



Marshall University Distance Dietetic Internship

Dear Prospective Preceptor:

Marshall University offers an accredited dietetic internship (DI) with two locations: Marshall University Campus-Based (on-site) Internship and Marshall University Distance Internship. Campus-based rotations are completed at locations throughout the Tri-State (WV, Kentucky, Ohio) area, while distance internship rotations are completed in the student's "home" location (or anywhere throughout the U.S.). Descriptions and forms are located on Marshall University's Nutrition and Dietetics Internship website:

Marshall's Dietetic Internship is a one-year combined MS/DI program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). There is one internship class each year; 11 students are accepted to the campus-based internship and up to 35 students are accepted in the Distance Internship. Both internships begin in August and end the following August.

All students are required to complete a minimum of 36 hours of graduate credit.

Required classes include:

- DI Internship Practicum I, II, III
- Advanced Medical Nutrition Therapy I, II
- Research Applications in Dietetics
- Administrative Dietetics
- Diabetes and Nutrition Management
- Sports Nutrition
- Nutrition and Cardiac Disease
- Food Allergies and Intolerances
- Approved Elective

Graduate courses for distance students are offered online through the Blackboard Learning Management system. Distance students are required to meet with the Distance Internship Coordinator on a weekly basis during the DI Practicum I and II courses.

As a preceptor, you are asked to:

- Provide supervised practice experiences for the student by allowing them to first observe you and then practice the skills needed for independent work.
- Co-sign the students' notes and recommendations in the medical record, if applicable.
- Provide guidance to the student while completing required activities for rotation completion, i.e. assist in finding case study patient for medical nutrition therapy, provide ideas for food service management project, or helping the student determine appropriate topics for nutrition presentations.
- Verify weekly reports written by the student documenting hours worked and competencies met.
- Complete an electronic evaluation of student performance upon completion of the rotation. Please note that if a rotation lasts 4 weeks or more, preceptors will receive a mid-point evaluation to complete as well. This will allow the student to improve her or his performance if needed, prior to the end of the rotation.

Please be assured that:

- Professional liability is maintained on our students.
- The student is required to carry their own health insurance.
- The student must provide a completed health/medical examination form, which includes immunization records and proof of TB testing.
- CPR certification is required of the student and all students will participate in HIPAA and Universal Precautions (Bloodborne Pathogens) training during orientation.
- Criminal and abuse background checks are conducted prior to orientation with results made available to preceptors and facilities upon request.
- The student will have specific assignments and project goals and objectives that they are to complete throughout the internship. They will provide these to you upon request. Information about the Marshall University DI may be found on our website: www.marshall.edu/nutrition-and-dietetics/

Written affiliation agreements are required between the students' supervised practice facilities and Marshall University. Initiation of the affiliation agreements will be conducted after the student has been accepted to the program. Marshall University has created an affiliation agreement; however, some facilities prefer to use their own. In the latter case, the agreement will be reviewed by Marshall's legal counsel and the internship coordinator will work with facilities to create a mutually agreeable document.

The distance internship at Marshall University seeks to accept individuals who are self-starters, leaders, and self-directed learners. Distance students must complete a great deal of pre-planning in securing rotations with preceptors as rotations must be established prior to beginning the internship. Throughout the internship, the Distance Internship Coordinator is available to speak with the student and/or preceptors via conference call or "virtual meetings," to answer questions or discuss any concerns participants may have.

Thank you so much for your willingness to assist this prospective student in fulfilling education requirements to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. Your commitment to the education of future dietetics professionals is greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am most easily reached via email: tim.bender@marshall.edu

Sincerely,

Tim Bender EdD, RDN, LD
Distance Dietetic Internship Coordinator
Marshall University

Mallory Mount EdD, RDN, LD, CDCES, FAND
Dietetic Internship Director
Marshall University