

2025-2026 Program Guide

Master of Science Dietetic Internship



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, and community 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.

Program outcome data are available upon request.

For more information, please refer to the [Dietetic Internship Handbook](#).

EARLY DECISION APPLICATION PROCESS

The Michigan State University MSDI offers an early decision option.

To be selected via the early decision 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 2025.
- 2) Current Michigan State University graduate students in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition who have completed DPD requirements by the end of June 2025 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 early decision process, the MSU MSDI can select up to a maximum of five dietetic interns per year who meet the above criteria **and** all MSU MSDI admission requirements. If all five early decision positions are not filled, the remaining will be open to fill through the general application process.

Applicants for the MSU MSDI early decision option will complete and submit their application through DICAS (<http://dicas.liasoncas.com>) by December 9, 2024. The \$30 application fee is waived for those applicants participating in the pre-select process, but DICAS fees apply. Since the application is due before the end of the fall semester, you must submit a screenshot of your Fall 2024 grades directly to Cheryl Coslow at coslowch@msu.edu by December 19, 2024.

Applicants will be notified on or before December 23, 2024, of early decision selections. If the applicant is NOT selected in the early decision process, they must reapply to the MSU MSDI through DICAS during the general application process to be reconsidered.

APPLICATION PROCESS (DICAS)

MSU MSDI participates in the online centralized internship application program, 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. EST on January 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 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.
- Please note: The MSU MSDI will conduct short zoom meetings with all applicants who meet admission criteria to aid in application decisions. Applicants will be contacted on or after February 16, 2025 to arrange this meeting.

The Michigan State University MSDI has a separate \$30 application fee that should be paid online by January 15, 2025. The online fee site can be accessed at: commerce.cashnet.com/msu_3878

PART TIME WIC OPTION OVERVIEW

The MSU MSDI offers a maximum of 3 part-time positions to qualified Michigan WIC employees. This cooperative effort provides career advancement opportunities for WIC staff in local communities. Applicants for this option must be employed with Michigan WIC for at least 3 months and meet current ACEND academic and MSDI Program requirements. ***The MSU MSDI program fee and a portion of tuition is paid for by the MDHHS WIC Division;*** as such, once an

intern is accepted into the program, the supporting WIC local agency will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the MDHHS WIC Division, and the intern will sign an Employee/Intern Agreement and Promissory Note with the MDHHS WIC Division.

WIC interns will complete their supervised practice part-time over the 16-month program, while continuing to work up to 20 hours/week for their local WIC agency. *Note:* The WIC employee will require a 14-week educational leave from WIC employment to complete their full-time clinical rotation.

Upon completion of the MSU MSDI program requirements, the intern/employee must work for Michigan WIC for 2 years. The intern must take the Registration Examination for Dietitians within 6 months and pass within one year of internship completion.

Please contact Tara Fischer, MS, RD, at Michigan WIC if interested in applying for the part-time WIC component of the MSDI. ***The applicant's local agency must provide a letter of support to be included with the internship application.***

[Tara Fischer, MS, RD, 517-335-4286, fischert1@michigan.gov]

ADMISSION QUALIFICATIONS

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

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 and received a verification statement from an ACEND accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics. For recency of educational requirements, a course in medical nutrition therapy must have been taken within the last five years. International students must obtain a student visa 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.*** For WIC interns, every effort will be made to find rotation sites near your home/work.

It will be necessary for all 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 EXPENSE ESTIMATES

Program Fee (due by August 1, 2025)	\$6,900 (after \$100 deposit)
Health Insurance	\$750-800
Liability Insurance	\$30-50
Criminal Background Check	\$65
Housing	\$800-1000/month
Travel	\$1000
Student Academy Membership	\$58
Miscellaneous Supplies	\$250
Non-refundable deposit (due by May 1, 2025)	\$100

**Estimates based on 2024-2025 year and are subject to change.

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 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 MSDI specific 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.

2025-2026 DIETETIC INTERNSHIP TENTATIVE TIMELINE

August 21-22	Pre-orientation session
August 25	Begin online graduate classes
Sep 2-5	In-person orientation (East Lansing)
September 8-12	Orientation continued (virtually)
September 15	Begin supervised practice rotations
12/20/25-1/4/26	Winter break
March/April 2026	Spring break (one week per intern)
End of May 2026	Supervised practice ends
November/December 2026	WIC supervised practice ends
December 2026	Completion of Master's degree

MASTER'S DEGREE CLASS SCHEDULE AND EXPENSES

The MS program consists of 30 credits of coursework. Most courses are online and asynchronous. The only exception is HNF 894, the course 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.

Semester one (Fall 2025):

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

Semester two (Spring 2026):

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

Semester three (Summer 2026):

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

Semester four (Fall 2026):

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

30 Total Credits

All MSDI students will pay an in-state rate for tuition. The Fall 2024 rate (subject to change) for the online MS in Nutrition and Dietetics is \$893.00 /credit hour (\$26,790 for the 30-credit degree). This does not include other university required fees.

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

SAMPLE ROTATION SCHEDULE FOR PART-TIME WIC INTERNS

Rotation Sites vary from year to year, depending on the intern's location. Every effort is made to schedule interns at rotation sites within 50 miles of their home/work address.

ORIENTATION – 2.5 weeks

CLINICAL – 14 weeks **Full-Time**

HOSPITAL FOODSERVICE – 4 weeks Part-Time

SCHOOL FOODSERVICE – 10 weeks Part-Time

COMMUNITY NUTRITION – Total 16 weeks Part-Time

WIC Local Agency/Health Department: 10 weeks (6 weeks if current WIC CPA)

Michigan State University Extension: 4 weeks

Maternal/Infant Health Program: 2 weeks

LONG TERM CARE – 4 weeks Part-Time

OUTPATIENT – 6 weeks Part-Time

ELECTIVE – 4 weeks Part-Time

WINTER BREAK-2 weeks

SPRING BREAK – 1 week

VACATION-1 week (optional)

TOTAL: ~66 weeks/16 months

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

- **School Foodservice:** 5 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