

UC Davis Health Dietetic Internship

Class of 2026-2027 Program Information



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**

About Us

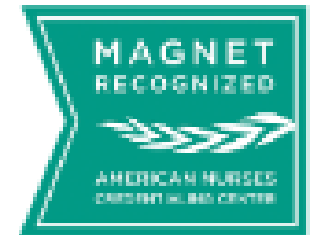
- DI Program Accredited by ACEND
- Founded in 2002
- Graduated 23 classes to date
- 42 weeks, full-time 40+ hours per week
- 1200 supervised practice hours required
- DI class size: 6 interns
- 1:1 Preceptor to Intern Ratio (clinicals)
- Focus/Concentration:

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 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

Rotation	Weeks
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	2
Ambulatory and Community Nutrition	6
Staff Relief / Elective	8
Weekend/Holiday* Rotation	~4-8 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 Pathway

1. **Fall application timeline** open to **Internal UC Davis graduate students**
 - Currently enrolled in a UC Davis graduate program at time of application submission
 - Will matriculate with degree prior to DI start date
2. **Spring application timeline**
 - Will occur if there are any unfilled positions after the fall timeline
 - Open to ALL prospective candidates



Application Information

- UC Davis Health Dietetic Internship Program utilizes the on-line centralized internship application, Dietetic Inclusive Centralized Application Service (DICAS) (<https://dicas.liaisoncas.com/>)
- The following documents to be submitted in DICAS prior to the submission deadline:
 - ✓ Personal Statement
 - ✓ UCDH 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 prior to the deadline
- Refer to our application checklist on the website to ensure all items are submitted prior to the deadlines

Application timeline

- Key dates will be uploaded to our website **Fall selection timeline** once available, approximate dates are:
 - DICAS portal opens August 5th
 - Applications due October 1st
 - Notification November 1st and Decision Day November 15th
- **Spring selection timeline**
 - DICAS portal opens November 5th
 - Applications due January 12th
 - Notification March 1st and Decision Day March 15th
- **For full details, refer to instructions on our webpage:**
<https://health.ucdavis.edu/dieteticinternship/application/selection-criteria.html>

KEY DATES	
	Deadlines for Submitting:
DICAS Online Application	Portal opens August 5, 2025
UC Davis Medical Center DI Program Available in DICAS	August 1, 2025
UC Davis Medical Center DI Program Application Due Date in DICAS	October 1, 2025
UC Davis Medical Center DI Program Application Payment Due Date	Received within 48 hours of application submission
UCDMC DI Applicant Notification Day	On or before November 1, 2025
Rolling notifications for open positions	November 1-15 30, 2025
Applicant Acceptance Deadline	November 15, 2025

Financial Information: Expenses

- **DICAS Fees:** \$50 for the first application and \$25 for each additional application
- **UCDH 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/dietetic-internship/program-costs>

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

Financial Information: Benefits



- **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*)

Selection Criteria

- **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



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
- Completion of Master's Degree prior to program start date
- 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
- **UCDH 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)

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

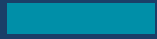
5. Extracurricular Activities

Demonstrate your individual strengths

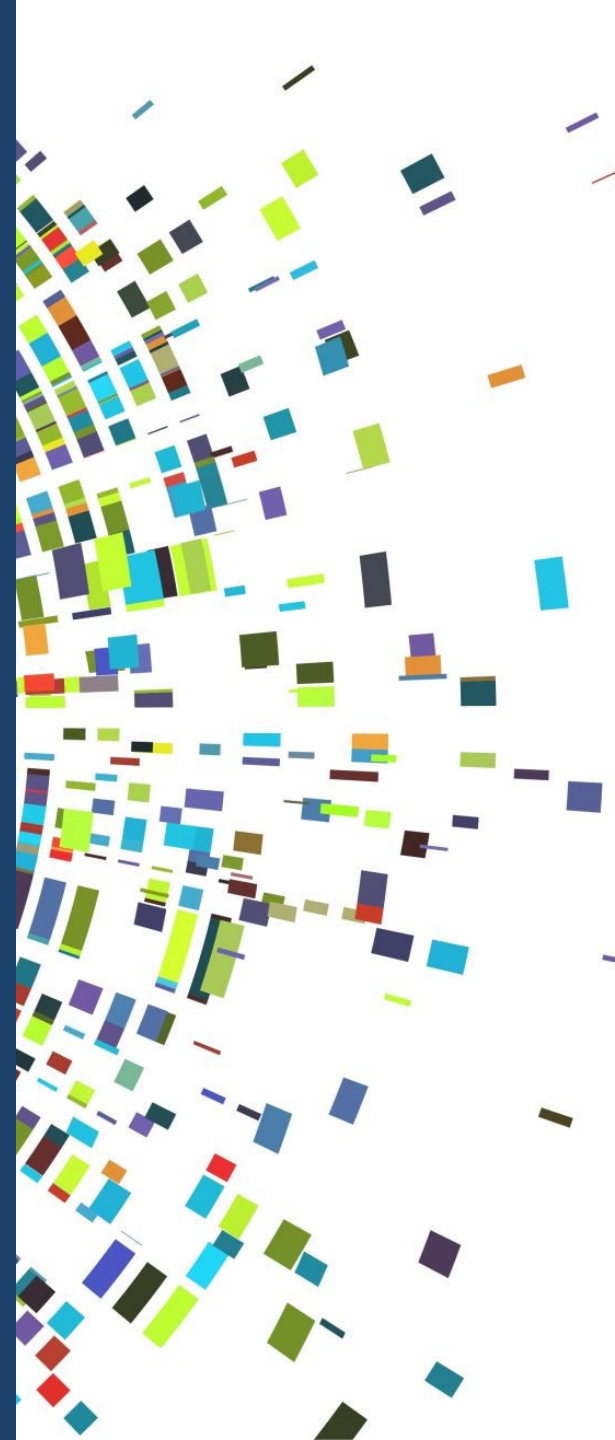
- Leadership
- Teamwork, collaboration with others
- Time management skills
- Problem solving skills

6. Interviews

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



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
Intensive Care Units: • Cardiothoracic • Neurosurgery • Medical • Surgical • Trauma • Burn	• Infants to teenagers • Advanced Pediatrics elective option • Neonatal ICU elective option
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
Transplant Program

Ambulatory Nutrition

- 4 weeks planned, up to 10 if chosen as elective
- Adults and pediatrics
- Nutrition counseling and education
- Tailoring nutrition therapy for:
 - Learning needs
 - Health literacy
 - Readiness to change
 - Diverse regional community

Community Nutrition

- 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
- Gain independence
 - Reinforce entry-level practice
- Electives: 6 weeks
- 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



2026-2027 Internship Class

- Class Size: 6 interns
- Program Start and Length: September 14, 2026 to July 1, 2027 (42 weeks)
- Arrival to Sacramento 3 weeks before start date: August 24, 2026
- 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 while participating in internship*

Important Dates to Remember

- **Fall selection timeline** (Enrolled internal UCD masters/PhD candidates):
 - DICAS portal opens August 5th
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Q&A

Contact Us

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