Why Consider a Dietetic Internship at the Alabama State Department of Education?

Registered Dietitians (RDs)/Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDN) are food and nutrition experts who have met the criteria to earn the RD/RDN credential. Child nutrition programs in schools provide a wonderful career opportunity for individuals concerned with health and wellness of children. Today, child nutrition programs provide not only lunch during school, but also breakfast and after school snacks. Child nutrition professionals are active in creating a healthful school environment, which includes nutrition education from the cafeteria to the classroom. A career in child nutrition is a rewarding opportunity to provide both healthful meals and nutrition education to children.

To become a Registered Dietitian/Registered Dietitian Nutritionist one must complete a three step process:

1. Complete a minimum of a bachelor’s degree at a U.S. regionally accredited university or college and course work accredited or approved by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition & Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND).

2. Complete an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program (internship) at a health-care facility, community agency, or a foodservice corporation or combined with undergraduate or graduate studies. Typically, a practice program will range from 6 to 12 months in length. The Alabama Department of Education is one of four internships nationwide offered in child nutrition and the only internship with the specific focus of Foodservice Systems Management in Child Nutrition Programs.

3. Pass a national examination administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). For more information regarding the examination, refer to CDR’s Web site at http://www.cdrnet.org/

After becoming a Registered Dietitian/Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, there are professional educational requirements to maintain registration. The Alabama Department of Education offers several opportunities yearly to gain continuing education credits through meetings and workshops.

Alabama State Department of Education

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is located in the Gordon Persons Building, which is near the state capitol of Montgomery. Mr. Michael Sentance is the Alabama State Superintendent of Education. Reporting to the state superintendent are one Chief of Staff and two Deputy State Superintendents, with one Assistant State Superintendent reporting to the Deputy State Superintendents.

ALSDE supports 67 county and 68 city school systems composed of approximately 1,518 schools; with an enrollment for 2013-14 totaling 746,204 students.
Alabama Department of Education Mission and Philosophy

Mission Statement
The mission of the Alabama State Department of Education is “To provide a state system of education which is committed to academic excellence and which provides education of the highest quality to all Alabama students, preparing them for the 21st century.”

Alabama Child Nutrition Program
The Child Nutrition Program operates under the mission of the Alabama Department of Education.

Alabama Child Nutrition Program Goals
The goal of the Alabama Child Nutrition Program is that all foods available to students will meet the USDA Guidelines and Alabama Nutrition Policy. The State agency strives to achieve this goal by:
• Providing technical assistance to local Child Nutrition Programs
• Yearly School Foodservice Manager training
• Bi-yearly Child Nutrition Program Director training
• Specialized training from grants
• Monitoring of programs

The School Program staff of the Alabama Child Nutrition Program ensures these activities are performed to the highest standard by employing qualified staff and providing them training on the latest USDA regulations. All staff holds either a BS degree or a MS degree or higher. Four of the staff, in addition to the Internship Director, are Registered Dietitians.

Alabama Child Nutrition Program
The Child Nutrition Program (CNP) is a component of the Office of Supporting Programs directed by Andrew Craig. Alabama State CNP is coordinated by June Barrett. Ms. Barrett oversees the School Nutrition Program, Child and Adult Care Feeding Program, Summer Food Service Program and Audit Staff.

The function of the state staff is to provide local school districts with technical assistance for the administration of the federally funded School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program. USDA provides guidelines for operation of school meals programs. The state staff assists CNP directors to ensure they meet USDA regulations and Alabama Department of Education Policies.

The statewide system of schools served 44,019,312 breakfasts and 87,597,571 lunches during School Year 2015-2016.

The School Program staff is composed of Education Administrator, Jeanne Brust, MS; Education Specialists; Sharon Allison, MA, Robbie Scott, MS; and one Nutritionist, Chad Langston, MS, RD, LD.

June Barrett will serve as DI Director and Chad Langston as DI Coordinator.
Mission of the Dietetic Internship

The mission of the proposed Alabama Department of Education Dietetic Internship (DI) is to “provide a quality dietetic internship program through which interns will develop skills to translate knowledge of nutrition and management into effective application and practice that will support and enhance the learning process of students in Alabama, preparing them for the 21st century.” Planned experiences and educational opportunities of the DI will prepare graduates for entry-level positions in a variety of setting, with emphasis in Foodservice Systems Management in Child Nutrition Programs.

The ALSDE program has an emphasis in foodservice system management in child nutrition programs but will provide interns with a well-rounded foundation in dietetics through rotations in a variety of dietetic practices. Rotations are chosen to provide supervised practice experiences so that all interns can meet the core competencies, with emphasis in foodservice systems management. Upon completion of the DI, graduates will be able to perform a wide range of functions necessary to practice in an entry-level position in a variety of dietetic practice settings.

The mission of ALSDE focuses on the support and enhancement of the students learning process. A hungry, poorly nourished child cannot learn as effectively as a well-nourished child. Therefore, the DI program focuses on foodservice management in child nutrition programs to:

1. Prepare students to meet entry-level performance requirements as defined by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition & Dietetics (ACEND) and pass the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) Registration Examination.
2. Prepare students to communicate effectively in interactions with others in large and small group setting as well as in one-on-one situations.
3. Prepare students for unique challenges in foodservice systems management in child nutrition programs.

The outcomes used to measure the goals of the program include program completion rate, passing rate on the Registration Examination for Dietitians, and graduate and employer surveys conducted by the program. Outcomes data available upon request from June Barrett, Internship Program Director.

In the past three years, 2011 -2015, 80% of graduates have successfully passed the Registration Examination for Dietitians on the first attempt. Of the graduates passing the exam, 100% found jobs within 90 days in either school food nutrition or health care related positions.

Cost

A $50 non-refundable application fee will be charged to all applicants. Each intern is required to be Serve-Safe Certified prior to making application to the internship. The cost of the materials and exam for Serve-Safe Certification is approximately $150. There is no tuition fee at this time to participate in the ALSDE Dietetic Internship program.

The interns will be state employees and have full benefits offered to all state employees, pending availability of funds. There is extensive travel, which will include overnight stays, required
throughout the state. Students will be required to pay overnight travel expenses and receive reimbursement through the Department of Finance if funding is available.

All students will be required to report to DI Coordinator daily when arrival at rotation site and return to home base. As a component of a portion of the food service rotations, students must be able to lift weights of up to fifty pounds (50) and clean with products such as bleach or other chemicals necessary for food service operations.

Each Alabama Department of Education intern will be required to carry Personal Liability Insurance. This may be obtained by Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics (AND) members through a group plan.

Interns will be responsible for own housing. Estimated housing cost is $500-$900 per month.

Affiliations with program hospitals and other agencies may require either a uniform or lab coat. Interns must comply with these guidelines while at program facilities. Non-skid shoes will be required for the rotation in school foodservice facilities. Program hospitals require that interns have flu shots during flu season prior to rotation.

Interns will be encouraged to join the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics (AND), School Nutrition Services DPG of the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics, and the Montgomery Dietetic Association.

Interns will be encouraged to complete 1 to 2 master’s degree courses in Medical Nutrition or Advanced Nutrition during the internship.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Internship Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books (provided by ALSDE or by intern)</td>
<td>$0 - $500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Insurance (provided through ALSDE-singe coverage)</td>
<td>$30-$123</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liability Insurance</td>
<td>$30-$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Automobile Insurance</td>
<td>$600-$1200</td>
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<tr>
<td>AND Student Membership (required)</td>
<td>$35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Housing costs per month ($500-$900/month)</td>
<td>$6000-$10,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student membership to Montgomery District Dietetic Assoc. (recommended)</td>
<td>$25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laboratory Coats or Uniforms (if required by site)</td>
<td>$50-$115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-skid shoes (school foodservice facilities)</td>
<td>$50-$80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Exam and vaccinations</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criminal Background check</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drug testing (if required by site)</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation/Mileage to orientation sessions, training sessions and rotation sites (intern must pay up front, then be reimbursed if funding is available)</td>
<td>$0-$1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lodging/Meals to orientation sessions, training sessions and rotation sites (intern must pay up front, then be reimbursed if funding is available)</td>
<td>$0-$1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference/Training Registration Fees</td>
<td>$0-$500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals and Parking at rotation facilities (if required by site)</td>
<td>$0-$150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration Examination</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL COST</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,320-$16,128</strong></td>
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Schedule

The Dietetic Internship would begin in August, 2015 and be a full-time twelve-month program with 1280 hours of supervised practice. (Holidays and non-supervised practice hours are not included in the 1280 hours.) The division of time is as follows: orientation-1 week, school food service management-12 weeks, clinical-10 weeks, community-10 weeks, sports/exercise physiology-2 weeks, and the remaining weeks in the State Agency office. During the twelve months, there are thirteen state holidays. Additional in-kind work at the State Agency office will be done at the completion of the CDR rotations.

Requirements for Completion

Dietetic interns must receive a rating of at least satisfactory completion for each assignment, case study, project, group nutrition education class, presentation, checklist of objectives/competencies and professionalism evaluation in order to successfully complete the program with a one year time frame.

Compliance with Alabama Department of Education policies and procedures is required. Interns are expected to demonstrate behaviors consistent with the “Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics.”

Accreditation Status

The Alabama Department of Education Dietetic Internship is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition & Dietetics (ACEND), 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60606-6995, 312-899-0040 ext. 5400.

Admission Criteria

(Application process is not through DICAS. Direct application with agency only.)

- All applicants to the program must be graduates from an accredited didactic program in nutrition with an A-/B+ average by the start of the internship.
- Prior foodservice experience is required.
- Be recommended by two professors and one employer.
- No credit will be given for prior experience relative to required internship rotations. All interns must complete all assignments and rotations regardless of prior experience.
- A preference will be given to applicants with experience in working with children.
- Completion of GRE
- Serve-Safe certification certificate
- Fingerprinting and background check
- Proof of the following immunizations:
  o Positive titer for chicken pox, measles, and rubella
  o Hepatitis B vaccination series
  o Annual TB skin tests
- Drug testing as required by rotation site
Application Packet Manual to ALSDE

A complete application packet must be postmarked by February 10, 2017.

Address packet to:
June Barrett, Program Coordinator
Child Nutrition Programs
5163 Gordon Persons Building
P.O. Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

The packet must include:

• Completed application form. (The application in Word format can be downloaded from Alabama State Department of Education web site > Dietetic Internship > Dietetic Internship Application.)
• An official Verification of Completion of the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics (AND) Didactic Program, or Declaration of Intent to Complete Program form.
• An official transcript from all colleges or universities attended. Copies will be accepted, originals must be provided upon acceptance.
• Three original recommendations with completed standard Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics (AND) recommendation form must be submitted. Two must be from professors and one from an employer. No copies will be accepted. The forms can be downloaded from Alabama State Department of Education web site > Dietetic Internship > Dietetic Internship Application Recommendation Form.
• Serve-Safe certification of completion (current through 2017)
• Copy of background check and fingerprinting results
• Proof of immunizations for chicken pox, measles, rubella, Hepatitis B and TB
• Graduate records exam score form. Unofficial transcript will be accepted, original must be provided upon acceptance.
• A video (no more than 5 minutes) of the applicant discussing his/her career goals and why he/she would like to be considered for the Alabama Department of Education Dietetic Internship. Applicants may include footage and photos showing participation in work or volunteer experiences relevant to the internship. The video should be saved to a DVD in a movie file such as .wmv, .avi or .mp4 which can be read by a computer.
• A $50 (non-refundable) application fee in form of a money order made to Child Nutrition, Alabama Department of Education.

No materials will be returned.

Application process is not through DICAS. Direct application with agency only.

Selection Process – CDR Computer Matching

All applications to the program must be made through the CDR computer matching for spring selection. The intern must request material from the D&D Digital Systems https://www.dnddigital.com/ada/index.php.