

The Internship

The Dietetic Internship (DI) is a full-time, 40-week program beginning in August and ending in May. It is jointly sponsored by the College of Health Related Professions (CHRP) at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) and the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System (CAVHS). After successful completion of the program, graduates earn a post-baccalaureate certificate for the dietetic internship.

The mission of the program is to meet the needs for dietitians in a rural state and in VA hospitals serving the nation's veterans. The program's concentration of *Medical Nutrition Therapy and Management in Dietetics Practice* prepares graduates for entry-level positions in a variety of settings including hospitals, out-patient clinics, community and public health facilities, research, corporate wellness, school food service, and the food industry.

Fourteen dietetic intern positions are available each year. Please refer to the "Admission Requirements" and "Selection Process" sections of this brochure for information on how interns are selected.

Interns enroll in 12 hours of graduate credit. A minimum of 40 hours per week is spent in the classroom and at program facilities. Additional time is required to complete assignments and projects.

Interns may concurrently apply to the UAMS Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition (MSCN) Program; however, acceptance into the MSCN Program is independent of the DI Program. Interns accepted into the MSCN Program can transfer the 12 credits from the DI to the MSCN Program. Visit our Web site at www.uams.edu/chrp/dietnutrition for more details.

Program Accreditation

The UAMS/CAVHS Dietetic Internship is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE), the accrediting agency of the American Dietetic Association, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60606-6995; Telephone (800) 877-1600 ext. 5400. CADE's last site visit was in April 2010. Re-accreditation to the program was granted at that time until 2020.

Program Facilities

The primary training sites for the program are the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System (CAVHS), and Arkansas Children's Hospital (ACH).

UAMS is located in Little Rock is one of 12 collegiate campuses of the University of Arkansas System. UAMS is a comprehensive academic health sciences center comprised of the Colleges of Health Related Professions, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, and the Graduate School. Also included are the Medical Library, the Office of

Educational Development, the UAMS Medical Center and Clinics, the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, Reynolds Institute on Aging, Jones Eye Center, Stephens Spine and Neurosciences Institute, Myeloma Institute, and seven Area Health Education Centers. UAMS educational programs are accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

UAMS Medical Center is a 350-bed academic medical center that provides the best medical care for patients through medical practice, research, and education. The dietetic intern participates in providing medical nutrition therapy and nutrition counseling. The areas of clinical experience include general medicine, critical care, bone marrow transplants, oncology, ambulatory care, and diabetes.

CAVHS provides the majority of the food service management experience. The McClellan Memorial Hospital in Little Rock is a 266-bed general medicine and surgical facility. The outpatient clinics at the Little Rock division have 620,000 visits annually. The Towbin Healthcare Center in North Little Rock is a 296-bed facility with long-term care and a nursing home care unit. Food Service Management experience includes work with The Joint Commission, state and federal regulations, labor union management, budget, staffing, computer systems, personnel management, purchasing, quality assurance, food production and service, menu planning, and cost containment. Clinical nutrition rotations include experience in long-term care, critical care, general medicine, primary care, diabetes, and renal.

ACH, a 280-bed facility, is associated with the UAMS Department of Pediatrics. ACH is a private non-profit institution, the only pediatric medical center in the state and is one of the largest children's hospitals in the nation. There are over 80 outpatient specialty and general pediatric clinics with 299,000 visits annually. ACH provides opportunities to participate in experiences related to the nutrition care of pediatric patients. Areas included are intensive care, burn center, general medical and surgical, transplants, neonatal, and progressive care.

Affiliations with a number of other facilities in Central Arkansas and surrounding areas provide valuable learning experiences that complement those of the primary sites. These include the Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Department of Education's Child Nutrition Programs, UAMS Head Start, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, KIDS FIRST, and several other private hospitals.

Admission Requirements

The following are the minimum admission requirements and do not guarantee acceptance into the program:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited university
- Verification Statement from an accredited didactic program in Dietetics
- Total Grade Point Average (GPA) \geq 2.7
- Combined Science/Math GPA \geq 2.0
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores

Selection Process

The following are considered by a selection committee when reviewing applicants for the program:

- Academic performance (GPA and GRE scores)
- Applicant's personal statement
- Resume
- Three letters of recommendation
- Work experience
- Extracurricular activities

The selection committee reviews all complete applications that meet admission requirements. Applicants are considered without regard to race, color, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, national origin or disability status as a criterion in deciding against any individual in matters of admission, placement, transfer, hiring, dismissal, compensation, fringe benefits, training, tuition assistance, and other personnel or educationally-related actions. Minority students are encouraged to apply.

Application Process

There are 3 components to the application process:

1. Establish an account with the Dietetic Internship Centralized Application System (DICAS) at <http://portal.dicas.org> and submit required items.
2. Mail required items to the College of Health Related Professions (CHRP) at UAMS as outlined in the "CHRP" section of this brochure.
3. Register and complete the required steps for computer matching with D&D Digital at www.dnddigital.com.

DICAS: This online application process requires submission of the following:

1. Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended.
2. Contact information, including e-mail addresses, for the three individuals writing letters of reference.
3. *Verification Statement* or *Intent to Complete Statement* completed by applicant's Didactic Program Director.
4. Resume.
5. Personal statement. The personal statement is limited to 1000 words and should address the following:

- Why you want to enter the dietetics profession
- Experiences that have helped prepare you for the internship and your career
- Short-term and long-term goals
- Strengths and weaknesses or areas needing improvement

There is a \$40 initial application fee and a \$20 fee for each additional application submitted to DICAS.

CHRP: The following items are required and should be mailed to the address below:

- Supplemental Application Form found at www.uams.edu/chrp/dietnutrition,
- \$20 non-refundable application fee (make check payable to UAMS), and
- Official GRE Score Report taken within the past 5 academic years sent directly from ETS to CHRP Office of Student Affairs, **institutional code number 6146**.

All applicants who are not United States citizens or permanent resident aliens or for whom English is not their native language must meet additional admission requirements as described in the CHRP Catalog. These include achieving a satisfactory score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Please consult the Admission/Academic Information section of the CHRP Catalog found at <http://www.uams.edu/chrp/catalog/>. TOEFL scores must be sent to the CHRP Office of Student Affairs.

Mail Required Items to:

Office of Student Affairs
 College of Health Related Professions
 Univ. of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
 4301 West Markham Street, #619
 Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-7199

D & D Digital: Computer matching through D & D Digital is mandatory. To participate in computer matching, applicants must complete the online registration and select dietetic internship priority choices. Online registration may be completed through D&D Digital at www.dnndigital.com. It is the applicant's responsibility to request information regarding computer matching from an undergraduate dietetic advisor or directly from **D&D Digital, Inc., 304 Main Street, Suite 301, Ames, IA 50010-6140; Telephone: (515) 292-0490; email (dnd@sigler.com). Website: dnndigital.com**. There is a \$50.00 fee for this process.

Application Deadline

The due date for all application materials is **February 15, 2012**. DICAS and D & D Digital materials must be posted online no later than **11:59 PM Central Standard Time** on the due date. Items mailed to CHRP must be postmarked on or before the due date. It is recommended that

applicants begin the application process well in advance of the deadline so that all materials are received by the due date. Deadlines cannot be extended.

Additional Information

Cost and Tuition: Go to www.uams.edu/chrp/dietnutrition for the most current information on program cost.

Transportation: Interns must have a reliable vehicle. Some rotations require traveling up to 120 miles a day. Interns are responsible for all liability of travel.

Insurance: Interns must furnish proof of health insurance and car insurance. Professional liability insurance must be purchased upon enrollment in the College of Health Related Professions.

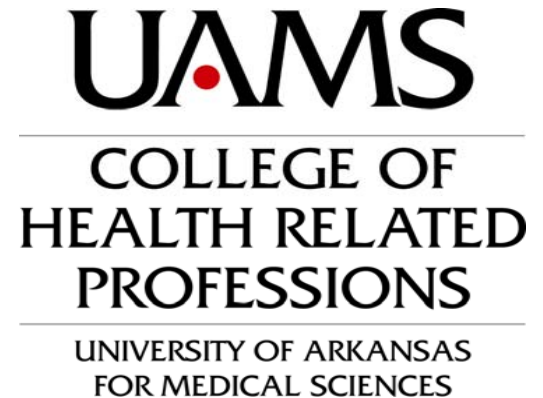
This brochure describes the program requirements for the 2011-2012 academic year. Requirements may change from year to year. Please contact the department at the number below for the most recent, up-to-date information.

**Department of Dietetics and Nutrition
 College of Health Related Professions
 University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
 4301 West Markham, #627
 Little Rock, AR 72205
 (501) 686-6166
www.uams.edu/chrp/dietnutrition**

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Dietetic Internship

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2011-2012

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