Dietetic Internship Program
Applicant Guide
**Dietetic Internship Program Overview**

The Banner – University Medical Center Tucson/Banner Children’s at Diamond Children’s Medical Center is a private, non-profit 487-bed acute care facility and major teaching hospital in Tucson, Arizona.

**Mission**

We exist to make a difference in people’s lives through excellent patient care.

**Vision**

We will be a national leader recognized for clinical excellence and innovation, preferred for a highly coordinated patient experience, and distinguished by the quality of our people.

**Values**

We value....

People above all...by treating those we serve and each other with compassion, dignity and respect. Excellence...by acting with integrity and striving for the highest quality care and service. Results...We show we value results by exceeding the expectations of the people we serve, as well as the expectations we set for ourselves.

**DI Mission**

Banner – University Medical Center Tucson Dietetic Internship (DI) provides the highest quality learning experiences for the Dietetic Intern in the areas of Clinical Nutrition Therapy, Public Health/Community Nutrition, Food and Nutrition Services Management, Education and Research, to facilitate development of entry-level competence as a dietetic practitioner.

**DI Vision**

Dietetic Interns will complete the program by meeting the established Performance Requirements/Learning Competencies, successfully pass the Registration Exam, and enter the profession as competent practitioners committed to serving the public through the visible promotion of optimal nutrition, health, and well-being. Faculty and staff of the Dietetic Internship will demonstrate a commitment to and derive personal and professional satisfaction from participation in the development of future dietetic professionals.

**DI Philosophy**

“We believe that students enter the dietetic internship with varying levels of knowledge, skills, and interest. They learn at different rates and in various modes; thus, the program must be designed to accommodate these individual differences within the boundaries of skills needed to demonstrate entry-level competence. Working and learning to apply knowledge in a small group or in a one-to-one setting will assist the intern to achieve competency as an entry-level dietetic practitioner. The intern should have the opportunity to work in various practice settings and to observe several role models demonstrating the highest standards of professional practice. “
Since 2013 Fall Match date, the DI program has been accredited to accept up to eight (8) interns annually and participates in the Spring computer matching.

**General Program Rotation Schedule**

Spring Match interns will begin in mid-August and graduate in May. The intern class will complete 37.5 weeks and a minimum of 1330 hours of supervised practice experience. All interns complete their supervised practice at the same sites.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rotation</th>
<th>Supervised Practice Site</th>
<th>Weeks</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
<th>Supervised Practice Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>BUMCT*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Nutrition Therapy</td>
<td>BUMCT/BUMCS</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Nutrition Services Management</td>
<td>BUMCT/BUMCS</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Food Services</td>
<td>Tucson Unified School District Food Services</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Nutrition/Public Health</td>
<td>Banner Health Outpatient Clinics, Mirasol, Davita Dialysis, U of A Wellness Center, Pima County Public Health - WIC</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2800</td>
<td>324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>BUMCT</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>BUMCT, U of A Career Services</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>37.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>1500</strong></td>
<td><strong>1389</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacation</td>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>(80)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* BUMCT = Banner – University Medical Center Tucson/BUMCS = Banner – University Medical Center South

**Clinical Nutrition Therapy Rotation**

The Banner – University Medical Center Tucson DI Clinical Nutrition Therapy Rotation is designed to provide a logical progression of clinical competency skill sets to facilitate novice to entry-level practice.

- **Phase 1** (3 weeks) – Low Nutritional Risk/Acuity – Adult and Pediatric Populations
- **Phase 2** (5 weeks) – Moderate Nutritional Risk/Acuity – Adult and Pediatric Populations
- **Phase 3** (4 weeks) – High Nutritional Risk/Acuity – Specialized Nutrition Support, Adult, Pediatric and Neonatal Populations
- **Phase 4** (5 weeks) – Staff Responsibility – Moderate & High Nutritional Risk/Acuity – Adult and Pediatric Populations

Banner – University Medical Center Tucson and Diamond Children’s Medical Center offer a wide variety of patient populations and disease states for the optimal clinical practice experience.
**Food and Nutrition Services Rotation**
The Food and Nutrition Management experience is also designed for the intern to progress from novice to entry-level.

- **Clinical Nutrition Management (3 weeks)**
  - Staffing
  - Clinical Productivity
  - Nutrition Services Metrics
  - Performance/Quality Improvement
  - Financial Management

- **General Food Services Management (4 weeks)**
  - Purchasing & Inventory
  - Safety & Sanitation
  - Production
  - Patient Room Service & Diet Office Operations
  - Retail
  - Financial Management
  - Marketing

- **Staff Responsibility (2 weeks)**

The major project for this rotation is a “Special Day” in the Banner – University Medical Center Tucson or Banner – University Medical Center South café. The interns are required to take full responsibility for managing the special event.

**Public Health & Community Nutrition Rotation**
The community experiences expose the intern to a variety of roles for the registered dietitian and allow the intern to apply clinical skills in public health/community settings.

Rotations may include:

- WIC
- Outpatient Dialysis
- Eating Disorders
- Outpatient Nutrition Counseling - Medical Nutrition Therapy & Diabetes Self-Management Training
- Wellness

**Research**
The research rotation extends throughout the spring rotations to allow the interns to complete a meaningful group QI research project to submit for publication. All interns are required to complete the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative web-based training program for human research subject protection.

**Accreditation**
Banner – University Medical Center Dietetic Internship is currently granted accreditation through 2016 by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60606, 312-899-0040, ext. 5400 www.eatright.org/acend
## Banner – University Medical Center Tucson Dietetic Internship Program Metrics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dietetic Intern Positions</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of applicants (2015)</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum GPA preferred</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Overall GPA of Banner – University Medical Center Tucson Dietetic Interns (2012-2015)</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 and 2015 Graduates First-Attempt RD Exam passing rate</td>
<td>92%</td>
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</table>
**Dietetic Internship Program Goals**

1. **Prepare graduates who have met the entry-level performance requirements as defined by ACEND in order to become competent entry-level registered dietitians.**

   **Outcome Measures:**
   - At least 90% of graduates will pass the registration examination on their first attempt
   - At least 90% of interns will complete the dietetic internship within 1 year
   - At least 80% of graduate employer respondents will agree or strongly agree that the graduates are effective entry-level dietitians
   - At least 70% of graduates, seeking employment in dietetics, will obtain a dietetics related position within 3 months post-graduation
   - At the completion of the program, 90% of interns will agree/strongly agree that they feel competent to practice as an entry-level clinical dietitian
   - At the completion of the program, 90% of interns will agree/strongly agree that they feel competent to participate in the management of food and nutrition services systems

2. **Provide progressive, cutting-edge clinical nutrition therapy experience to prepare interns to effectively assess and treat specialized patient populations, especially in the acute care setting.**

   **Outcome Measures:**
   - Graduates will achieve, on average over the 5-year period, a scaled score that is at least 2 points above the national average for the nutrition component of the Registration Examination for Dietitians
   - At least 80% of graduates will agree/strongly agree that they feel competent to perform in the acute care setting providing care for specialized populations; i.e., critical care, pediatrics and transplantation
   - Clinical nutrition rotation classes will be reviewed/revised yearly to reflect current literature and practice
   - At least 80% of graduates will agree/strongly agree that they are competent to utilize the Nutrition Care Process, including identifying nutritional diagnoses/problems, in the nutritional care of their patients
   - At least 80% of interns will achieve a score of 75% or greater on the Clinical Nutrition Therapy Comprehensive Post Test

3. **Provide a program in which interns will be able to effectively apply and communicate current research and scientific information in practice as an entry-level practitioner.**

   **Outcome Measures:**
   - At least one research-based abstract, poster or article developed by interns will be accepted for presentation or publication annually at the state or national level (group project)
   - At least 80% of employer respondents will agree/strongly agree that graduates are able to incorporate current research and scientific information into their daily clinical practice, i.e., medical nutrition therapy is justified by evidence based research

*Program Outcomes available upon request*
Core Competencies for the RD

1. Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice: integration of scientific information and research into practice.
2. Professional Practice Expectations: beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviors for the professional dietitian level of practice.
4. Practice Management and Use of Resources: strategic application of principles of management and systems in the provision of services to individuals and organizations.
Admission and Application Requirements

Admission Requirements

- Completion of a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree in Nutrition or Dietetics from an accredited college or university.
- Successful completion of the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) within the past 5 years. Applicants must submit an original, signed DPD Verification Statement or a signed Declaration of Intent to Complete form if they have yet to graduate.
- Minimum Cumulative Overall GPA of 3.0 (4.0 scale) as well as a minimum GPA of 3.0 (4.0 scale) in DPD courses.
- Letter of Application/Personal Statement
- Three Letters of Recommendation – must include at least one work/volunteer related recommendation
- Dietetics/Nutrition-related work and/or volunteer experience.

Applicant Responsibilities

- Review the Applicant Responsibilities on the following website: http://www.eatright.org/ACEND/content.aspx?id=192
- Banner – University Medical Center Tucson Dietetic Internship Program participates in the online centralized internship application (DICAS) for the SPRING match. Link to DICAS: https://portal.dicas.org Email: DICASinfo@DICAS.org
- The online application must be completed no later than 11:59 PM Central Time on February 15th for the Spring Match. The fee to use DICAS is $45 for the first application submitted and $20 for each additional application.
- When completing the application form, applicants MUST include the name and contact information (specifically an e-mail address) for each reference. This will trigger an e-mail message requesting completion of a reference form. The form will be completed on-line. Students submitting more than one application will need to use the same references for all applications.
- Official transcripts from ALL colleges and universities attended should be sent to: DICAS – Transcript Dept PO Box 9118 Watertown, MA 02471
- Applicants who apply to internships using DICAS will be asked to complete a personal statement in 1,000 words or less. Topics to be addressed in the personal statement include:
  o Why do you want to enter the dietetics profession?
  o Discuss experiences that have helped to prepare you for your career.
  o State your professional goals and reasons for application to the Banner – University Medical Center Tucson DI program.
  o Describe your strengths that will help you succeed in the Banner – University Medical Center Tucson DI program (Clinical Nutrition Therapy Emphasis) and in reaching your professional goals.
- Complete ALL sections of the DICAS application. A resume may be included but does NOT substitute for completing the work/volunteer experience section. The work/volunteer experience MUST include accurate dates for employment, hours worked/week and/or total hours worked.
• Applicants must also register with D&D Digital on-line at www.dnddigital.com for computer matching and select dietetic internship priority choices by 11:59 PM Central Time on February 15th for the Spring Match and September 25th for the Fall Match. There is a $55 computer matching fee.

A non-refundable application fee of $60.00 must be mailed and post-marked by February 15th (Spring Match) for the application to be considered complete. Check or money order should be made payable to: Banner – University Medical Center Tucson.

Mail application fee to:
Banner – University Medical Center Tucson
Dietetic Internship Director
Nutrition Services Room 0430 P.O. Box 245088
1501 N. Campbell Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85724-5088

Selection Process
The review of applications and ranking of applicants is focused on selecting the most qualified and compatible applicants suited to the internship's Clinical Nutrition Therapy focus. The selection committee will consider selection of more than one intern from the same school or state.

Top candidates will be invited for a phone interview. Applicants will be notified by email with their interview date and time.

Dates for Computer Matching
Visit: www.dnddigital.com for the current dates. This program participates in SPRING match.

Matched applicants must telephone (520-694-6615) or email (kelli.yee@bannerhealth.com) the dietetic internship manager to confirm their acceptance or rejection of the match by 5:00 PM Mountain Standard Time on appointment day.

Hard copies of all official transcripts and final verification statement must be provided to the internship program after acceptance.

Program Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UAMC DI Program Application Fee</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND DICAS Application Fee</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>D &amp; D Digital Matching Fee</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>UAMC DI Program Fee</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Text Books (estimated)</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Professional Liability Insurance (estimated)</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fingerprint Card (estimated)</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND Student Member Fee</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Banner – University Medical Center Tucson DI Program does not qualify for federal student loans. Scholarship applications can be obtained from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.
Graduation Requirements
Graduates of Banner – University Medical Center Tucson Dietetic Internship will complete all program requirements.

- Complete the scheduled 37.5 weeks of supervised practice/class presentations.
- Begins each rotation/phase fully prepared and satisfactorily complete the requirements for each rotation/phase: minimum rating of 3 “meets expectations for Entry-Level Performance” for all performance evaluations and assignments.
- Complete all assignments by established deadlines.
- Complete assigned research projects including an abstract, poster and/or an article, according to established criteria, for submission to AND, ASPEN or other appropriate association/publication.
- Show attendance at a minimum of one Southern Arizona District Dietetic Association meeting, and at least one other professional meeting outside of the regular workday.
- Complete Clinical Nutrition Therapy and Food & Nutrition Services Management Staff responsibility experiences with performance ratings of 3 or above.
- Exhibit Banner – University Medical Center Tucson values.
- Demonstrate proficiency in the Core Competencies for the RD set forth by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics AND the program specific Clinical Nutrition Therapy Competencies.

Upon completion of the internship program requirements, graduates will receive a verification statement from the program director to be eligible to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians. Graduates will be competent to practice as entry-level dietitians.
DI Program Contact
Kelli Jo Yee MS RD CDE
Dietetic Internship Director
Banner – University Medical Center Tucson
Diamond Children’s Medical Center
Support Services PO Box 245088
1501 N. Campbell Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85724

kelli.yee@bannerhealth.com
520.694.6731