



NATIONAL HEALTHCARE CORPORATION (NHC) COMBINED DIETETIC INTERNSHIP/MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM

WHO ARE WE?

So, you're looking for a Dietetic Internship with a graduate program in the Nashville area? Look no further! Since 1971, National HealthCare Corporation (NHC) has combined exceptional care with a compassionate focus on patients and their families. Throughout the southeast, our affiliated centers provide rehabilitating care as well as skilled nursing care, homecare, hospice, residential and assisted living services. With over 150 facilities in 10 states, NHC is delivering the highest level of care, pioneering new approaches and celebrating achievements from the commitment that has guided us throughout our 50 years and continues to lead us forward.

WHAT'S THE COMBINED DIETETIC INTERNSHIP/MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES (DI/MPS) PROGRAM ALL ABOUT?

Accredited in 1982, the program includes rotations in hospitals, dialysis centers, long-term care centers, as well as community experiences. NHC's dietetic internship faculty believes in providing a nurturing environment that is conducive to learning, as well as challenging academically. In conjunction with the supervised practice rotations, dietetic interns will complete an online Masters in Professional Studies (MPS) with a concentration in Leadership in Nutrition graduate degree.

WHY SHOULD YOU APPLY?

- Variety of experiences working with over 30 preceptors in 10+ sites in middle TN.
- Economical graduate tuition (~\$15,000 total) with 6 hours of free credit given for the supervised practice rotations, leaving 24 hours of graduate coursework).
- NHC has provided quality dietetic training for 42 years for 300 graduates. Over the past five years, 100% of our graduates have passed the RD exam within one year.
- Master of Professional Studies with a concentration in Leadership in Nutrition graduate degree completed online, in conjunction with the supervised practice portion in 12-15 months. There is also an option to complete the 9-month supervised practice portion, at no cost, if you already have a graduate degree.
- Opportunity to travel including staff relief, pediatric rotation, and state and national convention, as available.
- Great job opportunities with NHC available upon graduation in the areas of clinical and food service management in a rapidly growing job market. Over the past five years, more than 40% of our graduates have accepted jobs with NHC.

LETTER TO PROSPECTIVE APPLICANT

October 19, 2023

Dear Prospective Applicant:

Thank you very much for your interest in the National HealthCare Corporation (NHC) Combined DI/MPS Program. The NHC Dietetic Internship is celebrating its 43rd year of providing quality dietetics education. Included with this information are specific guidelines and information about NHC's Dietetic Internship Program (including the MPS degree at Middle Tennessee State University) applicant responsibilities for the dietetic internship application and graduate school application and for the computer matching process. The NHC Dietetic Internship Program is participating in a centralized application process. All applicants to the NHC Dietetic Internship must go through a computerized matching process with D & D Digital as well unless they are eligible for the pre-select process (see information under application and admission section. Applicants should go to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to receive instructions and timelines for computer matching and information on the Dietetic Internship Centralized Application Services (DICAS). There is a \$65.00 D & D computer matching fee, a \$50.00 DICAS fee and a \$50.00 graduate school application fee (only if matched with NHC). There is no application fee charged by NHC for applications.

I am pleased that you are interested in our program. In the next few months, you will have to make many important decisions. With the NHC DI/MPS program, you have options to not only continue your education but also begin a promising career. Potential applicants are welcome to contact the program director to schedule in person or virtual visits to the program. Fall visits are encouraged to help prepare you for the February 2023 application deadline. Virtual open house dates will be 10/23/23 and 11/13/23 at 2:00 pm, central time. If you have any questions or need an open house zoom link, please call (615) 890-2020, ext. 1830 or email Patty Poe at ppoe@nhccare.com.

Sincerely,

Dr. Patty Poe

Patty T. Poe, EdD, RD, LDN
Director, NHC Dietetic Internship



2022-23 NHC Dietetic Interns



OVERVIEW AND CURRICULUM

NHC's health care centers provide skilled and intermediate nursing care as well as speech, physical and occupational therapy. NHC is recognized nationwide as an innovator in the delivery of quality long-term care. We are dedicated to meeting patient needs through an interdisciplinary approach combining compassionate care with cost-effective health care services. NHC was founded in 1971, began trading publicly on NASDAQ in 1983, listed on the American Stock Exchange, and operated as a limited partnership from 1986 until December 1997 at which time it converted back to a corporation. To learn more about the sponsoring company, please visit www.nhccare.com.

To become a registered dietitian (RD) or registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) an individual must complete a process as outlined (and listed below) on the Academy website:

- **Completed a minimum of a bachelor's degree** at a US regionally accredited university or college and course work accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.
- **Graduate degree** must be completed either before or during the dietetic internship in order to be eligible to take the exam. Applicants who have already completed a graduate degree upon entering the program may elect to do the supervised practice portion only. More information is available on the [CDR website](#).
- **Completed an ACEND® accredited supervised practice program** at a health-care facility, community agency, or a foodservice corporation or combined with undergraduate or graduate studies.
- **Pass a national examination** administered by CDR. For more information regarding the examination, refer to [CDR's website](#).
- **Completed continuing professional educational requirements** to maintain registration.

Please visit this webpage to learn more about the pathways to becoming a registered dietitian (RD): <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/information-for-students/registered-dietitian-nutritionist-fact-sheet>

In most states, graduates also must obtain licensure or certification to practice. For more information about state licensure requirements click <https://www.cdrnet.org/licensure> .

The primary objective of the program is to train qualified individuals to become competent dietitians. For the 2024-25 class, six dietetic interns will be selected for the program. For the six interns matched in the spring of 2024, the combined DI/MPS program will be a 12-15-month internship program beginning in early June 2024 and ending the following summer in August 2025. Currently, dietetic interns rotate through the following facilities: NHC centers in the Middle Tennessee area, Skyline Medical Center, Horizon Medical Center, VA TN Valley Healthcare System, Fresenius Kidney Care, school foodservice, wellness and fitness experiences and various locations in Memphis for pediatric training. In addition, interns will complete a completely online 30-credit hrs. in the MPS graduate program.

Care is taken during recruitment and selection, as well as actual administration, to protect student civil rights. The program director seeks a diversified class and works to maintain an appropriate percentage between minorities who interview for the program and those accepted. The program and sponsoring organization both adhere to policies regarding the selection, hiring and promotion based on ability regardless of race, color, religion, creed, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity and sexual

orientation), age, national origin, disability, and genetic information. Student privacy is respected during the program. Grades and evaluation outcomes are handled on an individual basis, and space is provided in the internship director's office for private counseling as needed.

ACCREDITATION

The NHC Dietetic Internship Program is currently granted accreditation status by ACEND of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995, 800-877-1600, Ext. 5400. (<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend> ; email ACEND@eatright.org). ACEND is the only accrediting agency for dietetics education recognized by the USDE.

NHC MISSION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

Specific outcome levels achieved for these objectives are available from the director upon request.

The mission of the NHC's Combined DI/MPS program is "To prepare interns to become successful entry-level registered dietitian nutritionists through supervised practice and didactic learning experiences in clinical, foodservice management, community, and leadership in nutrition. " The mission of the program drives the goals and outcome measures that are listed below:

The specific program goals and objectives to meet these goals are listed below:

Goals and Objectives:

Program Goal 1: The program will produce competent graduates who are prepared for entry-level practice as registered dietitian nutritionists.

Objective 1.1: At least 80% of program interns complete program/degree requirements within 23 months (150% of the program length).

Objective 1.2: Of graduates who seek employment, 89% are employed in nutrition and dietetics or related fields within 12 months of graduation.

Objective 1.3: 89% percent of program graduates take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within 12 months of program completion.

Objective 1.4: The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%.

Objective 1.5: Program graduates will rate knowledge and preparedness for entry-level dietetics practice as adequate, as evidenced by a mean score of 4.0 or higher (out of 5.0) on the graduate/employer survey.

Objective 1.6: Employers of program graduates will rate knowledge and preparedness for entry-level dietetics practice as adequate, as evidenced by a mean score of 4.0 or higher (out of 5.0) on the graduate/employer survey.

Program Goal 2: The program will prepare graduates to practice in the geriatric nutrition field and provide a return on investment (ROI) for the sponsoring institution.

Objective 2.1: Over a five-year period, 40% of graduates provide the sponsoring institution with one to two years of work, to provide a return on investment (ROI) to NHC and encourage further sponsorship of the program.

Program Goal 3: The program will prepare graduates to demonstrate a commitment to the community through professional involvement, leadership and service in a variety of personal or professional settings.

Objective 3.1: The interns will become members of the national, state, and local dietetic association and will attend either in person or virtually, a local district dietetic association meeting and a national dietetic association meeting while in the program.

Objective 3.2: When surveyed, graduates will rate their level of involvement in professional activities, community service or leadership activities as adequate, as evidenced by a mean score of 4.0 out of 5.0 or above on the graduate/employer survey.

CURRICULUM, SCHEDULE, AND PROGRAM COMPLETION

The 15-month program currently provides approximately 1050 supervised practice hours (August 2024-May 2025) as follows:

Orientation	Mid-August (2 weeks)
Dietetic intern classes	Mondays, once a month
Alvin C. York VA Medical Center	5 weeks (160 hours)
Horizon Medical Center (clinical)	4 weeks (128 hours)
Fresenius Kidney Care	3 weeks (96 hours)
Lebanon Special Schools	1 week (32 hours)
NHC (clinical)	4 weeks (128 hours)
NHC (food services)	4 weeks (128 hours)
Pediatric (LeBonheur, Boling CDD)	1 week (32 hours)
Skyline Medical Center (clinical)	5 weeks (160 hours)
TwelveStone (nutrition support/wellness)	1 week (32 hours)
Wellness and Fitness	1 weeks (32 hours)
NHC (staff relief)	3 weeks (120 hours)

The 15-month, fully online MPS degree (June 2024-August 2025) that is completed in conjunction with the supervised practice portion of the program was completed in 2023-24 as follows.

Summer 2024 (9 credit hours, does not have to be completed in middle TN)
PRST 6600 – Statistical Analysis
PRST 6100 – Professional Environment: Issues and Ethics July Session
3 credit hours from a list of several courses in NFS program

Fall 2023 (6 credit hours to be completed in middle TN)
PRST 6300 – Research Methods
HSC 6530 – Effective Program Management

Spring 2024 (6 credit hrs. to be completed in middle TN)
PRST 6000 – Leading Organization Transformation
NFS 6300 – Entrepreneurial Skills for Nutrition Professionals

Summer 2024 (9 credit hours, does not have to be completed in middle TN)
PRST 6998 – Professional Project
Final 6 credit hours are awarded after completing the program, at no cost

The NHC Dietetic Internship is completed in approximately 15-months on a full-time schedule beginning in early June and extending into mid-August of the following year. Most weeks consist of at least 40 hours per week of classes and supervised practice experiences, with completion of written assignments on rotations and in graduate classes. A two-week orientation is mandatory for all interns held at NHC corporate office in Murfreesboro, TN in mid-August. Before starting the program, interns must have proof of medical insurance, have professional liability insurance (paid for by NHC), drug screen (paid up to \$50 by NHC), background check (completed and paid for by NHC), and health form requirement. Currently, the supervised practice hours are completed Tuesdays through Fridays except for approximately two weekends when interns would possibly travel. If a leave of absence is requested and approved by the director, the program requirements must be completed within 150% of the program length or 23 months. Information regarding leave of absences will be discussed further in the policy and procedure manual upon acceptance into the dietetic internship. A master rotation schedule is given to each student at the beginning of the program and monthly Monday class schedules are given to interns at least two weeks ahead of time.

Both didactic and supervised practice experiences shall be included in the dietetic internship program. Planned learning experiences shall be offered in logical progression from introductory to the expected degree of competence in program graduates. RD Exam practice tests will be administered throughout the year. In addition, once rotations and coursework are completed, the interns will complete procedures for eligibility to take the RD examination. The RDE misuse form will be explained by the director and signed by students to be kept in their student files.

Upon graduation, students are expected to have met core competencies and all graduate courses with the required grades. Successful completion of all didactic training, 1000+ supervised practice hours, rotation assignments and graduate coursework, will ensure that the core competencies for entry-level dietetics have been met and that a verification statement will be issued to graduates. Grading expectations are listed in the policy and procedure manual.

MEMPHIS TRAINING

One week of pediatric training will be scheduled in the spring in Memphis, Tennessee. When traveling to Memphis, housing is by NHC. Some meals and gas are reimbursed by NHC. The projected cost to the intern for the Memphis rotation is approximately \$100.



STAFF RELIEF

Staff relief is scheduled at an approved NHC facility in a convenient location for minimal lodging and/or travel costs to the intern.

COMPLAINT POLICY

Any grievances or complaints about the dietetic internship should first be presented to the director. If the intern is dissatisfied with the results of the conference with the director, then the intern should make a request, in writing, for a conference with the grievance committee. The Grievance Committee will be composed of at least two (2) dietitians of NHC, the director, and a staff member of the home office of NHC. If the intern is still dissatisfied, then a written request should be made for a conference with the senior vice president of patient services. All grievances will be documented and signed by the director and the intern. The original will be filed in the intern's folder and kept on file in the office of the director.

If the intern has a grievance or complaint related to their graduate courses at MTSU, they will be encouraged to discuss it with their MTSU professor first, then their MTSU advisor. If that does not resolve the issue, they will be encouraged to discuss it with the DI Director who will help direct them to the proper MTSU contact.

If an individual other than an intern such as faculty, preceptor, dietetics practitioner and/or member of the public has a complaint, they may submit a complaint against the program. If the complaint can be addressed with the program director, that is the first course of action. If it is believed that it can't be resolved through the program director, the complaint can be brought to the senior vice-president of patient services. The procedure to file complaints against accredited programs to ACEND is discussed in the policy and procedure manual. Please submit complaints directly to ACEND only after all other options with the program and the institution have been exhausted. All grievances will be handled in a manner that prevents retaliation.

CLASSES

Interns will meet approximately once a month on Mondays for dietetic internship classes on various topics throughout the entire program. Interns will complete their online MPS graduate coursework on evenings, weekends and Mondays.

BENEFITS AND COSTS

STIPEND

A stipend of \$1,350.00 (total for the year) during the supervised practice portion of the program is provided by NHC. The first check will be mailed in September 2024 and the final check in May 2025. Monthly checks will be mailed on the first Friday of the month.

INSURANCE

Interns are required to obtain their own health insurance and professional liability insurance while completing the NHC DI program. Interns provide proof prior to beginning the internship. The cost of the liability insurance premium will be reimbursed once the intern starts the program. Interns are responsible for all medical expenses incurred during the internship, including having a physical exam, all required vaccinations, and a drug screen prior to starting the program.

The Covid-19 vaccination policy is discussed in Step Two of the application process further down in this document. A background check will be conducted and paid for by NHC. Interns are required to have automobile insurance and assume own liability while traveling to and from internship practice experiences and classes.

MTSU TUITION – MPS GRADUATE DEGREE

Graduate school tuition and fees (textbooks not included) are listed below. In-state students pay in-state tuition and fees, and out-of-state students pay the e-rate in the two summer semesters when they are not on their supervised practice rotations and in-state tuition during the spring and fall semesters while they are in middle TN for their supervised practice rotations. For applicants who have completed a graduate degree, there is no tuition for the nine-month supervised practice portion of the DI. Fee schedules will be updated for 2024-25 so please check the MTSU website for updated fees. Fees for the 2023-24 sessions were approximately:



Summer 2023 (9 credit hours, does not have to be completed in middle TN)
\$5409 (for in-state interns) \$7758 (e-rate for out of state interns)

Fall 2023 (6 credit hours to be completed in middle TN)
\$3606 (in-state and out-of-state interns)

Spring 2024 (6 credit hrs. to be completed in middle TN)
\$3606 (in-state and out-of-state interns)

Summer 2024 (3 credit hours for the professional project), does not have to be completed in middle TN). Tuition for the 6 DI credits is free for NHC dietetic interns
\$1803 (for in-state interns) \$2586 (e-rate for out of state interns)

MPS total tuition and fees for in-state would be approx. \$14,424

MPS total tuition and fees for out-of-state would be approx. \$17,556

MEALS

During assigned training only, lunch will be provided on most rotations. Interns will be responsible for meals on class day and when attending meetings.

FNCE OR OTHER NATIONAL MEETING

Attendance is required at a national meeting either in person or virtually. The dates and location will be discussed upon acceptance into the program. If FNCE is approved to be attended in person, registration and hotel (if needed) are paid by NHC. Interns are responsible for paying for their travel (gas or airfare) and meals while at the meeting.

HOLIDAYS/VACATIONS

Interns are permitted a two-week vacation during late December and early January. The holidays for the year will be Labor Day, Thanksgiving (2 days), Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The vacation dates for 2024-2025 will be during late December and early January.

HOUSING

Interns will be responsible for all housing costs during all training, except the weeks of FNCE and Memphis. Monthly rental for one or two-bedroom apartments in middle Tennessee are approximately \$1000 to \$2000 per month, depending on location and roommate availability.

SUPPLIES

Some supplies for special projects are reimbursed. Supplies purchased must have a receipt and be turned in on the proper form to the internship director. This does not include routine daily supplies, e.g., paper, pencils and pens, which are the responsibility of the intern. Some textbooks are provided for the dietetic intern but are to be returned upon program completion. Interns will be responsible for paying for scrubs and lab coats in the amount of approximately \$100.00. NHC will provide the interns with NHC embroidered polo shirts which can be worn on most rotations if desired. All copying should be done at NHC's corporate office if possible. The cost of the textbooks and supplies for the graduate courses will be the intern's responsibility.

TRANSPORTATION

Interns must have access to a vehicle at all times. All maintenance and mileage expenditures will be the responsibility of the intern. Facilities are in the Murfreesboro, Nashville and surrounding middle TN area except for the Memphis pediatric rotation. A gas allowance is given for some rotations. Monthly transportation costs can range from \$200-\$500 depending on where you live and gasoline prices.

FINANCIAL AID

Interns may apply for NHC dietetic internship tuition reimbursement scholarships of \$1,000 each to assist in the payment of education expenses during the dietetic internship. Tuition reimbursement scholarships are awarded to applicants demonstrating professional potential in long-term care and require a work obligation of one year after graduation. Interns who choose to work for NHC will also receive a \$2,000 recruitment bonus at graduation. Tuition reimbursement scholarships and recruitment bonus are available to graduates accepting employment with NHC up to one year after graduation.

MTSU Graduate School Financial Aid: Once you have matched to NHC and applied to the MTSU graduate program, you may complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aide (FAFSA). A FAFSA may be submitted before your MTSU admission decision. Information on how to apply for FAFSA or financial aid may be found at the MTSU graduate school financial aid link at www.mtsu.edu/financial-aid/graduate.php

POLICY ON GRANTING CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Graduates of ACEND-accredited didactic programs who have held post-graduate (unless otherwise approved) paid positions in the field of dietetics with responsibilities that fulfilled certain ACEND competencies may be granted credit for prior learning. In addition, applicants with a completed graduate degree may also receive credit for prior learning and all or a portion of the required graduate coursework may be replaced. Please include your graduate transcript on DICAS and make sure the DI director knows you are applying for the nine-month supervised practice portion of the program only. This can be included in the personal statement. It will be determined by the program director if the experience will replace a portion of a rotation or course or if an alternate rotation will be provided to provide time to focus on a special interest of the intern.

The process must be initiated prior to beginning the internship to accommodate changes in scheduling. The process for establishing credit for prior learning is as follows: 1. Intern will contact director after internship appointment between April and June to request an assessment of prior learning. If the request to assess adequacy of prior learning is verbally approved, then the intern will follow up with a written request describing in detail the prior learning experience. 2. Intern will provide contact information to verify prior learning experiences. 3. Program director will determine if prior credit replaces a portion of a rotation or course or if an alternate rotation will be provided for the intern. 4. Intern will provide official transcripts of previously completed graduate degree, if applicable.

APPLICATION & ADMISSION

APPLICATION FOR NUTRITION AND DIETETICS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2024 - 2025 ACADEMIC YEAR

The application can be downloaded from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics from September 2023 to February 2024. Traditionally, the scholarship application must be completed and postmarked by February 15, 2024, but please check the website for updated deadlines.

<https://eatrightfoundation.org/why-it-matters/scholarships/>



Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)
The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
1-800-877-1600, ext. 5400 education@eatright.org

Students must be members of The Academy to be eligible. Dietetic internship applicants may also want to contact their state dietetic association to check on available scholarships awarded for completion of the dietetic internship.

Recency of education: Additional courses in a nutrition or dietetics related area are required to update a degree which was completed five or more years prior to application to the NHC Dietetic Internship program. Courses must be taken at a U.S. regionally accredited college or university and require a grade of B or better. An official transcript of these courses must be provided. If your degree was completed 5 to 10 years ago, at least six semester hours is required. If your degree was completed within the past 0 to 5 years, no updated courses are required. This requirement may be waived, depending on work experience since graduation, as approved by the director.

The Dietetic Internship Program at NHC is participating in the centralized application process. There are four steps to the application process:

Step One: DICAS online application (available in mid-Oct)

Step Two: D & D Digital Computer Matching

Step Three: Apply to the MTSU MPS Program (the last week of April, immediately following matching and accepting NHC's program). Contact DI Director after match for further instructions.

STEP ONE: CENTRALIZED APPLICATION: DICAS

- ◆ DICAS Application can be accessed at Dietetic Internship Centralized Services (available after 10/26/23)
- ◆ Email DICASinfo@DICAS.org. The online application MUST be completed by February 15, 2024 at 11:59 pm, Central Standard Time. Confirm this deadline on the DICAS website.
- ◆ The fee to DICAS is \$50.00 for the first application and \$25.00 for each additional application.
- ◆ On the DICAS application, applicants will be asked to complete a personal statement in 1,000 words or less. Information to be addressed includes:
 1. Why do you want to become a dietitian?
 2. What are some experiences that have helped you prepare for your career?
 3. Short and long-term goals.
 4. Strengths and areas needing improvement.
 5. Why are you applying for the NHC program?
 6. If you are interested in the pre-select option. (MTSU only)
 7. If you have a graduate degree and are interested in the supervised practice portion only
- ◆ Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended should be sent to:
DICAS-Transcript Dept.
PO Box 9118
Watertown, MA 02472
- ◆ GRE score is NOT required with an undergraduate gpa of 3.25 or higher. There are also exceptions for graduates with lower gpa's who have prior professional work experience in a related field. Please review the MPS graduate degree webpage for admission requirements at <https://www.mtsu.edu/university-college/mps/>
- ◆ When completing the application form, you must list three references and include the names and contact information (email address) for each. This will trigger an email message requesting completion of a reference form. The form will be completed online. At least one

recommendation from your advisor or a professor in your major field and a work recommendation are preferred.

- ◆ Work experience, especially in a nutrition or food service-related field, is recommended. Leadership roles, length of employment, number of hours worked, and volunteer experience will also be considered.
- ◆ Over the past five years, we have received an average of 20 applications per year. Once these applications are reviewed, approximately 15 are selected for a virtual interview.
- ◆ Regarding the Covid-19 vaccination series, some of the affiliate sites where the dietetic interns complete supervised practice hours require vaccines. With this consideration in mind, the 2024-25 NHC dietetic internship matched applicants may be required to be fully vaccinated to begin the program in June 2024. Please do not include this information in your application or during an interview if you are selected for an interview.
- ◆ The NHC application fee of \$30 has been waived for the 2024-25 application. There is no fee to apply.

STEP TWO: COMPUTER MATCHING D & D DIGITAL

- ◆ Register online for computer matching and select your dietetic internship priority choices by 11:59 pm Central Time on February 15, 2024. There is a \$65.00 computer matching fee to D & D Digital, payable when your priority choices are identified. Confirm this date on D & D Digital Systems. D & D Digital Systems, 3100 S. Riverside Drive, PO Box 887, Ames, IA 50019.

PRE-SELECT OPTION APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The Preselect Option allows a stand-alone dietetic internship (DI) to grant early admission to applicants from didactic programs in dietetics (DPD program) through which NHC DI/MPS has an established affiliation agreement.

Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) students having earned or expecting to earn a DPD verification statement from MTSU prior to the **National HealthCare Corporation (NHC) DI/MPS** start date in May 2024, are eligible to apply to be preselected for one of three possible slots (all three slots may or may not be filled). Applications will be reviewed based on GPA, personal statement, references, work and volunteer experiences. After confirmation of pre-select acceptance, students must notify D&D Digital to remove their name and information from the D&D Digital Match list. Once preselected interns are confirmed, NHC will e-mail D&D Digital (info@dnddigital.com) the preselected individuals' names with their email addresses before February 1, 2024. With this information, D&D Digital will be able to ensure that these students are not participating in the computer match.

What happens if an intern is not accepted during Preselect? The applicant may still apply to NHC and other DI programs through the Match process. The applicant may reapply to the NHC DI/MPS and will be given full consideration. Please visit the ACEND website for more information on the regular DICAS and computer Match timeline.

Preselect Application Requirements:

Official transcripts: If the degree(s) are still in progress, the transcript should show coursework completed to date. A bachelor's degree must be completed before the start of the DI/MPS in May 2024.

- DPD Verification Statement or Declaration of Intent
- Personal Statement
- Three letters of recommendation

Preselect Application Process:

The steps to apply to the NHC DI/MPS Preselect Option are outlined below:

1. Complete a DICAS application at <http://dicas.liasoncas.com>. There is no separate NHC supplemental application or application fee to NHC.
2. Email NHC DI/MPS at ppoe@nhccare.com to let us know that you have applied through the Preselect Option.

Deadlines for Preselect for the Spring 2024 match:

DICAS Application Opens: October 26, 2024

- Preselect Application for NHC DI/MPS Deadline: January 4, 2024
- Applicants will be notified by January 8, 2024, if they will be interviewed. Interviews on January 10-11, 2024
- Notification of Decision: January 12, 2024 (to allow unmatched MTSU DPD students to participate in the national DICAS process, if not selected for one of NHC's pre-select slots).
- Applicant must accept position by January 16, 2024, and immediately notify D&D Digital to remove them from the computer matching list.