



**Oakwood University  
Dietetic Internship Program**

**Marta Sovyanhadi, Dr.PH, RD, LDN  
Program Director**

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## **The Program**

The Dietetic Internship Program at Oakwood has one concentration. Twenty interns will be accepted each year in the Nutrition Therapy (NT) concentration. Beginning in July and ending in May, the program allows interns to complete a minimum of 1200 hours of supervised dietetic practice within a ten-month period. This program is currently granted accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education of the American Dietetic Association, 120 South Riverside, Plaza Suite 2000, Chicago, IL, 60606-6995, (telephone) 312-899-0040 X 5400. Its purpose is to prepare graduates to be eligible to write and pass the National Registration Examination for Dietitians.

Oakwood University provides experience at various hospitals, food service institutions, and long-term care, public health and wellness facilities across the North Alabama area and Tennessee Valley. It's possible for students to perform their rotations in facilities located near their hometowns after the first two weeks of orientation.

Part-time rotations are available with the permission of the Program Director. Interns have an opportunity to adjust their rotation schedule according to their availability. It is possible for full-time college professors to complete their 1200 hours of supervised dietetic practice during two summer sessions. The part-time intern must complete the rotations within two years. Also, rotation assignments will be given according to previous experience and educational background.

Interns wishing to adjust their rotation schedule must write an official letter of request to the program director. They must include a plan detailing how they wish to complete their rotations, including beginning and ending times and hours of availability per week, month or quarter. All requests must be approved by the program director.

Interns may receive credit for previous experience. Credit hours will be awarded based on job descriptions, length of experience, and immediate supervisor's letter of recommendation. The number of credit hours granted is based on the hours listed in the Suggested Rotation Schedule, under Number of Practicum Hours.

## **Program Mission**

The Oakwood University Dietetic Internship Program trains dietetic practitioners to serve in the fields of dietetics and nutrition. It provides didactic and experiential opportunities which enable interns to develop skills, demonstrate professionalism, apply knowledge, and work effectively to improve the quality of nutrition for the people they serve. The program integrates faith and learning, preparing individuals to serve God and man.

## **Program Goals and Outcomes**

### Professional Goals:

1. Prepare interns to become competent entry-level dietitians.
  - A retention rate of at least 80% is maintained until program completion.
  - Interns express 80% or better satisfaction rate with adjunct faculty, preceptors and rotations.
  - At the conclusion of each rotation, at least 90% of preceptors confirm adequate performance of interns.
  - 80% or more of interns pass program exams with a score of 75% or better.
  - At least 80% of interns who successfully complete the program pass the registration examination on the first attempt.
  - At least 80% of interns who pass the registration examination obtain job placement in the dietetics field.
  - At least 80% of the graduates confirm adequate training for their career in dietetics.
  - At least 80% of the employers confirm that Oakwood graduates have adequate foundation skills to perform well in the field of dietetics.
2. Provide program flexibility to meet student needs.
  - 100% of interns who request special scheduling are permitted, in consultation with the program director, to schedule rotations to meet individual scheduling needs as per program policy.
  - All interns are allowed to complete their rotations at approved facilities within the geographical region of their choice as per program policy.
  - 100% of interns with previous job experience are awarded credit hours based on job descriptions and letters of recommendation from immediate supervisors as per program policy.

### Diversity Goal:

3. Provide culturally sensitive entry-level dietitians.
  - At least 80% of interns score “3” (average performance) or better on the preceptor evaluation of competency to work with clients of various ethnic/cultural backgrounds.
  - At least 80% of the employers of Oakwood graduates confirm that they are competent to work with clients of various ethnic/cultural backgrounds.
  - At least 80% of the program graduates confirm that they feel competent to work with clients of various ethnic/cultural backgrounds.

### Spiritual Goal:

4. Provide spirituality enriched learning opportunities.
  - At least 90% of interns will attend the devotional activities at the beginning each orientation day.

- 100% of interns receive an invitation and information describing access to on-campus spiritual meetings and counseling.
- At least 90% of interns receive a devotional email message from the program director at least once monthly during their tenure at Oakwood University.
- At least 5% of interns complete at least one rotation in a Christian institution or with a Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) preceptor.
- At least one graduate per year is employed in an SDA institution.

## Admission Requirements

- The program is using the on-line centralized internship application, DICAS, which may be accessed at <https://portal.dicas.org> , e-mail [DICASinfo@DICAS.org](mailto:DICASinfo@DICAS.org). The on-line application must be completed for our program by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on February 15, 2012. The fee to use DICAS is \$40 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. Questions to be addressed in the personal statement include:
  - o Why do you want to enter the dietetics profession?
  - o Discuss experiences that have helped to prepare you for your career,
  - o What are your short-term and long-term goals?
  - o What are your strengths and weaknesses or areas needing improvement?
  - o 1000 Word limit
- Official **transcripts from 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 [www.dnndigital.com](http://www.dnndigital.com) and select dietetic internship priority choices by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on February 15th. There is a \$50.00 computer matching fee.

**To apply Oakwood University, the following must be completed and returned to Marta Sovyanhadi, Dr.PH, RD, LD, Dietetic Internship Program Director, postmarked no later than February 15, 2012. Marta Sovyanhadi Oakwood University, 7000 Adventist Blvd NW, Huntsville, AL 35896**

- Processing fee - \$ 75, **money order only** (money order should be payable to Oakwood University).
- Unofficial transcripts: Clinical Nutrition I & II (Medical Nutrition Therapy I & II) and Food System Management classes must be recently taken within three years with B grades or better before submitting the application packet. Biochemistry, and Advanced Nutrition (Macronutrient/Micronutrient/Metabolism) classes must be currently taken within four years with B grades or better before submitting the application packet. If your grades in the above classes are lower than B, please retake the courses at the graduate or undergraduate level if you choose to apply at Oakwood. The grade should be a B or better to apply at Oakwood.
- The average for support Sciences courses (Anatomy Physiology, microbiology, general chemistry, organic chemistry) is required to be no less than a B with no grade lower than a C. If these requirements are not met, please discuss with the program director for additional related dietetic course work.
- Passing grade on the prequalifying exam (75%)- exam will be taken after Oakwood has received your application packet.

**Intern Chosen Site Preferences:**

**Minimum requirements of the preceptors include:**

- Preceptor must be a registered dietitian and a member of the American Dietetic Association or other qualified professional.
- Preceptor must be able to document appropriate continuing education for the previous two years.
- Preceptor must have adequate time to provide required supervision of the intern.
- Primary preceptor must be employed full-time wherever she/he is employed.
- Definitions:  
A “primary preceptor” is that individual who will keep a file of the interns, who will affirm the hours of practice the intern completes, and who will maintain appropriate contact with the Program Director and the intern.

**Minimum requirements of the sponsoring facilities include:**

- The facility must be accredited by JCAHO or the State.
- Any facility at which the intern would complete 40 hours or more of practice experience must have a preceptor available on staff.
- Any facility at which the intern would complete more than one week must have a signed Affiliation Agreement.
- Any facility at which the intern would complete more than two weeks must have Forms 2 and 3 from Commission on Accreditation/Approval for Dietetics Education on file at Oakwood University.
- Any facility at which the intern would complete more than one week rotation, must have sufficient educational resources to support an intern’s educational needs such as computer or available space for interns to work on their assignments.
- If one facility is unable to provide all the required Oakwood University rotations/experiences, then the intern needs an alternate facility to provide the experiences required by the Commission on Dietetic Accreditation Educational Competencies.

### Choosing sponsored facilities:

- Oakwood University currently has 84 facilities in the State of Alabama, 43 facilities in the State of California, 38 facilities in the State of Florida, 32 facilities in the State of Tennessee, 23 facilities in the State of Georgia, 11 in the State of Texas, nine in the State of Ohio, nine facilities from the State of Maryland, seven in the State of New York, six in the State of Kentucky, six in the State of Utah, four facilities in the State of Arizona, three facilities in the State of Mississippi, two in the State of Hawaiian, two in Washington D.C., one facility in the State of Indiana, one facility in the State of Pennsylvania, one facility in the State of Colorado, one facility in the State of Oklahoma, one facility in the State of Nebraska, one facility in the State of Illinois, and one facility in the State of North Dakota.
- Intern and Program Director can work together to obtain approval for the intern’s chosen sites after admission to the Oakwood University Dietetic Internship Program.
- Interns need to take responsibility in designing their own rotations scheduling with the approval of the prospective facilities.

### Assessment of Prior Learning

**The program has established specific guidelines for students regarding credit for prior learning, including program specific limitations and documentation needed.**

**Assigning credit for prior learning: When the requirements listed in the table are met, the intern will be granted credit equivalent to the number of hours required for that rotation as stated in the “Suggested Rotation Schedule.” The required documentation must be provided along with application to the program. Credit will be assigned during the admissions process.**

Area of Assessment	Requirement (Program Specific Limitations)	Required Documentation
Job Experience	<p>Training/job experience must have been received at a facility which meets the requirements as stated below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The facility must be accredited by JCAHO or the State</li> <li>• Any facility at which the intern would receive prior learning credit hours must have a qualified supervisor (see “Minimum requirements of the supervisors,” Form 3).</li> <li>• The facility must complete CDR Educational Plan Form 3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job description</li> <li>• CDR Educational Plan Form 3</li> </ul>
Minimum requirements of the supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervisor must be registered dietitian and a member of the American Dietetic Association or other qualified professional.</li> <li>• Supervisor must be able to document appropriate continuing education for the previous two years.</li> <li>• The supervisor must complete CDR Educational Plan Form 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDR Educational Plan Forms 2</li> <li>• Valid CDR license</li> </ul>
Length of Experience	A minimum of six months employment, at least 20 hours per week, in the emphasis area of the rotation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervisor letter of recommendation verifying length of experience, type of position, performance evaluation, and recommending the intern</li> </ul>

		as a candidate for the program
Competency Skills/Type of competency	Interns must demonstrate mastery of all the competency skills of the supervised practice curriculum for the specific rotation for which they are seeking prior learning credit; if any of the competency skills have not been met during employment, the prospective intern must arrange with the facility to complete those skills before credit can be granted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervisor letter of recommendation verifying length of experience, type of position, performance evaluation, and recommending the intern as a candidate for the program</li> <li>• Signed “Supervised Practice Curriculum/Competencies”</li> </ul>

### Program Completion Requirements

- Satisfactorily complete 1200 rotation hours (see Suggested Rotation Schedule)
- Meet performance standards and receive passing grades from all preceptors and on all unit exams.
- Maintain professional and ethical standards as outlined in the American Dietetic Association Code of Ethics.
- Pass the Exit Examination.
- Interns will be provided with a signed verification statement after completion of all program requirements

### Estimated Expenses

- Application fee (money order only) \$75
- Tuition \$8,100
- Oakwood University Registration fee & Certificate of Completion \$ 75
- Books/Supplies Varies (\$50-\$500)
- Lab Coat Varies
- Housing/semester \$1,970-2,410
- Meals Varies
- Transportation Varies
- Car and Insurance required Varies
- Health Insurance required
  - Oakwood student/sem. \$105
  - Personal Varies
- Malpractice Liability Insurance (Responsibility of Student) \$35
- Affiliate membership in ADA \$43
- Alabama Dietetic Association \$50
- Long distance phone calls Varies
  - For out of state calls
- Breeding & Associates Educational Resources \$ 430

### Housing

Oakwood University provides housing within walking distance of the campus during interns' orientation for \$175 a week. Please visit our web address for the West Oaks Apartments: <http://www.oakwood.edu/woa> or e-mail: [westoaks@oakwood.edu](mailto:westoaks@oakwood.edu) or call 256-890-5001. A fully equipped three- bedroom two-bathroom home is also available at the Family and Consumer Sciences Department. For further information, please contact the program director (256-726-7228/9)



*"I have recently done some rotations in Huntsville, and I was allowed to stay in the FCS Home Management house. I really enjoyed my stay there and the location in reference to the campus and Huntsville hospital."  
Matt Quinn. (Intern 2008-2009)*



*"The kitchen was fully functional with a laundry room and a comfortable living room."*



Beautiful Dining and TV Room



Tranquil surroundings

### **Estimated Two-Week Orientation Expenses**

-Two weeks lodging	\$ 350 (\$ 25 a night)
-Meals (varies)	\$ 100-\$300
-Transportation (varies)	\$ 25-\$600

### **Financial Aid**

For information, please contact the Oakwood University Financial Aid Office at (256) 726-7209 or 7210. If you have any difficulty accessing information, contact the Program Director.

### **Computer Matching Service**

Appointments to this Dietetic Internship Program are made using the D&D Digital Systems computer matching process. For additional information, contact D&D Digital Systems.

Address: D&D Digital Systems

137 Lynn Avenue, Ames, IA 50014-7126  
Phone: 515-292-0490

**Oakwood University is an Equal Opportunity institution, which does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, gender, marital status, or handicap as consistent with section 702 of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Right Act. Acceptance of the interns is without prejudice or preference. Discrimination is not allowed in the school's scholarship and loan programs, education process/policies, and administered programs.**

July 2011