

## DIETETIC INTERNSHIP

Students who wish to become Registered Dietitians must complete course requirements in a program accredited by the Commission on Dietetic Education (CADE). This is accomplished at Auburn by completing a BS degree in Nutrition and Food Science, Nutrition/Dietetics Option, or by completing a BS degree in Nutrition and Food Science, Nutrition Science Option plus the Fifth Year Option. Both pathways fulfill the requirements for a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD).

Upon graduation, eligible students apply to CADE-accredited post-baccalaureate dietetic internships in twice-yearly competitive application periods: mid-February and late September. Actual deadline dates vary each year and are available from the DPD Director at Auburn, or online at [www.eatright.org/CADE](http://www.eatright.org/CADE).

A current list of accredited dietetic internships in the US is also available at [www.eatright.org/CADE](http://www.eatright.org/CADE). Upon successful completion of a dietetic internship, graduates are eligible to take the National Examination for Registered Dietitians. Upon successful completion of this examination, it is legal to use the credential “RD” after one’s name and to apply for state licensure as appropriate.

Dietetic internships have a formal name: Supervised Preprofessional Experience. They must be at least 1200 hours in length, some or all of which will take place in a hospital or similar inpatient facility. Dietetic internships are available across the United States. They are offered by a variety of organizations including hospitals, health departments, school systems or education departments, colleges and universities, and the military. Some are available combined with a graduate degree. Some do not give academic credit. Most are full-time, but part-time programs are available. A few offer distance options that enable location-bound interns to complete their rotations using facilities and preceptors in their own localities. Most dietetic interns are not paid during their internships, and most programs require payment of tuition and fees.

Acceptance to a dietetic internship is highly competitive. Students in the DPD must take their studies seriously and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA particularly in the junior and senior years. Students are eligible to make application to dietetic internships during Spring semester of their senior year. Auburn University’s DPD Director actively assists AU students and alumni in the application process.

For more information, contact Dr. Robin Fellers RD, 102-F Poultry Science Building; phone 334-844-3270 or email [rfellers@auburn.edu](mailto:rfellers@auburn.edu).