

Accredited Dietetics Programs

Didactic Program in Dietetics

Director: Anne Oldham, MS, RD, LD

Dietetics Internship

Director: Jean Anderson, MS, RDN, LD

Accredited through the
Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)

- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' accrediting agency for education programs preparing students for careers as Registered Dietitians (RD)
- Recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a Title IV gatekeeper, <http://www.eatright.org/ACEND/>
- Member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA)

Accreditation Process

- Written self-study report
- On-site evaluation visit by team of professional peers, appointed by the ACEND board, to determine if the program is achieving objectives and meeting accreditation standards
- ACEND board accredits programs that meet the standards

- Full accreditation is granted for 10 years
- Preparation of the Program Assessment Report (PAR) is required for all programs at the 5-year interval of the 10-year accreditation period for continued accreditation status
- Payment of annual accreditation maintenance fees

Accreditation Standards

- Program planning and outcomes assessment
 - Mission, goals, objectives, assessment, and on-going program improvement
- Curriculum and student learning outcomes
 - Curricular mapping, learning activities, curriculum length, learning assessment, and on-going curricular improvement
- Staff and resources
 - Director responsibilities, faculty and preceptors, continuing professional development, program resources and facilities
- Students
 - Student progression and professionalization, information to prospective students and the public, policies and procedures

Participation in the Accreditation Process

- ISU dietetics faculty participate at the national level as professional peers, completing program reviews and site visits thus gaining improved understanding of accreditation process and requirements as well as be able to influence necessary changes to the process and requirements
- Program reviewers participate in two site visits per year and review two or more 5-year PAR per year
- Scheduled to participate in international site review for the University of Qatar in March 2014

Educational Pathway to Become a Registered Dietitian

- Complete a minimum of a bachelor's degree and coursework accredited by ACEND of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics – Didactic Program in Dietetics
- Complete an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program (typically 6 to 12 months in length)
- Pass the national examination administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration, www.cdrnet.org
- Maintain RD credential through continuing education (75 hours every 5 years)

Source: Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, www.eatright.org

Employment and Job Outlook

- Hospitals, clinics or other health-care facilities
 - Sports nutrition and corporate wellness programs
 - Food and nutrition-related business and industries
 - Private practice, community and public health settings
 - Universities and medical centers, research areas
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- Projected to grow 21% from 2012 to 2022
 - Faster than the expected growth of 11% for all occupations in the U.S. Economy (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dietitians-and-nutritionists.htm>)

Didactic Program in Dietetics

- Administered through the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department at Iowa State University
- Long-standing history - a dietetics undergraduate major designated to meet the academic requirements of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (formerly the American Dietetic Association) was included in the 1929-30 ISU Bulletin

Currently:

- Only accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics in the state of Iowa

Two tracks:

- Bachelor of Science in Dietetics (4-year program)
- Concurrent BS/MS in Diet and Exercise (5-year program)

Enrollment and Placement

- Enrollment in the undergraduate dietetics major increased in the 5 years following the accreditation site visit
 - 224 in Fall 2008 to 273 in Fall 2012
- Over the past 5 years, 85% of ISU graduates who applied to accredited dietetics internships were matched with an internship that year

Nationally:

- 224 didactic programs, 251 dietetics internships in the U.S.
- In 2012: 2,732 (51%) of applicants matched
- In 2013: 2,738 (50%) of applicants matched

Source: ACEND Update, January 2014

Success of Graduates

Internship Placements:

- Graduates placed into internship programs in Iowa (through ISU and University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics) and across the U.S. including Cleveland Clinic, Mayo Clinic, Rush University Medical Center, University of Kansas Medical Center

Registration Examination Results for ISU Graduates:

Over the past 5 years (2008-2012 testing years)

- 91% passed on the first attempt
- 99% passed within one year of first attempt

ACEND's first-time pass rate benchmark is 80%

Results and Actions

- During Oct. 16-18, 2014 meeting, the ACEND board continued the accreditation status of the program
- The board commends students and the program for its 91% first-time pass rate on RD exam

Actions and next steps:

- On-going monitoring of program outcomes and placement of students into accredited dietetics internship programs
- Next review and site visit is scheduled for 2018

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Dietetics Internship

Director: Jean Anderson, MS, RDN, LD

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Dietetics Internship History

- Administered through the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department at Iowa State University
- A Coordinated Program was sponsored by this department from 1973 through May 1998
- Granted developmental accreditation in 1995
- Successful completion of DI provides eligibility to sit for RD national exam and Graduate Certificate in Dietetics Internship

Dietetics Internship UNIQUE Characteristics

- 2 Dietetics Internships in Iowa
 - University of Iowa – 12 interns per year, all on site/location at UI Hospitals and Clinics;
 - ISU DI – up to 180 interns per year, utilizes locations across Iowa and the nation; utilized components of distance education format since 1996; exclusively distance education with BlackboardLearn since 2000
- Only accredited DI in U.S. to offer optional international community nutrition rotation in Ghana, West Africa
 - Collaboration with University of Ghana and McGill University
 - 2-3 cohorts per year, 5 interns per cohort

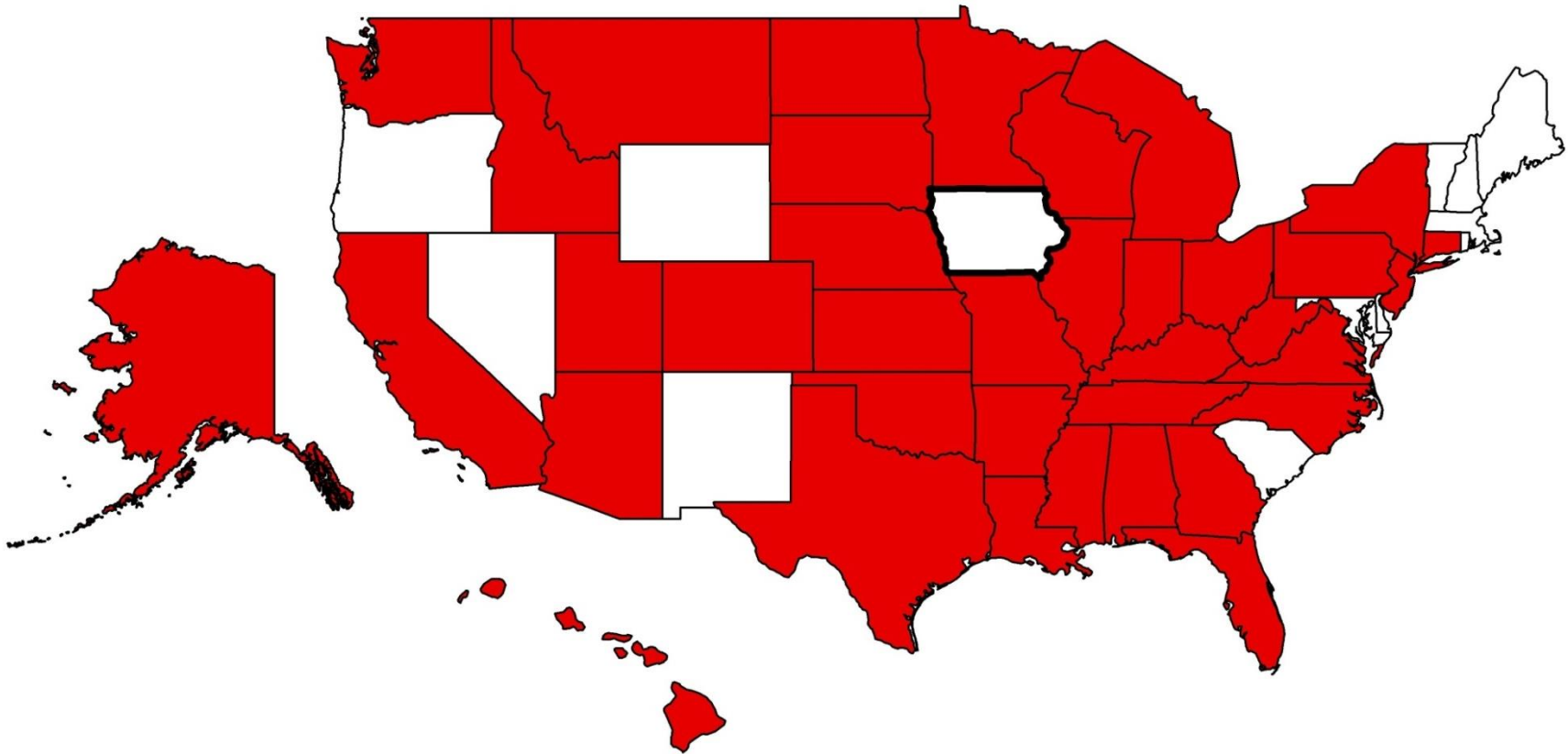
Dietetics Internship UNIQUE Characteristics

- Only accredited DI in U.S. to provide required 1200 supervised practice hours in 25 weeks, approximately 6 months
- Because the internship is condensed alumni are able to join labor force sooner than those from other internship programs
- Alumni can begin earning income several months sooner than others (3-6 months before others)
- Thus help manage student debt load

Dietetics Internship

- Size: Increased enrollment from 8 interns in 1996 to 34 interns in 2007 to 130 in 2013 with accreditation for 180/year—largest in the U.S.
- Demographics: Interns located throughout state of Iowa and in 36 other states; applications received from across the U.S.
- Graduate success:
 - 90% pass rate on national registration exam
 - 93% passed within one year of first attemptACEND's first-time pass rate benchmark is 80%
- Employment:
 - 85% employment rate of alumni who responded to survey

Internship Locations, in addition to Iowa



Results and Actions

- During Oct. 16-18, 2014 meeting, the ACEND board continued the accreditation status of the program
- Next review and site visit is scheduled for 2018

Actions:

- On-going monitoring of program outcomes

Enhancements beyond requirements:

- Continued development of simulations to use through distance education to augment supervised practice using ThinkSpace
- Provide online training for preceptors
- Provide CPEU for preceptors through ThinkSpace modules