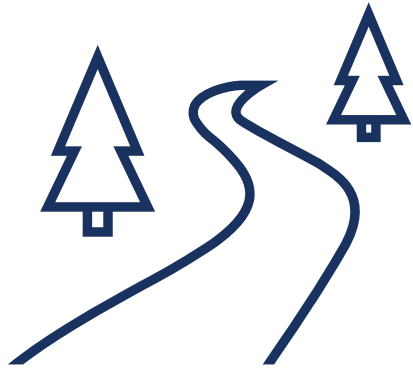




SENIOR SEMINAR: Preparing To Apply To Supervised Practice & Grad School

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UC DAVIS DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION



INSTRUCTOR



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Office Hours:

Before class

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Attend class – CR/NC
- Ask questions
- Final personal reflection

Careers4RDN.com

RDN / DN

Your career resource for all things nutrition & dietetics:

Dietetic Internships

Registered Dietitian Nutritionists

Degreed Nutritionists

Slides and Recordings under the UC Davis tab > Workshops



Fall 2026

Becoming a Registered Dietitian Fall 26 *Senior Seminar*

**SEP
24**

BECOMING A DIETITIAN

Brief overview of the process

**OCT
1**

APPLYING TO PROGRAMS

Application process overview

**OCT
8**

PERSONAL STATE- MENTS & RESUMES

What to include

**OCT
15**

TYPES OF PROGRAMS

& Narrowing your list

**OCT
22**

DICAS APPLICATION PROCESS

DICAS walk-through

**OCT
29**

INTERN PANEL

From a variety of programs

**NOV
5**

FINANCING GRADUATE SCHOOL

Comparing costs of DIs

**NOV
12**

PROGRAM INTERVIEWS

What to expect/how to prepare

**NOV
19**

RDN CAREER PATHS

& specialty credentials

**DEC
3**

MISC. TOPICS

TBA

If you are planning on applying to
Supervised Practice (SP) / Dietetic Internships (DI)
in 2026/27, plan to attend these presentations!

**MEYER
HALL
3:10-4:00**

**Thursdays 3:10-4:00
NUT 198 Sec: 025 CRN: 39562**

Presented by
Joan Frank,
MS, RDN, FAND
Asst. Director,
Didactic Program
in Dietetics



OVERVIEW

WHAT IS A REGISTERED DIETITIAN NUTRITIONIST?

Registered Dietitian Nutritionists are food and nutrition experts who have met the following criteria to earn the RD credential:

- Completed a minimum of a graduate degree at a U.S. regionally accredited university or college and course work accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.
- Completed an ACEND®-accredited supervised practice program at a health-care facility, community agency, or a foodservice corporation or combined with undergraduate or graduate studies. Typically, a practice program will run six to 12 months in length.
- Passed a national examination administered by CDR. For more information regarding the examination, refer to [CDR's website](#).
- Completed continuing professional educational requirements to maintain registration.



2 PATHWAYS TO BECOME A REGISTERED DIETITIAN NUTRITIONIST (RDN):

Pathway 1: Clinical Nutrition

UNDERGRADUATE DPD

and

DIETETIC
INTERNSHIP
+ MASTER'S

or

COORDINATED
GRADUATE
PROGRAM

MASTER'S

and

DIETETIC
INTERNSHIP



OR

Pathway 2: Other Science Major

BACHELOR'S DEGREE & PREREQUISITES

and

COORDINATED
GRADUATE
PROGRAM

REGISTERED DIETITIAN EXAM

REGISTERED DIETITIAN NUTRITIONIST (RDN)

RESOURCES / WEBSITES

- Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics' *Accredited Programs Directory*
 - <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs/accredited-programs-directory>
- UC Davis Department of Nutrition - Dietetic Internship Application Materials:
 - <https://nutrition.ucdavis.edu/academics/dpd/diet-intern-app-mats>
 - *Applicant Guide to Supervised Practice (2024/2025)*
- Careers4RDN:
 - <http://Careers4RDN.com>

ACADEMY OF NUTRITION & DIETETICS' ACCREDITED PROGRAMS DIRECTORY

- <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs/accredited-programs-directory>
- Dietetic internships (with / without master's)
- Coordinated Graduate Programs (CP)
- Applicant Guide to Supervised Practice 2024/2025



SUPERVISED PRACTICE

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM OPTIONS

- Graduate Level
 - M.S., M.A., MPH, MBA
- Stand Alone DI (requires Master's + )
- Distance Internships
- Duration – 6-9 (with prior master's) to 24 months
- Concentration or focus – MNT, Community, Management, etc.
- Full-time vs. Part-time
- This is post-bacc training; most charge a fee/tuition

WHAT DOES A COORDINATED GRADUATE PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC (16 MONTHS)

Supervised Practice

- 10 weeks Acute/Post Acute Care
- 5 weeks Ambulatory Care
- 5 weeks Food Service/Systems Management
- 5 weeks Women's Health, Pediatrics
- 5 weeks Wellness, Innovative Nutrition Practice

Clinical Nutrition MS

- 16 months (Aug 2023 – Dec 2024)
- Supervised Practice + Master's Coursework



WHAT DOES AN MS/DI PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?

CSU SACRAMENTO (21 MONTHS)

Supervised Practice

- Clinical Dietetics
- Food Service Management
- Community Nutrition
- Outpatient Dietetics
- Concentration Areas:
 - Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
 - Advocacy and Public Policy

Master's

- 21 months
- Year 1 = master's courses
- Year 2 = supervised practice



SACRAMENTO STATE

WHAT DOES A DIETETIC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?

UCDMC = 52 WEEKS

Supervised Practice

- 12 weeks Clinical Nutrition Core
- 4 weeks Critical Care Nutrition
- 4 weeks Pediatrics
- 11 weeks Ambulatory Nutrition
- 3 weeks Community Nutrition
- 6 Weeks Management
- 2 weeks Elective Experience
- 2 Weeks Staff relief
- 200 hours Didactics
- 1 week Vacation

GOALS FOR THIS QUARTER:

- Work hard academically
 - pay attention to KRDNs in your upper division nutrition courses!
- Obtain volunteer/internship/work experience
- Join SNA!
- Evaluate your goals
 - What experiences do you want from your DI?
 - What type of job do you want?
- Research internships
- {Take the GRE if needed}
- Work on resume
- Work on personal statement
- Attend Office Hours!



2025/2026 Checklist

2026/27 Supervised Practice & Graduate School Application Checklist

Check off as completed:	Deadlines:
☐ Set up a DICAS online account	
☐ Read through the "Quick Start Guide" located under the question mark at the top of DICAS	
☐ Begin completing your application on DICAS ✓ Make sure to fill out all sections completely; especially the <i>Supporting Information</i> section (do not expect DI Directors to refer to your resume)	
☐ Take GRE (Graduate Record Exam), if needed (refer to individual program websites for requirements)	
☐ Create a resume listing education, experiences, memberships, awards/honors, certifications, etc. Ideally one page; 2-3 pages maximum. Include all college experiences. High school & high school experiences should not be included.	
☐ Begin writing your Personal Statement ✓ Refer to individual program requirements; your PS should be tailored to each program you apply to ✓ Here is a link for basic PS requirements ✓ Make an appointment with Health Professions Advising or Career Center to review strong draft of PS	
☐ Select a minimum of 15 programs you're interested in (you will whittle them down; however, it is recommended to apply to around 5+ programs). Resources: ✓ Academy's Accredited Programs Directory ✓ Applicant Guide to Supervised Practice (pdf and excel)	
☐ Develop an application checklist for each program (make note of early application deadlines & multiple applications!)	
☐ Enter all colleges/universities attended on DICAS under <i>Academic History</i>	
☐ Request transcripts to be sent to DICAS under <i>Academic History > Colleges Attended</i> (request to include most recent Fall grades)	
☐ Upload DPD program's DPD Course List to DICAS under <i>Supporting Information > Documents</i> ; obtain from your DPD program	
☐ Enter coursework from all colleges/universities attended on DICAS under <i>Academic History</i> . Use the <i>DPD Course List</i> above to designate courses as DPD Professional or DPD Science courses.	
☐ Select the programs you will be applying to under the <i>Add Program</i> tab. Each program will list important information here. Once you've selected programs, they will show up in <i>My Application</i> and you will be able to add documents under <i>Program Materials</i> . Here you will find each program's instructions for applying and links to each program's website	
☐ Request letters of recommendation (typically 2 academic & 1 professional) from your letter writers. Most programs require 3 references. Request well before deadlines. UC Davis Letter of Recommendation Request Form A is due at least 30 days before the first deadline.	
☐ Input the names and contact information of your references for Letters of Recommendation within each program's DICAS page under <i>Program Materials</i> . Ask your letter writers first! Submit well before deadlines.	
☐ Input your DPD Director's name and email on DICAS under <i>Supporting Information > DPD Documents</i> . If you've already graduated: request the <i>Verification Statement</i> ; if you have not graduated: request the <i>Declaration of Intent to Complete</i>	
☐ Final drafts of Personal Statements (personalized for each program)	
☐ Final draft of Resume	
☐ Final draft of DICAS Application	
☐ Compare DICAS application to individual program application checklists you created	
☐ Upload any additional items required by individual programs under <i>Program Materials</i>	
☐ Upload final Personal Statements to each program's DICAS page under <i>Program Materials</i>	
☐ Upload final Resume to DICAS under <i>Supporting Information > Documents</i>	
☐ Submit your applications under the <i>Submit Application</i> tab. ✓ Pay DICAS Fees (\$50 for First Application, \$25 for Each Additional Application); click submit! (You may "submit" even though transcripts and letters of recommendation are not yet showing as received) ✓ You can also add additional programs later for \$25 each	
☐ Mail supplemental materials/fees to programs, if required	
☐ Fall cycle deadlines: August - October ✓ Notification of acceptance deadline date: November 1 ✓ Your decision is due by November 10 ✓ Accept early and decline other acceptances to allow waitlisted individuals to move up ✓ Programs that don't fill can reopen their applications November 16 - December 15 for new applicants	
☐ Spring cycle deadlines: December - February ✓ Notification of acceptance deadline date: March 1 ✓ Your decision is due by March 10 ✓ Accept early and decline other acceptances to allow waitlisted individuals to move up ✓ Programs that don't fill can reopen their applications March 16 - July 15 for new applicants	

Types of programs:

Dietetic Internships (DI) – with or without graduate degree
 Coordinated Programs (CP) – supervised practice + graduate degree
 Graduate Programs (FG) (Future Education Model) – supervised practice + graduate degree

IMPORTANT:

[Academy's Application Process Instructions](#)
[Applicant Code of Conduct and Traffic Rules](#)

This checklist is to help you plan for the Supervised Practice application process and does not include all steps in the application process. It is your responsibility to visit DICAS & individual program websites for instructions & deadlines.

QUESTIONS?

