

LENOIR~RHYNE UNIVERSITY

Dietetic Internship Program Requirements for Distance Rotation Sites

Distance interns are responsible for securing their preceptors and rotation sites for the Foodservice Management, Clinical and Community rotations. Program faculty will provide incoming distance interns with guidance and support in locating and setting up these rotations. Faculty support includes assisting the intern in identifying types of sites that would meet program criteria, providing contact information for any former program preceptors in the geographic area, and communicating with potential preceptors as needed. If an intern is unable to locate a suitable rotation site, faculty may be able to secure a site in another location if the intern is able to relocate temporarily (subject to availability).

LRU-specific rotation paperwork (MOA, preceptor and facility forms) will be provided once the intern has matched with our program.

Foodservice Management Rotation

The Foodservice Management rotation is typically completed in the hospital where the inpatient clinical rotation is completed, or within the child nutrition services department of a school district. Other acceptable locations would be the foodservice departments of a long-term care/rehab facility or a university foodservice.

The Foodservice Management preceptor does not have to be a RD if s/he has the appropriate education, training and experience to oversee the rotation. For example, sometimes the food service manager is a Certified Dietary Manager (CDM).

Please do not plan more than 1 location for the foodservice management rotation.

Clinical Rotation

The clinical rotation is focused primarily on inpatient acute care. The hospital should have a daily patient census of at least 100 and at least 2 full-time RDs on staff.

DI Certificate option interns may plan up to 4 weeks of their clinical rotation in a long-term care and/or outpatient clinical nutrition settings (for example a dialysis center, medical clinic with outpatient RD services or a diabetes teaching facility).

Please do not plan more than 2 locations for the clinical rotation.

Community Rotation

The community rotation is focused on community-based nutrition programs. It is required that each intern receive some experience working with low income, nutritionally at-risk pregnant and postpartum (breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding) women, infants and children up to age 5. For that reason, we recommend that each intern plan a portion of their community rotation in a local WIC program if possible.

In addition to a WIC clinic, locations to consider for the community rotation can include health departments, Extension Services, community or employee wellness programs, and food banks or homeless shelters that provide nutrition education to clients.

While it is recommended for the community preceptor to be an RD, it is not required if the preceptor has the appropriate education/experience to oversee the rotation (for example, a WIC nutritionist might have an undergraduate degree in nutrition and WIC training/experience).

Interns typically will complete their community rotation at 1-2 locations. Do not plan more than 2 locations for the community rotation.