

TEXAS WIC DIETETIC INTERNSHIP PROSPECTIVE STUDENT BROCHURE 2008

The Texas WIC Dietetic Internship is designed to assist qualified nutritionists employed within the Texas WIC program, either by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) or WIC local agencies, to become registered dietitians. Applications are now being accepted for the class of 2008.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

The Texas WIC Dietetic Internship is currently granted Initial Accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education of The American Dietetic Association, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Chicago, IL 60606-6995, 312/899-0040 ext. 5400.

Upon satisfactory completion of the program, interns will be eligible to become Active Members of The American Dietetic Association and to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians.

VISION

Graduates of the Texas WIC Dietetic Internship will positively impact the nutritional status of Texans.

MISSION

The mission of the Texas WIC Dietetic Internship (TX WIC DI) is to enhance the quality and cultural competency of nutrition services delivered to WIC clients and their communities.

GOALS

The goals of the Texas WIC Dietetic Internship are to:

1. Prepare graduates who have attained the core professional competencies and community emphasis competencies as defined by the Standards of Education of The American Dietetic Association Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians.
2. Increase the confidence of program graduates in their ability to perform a number of services to the WIC clientele in the areas of high-risk problems in maternal and child nutrition.
3. Increase the availability of advanced nutrition skills to Texas communities by increasing the number of registered dietitians employed as WIC nutritionists.
4. Prepare graduates who provide leadership and nutrition expertise to local communities through networking and community-based interventions.
5. Support the American Dietetic Association's goal to build diversity in the profession and specifically to increase the number of bilingual dietitians in local WIC agencies.
6. Prepare graduates to provide leadership to the dietetics profession through active participation in local, state and national dietetic associations.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

Achievement of these goals is assessed through the use of established outcomes and appropriate measures.

- Goal 1. Eighty percent of interns successfully complete the internship.
Eighty percent of internship graduates who take the Registration Examination for Dietitians for the first time pass it.
- Goal 2. Eighty percent of responding graduates report an increased confidence in their ability to perform a number of services to the WIC clientele in the areas of high-risk problems in maternal and child nutrition.
Eighty percent of responding graduates rate the effectiveness of the internship in preparing them to perform the duties of a dietitian as average three (3) or better on a five (5) point scale.
- Goal 3. Eighty percent of interns that become registered dietitians are employed by Texas WIC three years after graduation.
Eighty percent of responding WIC Agency employers rate the effectiveness of the internship in preparing employee for an entry-level dietitian position as average three (3) or better on a five (5) point scale.
- Goal 4. Sixty percent of graduates provide leadership and nutrition expertise to local communities.
- Goal 5. Internship classes are diverse in respect to ethnicity and gender and contain at least 25 percent minorities and / or males.
Internship classes contain at least 25% bilingual interns.
- Goal 6. Seventy percent of program graduates are members of local, state and/or national dietetic associations.

PROGRAM COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

Graduates of the Texas WIC Dietetic Internship will meet practitioner competencies stated in the Standards of Education specified by The American Dietetic Association Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education. Practitioner competencies build on foundation knowledge and skills and specify what dietetic professionals should be able to do as an entry-level practitioner. Upon completion of the TX WIC DI, interns will receive a verification statement showing they have fulfilled the internship requirements and are eligible to apply to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians.

In order to receive a verification statement, interns must successfully complete all required competencies by due dates set by Dietetic Internship Director or preceptors and follow the policies and procedures of the internship and facilities. To be verified, interns must demonstrate that they are competent to practice dietetics.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The internship provides the opportunity for nutritionists employed within the Texas WIC program to become registered dietitians. The internship is based upon the Standards of Education of the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) of The American Dietetic Association (ADA) and provides the practitioner competencies essential to perform the specialized functions of a Registered Dietitian. The program emphasis is in community nutrition. This builds on the core professional competencies required to prepare dietetic practitioners for the breadth of dietetic practice including health promotion and disease prevention, nutrition therapy, and food service management. Program graduates should be able to work effectively to improve the nutrition of all people within their communities.

The dietetic internship is an eight-month program that begins in January and ends in August. It provides supervised practice experiences reflecting the breadth of dietetics practice. Interns will complete their internship rotations and requirements while remaining employed by DSHS or their respective local WIC agency. Interns will participate full time (40 hours per week) in the internship. The interns will not be able to spend any time performing their regular job duties for their employer during the internship.

Upon successful completion of the internship, the intern will be eligible to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians given by the Commission on Dietetic Registration. Passing the registration examination is the third and final requirement to become a registered dietitian. In addition, interns must agree to work full time for 24 months, or the equivalent part time, within DSHS or their respective Texas WIC local agency after completion of the internship.

The Texas WIC Dietetic Internship is able to sponsor a maximum of ten students per year. In the selection of interns, preference is given to applicant's length of service in WIC programs and the need for registered dietitians in specific geographical areas of the state.

The time from acceptance (September 7) to the start (January) of the internship and supervised experiences is used for pre-preparation. Interns will be expected to successfully complete assigned self-studies on topics in food and nutrition prior to beginning the internship and supervised experiences. Interns will also need to arrange to take time from work to meet with the internship administrators and preceptors.

The Texas WIC Dietetic Internship provides 1000 hours of supervised practice in which students can achieve the core competencies and community emphasis competencies required for entry-level registered dietitians. Supervised practice experiences will be scheduled to include the following:

Food Service Management	160 hours
Nutrition Therapy	440 hours
Community Nutrition (Health Promotion/Disease Prevention)	400 hours

Registered dietitians or other professionals under the direction of the Dietetic Internship Director supervise interns in these experiences. Each preceptor has only one intern at a time. Sites for supervised practice will be individualized for each intern. When possible, supervised practice sites will be utilized in the area of the state where the intern is employed.

This provides the opportunity for interns to develop relationships among area registered dietitians, and other health professionals, local facilities and the local WIC agency as well as to develop entry-level registered dietitian competencies. Selection of sites for supervised practice will be based on availability, suitability and willingness of practice sites and preceptors. Prospective interns are required to contact registered dietitians in their area to help identify those who would be willing to serve as preceptors.

Supervised practice sites include:

- School Districts
- Acute Care Facilities (Hospitals)
- Pediatric Acute Care Facilities
- Renal Dialysis Centers
- DSHS Public Health Regional Offices
- WIC Local Agencies
- Headstart Programs
- County Extension Services
- Senior Nutrition Program or Adult Day Care Centers
- Private Practice Dietitians
- Food Banks or Food Pantries
- Early Childhood Intervention Programs

The supervised practice component of the internship is augmented with seminars and self paced instructional learning activities. Completion of readings, study guide and reports is to be done at times not designated for work or supervised experiences.

REGISTERED DIETITIAN CREDENTIALING PROCESS

There are three steps to becoming a registered dietitian. The first step is the successful completion of an ADA approved Didactic Program in Dietetics after which a verification statement is issued. The second step is the successful completion of an ADA accredited supervised practice program after which a verification statement is issued. The Texas WIC Dietetic Internship is an accredited supervised practice program. The third step is the successful completion of the Registration Examination for Dietitians.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The admission requirements for the internship are:

1. current employment by the Texas WIC Program in a Department of State Health (DSHS) Region, the WIC Program in Central Office, or a local WIC contract agency
2. supervisor's confirmation of applicant's job performance as satisfactory or better
3. a minimum of a baccalaureate degree
4. completion of an American Dietetic Association approved Didactic Program in Dietetics
5. ability to provide own transportation
6. a laptop computer, portable printer, e-mail address and internet service
7. signed approval for applicant to participate in the dietetic internship by: (1) WIC local agency director or DSHS Unit Manager and (2) WIC local agency CEO, DSHS Regional Director, or DSHS Section Director.

Applications for admission must be postmarked by July 13, 2007.

Application packets and information are available from the DSHS Web site at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/wichd/nut/intern-intro.shtm> or the Dietetic Internship Director. The following are required to be in the application packet:

1. A letter of application to the Dietetic Internship Director stating continuing education obtained since completion of a baccalaureate degree, professional and career goals, reasons for choosing public health, and perceived personal strengths and weaknesses.
2. A completed Texas WIC Dietetic Internship Supervised Practice Program Application.
3. A verification statement showing completion of a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). If requirements have not been completed by July 13, 2007, send a Declaration of Intent to Complete Degree and/or CADE-Approved Minimum Academic Requirements form signed by DPD director and then send verification statement when requirements have been met.
4. Official transcripts of all college and/or university course work with final degree posted.
5. Standard ADA recommendation forms from three references (one from current supervisor).
6. A Supervisor's Information Form signed by WIC local agency director or DSHS Unit Manager.
7. An agreement to participate in Texas WIC Dietetic Internship signed by (1) WIC local agency director or DSHS Unit Manager and (2) WIC local agency CEO, DSHS Regional Director, or DSHS Section Director.
8. An agreement that intern will provide their own transportation, laptop computer, portable printer and inter-net access including an e-mail address.
9. A form acknowledging work obligation after completion of Texas WIC Dietetic Internship.
10. A completed Potential Facilities and Preceptors Form.

Applications must be postmarked by July 13, 2007, and sent to the Texas WIC Dietetic Internship Director at the following address:

Sherry Clark, M.P.H., R.D., L.D.
Director, Texas WIC Dietetic Internship
Texas Department of State Health Services
Nutrition Services Section
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756

Phone: 512-458-7111 extension 2142 or Fax: 512-458-7446 or E-mail: sherry.clark@dshs.state.tx.us

All applicants will be notified by September 7, 2007, as to whether or not they have been selected to participate in the internship.

COMPUTER MATCHING

Applicants to the Texas WIC Dietetic Internship are exempt from participating in the American Dietetic Association's computer matching requirement. This internship only accepts individuals currently employed by DSHS and Texas local WIC agencies who are not expected to apply to other internships.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Dietetic interns do not receive stipends in addition to their salaries provided by their employer. Interns must provide their own transportation. Housing costs are the responsibility of the intern at seminars in Austin and distant supervised practice experiences.

COSTS TO THE INTERN

The intern will be responsible for any costs that are not routinely associated with his/her work. The employer WIC agency may choose to help with some of these expenses, but this is not an expectation. The following costs to the intern are estimates and subject to change.

1. Books	\$ 1,000
2. Medical Insurance (provided by employer or provided by intern)	\$ 0 - 1,500
3. Liability Insurance	100
4. American Dietetic Association Membership	43
5. Texas Dietetic Association Annual Meeting (registration, travel, housing) and other Professional meeting	600
6. Laboratory Coats or Uniforms (if required by site)	150
7. Medical Exam and vaccinations (if required by site)	200
8. Food Service Sanitation Certification (if required by site)	
9. Criminal background check (if required by site)	52
10. Drug testing (if required by site)	45
11. Laptop computer, portable printer, and internet access	1500
12. Copying cost for research articles / transparencies	100
13. Transportation to seminars	\$500 - 1500
14. Own transportation	500
15. Additional food costs	500
16. Housing Costs (6 – 20 weeks) - Average \$400 per week *	\$ 2,400 – 8,000
17. Inman's Review Course for the ADA Registration Examination	300

* estimate of costs for average single person living alone

TOTAL \$ 7,995 - \$16,445

The above expenses reflect the costs incurred directly by participation in the program. The estimate for housing, car and other expenses are costs that will be incurred while living away from the present job site. This will occur during seminars and may occur during foodservice management, nutrition therapy and community nutrition supervised experiences. Other automobile expenses and cost of living expenses (rent, utilities, food, clothing, etc.) already being incurred by an intern while being employed at the present job site are not included. During some of the supervised experiences, interns will continue their present transportation and living arrangements.

INTERN/ EMPLOYEE OBLIGATION

Prior to beginning the internship, the intern/employee must sign a letter of agreement with his/her employer, e.g., WIC local agency or DSHS. This affirms his/her understanding that, upon successfully completing the internship, he/she will continue to work with his/her respective Texas WIC local agency, DSHS Region, or DSHS Section. It is recommended that the intern remain employed by their respective agency for a minimum of 24 full months, or the equivalent part time, after passing the dietetic registration examination. If the intern/employee terminates his/her employment with his/her agency prior to completing the obligated time, or fails to take the dietetic registration examination within one (1) year of program completion, it is expected that the intern will reimburse their employer/agency at the rate of \$25 per hour of completed supervised practice experiences (maximum of 1000 hours/\$25,000).

Interns who choose to leave the internship after the probation period (the first 160 hours of supervised experience) will be required to make monetary restitution to their employer/agency. Interns who are dismissed from the internship may be asked to make monetary restitution to their employer/WIC local agency. The recommended reimbursement rate is \$25 for each hour of supervised experiences completed. No expenses involved with the internship will be returned to an intern who leaves the internship.

**TEXAS WIC DIETETIC INTERNSHIP
CALENDAR FOR 2008
Including Supervised Experiences**

January 7 - January 11	* Seminar: Introductory and Food Service Management
January 14 - February 8	Food Service Management Supervised Experiences (160 hours)
February 11 – February 22	* Seminar: Nutrition Therapy
February 25 – March 21	Basic Acute Care Nutrition Therapy Supervised Experiences (160 hours)
March 24 – April 25	Adv. Acute Care Nutrition Therapy Supervised Experiences (160 hours)
	* TDA Food and Nutrition Conference & Exhibition
April 28 – May 2	* Seminar: Pediatrics and Legislative
May 5 – May 23	Nutrition Therapy Supervised Experiences – Pediatrics (120 hours)
May 26 – May 30	<i>Community Nutrition Intervention Project Self Study</i>
June 2 – June 6	* Seminar: Community Nutrition
June 9– August 15	Schedule to be determined by each Intern and Preceptor:
	Regional Nutritionist (40 hours)
	Community Nutrition Supervised Experiences (200 hours)
	Community Nutrition Intervention Project (160 hours)
August 18 - August 22	<i>Community Nutrition Intervention Project Report Preparation & Presentation</i>
August 26 – August 28	* Community Nutrition Intervention Project Presentations and Graduation
August 28	*Graduation: 2:00 p.m.
October	*Inman’s Review Course for the ADA Registration Examination

* Will take place at Department of State Health Services in Austin, Texas

All interns follow the same basic schedule, but at separate facilities with separate preceptors. The Community Nutrition Intervention Project (CNIP) consists of Supervised Experiences, which are designed to develop Community Emphasis competencies.

Total Hours of Supervised Experiences: 1000 hours (160 FSM, 440 NT, 240 CN, 160 CNIP)