

Dietetic Internship/Master's Degree Program Spring 2019 Matching Period

Texas Woman's University Houston, Texas

Becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)

The route to becoming a RDN is a three-step process:

- First complete an undergraduate or graduate Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). Upon completion of these prerequisite and core DPD courses, students receive a DPD verification statement.
- The second step requires completion of a minimum of 1200 supervised practice hours in an ACEND accredited program.
- After successful completion of the supervised practice portion, students must then take and Pass the national Registration Examination for the RDN credential, which is administered by the Commission on Dietetics Registration (CDR).

**Effective January 1, 2024, the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) will require a minimum of a master's degree to be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN). In addition, CDR requires that individuals complete coursework and supervised practice in program(s) accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

After obtaining your RDN, it is encouraged to obtain state licensure as applicable. For more information about educational pathways to become an RDN please visit [Eatright](#).

Introduction

The Dietetic Internship Program (DI) at Texas Woman's University-Houston combines supervised practice experiences and graduate study, fulfilling the second requirement of CDR (completion of an ACEND accredited supervised practice program) and leading to a Master of Science degree in Nutrition. The DI has a Medical Nutrition Therapy Emphasis and requires successful completion of a minimum of 1200 supervised practice hours. The supervised practice experiences include medical nutrition therapy, food systems management, school nutrition, public health and other emerging practice areas. The program meets the 2017 Accreditation Standards established by ACEND.

The DI and graduate coursework consists of a minimum of 42 graduate credit hours (thesis option) and to 48 graduate credit hours (coursework option) of which up to nine dietetic internship graduate credit hours can be applied to the M.S. degree. Upon successful completion of required coursework and internship experiences graduates receive a Verification of Completion Statement and are eligible to complete the CDR credentialing examination. Graduates of the program are competent to practice as entry-level dietitians and are qualified to apply for licensure in the state of Texas. Upon the completion of the Internship, the student is usually within 1 semester of completing the Master of Science Degree depending on the Master's route chosen.

Program Mission Statement

The mission of the Dietetic Internship is to provide quality graduate study and supervised training comprised of challenging work experience that focuses on medical nutrition therapy; to prepare students for productive careers in dietetics and nutrition-related fields; to prepare students to be leaders in community and professional organizations.

General Program Information

Number of intern positions:	12	
Number of applications received:	2018: 34	2017: 60
DI Supervised practice hours per week:	32-40	
Total supervised practice hours:	1216	
Average GPA range 2018 class:	3.4 – 3.95	
Pass Rate on the RDN Exam last 3 years:	Within 1 year of first attempt-97%	

Outcomes data are available on request.

Program Format

The internship program is approximately 12 months. Completion of the MS degree, thesis or

electives for the coursework option, require an additional semester or two. Interns are scheduled for supervised practice experiences during fall, spring and summer semesters. Students in the DI begin in fall semester and are enrolled in graduate courses and internship concurrently. Graduate courses are scheduled on Monday or online and supervised practice Tuesday thru Friday.

The Nutrition and Food Sciences Department (NFS) offers two degree options for the Master of Science in Nutrition; 1) Thesis option (minimum of 30 credit hours) requiring a thesis project; and
2) Coursework option (minimum 36 credit hours) requiring a capstone seminar, and 21 credit hours of internship. Refer to the NFS website for specific graduation requirements for each degree plan.

If a qualified applicant has earned a prior advanced degree in the nutrition or an area related to NFS Department degrees, i.e., Food Science, Food Systems Administration, Public Health, etc., then no additional degree is required. The DI Director determines if the prior degree can be approved. However all students are required to enroll in Graduate School and meet the course and supervised practice requirements of the dietetic internship. If a qualified student has earned an advanced degree in a non-related area, i.e., history, psychology, marketing, etc., then they must enroll in the MS in Nutrition degree program.

Supervised Practice Sites

The interns receive one on one instruction with experienced preceptors throughout the program. The affiliated facilities providing the major supervised practice experience are located in the Houston metropolitan area and include the Memorial Hermann Health Care System, St. Joseph Medical Center, the Harris Health System, DaVita Dialysis Centers, Houston Independent School District, Fort Bend Independent School District, Houston Food Bank and elective emerging practice settings. The DI Director schedules most rotations but interns have an elective rotation where they are encouraged to select an experience that reflects their interest and career goals.

TWU Dietetic Interns may also apply to the Baylor College of Medicine Neonatal Nutrition Fellowship Program. It is a 3 month program to train interns/dietitians in the unique nutritional management of high-risk infants both in the hospital (Texas Children's Hospital, Texas Children's Hospital Pavilion for Women and Ben Taub Hospital) and in post discharge community settings (Texas Children's Pediatric Associates).

Admission Requirements

Students must meet the following criteria to be considered for the IP/MS program. All programs at TWU are open to qualified men and women.

- **Verification Statement** showing completion of an ACEND accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) curriculum or declaration of Intent to Complete DPD (uploaded by your DPD Director). Applicants The Verification Statement completion date must show recency of education within five years*.
- **Grade Point Average** of 3.25 or above on a 4.0 scale on the last 60 undergraduate hours (unconditional admission).
- **Grade Point Average** of 3.00 or above on a 4.0 scale on the last 60 undergraduate hours (provisional admission).
- **Graduate Record Examination (GRE)** verbal, quantitative and writing scores with a preferred minimum of 145 on the verbal portion, 145 on the quantitative portion and 4.0 on the writing score.
- A **one page resume** providing evidence of work and volunteer experience in a related the field of study
- **Admission to TWU Graduate School.** Note: **DI selections are made prior to and separately from The Graduate School Admission process. If a student is**

appointed to the DI program but are denied admission to The Graduate School, the DI appointment would be forfeited at that time. Please refer to the online TWU Graduate Catalog for admission requirements. (<http://www.twu.edu/gradschool/>)

*Students with Verification Statements 5-10 years old must update their education with the completion of Medical Nutrition Therapy I and II or equivalent courses. If the Verification Statement is more than 10 years old current DPD requirements must be met.

Application Process

Applications to the Dietetic Internship and to the Graduate School are two separate processes.

Application to TWU-Houston Internship Program:

The program participates in DICAS (Dietetic Internship Centralized Application System). DICAS will be available early December for spring 2019 Match at <https://portal.dicas.org> (email DICASinfo@DICAS.org). The online application must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on February 15, 2019. The fee to use DICAS is \$45 for the first application submitted and \$20 for each additional application.

- When completing the application form, applicants must include the name and contact information (specifically an e-mail address) for each reference. This will trigger an e-mail message requesting completion of a reference form. The form will be completed on-line. Students submitting more than one application will need to use the same individuals as references for each application.
- Applicants who apply to internships using DICAS will be asked to complete a personal statement (1000 word limit). Questions to be addressed in the personal statement include:
 - Why do you want to enter the dietetics profession?
 - Discuss experiences that have helped to prepare you for your career.
 - What are your long and short term goals and how will our program help you meet them?
 - What are your strengths and weakness or areas needing improvement?
- Official transcripts for all colleges and universities attended should be sent to:
DICAS – Transcript Dept.
PO Box 9118
Watertown, MA 02472
- Applicants must also register online for computer matching at <http://www.dnndigital.com> and select dietetic internship priority choices by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on February 15, 2019. There is a \$55.00 computer matching fee. Click here to go to the section on the ACEND website for details on Computer Matching Policy and Procedure: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/dietetic-internship-match-students>.

Required Supplemental Information for the TWU Internship Program in Houston, Texas that should be submitted on DICAS:

- Upload a copy of your GRE score

2. Application to TWU Graduate Program – Houston: Applicants may apply to TWU Graduate School after your acceptance to TWU DI – Houston in April or at any time if early acceptance is preferred. Application to the TWU Graduate School must include:

- [Online Graduate School Application from ApplyTexas](#)
- A \$50 non-refundable application fee, payable to TWU Graduate Admission.
- Official college transcript(s) from all colleges/universities attended
- GRE scores (official)
- One to two page resume

Send Transcript(s), Resume and GRE Scores to:
Texas Woman's University
Office of Admissions Processing
P.O. Box 425649

Denton Texas 76204-5649

Internship Selection Process

A Selection Committee, comprised of NFS faculty, preceptors and 1 current intern, review all qualified applications. Application materials are evaluated by objective criteria in the areas of GPA, GRE, professional interests and goals, work experience (paid and/or volunteer), and recommendations.

Note: *Texas Woman's University will not discriminate against any person because of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, or handicap.*

Estimated Expenses

The expenses listed are approximations. Actual costs may be more or less than these estimates. The estimates for the internship program and graduate coursework are based on 45 graduate credit hours for the thesis option and 57 credit hours for the coursework option.

Item	Resident	Non-Resident	Type
Tuition and Fees	\$16,390	\$33,840	Thesis option (42 hours)
Tuition and Fees	\$18,532	\$38,432	Coursework option (48 hours)
Off-Campus Room & Board	Varies	Varies	
Textbooks and supplies	\$500	\$500	Per semester
Liability Insurance	\$30	\$30	Estimated expense
Criminal Background	\$48	\$48	One-time expense
Drug Screening	\$55	\$55	One-time expense
CPR Training Basic Healthcare Provider	Varies	Varies	One-time expense
A.N.D. Membership	\$50	\$50	Annual fee
Lab coat	\$30	\$30	One-time expense
ID Badges	\$25	\$25	One-time expense
T.A.N.D. State Meeting	\$250	\$250	Estimated expense
Review for RD Exam	\$385	\$385	Recommended
Immunization Fees	Varies	Varies	
Physical Exam Fee	Varies	Varies	
Transportation costs	Varies	Varies	Travel to and from facilities for rotations
Parking fees	Varies	Varies	

*Note: Fees do not include property deposit or assigned course fees, and are subject to change without prior notice. Refer to [Bursar's office website](#) for current tuition and fees.

See section on Departmental [Scholarships/Financial Aid](#)

Transportation

Transportation to the facilities is the responsibility of the intern. It is necessary that the student have access to an automobile in good working condition and be able to drive a one hour or 60 mile radius in a busy metropolitan area for certain rotations.

Graduate Housing

It is the intern's responsibility to select and provide his/her own housing. Accommodations are not available on campus. For information contact Student Life at 713/794-2157

Or by [email](#).

Program Coursework for DI/Master's Program

		<u>Credit Hrs.</u>	<u>DI Hours</u>	
Fall I	NFS 5314 Nutrition and Human Metabolism*		4	
	NFS 5363 Human Nutrition in Disease*		3	
	NFS 5903 Research Methods or Statistics		3	
	NFS 5813 Internship in Nutrition Care		6	384
Spr I	NFS 5773 Organization & Management in FSS		3	
	NFS 5813 Internship in Nutrition Care		6	448
Su	NFS 5813 Internship in Nutrition Care		9	<u>384</u>
				1216
Fall II	MS Program Requirements* Varies			
	Take Registration Exam and become RDN credentialed!			

MS in Nutrition Program Requirements (for Thesis and Coursework options)

Semester	Semester Hours				Internship Hours	
	Clinical		Didactic		Hours/week	Total Hours
			Thesis Degree Plan*	Course Work Option Degree Plan**		
FALL SEMESTER						
NFS 5314 Nutrition and Human Metabolism			4	4		
NFS...Research Methods/ Statistics			3	3		
NFS 5363 Human Nutrition in Disease			3	3		
NFS 5813 Internship Experience***	3	3	3	3	24/5+8 hours	128
NFS 5813 Internship Experience***					32/8	256
SPRING SEMESTER						
NFS 5331 Seminar			1			
NFS ... Elective		NFS	1	3		
5773 Mgt & Org for FSS			3	3		
NFS 5983 Thesis			3			
NFS Elective				3		
NFS 5813 Internship Experience***	3	3			32/7	224
5813 Internship Experience***					32/7	224
SUMMER SESSIONS						
NFS 5993						
Thesis (if NFS 5983)			3			
Elective				3		
NFS 5813 Internship Experience (S1) NFS	3	3			32/3	96
5813 Internship Experience (SS)	3				40/4	160
NFS 5813 Internship Experience (SS)					32/4	128
TOTAL HOURS	21		21	27		1216

*Thesis may take additional time. A capstone seminar is required for coursework option and may be taken at the end of the program. Nine credit hours of NFS 5813 can be credited to a degree plan after the successful completion of the

internship program. If an intern is unable to complete the dietetic internship program, no credit for NFS 5813 will be given towards the completion of a master's degree.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

University and Departmental Scholarships

The Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences awards academic scholarships each year. Awards of \$1000 or more for a full academic year can waive out-of-state tuition for out-of-state students. Scholarship deadlines are set each spring (usually March 1) for the following academic year. [View and apply for scholarships online.](#)

Additional information regarding scholarships and deadlines is available from [the Financial Aid Office](#)

Note: Scholarship application deadlines occur before internship appointments are made. Therefore, it is in the student's best interest to apply early in the spring semester. All scholarships are contingent upon the student enrolling at TWU.

Texas Academy Foundation and Academy Foundation Scholarships

Scholarships from these Foundations are available for qualified students who apply before the spring deadline. Students must be Academy members in order to be eligible. If a student has attended an ACEND program or plans to attend a program or graduate school in nutrition or a closely related area, they are eligible for these awards. Additional information can be obtained from the following websites:

Texas Academy Foundation tdaf.nutrition4texas.org
Academy Foundation www.eatrightfoundation.org

Financial Aid

[Financial Aid](#) can provide financial assistance to qualified students. Aid may be awarded in the form of loans, assistantships, scholarships or some combination of these. Please refer to the current graduate catalog for more details and deadlines for application on the website.

Academic Common Market

Many southern states* participate in the Academic Common Market, an interstate agreement for sharing uncommon programs. Residents of these states who are accepted for admission into selected out-of-state programs can enroll on an in-state tuition basis. The two requirements are:

1. Acceptance in a program to which your state has made arrangements to send its students.
2. Proof that you are a legal resident of that state.

Students should write directly to the institution for admissions information. After you have been accepted, write your state coordinator for certification of residency.

*Information about participating states and available programs can be found at <http://www.sreb.org>.

Accreditation Status and the Credentialing Process

Students completing the academic requirements from an ACEND accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) are eligible to apply to a DI. Upon successful completion of the program, students are eligible to write the registration examination to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. The TWU-Houston Internship Program is currently granted accreditation status by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite # 2190, Chicago, IL 60606- 6995; Telephone: (312)899-0040 or (800)877-1600 ext. 5900.

Program Goals and Outcome Measures

- Goal 1.** Prepare competently trained graduates to successfully meet the employment requirements for Registered Dietitians/Nutritionists
- a. Of graduates who seek employment, at least 75% are employed in the nutrition and dietetics field within 12 months of program completion (full-time enrollment in graduate school equates to full-time employment).
 - b. At least 80 % of employers will give program graduates in their employment a rating of above average in professional knowledge and skills as compared to other entry level registered dietitians.
 - c. At least 90% of program graduates will take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within 12 months of program completion.
 - d. The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%.
 - e. At least 80% of the TWU Internship graduates will rate themselves as above average in professional knowledge and skills as compared to other entry level registered dietitians.
- Goal 2.** Recruit, select and prepare students who will complete the internship program and Master of Science degree.
- a. At least 80% of interns (DI) will complete program requirements within 18 months (150% of the program length).
 - b. At least 90% of interns will complete MS degree within 6 years.
- Goal 3.** Prepare graduates with a wide variety of experiences in medical nutrition therapy.
- a. At least 80% of the TWU Internship graduates will rate themselves as prepared or well prepared in MNT for their first position when surveyed.
 - c. At least 80 % of employers will give program graduates in their employment a rating of above average in medical nutrition therapy (MNT) knowledge and skills as compared to other entry level registered dietitians.

This information is valid until February 15, 2019. Last update October 2019.

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<http://www.twu.edu/nutrition-food-sciences/>

