Dietetic Internship: Practice Experiences

The Benedictine University Dietetic Internship (DI) is designed to meet or exceed each of the Standards and Competencies for the DI Program, as established by Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. This practice experience provides at least 1200 hours of supervised field placement in community education, health care, and management organizations. There is a Community Nutrition/Public Health Emphasis. The sites include both traditional and non-traditional sites, located throughout the Chicago metropolitan area, including the Western suburbs. Some examples include:

- Medical centers (e.g., hospitals and clinics)
- Long-term/ Sub-acute care facilities
- Retirement communities
- Food and Nutrition Services Management facilities
- Benedictine University Healthy Table outpatient nutrition education facility
- Elementary, junior high, and secondary schools
- Villa St. Benedict
- County public health clinics and programs (e.g., Women Infant and Children program)
- Home Delivered and Congregate Meal program
- Other community facilities (e.g., soup kitchens, food banks)

The Dietetic Internship Program Director will consider your professional growth needs when making site assignments. Distance to the site from your residence and Benedictine University may also be a consideration depending upon site availability and needs, as determined by the Director. This program will require you to travel in a car. When you accept your position in this Dietetic Internship, you accept the program’s right to assign you to the sites.

The University has designated holidays and vacation days to which all courses, except the Dietetic Internship, adhere. Do not assume that you have holidays and weekends off, as some rotations may require your participation at these times. Following successful completion of NTR 670 (1) DI Orientation, the dietetic intern normally works 4 days per week throughout the internship experience. Additionally, Fridays are normally reserved for meetings with the Dietetic Internship Director, some daytime courses and seminars, and individual meetings with your Research Advisor.

Core courses in the M.S. in Nutrition and Wellness program, except the research courses, adhere to the schedule posted on the academic calendar.