



Application Guidelines for the Sea Mar Community Health Centers Dietetic Internship

Application Requirements:

1. Students must have a Declaration of Intent to Complete or a Verification Statement from an ACEND-accredited Dietetics Didactic Program (DPD) or Foreign Dietitian Education* (FDE) program and have earned at least a bachelor's degree granted by a U.S. regionally accredited college/university or foreign equivalent.

**Students with degrees obtained outside the United States and its territories must review ACEND's guidelines for international applicants. The Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) requires individuals with foreign degrees to meet specific requirements to obtain the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) credential. Please refer to ACEND's website for International Students: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/about-us/become-an-rdn-or-dtr/international-students>*

2. Master's Degree Requirement*

Option 1: Completion of a master's degree by the first day of the internship (mid-September).

Option 2: Master's degree in-progress.

- Must have completed at least 40% of master's program by the first day of the internship (mid-September).
- Students must submit proof of enrollment and agree to complete remaining coursework during the dietetic internship or within 150% of program length (i.e. students must complete their Master's degree 4.5 months following internship graduation).

- Coursework should be asynchronous (i.e. online and self-paced programs) or otherwise able to be scheduled around the internship schedule.

**Effective January 1, 2024 (class of 2023-2024), the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) will require a minimum of a Master's Degree to be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become a Registered Dietitian (RD).*

The application team evaluates qualified applicants on the following criteria: (not necessarily in any prioritized ranking)

1. Overall GPA - Applicants must have an overall GPA greater than 2.75. The program does not track average GPA of accepted interns.
2. DPD GPA >3.0 desired
3. Work/Volunteer experience in clinical nutrition (hospital/long term patient care), foodservice or community nutrition (1+ years of experience receives maximum points), experience working with multicultural populations and expressed desire to work in a community or public health career.
4. Recommendation Form (2 Professional, 1 Academic) - references only need to complete the "Recommendation Rubric and Questions" on DICAS. Sea Mar does NOT require Letters of Recommendation.
5. Personal statement (1,000 words, addressing all 7 questions below)
 - a. Why do you want to enter the dietetics profession?
 - b. What experiences have helped to prepare you for your career?
 - c. What are your short-term and long-term goals?
 - d. What are your strengths and weaknesses or areas needing improvement?
 - e. What are your reasons for applying to the Sea Mar internship specifically? Would you stay in Seattle after the internship? Would you consider working for Sea Mar?
 - f. Experiences working with diverse populations.
 - g. Language skills – indicate any languages you speak, how you obtained those language skills, and the level at which you speak (i.e. high school and/or college courses and time frame for all, time spent in non-English speaking countries, fully bilingual, bicultural, etc.)

6. Interview (if applicable) - Evaluation of final candidates via video or telephone interview in mid-March is the final step. **We do not contact each applicant if not selected for an interview ~ sorry!**
7. Dietetic Internship Ranking
 - a. All applicants must participate in computer matching. Applicants must register with D&D Digital for "internship matching" and pay the registration fee of \$55. If applying to more than one internship program, applicants must prioritize/rank internships by deadline dates. <https://www.dnndigital.com>

Note: Bilingual/Bicultural applicants receive more points on application screening form in those categories. Sea Mar supports education and employment of dietitians in clinics that serve a multicultural population; thus, students who have taken Spanish-language classes, or who possess other second/multi language skills that would be beneficial in serving our client populations are given extra points during the application process. However, it is not required that interns speak Spanish. We urge all students who have a strong passion and desire to work in community health to apply, regardless of language skills. **Final candidate selection depends on the qualifications of the entire applicant pool.**

Submission of Application for the Sea Mar Community Health Centers Dietetic Internship

1. To apply to the Sea Mar Dietetic Internship, submit application on the Dietetic Internship Centralized Application Services (DICAS) website <https://dicas.liasoncas.com/applicant-ux/#!/login> by 11:59 pm Central Time of the deadline date (typically in mid-February but refer to the DICAS website for **Spring match** dates and times. Info is available early Fall for the Spring match).
2. Fees associated with DICAS are \$50 for the first application and \$25 for each additional application. The Sea Mar Dietetic Internship participates in the spring computer matching application process only.
3. Applicants must also register online for computer matching through <https://www.dnndigital.com> and select dietetic internship priority choices by February

deadline date at 11:59 p.m. Central Time. There is a \$55 registration fee. All applicants must follow the instructions for Notification and Appointment days on the DND Digital website. Sea Mar selects all **eight** interns during First Match (88% of the time).

4. Please mail a **separate APPLICATION review fee of \$50 to Sea Mar** postmarked before or by February 15th to be considered for the internship (no need to overnight payment and we will contact you if payment not received). Please mail a check or money order (do NOT send cash). You may also pay via credit card and to do so, please contact Marisol Thomas ~ marisolthomas@seamarchc.org.

Send payment via check or money order to the address below with same APPLICANT NAME on DICAS application in the check/money order memo line (especially if made out by someone other than applicant or if name on check is inconsistent with DICAS application name, maiden/married name, etc.) payable to:

Sea Mar Community Health Centers

ATTN: DIETETIC INTERNSHIP APPLICATION

Deliver to: Marisol Thomas, MS, RD, Dietetic Internship Director

8915 14th Avenue South

Seattle, WA, 98108

Good luck on the internship application process!