPD Verification Statement for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Effective Fall 2023, students wishing to pursue education at UNLV to be eligible to earn the RDN credential must:

- 1) Have a DPD Verification Statement and a Master's degree from a regionally accredited college or university. The college or university must be located in the U.S. or its territories and accredited in good standing by a U.S. institutional accrediting body for higher education recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE). The master's degree must be in nutrition or closely related field and deemed equivalent to the Masters in Science in Nutrition Sciences degree at UNLV. Transcripts and syllabi will be reviewed for equivalency. Students in this track will be enrolled in NUTR 796: Supervised Practice: Community Nutrition and Dietetics (2 credits), NUTR 797:

Supervised Practice: Food Service Management (2 credits), NUTR 798: Supervised Practice: Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics (2 credits), and NUTR 794 Preparation for Nutrition & Dietetics Practice (1 credit). Additional coursework may be required, depending on coursework completed in current master's degree. The DI supervised practice is 1040 hours minimum or 26 weeks in length. Specialty concentrations, when offered, require an extra 120 hours of supervised practice. Students must complete the program within 150% of the expected timeframe, unless part-time arrangements are made prior to admission.

OR

- 2) Have a baccalaureate degree and DPD Verification Statement to apply for the Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics Subplan within the M.S. Nutrition Sciences degree. This program is a total of 34 credits and includes the 6 credits of required DI supervised practice experience. The program length is 2.5 years (30 months) in length. Students must complete the program within 150% of the expected timeframe, unless part-time arrangements are made prior to admission.

In order to become a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist (RDN) students must:

- Complete and ACEND*-Accredited Didactic Program in Nutrition and Dietetics (DPND).
- Apply for, become accepted into, and complete an ACEND-Accredited Dietetic Internship (DI). The UNLV DI meeting this step in the process.
- Pass the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) National Registration Examination for Dietitians. The eligibility requirements for this exam and exam content are set by CDR. Additional information can be found at <https://www.cdrnet.org/certifications/registered-dietitian-rd-certification> and <https://www.cdrnet.org/certifications/registration-eligibility-requirements-for-dietitians>
- NOTE: Effective January 1, 2024, students must hold a M.S. degree in order to sit for the National Registration Examination for Dietitians. UNLV does offer a M.S. in Nutrition Sciences degree, requiring application for admission after earning the B.S. degree.
- NOTE: Once the RDN credential is earned, one may apply for their Dietetics license in Nevada. No additional courses or credentials are required to be eligible for the license to practice. Information about this process can be found at: http://dphh.nv.gov/Reg/Dietitian/Dietitian_-_Home/

*The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) is the accrediting agency for education programs preparing students for careers as registered dietitian nutritionists or nutrition and dietetics technicians, registered.

ACEND® can be contacted by:

Email: ACEND@eatright.org
Phone: 800/877-1600, ext. 5400
Mail: 120 South Riverside Plaza
Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995

ACEND® serves and protects students and the public by assuring the quality and continued improvement of nutrition and dietetics education programs. ACEND® is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a Title IV gatekeeper. This recognition affirms that ACEND® meets national standards and is a reliable authority on the quality of nutrition and dietetics education programs. USDE can be contacted by:

Phone: 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327)
Mail: U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Preselection Option for Application

We will offer a pre-selection option for admission to the UNLV DI for both the DI-Supervised Practice portion only and for the MS Nutrition Sciences-Dietetic Internship admission option (Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics subplan within the MS Nutrition Sciences degree/MS-DI). See separate Program Description document for more details about these 2 options.

Pre-selection is offered to those who are enrolled in the UNLV DPD where there is the opportunity to apply for early admission into the DI-Supervised Practice portion only or the MS Nutrition Sciences-Dietetic Internship admission option (Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics subplan within the MS Nutrition Sciences degree) prior to the fall and spring computer matching processes. Students applying to the pre-select admission option will commit to attending the chosen UNLV program and bypass the computer matching selection process. Up to 17 of our maximum enrollments of 17 per match cycle (fall & spring) will be filled through the pre-select option, representing 100% of total students admitted to the program.

Students wishing to be considered for pre-selection must: 1) notify the Program Director of their intent with email notification to laura.kruskall@unlv.edu AND dietetic.internship@unlv.edu; 2) apply through [DICAS](#) (Dietetic Internship Centralized Application Services) and 3) separately apply to the UNLV Graduate College for admission to the M.S. Nutrition Sciences degree program, Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics subplan. Acceptance to the M.S. Nutrition Sciences program occurs after acceptance to the internship.

Students from DPD Programs Outside of UNLV: Applicants who are not UNLV DPD graduates who are applying to either the DI-Supervised Practice portion only or combined MS-DI subplan will submit their application in [DICAS](#) by the deadlines outlined below.

Please note that if you are accepted into the MS-DI during the pre-select process, you are NOT eligible to participate in the computer matching process during the same application cycle. The DI program director will provide the names of all pre-selected students to D&D Digital Systems, Inc. to ensure that accepted students do not participate in the computer match.

DI-Supervised Practice Portion Only

We are accepting applications for the Fall 2022 match through DICAS and D&D Digital

SPECIAL NOTE DUE TO COVID-19

We are experiencing unprecedented times in Las Vegas due to COVID-19. Our program is accredited to accept up to 17 students per match/round. Due to the uncertainty of our hospitals and community practice sites, we cannot guarantee how many students we will accept during this Spring 2022 match. We will keep our applicants informed as we progress through the application process.

In addition to the number of students, we also cannot guarantee the program dates. Students may be delayed in their start date, disrupted from their rotations and then end dates would be delayed. Safety of our students is our first priority.

Students will be required to comply with all policies and procedures. This includes but is not limited to COVID-19 vaccination and testing as needed.

Selection of Applicants

Applications are reviewed by UNLV Nutrition Sciences faculty. We examine GPA (science, DPD, and overall), work and volunteer experience, and letters of recommendation. Applicants are compared to others in the pool, so it is different each round. We often have had many high-quality applicants, who excel in **all three** areas. The best thing to do is to make sure those areas are strong. We cannot disclose the information in your letters, so you must judge the quality of your letters by talking to the person you selected to write for you. Unfortunately, if your GPA is not stellar, then the only way to correct that is to re-take classes and we realize this is not an easy or inexpensive endeavor. Gaining experience is always an option and through that experience, it may be possible to gain strong letters.

Successful candidates are strong in all three areas and demonstrate exceptional skills through projects or experience. These individuals clearly demonstrate their skills, relate it to the internship, and are perfectly polished in the interview process.

If selected for an interview, applications are forwarded to our Hospital Preceptors. The interviews will be virtual and will require a computer with internet access. Your interview will be conducted via WebEx and will be recorded and shared with UNLV staff and program preceptors. Interviews are approximately 15 minutes in length.

M.S. Nutrition Sciences Degree- Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics Subplan (MS-DI Option)

We are NOT admitting to this option for Fall 2022. The Graduate College deadlines have passed. The next admission to this option will begin for Spring 2023 at the earliest. Please check back for updated information or email laura.kruskall@unlvedu AND dietetic.internship@unlv.edu

Plan Description

The mission of the Master of Science (M.S) – Nutrition Sciences degree program is to provide graduates with the skills and knowledge to be competent nutrition and dietetics professionals capable of providing excellent nutrition and dietetic services in numerous communities, food service, management, and clinical settings.

The program will provide an evidence-based curriculum with a translation to clinical/professional practice. This degree will satisfy the possession of a master's degree

requirement to sit for the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) National Registration Examination for Dietitians. This degree alone will not qualify an individual to sit for this examination- students still need to successfully complete an ACEND-accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) and an ACEND-accredited Dietetic Internship Supervised Practice Program. The Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics Subplan will provide students with the opportunity to complete the ACEND-accredited Dietetic Internship supervised practice program and earn the MS degree at the same time.

For more information about your program including your graduate program handbook and learning outcomes please visit the [Degrees Directory](#).

Plan Admission Requirements

Application deadlines

Applications available on the [UNLV Graduate College website](#).

Students are admitted in the fall and spring semesters. Applicants for admission must have an undergraduate major in nutrition, or a closely related academic discipline.

All applicants must have a minimum overall undergraduate grade point average of 2.75 (A=4.0), or 3.00 (A=4.0) in the last two years. The Graduate Record Examination must be taken prior to applying. Successful applicants will generally have a 3.00 undergraduate grade point average and a combined score of 300 on verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE and higher than 3.5 on the analytical section.

Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics Subplan applicants must also have 2.75 minimum GPA in the required sciences courses and DPD courses, separate from the total GPA.

Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics Subplan Application Must Include:

Applicants must apply online through the Grad Rebel Gateway system. In addition to all documents required by the Graduate College, applicants must upload the following information into the Grad Rebel Gateway system:

A letter of intent that addresses:

Reason(s) for wishing to earn a M. S. in Nutrition Sciences and reason(s) for wanting to become an RDN

Motivation for attending this program at UNLV

Summary of educational goals

Summary of clinical interests

Strengths & challenges

Possible faculty mentors the applicant would be interested in working with.

Three letters of recommendation from persons familiar with the applicant's academic record and potential for graduate study and becoming an RDN.

An applicant who is a non-native English speaker must provide proof of English language proficiency by [fulfilling the requirements displayed at the UNLV English proficiency webpage](#).

Didactic Program in Dietetics Verification Statement from an ACEND accredited program. This statement must be obtained from the DPD Director of the institution granting the statement.

Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics Subplan- M.S. Nutrition Sciences

Details for these application processes are listed below:

Minimum Qualification Requirements to be Considered for Program Admission Include:

1. Declaration of Intent to Complete Degree or Verification Statement
 - A valid Declaration of Intent to Complete Degree or Verification Statement from an ACEND accredited DPD must be submitted with the applications.
 - A final DPD Verification Statement must be submitted to the Program Director before the applicant can begin the program and enroll in coursework.
2. A DPD GPA and overall GPA of 2.75 or greater out of 4.0, with a grade of C or higher in all DPD science and DPD professional courses.
3. An applicant who is a non-native English speaker must provide proof of English language proficiency by fulfilling the requirements displayed at the [UNLV English proficiency webpage](#).

DICAS Application

1. Submit a completed application packet via [DICAS](#) before the deadline posted above.
2. You will need to write a personal statement (letter format, 1000 word maximum)
Questions to be addressed in the personal statement include:
 - Why are you interested in the UNLV MS-DI Program?
 - Why are you interested in this educational pathway?
 - Why do you want to enter the nutrition & dietetics profession?
 - Discuss experiences that have helped to prepare you for your career.

- What are your short-term and long-term goals?
 - What are your strengths and weaknesses or areas needing improvement?
3. Official transcript(s) from all colleges and universities attended should be sent directly to [DICAS](#) and included in your completed packet before the deadline listed above.
 4. Follow the recommendation instructions in [DICAS](#). Three recommendation letters are required, including one from the DPD Director issuing the Verification Statement; one from a professor in nutrition; and one from an employer or supervisor or a professor in a health-related field. The DPD letter of recommendation should include: The prospective student's ability to successfully complete the MS-DI Program; The prospective student's leadership abilities and potential.

When completing the application form, applicants must include the name and contact information (specifically an e-mail address) for each reference. This will trigger an e-mail message requesting completion of a reference form. The form will be completed on-line.