

Dietetic Internship

Clinical Rotation Requirements

LENGTH

Interns must secure one clinical facility for a 10 -week continuous rotation.

The clinical rotation runs in January or August of each year. Intern schedules vary depending on track/master's course schedule. Interns will communicate the rotation dates to the preceptor at the time of rotation request. Specific rotation dates can be found on the DI Calendar on the CCC DI website.

TYPICAL SCHEDULES

The intern is expected to complete 32-40 hours per week at the supervised practice site. The intern will complete any onsite experiences with a schedule determined by the preceptor. It is possible that some rotations and facilities will require early morning, late evening, and potential weekend shifts. The preceptor should provide adequate notice regarding expectations for the schedule.

Interns will have a weekly mandatory class day with the program. This is currently scheduled on Mondays but is subject to changes based on guest speaker availability.

FACILITY

The clinical facility should expose the intern to a variety of learning opportunities and experiences with different disease states [Refer to Learning Requirements below].

Examples of facilities appropriate to the clinical rotation include:

- Large Hospitals
- Small Community Hospitals
- Long-Term Care and/or Skilled-Nursing Rehabilitation Facilities
 - Must have at least 80-bed capacity and/or regularly admit new patients

PRECEPTORS

Preceptors for this rotation must be Registered Dietitians. The Registered Dietitian must be full-time or there must be another RD on staff so the intern can obtain a minimum of 32-hours per week (Tuesday- Friday). It is acceptable to intern with a Registered Dietitian that travels between two LTC or skilled-nursing facilities under the same company/network for a minimum of 32-hours a week.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

The rotation should progress from basic to more complex activities. By the end of the rotation, interns should function at entry-level competence with minimal supervision. The clinical facility or facilities must be able to provide access to all activities below:

- Review the facility's policy and procedure manual and discuss state/regulatory policies.
- Review the therapeutic diets and formularies (supplements, enteral) available at the facility.
- Understand the facility guidelines for nutrition screening and documentation.

- Observe the RD conducting all aspects of the Nutrition Care Process (including documentation in the medical record for a variety of disease states)
- Provide individual diet instruction appropriate for the disease state.
- Shadow, interview, and/or participate in patient rounds with other members of the health care team (such as MD, speech pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, case managers, DTRs, pharmacists, etc.) as available/pertinent at site.
- Conduct meal rounds and/or patient satisfaction surveys.
- Conduct hands-on clinical skills, for example: Nutrition Focused Physical, obtaining manual blood pressure, or glucose testing as available at site.

In addition, interns should be able to complete the following assessments on each listed disease state:

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| · Weight Management | · Wounds | · Cancer |
| · Endocrine | · Renal | · Palliative Care/Hospice Care |
| · Upper and Lower GI | · Pulmonary | · Enteral/Parenteral Nutrition |
| · Dysphagia | · Hepatic, Pancreatic, Biliary | · Malnutrition |
| · Food Allergies | · Neurologic Disorders | |
| · Cardiovascular | | |

1. Review charts of patients.
2. Calculate energy and macronutrient needs for patients.
3. Recommend snacks/supplements as deemed applicable for the disease state.
4. Assess the nutritional status of patients using anthropometric, biochemical, clinical, and medical histories.
5. Diagnose nutrition problems and write PES statements for patients.
6. Develop nutrition recommendations/interventions including goal setting.
7. Monitor and evaluate the impact of the interventions suggested.
8. Document nutrition care provided to patients through use of the medical record per institution guidelines.
9. Provide individual diet instruction appropriate for the disease state.

CLINICAL CAPSTONE CASE STUDY

Interns are required to complete a Capstone Case Study during their clinical rotation where they critically analyze a challenge patient case. The intern will present their findings and suggestions for improvement in their nutrition care.

PSD WEEKS

Professional skill development weeks are built into the rotation schedule at the end of each rotation. Students will engage in Professional Development activities with Cedar Crest College but will also spend time at their sites. Please be aware that their schedules may vary during these weeks. The interns will communicate their schedules to the preceptors well in advance of professional development weeks.

PRECEPTOR TRAINING

The DI program will provide virtual preceptor training for all incoming and returning preceptors prior to the start of each rotation. Meeting links will be emailed to all preceptors prior to the rotation start.