



## **Dietetic Internship. Supervised Practice Requirements.**

Illinois State University's distance dietetic internship requires students to seek their own rotation sites with approval from the Program Director. Students must find the following types of rotation sites:

### **Community.** 320 hours. Recommend 10 weeks @ 32 hours/week **(1 site required, 2 sites permitted)**

- Appropriate community rotation sites may offer the intern a progression of experiences in individual and group counseling, community presentations, program evaluation, etc. would make acceptable rotation sites.
- Students have the option to complete their community rotation at 2 separate sites for added diversity. If split, each community rotation should be 5 weeks @ 32 hours/week.
- Examples: WIC clinics, Extension offices, private practice, food banks, or outpatient facilities (weight loss, bariatrics, diabetes, etc.) \*not all inclusive\*
- Preceptors do not have to be Registered Dietitians but should have the education and experiences needed to provide the appropriate guidance for the supervised practice.

### **Virtual Experiences.**

Our program prefers that all supervised practice hour be completed in-person however, we see value in the virtual/remote work setting. To allow for additional diversity in supervised practice, our program will allow for a portion of the *community rotation* to be completed in a virtual setting. Still, a majority of the rotation should be completed in an in-person experience.

### **Food Service.** 320 hours. Recommend 10 weeks @ 32 hours/week **(2 sites required)**

- One site should be a healthcare facility that provides therapeutic diets. Appropriate rotations sites include inpatient food service operations, long term care facilities, behavioral health hospitals, etc.
- One site should be a facility that follows federal meal pattern regulations. Appropriate rotation sites include CACFP participants, K-12 School Districts, University/Campus Dining, etc.
- The healthcare and school food service rotation should each be 5 weeks at 32 hours/week.
- Preceptors do not have to be Registered Dietitians but should have the education and experiences needed to provide the appropriate guidance for the supervised practice.

### **Clinical.** 320 hours. Recommend 10 weeks @ 32 hours/week **(1 site required)**

- The majority (75%) of clinical hours should come from a primary hospital-based, acute-care facility.
  - While it is not required, interns may wish to spend a portion (25%) of their experience in a specialty area of clinical dietetics such as a Cancer Center, Critical Care/Trauma Center, or Dialysis Clinic.
- Hospital-based sites need to be accredited by the Joint Commission; or Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP); or Det Norske Veritas Healthcare, Inc. (DNV).
- Hospital-based sites should have an average daily census of 50 or greater to ensure the site can offer the intern a variety of experiences beginning with basic medical nutrition therapy and advancing to more complex, advanced medical nutrition therapy. Facilities that do not meet this requirement will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- If the site/preceptor prefer the student to be on-site for > 320 hours, that is permissible and encouraged so long as it fits into the student's schedule.
- While interns may work with a variety of staff members, they will need to identify one primary preceptor from the clinical site who is a Registered Dietitian.

## Preceptor and Site Criteria.

- Hospital-based sites need to be accredited by the Joint Commission or Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP); or Det Norske Veritas Healthcare, Inc. (DNV).
- Facilities should have a variety of learning opportunities and experience for the intern.
- Facilities should demonstrate the ability to provide experiences that progress from basic to more complex.
- One employee at each practice facility will be identified as the interns “primary preceptor.” This individual will be responsible for communicating with the program director, communicating and working with the intern, scheduling/planning for the rotation, and completing continued preceptor training as identified by the Program Director.
- Preceptors must have the education and experiences needed to provide the appropriate guidance for the supervised practice experiences.
- As appropriate, preceptors must be licensed to meet state/federal regulations and/or credentialed for the area in which they are supervising interns.
- Preceptor must provide evidence of credentials and continued competence (for example, CDR education hours for preceptors who are registered dietitians).
- Preceptors must complete the Illinois State University Preceptor Orientation (online).

## Deadline for Securing Rotation Sites.

Upon matching to Illinois State University’s Distance Dietetic Internship Program, students will receive an *acceptance packet* with the information necessary for finalizing the supervised practice rotations. Documentation may include: Preceptor contact information, preceptor resume, copies of preceptor credentialing certificate and a letter from the preceptor confirming their commitment to providing the supervised practice experience. All paperwork for both semesters must be submitted to the program director by **June 1st**. The Internship program staff will obtain all necessary affiliation agreements and ensure the preceptors complete Preceptor Orientation. If at any point the intern has a rotation site that is unable to complete the necessary paper work or affiliation agreement, it will be the responsibility of the intern to find a new rotation site. In the event that students are having issues finding a rotation site, contact the internship program administrators so they can assist you. If students fail to secure their rotations by the June deadline, they risk delay of graduation or removal from the program.

\*Deadlines are subject to change.

## Affiliation Agreements.

The program staff will work on affiliation agreements with rotation sites on a rolling basis as soon as students submit their plans. Late submissions of plans may delay graduation. If rotation sites are not secure (which includes signed affiliation agreements) by the first day of classes within the semester, students may not begin supervised practice. They may begin once all paperwork for the site is secured. This delay in start date may delay graduation. Once a student gets more than a semester behind they will need to reapply to the program.