Introduction

Cornell University, known for its excellence in research, teaching and extension, is proud to partner with The University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) in Rochester, NY, to offer a Dietetic Internship with a research concentration. This internship provides in-depth, intensive community, clinical, management, and research experiences. These experiences ensure our graduates are ready for evidence-based dietetics practice as registered dietitians (RDs), for leadership in that practice, and for translational research to inform that practice (the mission of our internship). Interns begin in the fall at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY and the surrounding beautiful Finger Lakes region and transition in January to the URMC Strong Memorial Hospital, an 860 bed, tertiary and trauma care facility, in Rochester, NY. We seek strong candidates with the potential to develop into exceptionally qualified and competent entry-level RDs who engage in professional leadership and research in their evidence-based practice (the goals of our program). Our key objectives for our graduates are to pass the registration exam the first time, to conduct and apply research critically to their practice and to lead in their jobs and profession.

OPEN HOUSE on December 5, 2016
Register at
www.dietetics.cornell.edu
Rotation Schedule

The internship begins in mid-August with an orientation on the Cornell Campus, during which interns visit their community sites and URMC and continues through mid-June when they complete their clinical and management supervised practice.

Community Nutrition Rotation
During the fall semester on Mondays, the interns complete three graduate courses [NS 6250 Community Nutrition in Action: Theory to Practice (3 cr); NS 6350 Introduction to Community Nutrition Research (3 cr) and NS 5550 Leadership in Dietetics (2 cr)] and attend research seminars on Cornell's campus. Interns participate in a counseling workshop to enhance their skills. To assure an in-depth experience, interns participate in the entire program development process 3 days per week for 14 weeks at one community site, culminating in 3 days of advanced entry-level staff relief near the end of the rotation. Potential community sites in or near Ithaca (less than a one-hour drive in Syracuse, Elmira, Waterloo, Binghamton, etc.) or further away in Rochester, NY (a two hour drive) include: Cornell Cooperative Extension county and state nutrition programs for limited resource families; Wellness programs at Cornell for employees and retirees and at Wegmans Corporate Nutrition Program for consumers and employees; Nutrition Assistance Programs serving limited resource individuals at Central NY Department of Health, WIC Supplemental Nutrition Programs and food banks (Foodlink, Southern Tier and Central NY); Broome-Delaware-Tioga BOCES and Victor Central School District school meal programs; and Onondaga County DALTCS elderly nutrition programs, serving seniors.

Clinical Nutrition and Management Rotations
Following orientation in mid-December, interns spend 5 days per week from January to mid-June at URMC Strong Memorial Hospital, ranked among "America's Best Hospitals" in a US and News World Report. Interns complete 18 weeks of beginning, intermediate and advanced supervised clinical practice. All interns complete beginning level in General Medicine, Psychiatric Disorders, Wellness and Long Term Care. Interns then move to intermediate level in Organ transplant including renal; Cardiac rehab, Endocrine (adult and pediatric), Pediatrics, and Clinical Research. They finally complete advanced level in Pediatric nutrition support, Outpatient pediatrics, Critical Care (ICU, PICU & NICU) and Oncology. Interns choose 1 week of select from one of the above for additional experience or from Administration, Management, Lactational Counseling, Sports Medicine, Eating Disorders or Center for Community Health and complete 1 week of entry-level ‘capstone’ staff relief. Interns begin the 6 week management rotation in the Food and Nutrition Services by rotating through production, purchasing, Café 601, and patient meal service. They move to intermediate level with more complex projects in the Diet & Disease Therapy Lab, and for National Nutrition Month under close supervision and finally complete advanced level with the more autonomous and comprehensive ‘capstone’ Food Fair and 1 day of staff relief.

Research Concentration
The community, clinical and management rotations include 6 weeks of supervised research because practice requires outcomes research and evidence-based decision-making. Interns each complete a pilot research project to enhance their community placement program and presents it in a poster session at the New York State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics meeting. Interns engage in clinical nutrition research. They also plan and conduct more autonomously a ‘problem-solving’ management research project. In this concentration, interns develop the critical thinking and research skills needed for practice.
**Internship Application and Selection Information**

**Prerequisite:** Applicants must have completed or be completing (by the start of the internship) an ACEND-accredited DPD program and at least a Bachelor’s degree from a US regionally-accredited college or university. For applicants from foreign institutions, documentation must be provided that their academic degree has been validated as equivalent to the bachelor’s or master’s degree conferred by a US regionally-accredited college or university. (See http://www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/content.aspx?id=6442485502 for more information.)

**Application Deadline**
- Pre-select—January 2 (midnight) only for Cornell DPD and combined PhD-RD applicants.

**Apply on-line** at https://portal.dicas.org. Begin your application well in advance of the deadline to ensure that the three references you list submit their recommendations electronically prior to the deadline.

Completed applications must include:
- Three references with email contact.
- Personal statement of your goals and how our internship facilitates you achieving your goals.
- DPD verification or declaration of intent statement.
- Official transcripts from all schools sent to DICAS - Transcript Dept., PO Box 9118, Watertown, MA 02472.
- $35 non-refundable application fee payable to Cornell University and mailed to our contact address.

**Combined PhD-RD Program:** To meet the growing needs for translational research expertise in dietetics practice and policy and to enhance the effectiveness and impact of clinical and public health nutrition, we offer a combined PhD-RD program to highly qualified applicants from any accredited DPD program. Accepted students begin their doctoral studies in the preeminent Graduate Field of Nutrition in the first year, complete the dietetic internship in their second year, and then continue their doctoral studies. The acclaimed faculty in the Field of Nutrition have a wide-variety of research interests, which provide an exceptional range of opportunities for multidisciplinary research. Doctoral students plan their graduate programs to fit their career goals in molecular, human, community or international nutrition. Combined PhD-RD students also complete courses in Nutrition in Action: Theory to Practice, Epidemiology, and Translational Research and Evidence-based Practice and Policy and a 4 to 6 month translational ‘field’ experience in national nutrition policy or clinical nutrition research. **Funding support** is available from a graduate training program. Graduates of this program are well-prepared to meet the pressing needs in academic, medicine and policy sectors for translational nutrition researchers and well-positioned because of the limited number of PhD-RD’s (4%).

**Combined PhD-RD Applications** must be submitted by January 2 on-line separately to both the internship at https://portal.dicas.org (see above) and the Graduate Field of Nutrition at http://www.gradschool.cornell.edu (see Admissions).
- The GRE is required.
- Additional coursework is helpful for molecular nutrition (molecular/cell biology, genetics, etc.) and community nutrition (statistics, social sciences, etc.); significant experience in a developing country is required for international nutrition.
- Prior research experience is advantageous for all specializations.
- Admission by both the Internship and Graduate Field of Nutrition Admissions committees and funding (providing a stipend and tuition waiver) are decided by early February.

**Rank Internships** on-line with D’n’D Digital at http://www.dnddigital.com/ada/ for computer matching by the D’n’D Digital deadline. Serious candidates should list Cornell as their priority to increase their placement chances.

**Selection** is based on the following, in order of importance:
- Telephone interview.
- Quality of references.
- Relevance of paid or volunteer work experience in at least one dietetics practice setting.
- Quality of personal statement and ‘fit’ of goals with Cornell Dietetic Internship.
- Learning ability as evidenced by academic record (average GPA of 3.5 of 4.0 with range 3.0 to 4.0).
MS in NS: Dietetics Track
Interns or alumni may apply for a 12-month MS-Dietetics by January 10; the GRE is required. The on-line application is at https://www.applyweb.com/cornellg/index.ftl. The prerequisite for admission is good standing in or completion in the past year of the Cornell DI. This program begins in June. MS -Dietetics students complete 40 credit hours of coursework and a thesis developed from their DI research. For more details about this program, visit www.human.cornell.edu/dns/graduate/masters/index.cfm.

Becoming a Registered Dietitian
The Cornell Dietetic Internship is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics from 2001-2023. Completing this internship and receipt of the Verification Statement requires satisfactory performance of the community, clinical and management rotations including >1450 hours of supervised practice, three graduate courses and other didactic sessions; presentation of the pilot research project at the New York State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics meeting; membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; participation in the exit interview; and payment of all internship fees/tuition. This Verification Statement is required for eligibility certification to take the registration exam, which must be passed to become an RD. The first time pass rate on the registration exam of our graduates is 98% for the past five years*.

*Other outcome data for our internship available upon request.

Necessary Resources
Interns must provide their own transportation to their sites and have access to a computer and printer.

Estimated Costs 2016-2017*
- Cornell tuition and related fees ($7,243)
- Program and other fees ($4,572 - 4,872**)
- Professional liability insurance ($35 online)
- Academy dues ($64)
- Miscellaneous costs (including text & background-check fees) ($580 - $980)

Total $12,494 - $13,194

Not Included: Cornell Student Health Insurance ($2,700) and Housing costs (variable).

*Subject to change  
** Includes new mandatory health fee if SHIP not selected.

Information on Housing
Ithaca: https://ccengagement.cornell.edu/off-campus-living
Rochester: http://www.rochester.edu/reslife/non/

Financial Aid
Interns may be eligible for and are responsible for applying for private student loans up to the total cost of attendance. Cornell encourages comparison of lenders/loan terms for selection of one that best meets your needs. For deferment of existing loans, contact your loan provider for forms and Jordan Kilbourne at the Commission on Dietetic Registration (jekilbourn@eatright.org) for necessary information.

What Graduates Say...

“Rich and enriching experiences that link research, theory, and self-reflective learning”
“A high quality, well-rounded dietetic internship”
“Excellent clinical experiences with great depth & readth”
“Greater appreciation of research & why it’s needed”
“In-depth community experiences”
“Great preceptors-allow independence/autonomy/self-learning/ opportunities to contribute”
“More personal with individual attention”

What Employers Say...

“My employee very well-prepared…able to work independently within weeks”
“Very patient-focused, current on nutrition research and practice”

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