



## Becoming an RDN

Multiple pathways exist to pursue the RD/RDN credential. The Cornell DI fulfills option 1 as described by CDR at [www.cdrnet.org/rd-eligibility](http://www.cdrnet.org/rd-eligibility). Effective January 1, 2024\*, the CDR will require a minimum of a master's degree to be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become an RDN. In addition, CDR requires that individuals complete coursework and supervised practice in program(s) accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics. The Cornell Dietetic Internship is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) through 2025. Graduates who successfully complete the ACEND-accredited dietetic internship program at Cornell University are eligible to apply to take the CDR credentialing exam to become an RDN. In most states, graduates also must obtain licensure or certification to practice. New York State (NYS) has certification of dietitians and nutritionists. Some NY employers may require dietitian/nutritionist certification. The Cornell DI meets NYS requirements for planned work experience in Dietetics-Nutrition and graduates are eligible to seek certification in NYS. For more information about state licensure requirements visit <https://www.cdrnet.org/state-licensure>.

\*In order to be approved for registration examination eligibility with a bachelor's degree, an individual must meet all eligibility requirements and be submitted into CDR's Registration Eligibility Processing System (REPS) before **12:00 midnight Central Time, December 31, 2023**. For more information about this requirement visit CDR's website: <https://www.cdrnet.org/graduatedegree>. For more information about educational pathways to become a RDN visit

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/information-for-students>.

### What Employers Say About our Graduates:

**"Experience level is above the expected"**  
**"Able to work independently within weeks"**  
**"Very patient-focused, current on nutrition research and practice"**

## 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. Students without a graduate degree concurrently enrolled in either the PhD or MS+Dietetics track follow the same costs outlined below while in the internship. Estimated tuition and fees for graduate studies outside of time in the internship can be found on the Graduate School Financial Support [website](#).

### Estimated Dietetic Internship 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 are not eligible for Federal student loan funding. 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](mailto: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 one-time need-based tuition and fee scholarship to a student who matriculates into Cornell's DI program. The scholarship is applied to DI tuition and fees only. See [www.di.human.cornell.edu](http://www.di.human.cornell.edu) for details.

### 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"**

# 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. International students admitted to the program are eligible to apply for or to transfer F-1 student visas to Cornell for the duration of the program. 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.



### Contact:

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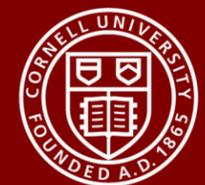
[www.di.human.cornell.edu](http://www.di.human.cornell.edu)

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College of Human Ecology | College of Agriculture & Life Sciences

Join us for a  
**Virtual Open House**  
 Find complete program  
 details at  
[www.di.human.cornell.edu](http://www.di.human.cornell.edu)



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# 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 6250 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



Onondaga 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 URMC 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, Lactational 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.

## Program Prerequisites

To be eligible for the internship, applicants must have completed or be completing (by the start of the internship) an ACEND-accredited DPD program and have received or be receiving (by the start of the internship) a graduate degree from a U.S. institutional accredited college or university (or equivalent). Applicants without a graduate degree may apply as pre-select applicants to the DI if currently enrolled in the PhD program or with concurrent application to Cornell for the MS+Dietetics track (see "Pre-Select Application Process"). For applicants from foreign institutions, documentation must be provided that their academic degree has been validated as equivalent to the master's degree conferred by a US regionally-accredited college or university. Applicants from foreign institutions should [visit the ACEND site](#) for more information including links to independent foreign degree evaluation agencies. All students admitted to the program with a graduate degree are full-time, non-degree graduate students of Cornell University during the DI. International students admitted to the program do not use OPT work authorization while in the program.

### Pre-select Eligibility

An eligible applicant meeting one of the following requirements may apply to the DI during pre-select: Cornell DPD graduates with a graduate degree; Cornell graduate students who have completed a DPD; any DPD/FDE applicant also applying to Cornell's MS+Dietetics track; any eligible applicant for the combined PhD-RD program.

- DPD/FDE applicants **without a graduate degree** are eligible to apply to the MS in Nutrition, Dietetics track (MS+Dietetics track). Applicants apply separately to the MS program by December 10 and the DI by January 2. Applicants offered admission are admitted separately to both the Graduate Field of Nutrition for the upcoming year and the DI for the following year. The MS and DI are completed in 2 years with the DI occurring in the second year of the program.
- Cornell PhD students who have discussed their interest in the DI with and obtained support from their committee chair and the DNS Director may also apply to the DI preselect by January 2. The DI should be completed in the final year of the PhD program.
- Applicants to the PhD/RD track must have a graduate degree. The DI is completed in year 2 of the PhD program. Visit

### Apply to DI online at DICAS (<http://dicas.liasoncas.com>)

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.
  - Please note that DICAS will also collect a fee to use the DICAS service. DICAS fees can be found on the DICAS website.
- Regular match applicants must also participate in the computer-matching process through D&D Digital ([www.dnddigital.com](http://www.dnddigital.com)) and must rank internships online by February 15. D&D digital will collect fee for the match service. Fees can be found on the D&D Digital website. Serious candidates should list Cornell as their priority to increase their placement chances. Applicants applying through pre-select and offered acceptance do not go through computer matching. Applicants that match to the Cornell DI are expected to accept the match.

<https://www.human.cornell.edu/dns/academics/graduate/phd-rd> for information about the PhD/RD option.

### Pre-select Application Process

Applicants applying to either the PhD/RD program or MS+Dietetics track must submit **separate** applications to the Graduate School at <https://www.applyweb.com/cornellg/index.ftl> by December 10, and to the DI by January 2. Other applicants eligible for pre-select apply only to the DI by January 2. All PhD/RD, MS+Dietetics and pre-select DI applications decisions will be made before February 1. If an applicant accepts an offer of pre-select to the DI, they will not participate in the DI match process.

### Application Deadlines

- January 2 (midnight): Pre-select Applicants (Cornell DPD graduates with a graduate degree, Cornell PhD students with a DPD Verification Statement, applicants to the MS+Dietetics graduate program track or Combined PhD/RD applicants).
- February 1 (midnight): Regular Match applicants (All applicants except pre-select).