Dietetic Internship Program

The UNLV Dietetic Internship (DI) is administered through the UNLV Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences. The program consists of 1200 hours of supervised practice in community nutrition, food service management, and clinical nutrition and dietetics, plus additional hours for orientation, classroom activities, homework, and professional meeting attendance. All hours are scheduled to be completed in 32 weeks. For students in the Food Insecurity-Food Banking concentration, and additional 120 supervised practice hours are required and the program to be completed in 35 weeks. Both the DPND and Dietetic Internship are designed to provide well-trained, entry-level nutrition & dietetics professionals for the growing Southern Nevada region.

Mission

To prepare and graduate entry-level Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) who have the skills and knowledge to be comfortable and competent in their first employment opportunity, serving as professionals capable of providing excellent nutrition and dietetics services to the community. The UNLV DI will provide dietetic interns with a variety of practical experiences that 1) challenge their application of didactic knowledge, 2) are broad in scope and provide the entry level knowledge and skills outlined in the competencies/student learning outcomes determined by ACEND, 3) take place in facilities that are common to our profession (i.e., hospitals, community settings), 4) encourage participation in educational and professional activities, and 5) introduce DI students to a culturally diverse population in a fast growing city. Evidence-based practice will be emphasized throughout the DI program.

Program Goal 1

Prepare program graduates to become competent entry-level practitioners in dietetics.

Program Objectives for Goal 1

1a. At least 80% percent of program interns complete program/degree requirements within 10.5 months (150% of the program length) (Clinical Concentration).

1b. At least 80% percent of program interns complete program/degree requirements within 12 months (150% of the program length) (Food Insecurity-Food Banking Concentration).

2. Eighty percent of program graduates take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within 12 months of program completion.

3. The program’s one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%.

4. Of graduates who seek employment, 70% percent are employed in nutrition and dietetics or related fields within 12 months of graduation.
5. At least 80% of employed graduates will rate themselves as being prepared for their first job (Rating scale: “well-prepared”, “prepared”, “somewhat prepared”, and “not well-prepared”).

6. At least 80% of employers will give program graduates in their employ a mean rating of 3 or “satisfactory” for graduate’s preparation for entry-level practice. (Rating scale: 5 = consistently exceeds expectations; 4 = consistently meets, sometimes exceeds expectations; 3 = consistently meets expectations; 2 = fails to consistently meet expectations; 1 = does not meet expectations).

7. At least 70% of program graduates will report being comfortable working with a culturally diverse population (to serve the needs of the Las Vegas Community). Rating scale: “very comfortable”, “comfortable”, “somewhat comfortable”, “and uncomfortable”.

8. At least 70% of the program graduates will report being prepared to work with a culturally diverse population (to serve the needs of the Las Vegas Community). Rating scale: “very prepared”, “prepared”, “somewhat prepared” and “not prepared”.

**Program Goal 2**
Prepare program graduates to participate in continuous learning/ professional development activities.

**Program Objectives for Goal 2**
1. At least 80% of credentialed program graduates will submit their learning plan to CDR within 12 months of earning the RD credential.

2. At least 80% of program graduates will indicate that they participate in continuing education and professional development activities

**Program Outcomes Data are available upon request. Please contact dietetic.internship@unlv.edu.**