Dietetic Internship: Distance Track
How to Select Facilities and Preceptors for Each Rotation

Clinical Rotation

Length
The clinical rotation is 9 weeks or 360 hours. A 10th “Individualized Professional Skills Development” week is built into the rotation schedule to accommodate the needs and interests of each intern. Interns will complete 0-40 hours of additional supervised practice during this week, with the final schedule to be determined in consultation with the preceptor and the DI Team prior to week 9 of the rotation. For example, interns may utilize this week to explore a particular specialty area of clinical dietetics at their scheduled practice site. Alternatively, interns might spend this week on self-directed study and preparation. If needed, this week can also be used towards the required 360 hours of clinical supervised practice if hours were missed during the first 9 weeks of the scheduled rotation due to weather, illness, or bereavement. The clinical rotation must be continuous.

Facility
The clinical rotation should be at a facility that will expose you to a variety of learning opportunities and experiences with different disease states. You may consider large hospitals, small community hospitals, or long-term care facilities. The clinical facility or facilities must be able to provide in-patient access to all of the activities on the Clinical Rotation Planning Checklist. The rotation should progress from basic to more complex activities. By the end of your rotation, it is expected that you will be able to function as staff relief with minimal supervision. You may complete all of this rotation at one site or utilize two sites if certain experiences are not available at the primary Clinical site, and you must spend a minimum of three weeks at any Clinical site.

Preceptor
Your preceptor for this rotation must be a registered dietitian with a minimum of 1 year of experience post-credentialing. The preceptor and/or another RD on staff must be available to you the entire time you are at the facility.

Food Service Management (FSM) Rotation

Length
The FSM rotation is 9 weeks or 360 hours. A 10th “Individualized Professional Skills Development” week is built into the rotation schedule to accommodate the needs and interests of each intern. Interns will complete 0-40 hours of additional supervised practice during this week, with the final schedule to be determined in consultation with the preceptor and the DI Team prior to week 9 of the rotation. For example, interns may utilize this week to explore a particular specialty area of food service management at their scheduled practice site. Alternatively, interns might spend this week on self-directed study and preparation. If needed, this week can also be used towards the required 360 hours of food service management supervised practice if hours were missed during the first 9 weeks of the scheduled rotation due to weather, illness, or bereavement. The food service management rotation must be continuous.

Facility
The FSM rotation should be at a facility that will expose you to multiple aspects of food service management. Your FSM rotation may be completed at a hospital, long-term care facility, school nutrition services program,
university dining service, commercial food service operation, or corporate food service operation. The FSM facility or facilities must be able to provide access to all of the activities on the Food Service Management Rotation Planning Checklist. The rotation should progress from basic to more complex activities. By the end of your rotation, it is expected that you will be able to function as staff relief with minimal supervision. You may complete all of this rotation at one site or utilize two sites if certain experiences are not available at the primary FSM site, and you must spend a minimum of three weeks at any FSM site.

**Preceptor**
Your preceptor for this rotation should be the food service director or a manager with a minimum of 1 year of experience in that position. He/she does not need to be a registered dietitian.

**Community Rotation**

**Length**
The community rotation is 9 weeks or 360 hours. A 10th “Individualized Professional Skills Development” week is built into the rotation schedule to accommodate the needs and interests of each intern. Interns will complete 0-40 hours of additional supervised practice during this week, with the final schedule to be determined in consultation with the preceptor and the DI Team prior to week 9 of the rotation. For example, interns may utilize this week to explore a particular specialty area of community nutrition at their scheduled practice site. Alternatively, interns might spend this week on self-directed study and preparation. If needed, this week can also be used towards the required 360 hours of community supervised practice if hours were missed during the first 9 weeks of the scheduled rotation due to weather, illness, or bereavement. The community rotation must be continuous.

**Facilities**
The community rotation is required to be completed at two sites where the delivery of nutrition/health education and nutrition/health services occurs. Examples of facilities appropriate to the community rotation include local health bureaus, cooperative extension offices, outpatient nutrition education and counseling facilities or clinics, wellness programs, grocery stores, senior centers, childcare organizations, WIC, and organizations such as the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society. The community facilities must be able to provide opportunities to complete all of the activities on the Community / Community Concentration Rotation Planning Checklist. The rotation should progress from basic to more complex activities. By the end of your rotation, it is expected that you will be able to function as staff relief with minimal supervision. You must utilize two community sites to complete this rotation in order to ensure diversity of experiences in community dietetics, and you must spend a minimum of four weeks at any Community site.

**Preceptors**
You may work with multiple facilities with a variety of preceptors during the community rotation. At least one of the preceptors that you work with during the community rotation must be a registered dietitian with a minimum of 1 year of experience post-credentialing. If you are working with a non-RD for a portion of the rotation, s/he should hold a position related to the delivery of nutrition services to the public with a minimum of 1 year of experience in that position. You may have more than 1 preceptor at each supervised practice facility.

**Community Concentration Rotation**

**Length**
The community concentration rotation is 3 weeks or 120 hours. A 4th “Individualized Professional Skills Development” week is built into the rotation schedule to accommodate the needs and interests of each intern. Interns will complete 0-40 hours of additional supervised practice during this week, with the final schedule to be determined in consultation with the preceptor and the DI Team prior to week 3 of the rotation. For example,
interns may utilize this week to explore a particular specialty area of community nutrition at their scheduled practice site. Alternatively, interns might spend this week on self-directed study and preparation. If needed, this week can also be used towards the required 120 hours of community concentration supervised practice if hours were missed during the first 3 weeks of the scheduled rotation due to weather, illness, or bereavement. The community concentration rotation must be completed at one of the two sites where the intern was placed during the community rotation and must be continuous. It must be completed during the final weeks of supervised practice. For the 2016-2017 internship year, the community concentration rotation will begin on Monday, March 13, 2017.

Facility
The community concentration rotation should be completed at a facility with a primary focus on nutrition and community / public health. Examples of facilities appropriate to the community concentration rotation include local health bureaus, WIC, and cooperative extension offices. *You must complete the community concentration rotation at one of the same facilities utilized during the Community rotation.* The community concentration facility must be able to provide opportunities to complete all of the activities required specifically for this rotation, as indicated on the *Community / Community Concentration Rotation Planning Checklist.*

Preceptor
Your preceptor for the community concentration rotation does not need to be an RD but should hold a position related to nutrition and public health with a minimum of 1 year of experience in that position.

Important Topics to Discuss with Each Preceptor/Site

Rotation Start and Stop Times
Rotations may need to be extended for any of the following reasons: illness, bereavement, the need to repeat part of a rotation, etc. Be sure to discuss this with potential preceptors/sites. If you do not meet expectations or complete all of the competencies/learning experiences within the designated rotation time frame, you may need to complete additional hours at the end of the internship program, extending your overall program length beyond the 34 weeks.

Typical Schedules
The intern is expected to complete **40 hour** work weeks. The intern will complete the 40 hour work week according to the preceptor’s schedule. It is possible that some rotations and facilities will require early morning, late evening, and potential weekend shifts. The preceptor should provide adequate notice regarding expectations for the schedule.

Additionally, all interns are required to complete all didactic coursework. The coursework is available in an online learning platform and must be completed outside of the hours dedicated to supervised practice.

Questions?
Questions regarding the process of selecting facilities and preceptors for supervised practice may be directed to Melissa Savino at mfsavino@cedarcrest.edu or 610-606-4666 Ext. 3621