

An aerial photograph of the UC Davis Medical Center campus, showing several large, modern medical buildings and a central green area. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text is centered and reads:

# UC Davis Medical Center Dietetic Internship

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**Virtual Open House 2024**

**Class of 2025-2026**

# Agenda

- **About Us**
- **Application process**
- **Rotations:**
  - **Management Rotation**
  - **Clinical Nutrition Core**
  - **Adult Critical Care Rotations**
  - **Pediatric Acute Care Rotation**
  - **Ambulatory Rotations**
  - **Community Rotations**
- **Speakers**
  - **Barbara Lusk, MFCS, RD, LDN, FAND - DI Director / CNM**
  - **Olivia Moss, MS, RD, CCTD – DI Coordinator / Clinical Dietitian**
  - **Erica Trimble, MS, RD – Interim DI Coordinator / Clinical Dietitian**

# About Us

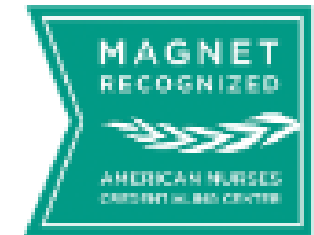
- DI Program Accredited by ACEND
- Founded in 2002
- Graduated 22 classes to date
- 42 weeks, full-time 40+ hours per week, with 1200 supervised practice hours required
- DI class size: 6 interns
- 1:1 Preceptor to Intern Ratio (clinicals)
- Focus/Concentration:

*Clinical Nutrition within an Academic Health System*



# Program Strengths

- **Nationally renowned, multispecialty academic medical center**
  - 656-bed hospital with > 34,000 admissions annually
  - Nearly 1 million outpatient visits annually
- **Complex medical and nutritional diagnoses**
  - Critical Care: 9 ICUs
  - Level 1 Trauma Center, Regional Burn Center, Transplant Center, Comprehensive Cancer Center
  - Pediatrics: Children’s Hospital
  - > 30 primary and specialty outpatient clinics
- **Innovative learning environment**
  - Sacramento’s Farm-to-Fork medical center
  - Expert preceptors > 50 RD/RDNs
  - Intern member of multi-disciplinary healthcare team
  - 2-4 weeks of Supervised Staff Relief (*hone your skills*)
  - Didactic Class Mondays (*integrated learning*)
- **Extensive “learning by doing”**
  - Minimum 1200 supervised practice hours.
  - “See one, Do one, Teach one” methodology.



# General Schedule

<b>Rotation</b>	<b>Weeks</b>
Orientation	1
Food Service / Management	4
Clinical Nutrition Class Week(s)	2
Clinical Nutrition Core: Adult Inpatient	12
Advanced Clinical: Adult Critical Care	4
Advanced Clinical: Pediatric Acute Care Basics <i>with potential for additional Elective Advanced Pediatrics Rotation (weeks TBD)</i>	2
Ambulatory and Community Nutrition	4-8
Staff Relief / Elective	4-8
Weekend/Holiday* Rotation	~8-12 days
Clinical Nutrition Quality Improvement Project	~20 hours

Schedule includes a two week break during winter holidays and 1 week spring break for total of 42 week program.


# Application Information

UCDMC DI Program requires a graduate degree before the start of the internship  
(not a combined program)

- **DICAS:** <https://dicas.liasoncas.com/>
  - UCDMC DI Program opens in DICAS by October 31<sup>st</sup> for online applications for Spring Acceptance.
  - The following documents to be submitted in DICAS by **January 6, 11:59 pm [CST] deadline:**
    - ✓ Personal Statement
    - ✓ UCDMC DI Addendum Essay Questions (2)
    - ✓ 3 Letters of Recommendation
    - ✓ DPD Verification Statement/Declaration of Intent
    - ✓ DPD Required Class List
    - ✓ CV/Resume
    - ✓ Original Transcripts are to be sent to DICAS
- The UCDMC Application Payment must be received no later than **January 6, 2025.**
  - Refer to our website below for instructions on how to send the application payment.

UCDMC DI Supplemental Application Checklist (a helpful tool) 

For full details, refer to instructions on our webpage:  
<https://health.ucdavis.edu/dieteticinternship/application/selection-criteria.html>



UC DAVIS MEDICAL CENTER DIETETIC INTERNSHIP  
APPLICATION CHECKLIST

DICAS Online Centralized Application	Complete
1. Complete the Standard Program Application.	
2. Submit a Personal Statement addressing questions and upload to DICAS by deadline.	
3. Answer and upload the new UC Davis Medical Center DI Program Addendum Questions and upload them to DICAS in the "Dietetic Internship Program Designation" section by deadline. Type your name on the upper right-hand corner of each page. Write each answer to 300 words, single spaced. Find questions at: <a href="https://health.ucdavis.edu/dieteticinternship/">https://health.ucdavis.edu/dieteticinternship/</a>	
4. Send Official Transcripts to DICAS at: DICAS Transcripts Dept., PO Box 9118, Watertown, MA 02471	
5. Upload a DPD Verification Statement or Declaration of Intent.	
6. Upload your CV/Resume into DICAS by the deadline.	
7. Upload an official DPD course list from your DPD program advisor by the DICAS Deadline. This is an official list (or copy of an official list) of courses required to meet Dietetic Program in Dietetics requirements at your college/university.	
8. Enter in your completed coursework into DICAS and ensure your completed coursework selected categories align with the categories listed by your DPD Program (i.e., DPD Science vs DPD Professional). Note: If you have transfer coursework or coursework from outside the United States, be sure to enter the relevant classes into DICAS and categorize accordingly (i.e., DPD Science vs DPD Professional).	
9. Enter the names and contact information of each of your references for 3 Letters of Recommendation. UC Davis Medical Center Dietetic Internship requires at least one letter from a work or volunteer supervisor and at least one letter from an academic reference (professor, academic advisor). The third letter can be either a supervisor or academic reference.	
10. Pay DICAS Fees	
Application Payment for UC Davis Medical Center Dietetic Internship Program (Must be postmarked January 6, 2025 to be considered)	
1. Complete the UC Davis Medical Center DI Program Supplemental Application document	
2. Enclose \$50.00 Application Fee - payable to "UC Regents"	
3. OPTIONAL: Enclose a Self-Addressed Stamped Postcard (SASP) - Please write "Application Received" on back of the postcard. Upon processing your Supplemental Application, the UCDMC DI program will sign and return any SASP included in your application packet. This is the preferred and most accurate method to ensure your Supplemental Application is received. USPS return-receipt is not necessary and has the potential to be an inaccurate assurance.	
4. Place all Supplemental Application packet items inside an envelope.	
5. Mail Application Payment (postmarked by January 6, 2025) to:	
UC Davis Medical Center Dietetic Internship Program Supplemental Application Food and Nutrition Services Dept. 2315 Stockton Blvd., LCP 09140 Sacramento, CA 95817	

# Financial Information - Expenses (Highlights)

- **DICAS Fees:** \$50 for the first application and \$25 for each additional application
- **UCDMC DI Program:**
  - Application Fee: \$50 (non-refundable)
  - Administration Fees: \$5000
- Required to have reliable transportation to get to off-site rotations/events
- Medical center does not provide personal health insurance for medical, dental, or vision
- Student membership in Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) and the Northern Area District required
- Textbooks/references
- For information on additional expenses:  
<https://health.ucdavis.edu/dieteticinternship/financial.html>

*Note: Expenses and costs are estimates and are subject to change. Individual costs may vary.*



# Financial Information - Benefits

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- **Benefits:**
  - Professional liability insurance provided by the medical center
  - Daily meal stipend to UCDH Food & Nutrition Services Cafés
  - Nutrition Focused Physical Exam & Diagnosing Malnutrition Workshop Class included in DI program (*a \$500+ value*)



# Please review website for further details about

- **Financial Information**
- **Application Information – Selection Criteria** are considered and listed in order of importance:
  - 1) Academics
  - 2) Essay Questions
  - 3) Letters of Recommendation
  - 4) Work and Volunteer Experience
  - 5) Extracurricular Activities
  - 6) Interviews – scheduled with top candidates
- **Program Requirements**
  - ✓ Admissions Requirements
  - ✓ Graduate Requirements

If you have questions after viewing the website, please contact us.

<https://health.ucdavis.edu/dieteticinternship/>



# 1. Academics

- Minimum DPD GPA 3.0
- Demonstrate good performance in upper division nutrition and science courses:
  - Advanced nutrition, medical nutrition therapy, nutrition and the lifecycle
  - Biochemistry, anatomy and physiology
- Recency: Completion of DPD academic coursework or graduate degree in nutrition within 3 years of start date

## 2. Essay Questions

- **DICAS Personal Statement**
  - Address all components of the questions
  - Include specific examples
  - 1000 words or less
- **UCDMC Addendum Questions**
  - Upload to DICAS
  - 2 questions, 300 words or less
- **Highlight your skills and suitability for the program**
  - Handling situation with minimal direction
  - Working with diverse groups
  - Opportunity to market yourself!

# 3. Letters of Recommendation

Three letters of recommendation (via DICAS)

## UCDMC Requirement

One letter from academic reference: professor or academic advisor

One letter from work or volunteer supervisor

Third letter can be either supervisor OR academic reference

## 4. Work and Volunteer Experience

- Nutrition or foodservice-related experience is a plus
  - Exposure to a hospital setting is beneficial
- For non-nutrition related experiences, think about transferable skills
- Paid or unpaid internships, or practicum class-based experiences
- Involvement in student nutrition associations/clubs
- Responsibility, time management, problem solving, ability to work with others, leadership

# 5. Extracurricular Activities

## Demonstrate your individual strengths

- Leadership
- Teamwork, collaboration with others
- Time management skills
- Problem solving skills

## 6. Interviews

- Video-based interview with top candidates
  - WebEx or Zoom
  - 25 minutes
- Scheduled in late February
- Professional, effective communication, ability to verbalize critical thinking and problem-solving skills

# Decision Dates – ACEND Deadlines

Deadline for applicants to be notified by Program of acceptance (Offer extended):

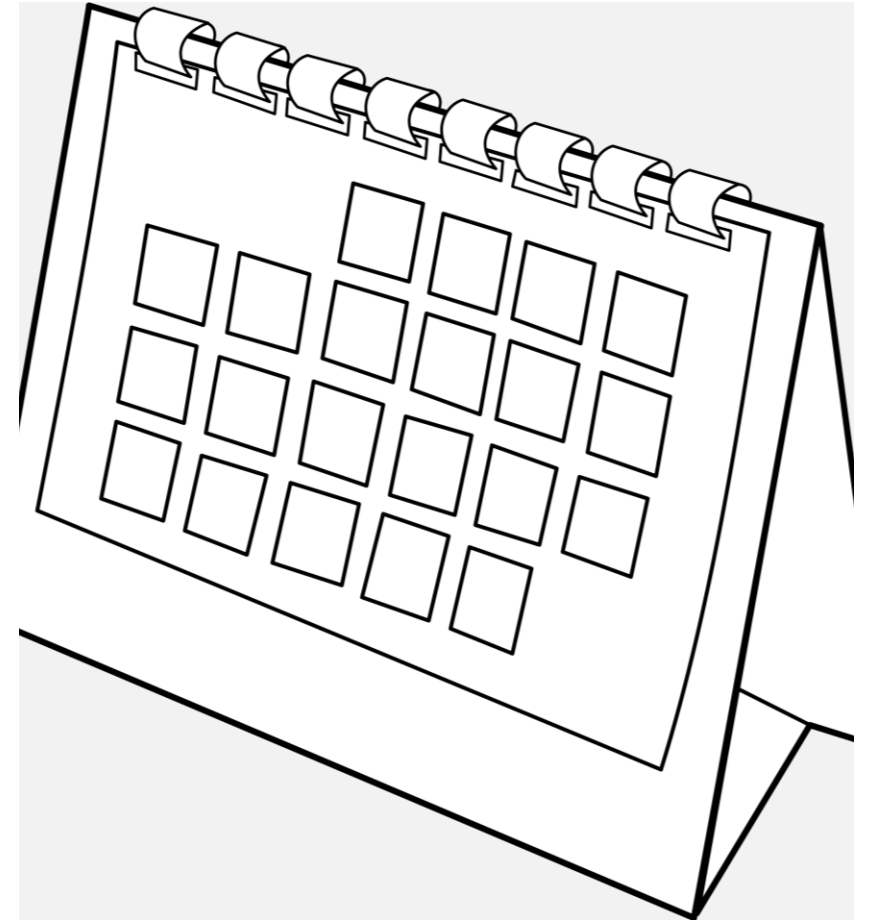
**On or before March 1, 2025**

(via email)

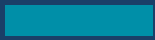
Deadline for Applicants to Decide on offer:

**By or before March 15<sup>th</sup> 11:59 PM PST**

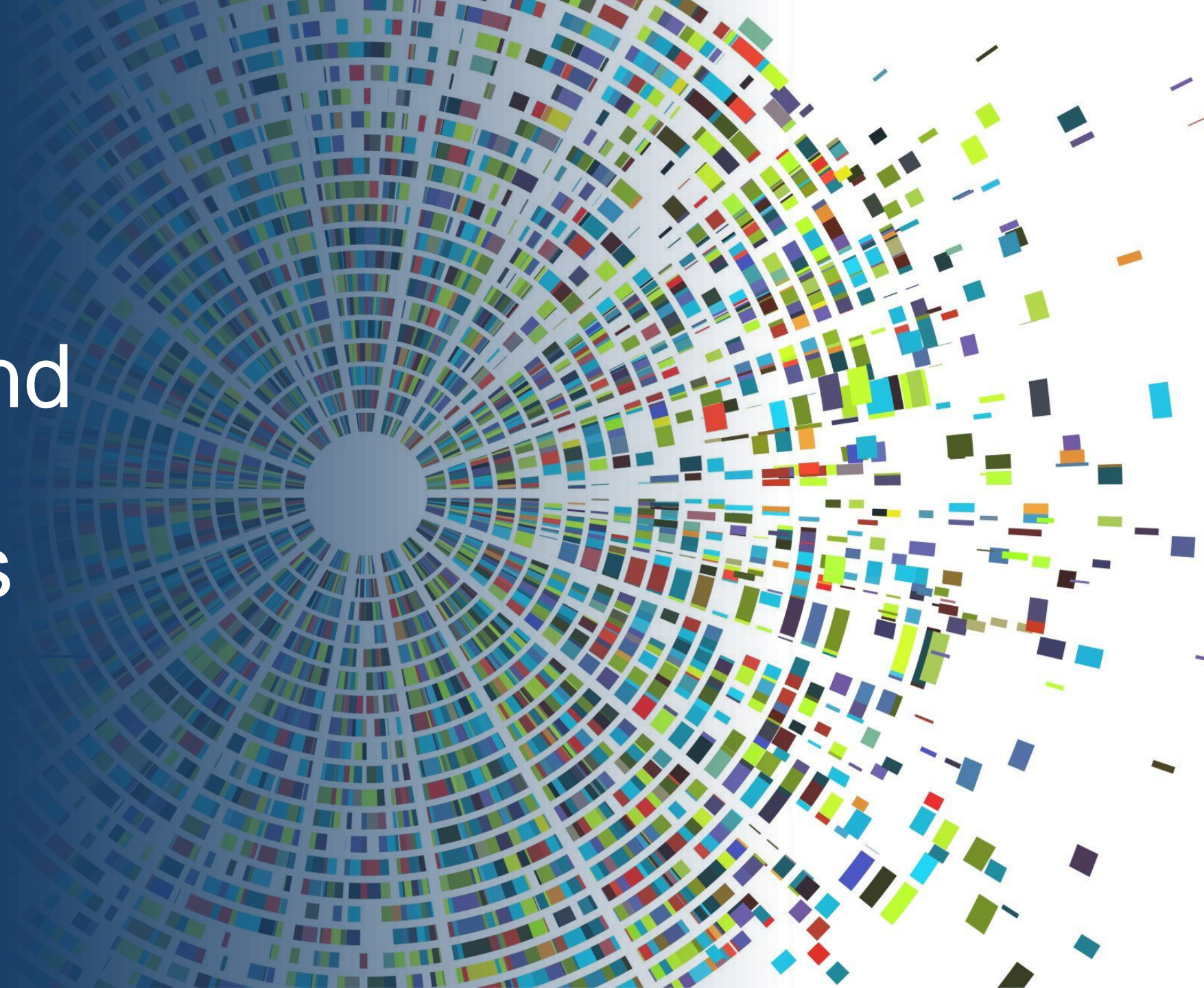
(via email)







# Rotations and Learning Experiences



# Management

- 4 weeks
- Self-operated Food and Nutrition Services Dept
- Serves > 3 million meals to patients, staff, and visitors annually
- Whole food and plant-based ingredients
- Locally sourced menu options
- National sustainability awards
- Management in:
  - Institutional food service
  - Retail food service
  - Clinical nutrition



Learning Activities
Daily Operations
Human Resources
Quality Assurance
Continuous Quality Improvement
Employee training
Patient Meal Project Developing new patient meals Recipe testing and acceptability survey Analysis of costs and resources Staff education Marketing communications





# Clinical Nutrition Core

- 12 weeks
- Inpatient: Adults to Geriatrics
- Apply the Nutrition Care Process
  - Nutrition Focused Physical Exam
  - Malnutrition Diagnosing
- Document in Electronic Medical Record (EMR)
- Multidisciplinary care
- Additional opportunities
  - Observe feeding tube placement
  - Observe swallow evaluation
  - Observe surgery





# Advanced Clinical Nutrition

Adult Critical Care	Pediatric Acute Care - Basics
4 weeks	2 weeks
<b>Intensive Care Units:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cardiothoracic</li> <li>• Neurosurgery</li> <li>• Medical</li> <li>• Surgical</li> <li>• Trauma</li> <li>• Burn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infants to teenagers</li> <li>• Advanced Pediatrics elective option</li> <li>• Neonatal ICU elective option</li> </ul>
Multiple, complex medical conditions	Patient and family education
Complex enteral and parenteral regimens	Multidisciplinary team rounding

Clinics
Bariatrics
Cancer Center
Cystic Fibrosis
Family Medicine
Health Management and Education
Gastroenterology
Internal Medicine
Nephrology
Obstetrics
Primary Care Networks (Regional)
Transplant Program

# Ambulatory Nutrition

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- 4 weeks planned, up to 7 with elective.
- Adults and pediatrics
- Nutrition counseling and education
- Tailoring nutrition therapy for:
  - Learning needs
  - Health literacy
  - Readiness to change
  - Diverse regional community

# Community Nutrition

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- 2-5 weeks
  - 2 weeks at WIC (Women, Infant, Children)
  - 3-week elective option at DaVita Dialysis
- Nutrition education – individual and group
- Develop education materials and lesson plans





# Other Learning Activities

- Staff Relief: Minimum of 2 Weeks (Up to 6 weeks)
  - Gain independence
  - Reinforce entry-level practice
- Electives: 3 to 6 weeks (dependent on preceptor availability)
- Didactic Classes
  - 10% of internship program hours
- Clinical case study
  - Written and oral presentation on a patient focusing on the nutrition related care and literature related to their care.
- Journal club
  - Intern critical evaluation of nutrition-related research and how applies to clinical practice with facilitated discussion led by the intern
- Clinical Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Project (~20 supervised practice hours)

# 2025-2026 Internship Class

- Class Size: 6 interns
- Program Start and Length: **September 15, 2025 to July 3, 2026** (42 weeks)
- Arrival to Sacramento 3 weeks before start date: **August 25, 2025**
  
- Full-time, 40+ hours per week\*
- Daily schedule varies by preceptor/rotation\*
- Additional time required outside of workday\*
  
- Interns cover ~7-12 weekend/holiday shifts
- 2-week Winter Break and 1-week Spring Break
- +Some UC holidays

*\*For these reasons it is strongly encouraged that you avoid outside employment or enrolling in a graduate degree program while participating in internship*



# Important Dates to Remember



<b>Application Deadline in DICAS:</b>	<b>January 6, 2025, 11:59 p.m. CT.</b>
<b>Program Application Fee Deadline:</b> (Payment received by)	<b>January 6, 2025</b> <i>Refer to our website for payment options.</i>
<b>Deadline for applicants to be notified by Program of acceptance (Offer extended):</b>	<b>On or before March 1, 2025</b> (via email)
<b>Deadline for Applicants to <u>Decide</u> on offer:</b>	<b>By or before March 15<sup>th</sup> 11:59 PM PST</b> (via email)

For full details, refer to instructions on our webpage: <https://health.ucdavis.edu/dieteticinternship/application/selection-criteria.html>



Q&A

# Contact Us

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- **Barbara Lusk, MFCS, RD, LDN, FAND**  
Dietetic Internship Director  
[blusk@ucdavis.edu](mailto:blusk@ucdavis.edu)
- **Olivia Moss, MS, RDN, CCTD**  
Dietetic Internship Coordinator  
[oamoss@ucdavis.edu](mailto:oamoss@ucdavis.edu)

