

Dietetic Internship Admissions/Enrollment

2026-2027 Academic Year

Technical Standards

There are certain physical requirements that must be met by dietetic interns to participate in and complete the program. Dietetic interns must have the ability to perform work in a stationary position and move throughout the hospital system for extended periods. In addition, all dietetic interns must possess integrity, intelligence, and personal and emotional characteristics to become an effective healthcare professional.

To be successful in the Dietetic Internship Program, applicants and current students must meet the following technical standards with or without reasonable accommodation.

- Perform tasks that may involve moving items up to 10 pounds, primarily during foodservice rotations.
- Conduct Nutrition-Focused Physical Exams (NFPE), which may require maintaining a stationary position and assisting with patient repositioning to assess muscle and fat loss.
- Communicate clearly, compassionately, and effectively in English—both verbally and in writing—with patients, families, and members of the healthcare team.
- Accurately exchange information and document patient data to support high-quality, empathetic care.
- Analyze and interpret clinical and nutritional data to support appropriate nutrition interventions.
- Apply critical thinking, problem-solving, and sound clinical judgment in patient care settings.
- Demonstrate emotional maturity, adaptability, and the ability to establish professional relationships across various learning and healthcare environments.
- Adhere to ethical and safety standards while maintaining respect and compassion for all individuals.
- Accurately perceive and interpret visual and observational information from various formats (e.g., paper, electronic media, clinical settings).

- Accept and respond appropriately to constructive feedback, demonstrating a commitment to professional growth and continuous improvement.

Requirements

To be considered for acceptance into the Dietetic Internship Program, applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Complete a graduate degree prior to the start of the internship or be enrolled in a graduate program with a planned graduation date no later than the summer term in which the internship is completed (e.g., applicants participating in the Spring 2026 match must complete the graduate degree by Summer 2027).
2. Complete all required coursework accredited or approved by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.
3. Submit a Verification Statement or Declaration of Intent.
4. Meet selection criteria based on a comprehensive evaluation of the following areas:
 - o Knowledge: Overall and professional coursework, including a recommended minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (overall, science, and DPD coursework), as well as academic honors, scholarships, and awards.
 - o Work experience: Paid or volunteer experience, with particular consideration given to nutrition-relevant roles and experiences demonstrating increasing responsibility or quality.
 - o Leadership and self-motivation: Evidence of leadership roles in academic, professional, or extracurricular settings; ability to set goals, take initiative, exercise sound judgment, and work independently; and clear articulation of past and future professional goals.
 - o Management of multiple responsibilities: Ability to balance academic coursework with work, family, or extracurricular commitments, as demonstrated by organizational skills, dependability, adaptability, and stress management.
 - o Communication skills: Experience communicating effectively with individuals and groups, including demonstration of empathy, professionalism, and self-confidence.

*Effective January 1, 2024, the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) requires a minimum of a master's degree to be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian - nutritionist (RDN).

- For more information about this requirement, [visit CDR's website](#)

Graduates who successfully complete the ACEND-accredited Dietetic Internship program at Cleveland Clinic and also obtain a master's degree, are eligible to apply to take the CDR credentialing exam to become an RDN.

We support applicants choosing from various pathways to achieve the required nutrition and graduate coursework. While it is not required, Cleveland Clinic dietetic interns may choose to enroll in the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Master of Nutrition program. The CWRU Master of Nutrition program is conveniently located close to hospital rotations and can be completed while interning full time.

For more information on the Master's in Nutrition program, contact Stephanie Harris, PhD, RDN, LD at stephanie.harris@case.edu.

While state interpretations of statutes may vary, it is ACEND's considered opinion that the program meets the educational requirements for dietetics licensure and certification in all states. However, completing an ACEND-accredited academic program alone does not qualify an individual for licensure or certification as a dietitian in any state.

Individuals should review their state's licensing statutes and regulations to understand the specific requirement, including supervised practice and examinations, needed to obtain a dietetics license. More information about state licensure and certification can be found at this link: [State Licensure](#).

- [Find more information about educational pathways to become an RDN](#)

When an applicant repeats a prerequisite course, the program will consider the highest grade earned for admission and GPA calculations. For example, if a student initially earns an "F" and later earns a "C" in the same course, the program will use the "C" as the official grade for admissions/evaluation purposes.

Admission Documents and Requirements

Applicants must complete and submit all required application materials through the Dietetic Internship Centralized Application Services (DICAS). Please note the documents marked with the asterisk (*) are not considered during the evaluation of the applications and will not affect an applicant's eligibility or admission decision. They are required, however, for administrative purposes.

To be considered for admission, applicants must:

1. Submit their application in DICAS
 - o Submit a current resume or curriculum vitae (CV)
 - o Provide three or four letters of recommendation
 - o Submit official transcripts. All foreign transcripts must be evaluated by a Foreign Degree Agency on a course-by-course basis. If applicable, include a copy of your evaluation with your application. See the [ACEND](#) website for a list of approved Foreign Degree Evaluation agencies.
 - o Provide a Verification Statement or Declaration of Intent
2. If the applicant's native language is not English, official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the Duolingo English Test (DET) are required. Applicants must have a total minimum score of 75 with written and speaking sections no less than 17 for the TOEFL. A minimum score of 105 is required for the DET. Exam date must be within two years of the program's start date. If applicable, complete the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or Duolingo English Test (DET) and send a copy of your results to Dlprogram@ccf.org and this will be uploaded to your Campus Cafe portal after your acceptance.
 - o The English Proficiency exam cannot be waived based on prior learning or work experience. This policy ensures that all students meet the same standardized language requirements, which supports academic success and helps maintain fairness and consistency in the admissions process.

Candidates who receive an interview will be evaluated on effectiveness of communication, leadership skills and qualities, and motivation.

Enrollment Documents and Requirements

If an applicant is accepted into the program the following items are required in order to enroll in the program. These items must be uploaded in the Cleveland Clinic School of Health Professions' student information system, Campus Cafe. Please review the [health requirements](#) before submitting your documentation.

1. Create an account in the School of Health Professions secure [payment portal](#) and upload a copy of your registration confirmation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.
2. Complete the [Applicant Demographic Survey](#) and upload a copy of your survey completion confirmation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.

3. Complete and sign an Enrollment Agreement in Campus Café via DocuSign.
4. Complete the [Student IPEDS Survey](#) and upload a copy of your survey completion confirmation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.
5. Upload your negative tuberculosis (TB) test documentation to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe. The TB test must be completed within 12 months prior to the start of the program.
6. Upload your immunization documentation for chicken pox (varicella) or positive titer to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.
7. Upload your immunization documentation for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) to your applicant portal in Campus Cafe.
8. Upload your positive hepatitis B vaccination/titer or completed waiver to your applicant portal in Campus Café (Hepatitis B vaccination/titer waiver found on the Admissions webpage).
9. Upload your tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) booster documentation to your applicant portal in Campus Café. The booster is required within the past 10 years.
10. Influenza immunization documentation is required during flu season (November 1 through March 31). The applicant is required to upload documentation to the applicant portal in Campus Cafe if completing their application during flu season or will be required to obtain and submit documentation when the vaccination becomes available.
11. Complete the required onboarding tasks in SilkRoad. Onboarding will include a background check. Additional information will be provided following completion of the above items.