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. 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.
Rotation Schedule

The internship begins in August with an orientation on the Cornell Campus and continues through mid-June 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 >1450 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 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 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 county and state nutrition programs for limited resource families; 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-Delaware-Tioga BOCES, Ithaca City Schools, Syracuse City School District and Victor Central School District school meals programs; and Foodnet and Onondaga County DALTCS elderly nutrition programs, serving seniors.

Clinical Nutrition and Management Rotations

Following orientation in early January, 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 News World Report. Interns complete 18 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), Pediatrics, and Clinical Research. Advanced level includes Pediatric nutrition support, Outpatient pediatrics, Critical Care (ICU, PICU & NICU) and Oncology. Interns select 2 weeks from 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 6 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 and Stairwell Challenge 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 6 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 engage in clinical nutrition research, and plan and conduct a ‘problem-solving’ management research project.
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.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 https://portal.dicas.org. 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.

Rank Internships (regular match applicants) on-line with D&D Digital at http://www.dnddigital.com/ada/ for computer matching by the D&D Digital deadline (D&D Digital fees apply). 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

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 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 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 https://portal.dicas.org (see above). Masters degree must be completed before program start date in August.
• 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 Dietetic Internship and Graduate Field of Nutrition Admissions committees and funding (providing a stipend and tuition waiver) are decided by early February.
MS: Dietetics Track
Interns or alumni may apply for a 12-month MS-Dietetics by December 10; the GRE is not required. The prerequisite for admission is good standing in or completion in the past year of the Cornell DI. This program begins in June, and incoming students must balance graduate work while they prepare for the RDN exam. MS-Dietetics students complete 40 credit hours of coursework and a thesis developed from their DI research or a related project.

For more details about this program, visit https://www.human.cornell.edu/dns/academics/graduate/masters. The on-line application is at https://www.applyweb.com/cornellg/index.ftl.

Becoming an RDN
The Cornell Dietetic Internship is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) from 2001-2024. Effective January 1, 2024, the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) will require a minimum of a master’s degree to be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN). 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. 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. 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. For more information about state licensure requirements visit https://www.cdrnet.org/state-licensure.

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

Estimated Costs 2021-2022*
- Cornell tuition and related fees ($7,699**)
- Program and other fees ($5,159)
- Professional liability insurance ($26 purchased online)
- Academy dues ($58)
- Miscellaneous costs (including lab coats, books & background-check fees) ($620 - $1,055)

Total $13,562 - $13,997
Not Included: Cornell Student Health Insurance (SHIP) ($3,0762) 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 Roxanne Way Carter at the Commission on Dietetic Registration (rway@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 & 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"

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