**Necessary Resources**

Interns must provide their own transportation to their sites and have access to a computer and printer. Please note that medical and religious exemptions for COVID-19 vaccination are not allowed by URMC and therefore COVID-19 vaccination is required for participation in the program.

**Estimated Costs 2023-2024**

- Cornell tuition and related fees ($7,742**)
- Program and other fees ($5,288)
- Professional liability insurance ($26 purchased online)
- Academy dues ($58)
- Miscellaneous costs (including lab coats, books & background check fees) ($620 - $1,055)

**Total $13,278 - $14,169**

Not Included: Cornell Student Health Insurance (SHIP) ($3,912) and meals and housing costs (variable).

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

**Information on Housing**

Ithaca: http://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 Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics at acend@eatright.org for necessary information.

**Scholarship Opportunity**

Thanks to the generosity of the Linda and Lenny Bell Family, the Cornell Dietetic Internship program (DI) will award a need-based tuition and fee scholarship annually to a student who is accepted to and matriculates in Cornell’s DI program. Please see www.di.human.cornell.edu for details.

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**What Graduates Say About the Program:**

“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 & breadth”

“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”

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**Cornell Dietetic Internship**

**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 dietitian nutritionists (RDNs), for leadership in that practice, and for translational research to inform that practice (the mission of our internship). Interns begin in August at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY and the surrounding beautiful Finger Lakes region and transition in January to the URMC Strong Memorial Hospital, an 849 bed, tertiary and trauma care facility, in Rochester, NY. The program ends in May. We seek strong candidates with the potential to develop into exceptionally qualified and competent entry-level RDNs 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. The one year pass rate on the registration exam of our graduates is 100% for the past five years*.  

*Other outcome data for our internship available upon request.
District school meal programs; and Foodnet and Department of Health Programs, food banks (Foodlink, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Dining, Center, NY (a two hour drive). Community sites include: Syracuse, Elmira, Waterloo, Binghamton, and Rochester in 3 days of advanced entry week for 12 weeks at one community site, culminating the entire program development 3 days per week from January to mid-May at URMCI Strong Memorial Hospital, ranked among “America’s Best Hospitals” in a US and News World Report. Interns complete 15 weeks of supervised clinical practice. All interns complete entry level, intermediate level and advanced level rotations. Entry level rotations include General Medicine, Psychiatric Disorders, and Long Term Care. Intermediate level includes Organ transplant including renal, Cardiac rehab, Endocrine (adult and pediatric), and Pediatrics. Advanced level includes Pediatric nutrition support, Outpatient pediatrics, Critical Care (ICU, PICU & NICU) and Oncology. Interns select one of the above for additional experience or from Administration, Management, Lactation Counseling, Eating Disorders or Center for Community Health and complete 1 week of entry-level ‘capstone’ clinical dietitian staff relief. Interns begin the 5 week management rotation in Food and Nutrition Services by rotating through production, purchasing, Café 601, patient meal service and half a day of management staff relief. Intermediate level management includes experiences with more complex projects in the Medical Student-run Health Clinic under close supervision. Advanced level experiences conclude with the more autonomous and comprehensive ‘capstone’ Café 601 National Nutrition Month project.

Research Concentration

Across the community, clinical and management rotations, interns complete 5 weeks of supervised research in which they develop the critical thinking and research skills needed to conduct research and to apply evidence-based decision-making in practice. Interns each complete a pilot research project to enhance their community placement program and present it in a poster session at the New York State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics annual meeting. Interns also plan and conduct a ‘problem-solving’ management research project.

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 who have also earned a masters degree. 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 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, medical and policy sectors for translational nutrition researchers and well-positioned because of the limited number of PhD-RD’s (4%). Interested applicants are advised to reach out to the DI director and DNS director of Graduate Studies well in advance.

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 a graduate 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 a master’s degree conferred by a US regionally-accredited college or university. (See http://www.eatrightpro.org/ACEND “Foreign Degree Evaluation Agencies” for more information.)

Application Deadline

- Pre-select: January 2 (midnight) only for Cornell DPD and combined PhD-RD applicants.
- Regular match (all other applicants): February 1 (midnight).

Apply on-line at http://dicas.liaisoncas.com. DICAS fees apply. 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.
  • $35 non-refundable application fee payable to Cornell University and mailed to our contact address.

Selection is based on the following, in order of importance:
  • Zoom (audio only) 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.

Rotation Schedule

The internship begins in August with an orientation on the Cornell Campus and continues through mid-May when interns complete their clinical and management supervised practice. Completing this internship and receipt of the Verification Statement requires satisfactory performance of the community, clinical and management rotations including >1200 hours of supervised practice, three graduate courses and other didactic sessions; presentation of the pilot research project; membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; participation in the exit interview; and payment of all internship fees/tuition.

Community Nutrition Rotation

During the fall semester, primarily on Mondays, the interns complete three graduate courses [NS 6230 Community Nutrition in Action: Theory to Practice; NS 6350 Introduction to Community Nutrition: Research and NS 5550 Leadership in Dietetics] and partake in Cornell research seminars. 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 12 weeks at one community site, culminating in 3 days of advanced entry-level staff relief near the end of the rotation. Potential community sites include those in or near Ithaca (less than a one-hour drive) in Syracuse, Elmira, Waterloo, Binghamton, and Rochester, NY (a two hour drive). Community sites include: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell Dining, Cornell Sports Nutrition; Nutrition Assistance Programs serving limited resource individuals at Central NY Department of Health Programs, food banks (Foodlink, Southern Tier and Central NY) and Rural Health Network; Broome-Tioga BOCES, Ithaca City Schools, Syracuse City School District and Victor Central School District school meal programs; and Foodnet and Ondonga County DALTCS elderly nutrition programs, serving seniors.

Clinical Nutrition and Management Rotations

Following orientation in early January, interns spend 4 days per week from January to mid-May at URMCI Strong Memorial Hospital, ranked among “America’s Best Hospitals” in a US and News World Report. Interns complete 15 weeks of supervised clinical practice. All interns complete entry level, intermediate level and advanced level rotations. Entry level rotations include General Medicine, Psychiatric Disorders, and Long Term Care. Intermediate level includes Organ transplant including renal, Cardiac rehab, Endocrine (adult and pediatric), and Pediatrics. Advanced level includes Pediatric nutrition support, Outpatient pediatrics, Critical Care (ICU, PICU & NICU) and Oncology. Interns select one of the above for additional experience or from Administration, Management, Lactation Counseling, Eating Disorders or Center for Community Health and complete 1 week of entry-level ‘capstone’ clinical dietitian staff relief. Interns begin the 5 week management rotation in Food and Nutrition Services by rotating through production, purchasing, Café 601, patient meal service and half a day of management staff relief. Intermediate level management includes experiences with more complex projects in the Medical Student-run Health Clinic under close supervision. Advanced level experiences conclude with the more autonomous and comprehensive ‘capstone’ Café 601 National Nutrition Month project.

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Combined PhD-RD Applications must be submitted by December 10 to the Graduate Field of Nutrition at http://www.gradschool.cornell.edu (see Admissions) and by January 2 on-line through DICAS to the internship at http://dicas.liaisoncas.com (see above). Masters degree must be completed before program start date in August.

- Additional coursework is required 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 Dietetic Internship and Graduate Field of Nutrition Admissions committees and funding (providing a stipend and tuition waiver) are decided by early February.