

2024-2025 Program Guide

Master of Science Dietetic Internship

Michigan State University

MISSION STATEMENT

The faculty and preceptors of the Michigan State University Master of Science Dietetic Internship (MSDI) Program will strive to prepare entry-level dietitian nutritionists for state-of-the-art practice in diverse and challenging healthcare, foodservice, community, and entrepreneurial settings.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

The MSDI at Michigan State University (MSU) is currently granted accreditation through the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995, 312-899-0040 x5400.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Science Dietetic Internship (MSDI) program at MSU is a 16-month applied practice program in nutrition and dietetics. The program combines a 30-credit online Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics with 1145 hours of supervised practice. ***To receive a Verification Statement, interns must successfully complete BOTH the supervised practice AND the 30-credit Master's degree.***

The MSU MSDI meets all the general ACEND required competencies with a community education focus. The program provides supervised practice experiences necessary for qualified graduates to write the Registration Examination for Dietitians administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration.

The MSDI will begin around August 27, 2024. **Interns are expected to have reliable vehicles and considerable driving should be expected during the internship.**

For more information, please refer to the Dietetic Internship Handbook available on our website: www.fshn.msu.edu/graduate_programs/dietetic_internship

PRE-SELECT APPLICATION PROCESS

The Michigan State University MSDI offers a pre-select option and participates in the regular computer matching process.

To be selected via the pre-select process, applicants must be:

- 1) Current Michigan State University students enrolled in the DPD program that will complete the program by the end of June 2024.
- 2) Current graduate students in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Michigan State University who have completed DPD requirements by the end of June 2024 and all graduate work except the final draft of their thesis and have written approval from their faculty advisor.

The MSU MSDI is accredited to accept 16 interns yearly. In the pre-selection process, the MSU MSDI can select up to a maximum of five dietetic interns per year who meet the above criteria **and** all the standard MSU MSDI admission requirements. If all five pre-select positions are not filled, the remaining will be open to fill through the computer matching process.

Applicants for the MSU MSDI pre-select option will complete and submit their application through DICAS (<http://dicas.liasoncas.com>) by January 1, 2024. The \$30 application fee is waived for those applicants participating in the pre-select process, but DICAS fees apply.

Applicants will be notified on or before January 31, 2024, confirming whether they have been accepted into the program through the pre-select process. If pre-selected, applicant's name will be submitted to D&D Digital Systems, Inc. to ensure that the applicant will not participate in the computer match.

If the applicant is NOT selected through the pre-select process, they may reapply to the MSU MSDI or any other DI through the computer matching process. The application deadline is February 15, 2024.

GENERAL APPLICATION PROCESS (DICAS)

MSU MSDI participates in the online centralized internship application process, DICAS, which may be accessed at <http://dicas.liasoncas.com>; e-mail DICASinfo@DICAS.org. The online application must be completed for the MSU MSDI program by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on February 15, 2024. The fee to use DICAS is \$50 for the first application submitted and \$25 for each additional application.

In addition to the general DICAS requirements, MSU also requires the following:

- Three letters of recommendation: This should include at least one letter from a professor/instructor and at least one from a work or volunteer supervisor.
- Personal Statement that includes the following:
 - Why did you choose to pursue dietetics?
 - What experiences have helped prepare you for your career.
 - What are your short- and long-term goals?
 - What are your strengths and weaknesses/areas needing improvement?
 - Why are you interested in MSU's program?
 - Indicate the specific location desired for your supervised practice rotations (Lansing/Jackson, Grand Rapids/Muskegon, Macomb/Oakland County). Requests DO NOT guarantee placement in specific locations.
 - Limit to maximum of 1000 words.
- Applicants must also register online for the computer matching service at www.dnndigital.com and select dietetic internship priority choices by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on February 15, 2024. There is a \$65.00 computer matching fee.
- Please note: The MSU MSDI will conduct short zoom meetings with all applicants who meet admission criteria February 16-March 15, 2024. Applicants will be contacted on or after February 16, 2024 to arrange this meeting.

The Michigan State University MSDI has a separate \$30 application fee that should be paid online by February 15, 2024. The online fee site can be accessed at: commerce.cashnet.com/msu_3878

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the MSU MSDI Program is determined by the Internship Selection Committee (ISC) and the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition Graduate Affairs Committee (GAC). The ISC consists of the MSDI Director, MSDI Academic Coordinator, and preceptors from the internship program. The GAC consists of graduate faculty in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition.

Qualified applicants will possess a bachelor's degree from any U.S. regionally accredited college or university (or a foreign degree, verified as equivalent), and have completed an ACEND accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics. For recency of educational requirements, a course in medical nutrition therapy is required to have been taken within the last five years. International students will be required to obtain a student visa in order to enroll in the MSDI program.

A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for college work is required. A minimum GPA of 3.0 in professional didactic courses is also required. In addition, work experience and letters of recommendation are taken into consideration.

Scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) are not required.

PRE-ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Interns will complete a proficiency exam in medical terminology and abbreviations during the MSU MSDI Program orientation.

LOCATION

Interns in the MSU MSDI Program will be placed in one of the following locations: Lansing, Jackson, Grand Rapids, Muskegon, or Macomb County/Oakland County, Michigan. ***If you wish to be placed in a specific location, this must be clearly expressed in your personal statement.*** Although every effort will be made to accommodate location preferences, ***requests for placement in a specific location do not guarantee placement in that location if accepted to the MSU MSDI program.***

It will be necessary for interns to travel. This will include travel to rotation sites, travel during rotations to other sites, some travel to campus and other locations in Michigan as necessary for classes and other brief experiences (2 weeks or less). All interns are required to have an automobile to travel to rotation sites. Assignments to specific areas will be made after acceptance into the MSU MSDI Program.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM EXPENSES

Program Fee (due by August 1, 2024)	\$6,900 (after \$100 deposit)
Health Insurance	\$750-800
Liability Insurance	\$30-50
Criminal Background Check	\$65
Housing	\$800-1000/month
Travel	Variable
Student Academy Membership	\$58
Non-refundable deposit (due by May 1, 2024)	\$100

**Estimates based on 2023-2024 year and are subject to change.

- Health insurance may be purchased through a private carrier or HMO if interns are not already covered by a policy.
- Liability insurance is available through providers affiliated with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Drug testing is not standard for the internship but may be requested by certain sites. This expense is the responsibility of the intern unless the facility covers the expense. Background checks are required prior to the start of rotations, but some facilities may also require more specific and detailed background checks before starting those rotations.

Interns are responsible for their own living arrangements and expenses. A variety of housing possibilities are available, with prices dependent on specific type of arrangement and location.

In addition, interns must arrange for their own transportation. Supervised practice facilities where interns receive most of their training are not easily accessible by public transportation.

Interns are required to carry their own health and professional liability insurance. Health insurance may be purchased through a private carrier or HMO if interns are not already covered by a policy. Liability insurance is available through providers affiliated with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The price is approximately \$40 per year. Michigan requires all drivers to carry auto insurance. It is the intern's responsibility to carry appropriate health and automobile insurance to cover liability in travel and assigned work related to the internship.

All interns are expected to hold an Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Student Membership. This membership currently costs about \$58 per year and includes a subscription to The Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and membership to the Michigan Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

During the internship, interns are expected to attend professional conferences and workshops. There may be some out-of-pocket expenses associated with these activities.

Clinical and some food service management field sites require a lab coat worn over professional clothing, which interns must provide at an approximate cost of \$40. Other miscellaneous costs may arise that will be the responsibility of the intern.

Two scholarships are awarded to incoming interns each year. One scholarship must be awarded to a current MSU student and the other is open to all MSDI students. These funds apply to the internship program fee. If interested in being considered for a scholarship, please notify the MSDI Director once you are matched to MSU's program. Scholarships will be awarded based on ranking during the internship matching process.



MASTER'S DEGREE CLASS SCHEDULE AND EXPENSES

The MS program will consist of 30 credits of coursework. Most courses are online and asynchronous. The only exception is HNF 894, the course that is coordinated with the supervised practice rotations. The combined program will be 16 months in length (four semesters) and will culminate in a Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics and a Verification Statement that allows graduates to sit for the Registration Examination for Dietitians. See below for the projected program structure.

Year One:

Semester one (Fall 2024):

HNF 894 (Supervised Practice)	3 credits
HNF 823 (Research Methods in Human Nutrition)	3 credits
HNF 892 (Seminar)	1 credit

Semester two (Spring 2025):

HNF 894 (Supervised Practice)	3 credits
HNF 832 (Advanced Clinical Nutrition)	3 credits
Elective	3 credits

Semester three (Summer 2025):

NUR 804 (Statistics for the Health Professional)	3 credits
Elective (Pediatric Nutrition*)	3 credits
Work on Master's Case Study Project	

Year Two:

Semester one (Fall 2025):

HNF 892 (Seminar)	1 Credit
HNF 898 (Masters Project Presentation)	1 credit
Elective (Management for new RDNs*)	3 credits
Elective (Performance Nutrition for RDNs*)	3 credits

*Elective options available specifically for the MSU MSDI program
Options from other departments may also be selected.

30 Total Credits

All MSDI students will pay an in-state rate for tuition. The Fall 2023 rate (subject to change) for the online MS in Nutrition and Dietetics is \$867.00 /credit hour (\$26,010 for the 30-credit degree). This does not include other university required fees.

https://ctrl.msu.edu/COSStudentAccounts/TuitionFees/International_Graduate_FallSpring.aspx

SAMPLE ROTATION SITE LIST

*****This list is a just a sampling of sites, you may be placed at other partner facilities.***

- **Clinical:** 14 weeks (includes 3 weeks of staff relief)
 - Sparrow Hospital (Lansing, MI)
 - Trinity Health St. Mary (Grand Rapids, MI)
 - McLaren Macomb (Mount Clemens, MI)

- **Healthcare Foodservice:** 4 weeks
 - Sparrow Hospital (Lansing, MI)
 - Trinity Health St. Mary (Grand Rapids, MI)
 - McLaren Macomb (Mount Clemens, MI)

- **Long term Care:** 3 weeks
 - Thornapple Manor (Hastings, MI)
 - Holland Homes (Grand Rapids, MI)
 - Fraser Villa (Fraser, MI)

- **Health Department/WIC:** 3 weeks
 - Eaton/Barry County Health Department (Charlotte/Hastings, MI)
 - Kent County Health Department (Grand Rapids, MI)
 - Silverspoons MIHP Program (Farmington Hills, MI)

- **Michigan State University Extension:** 3 weeks

- **Community Hospital:** 3 weeks
 - Sparrow Eaton Hospital (AL!VE) (Charlotte, MI)
 - Holland Hospital (Holland, MI)
 - Henry Ford West Bloomfield (West Bloomfield, MI)

- **School Foodservice:** 4 weeks
 - MSU Foodservice (East Lansing, MI)
 - Wyoming Public Schools (Wyoming, MI)
 - Chippewa Valley Public Schools (Clinton Twp, MI)

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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https://www.canr.msu.edu/fshn/graduate_programs/dietetic_internship