

Dietetic Internship

Clinical Rotation Requirements



LENGTH

Interns must secure one clinical facility for a 9-week continuous rotation.

Interns have two options to complete this rotation:

Track A begins in January 2024

or

Track B begins in August 2024

Please refer to the DI Calendar on the website for specific dates

TYPICAL SCHEDULES

The intern is expected to complete 32-40 hours per week which includes onsite experiences with the preceptor(s) and simulation workshops with the program. 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. The program will notify the intern and preceptor about workshop dates prior to the rotation start.

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 Rehabilitation Facilities

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.

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 in-patient 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 (NCP and 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.

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 | |
| · Food Allergies | · Neurologic Disorders | |
| · Hepatic | | |

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.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Interns are required to complete a QI during their clinical rotation where they determine an area for process improvement within their facility. The intern will present their findings and suggestions for improvement to their sites.

IPSD WEEKS

“Individualized Professional Skills Development” weeks are built into the rotation schedule to provide additional experiential opportunities or to make up hours. Students will also engage in Professional Development activities with Cedar Crest College.

Interns can use some of this time to complete the following:

- Explore a particular specialty area of clinical dietetics at their scheduled practice site.
- Spend this week on self-directed study and preparation.
- Use these hours towards the required hours for any rotation due to weather, illness, or bereavement.

QUESTIONS?

Questions regarding the process of selecting facilities and preceptors for supervised practice may be directed to dietetic.internship@cedarcrest.edu