



National HealthCare Corporation (NHC)
Dietetic Internship
2027-2028

About NHC

Since 1971, National HealthCare Corporation (NHC) has been built on a simple but powerful belief: that exceptional patient care and genuine compassion belong together. Today, NHC's centers provide rehabilitative care, skilled nursing, homecare, hospice, and residential and assisted living services across more than 170 facilities in nine states. For more than 50 years, NHC has pioneered new approaches to care while staying anchored to the values that have guided us from the start. *To learn more about our sponsoring organization, visit www.nhccare.com.*

The NHC Dietetic Internship Program

Accredited since 1982, the NHC Dietetic Internship is a well-rounded program providing a variety of MNT, clinical, community, food service, and specialty experiences. Interns complete 1,000+ hours of supervised practice across a diverse network of more than ten rotation sites in Middle Tennessee, including a level I trauma center, dialysis clinics, long-term care facilities, pediatric settings, school nutrition programs, VA medical centers, and community experiences.

At NHC, we're invested in your entire journey — from your first rotation through your credentialing exam and into your career as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. Our staff and preceptors are committed to creating a learning environment that is both supportive and academically rigorous, because we believe the best dietitians are shaped by challenge and care in equal measure.

Interns who do not yet hold a master's degree complete their graduate coursework concurrently through one of three university partners: Middle Tennessee State University, The University of Alabama, or Texas Tech University. All three programs are offered fully online, giving you flexibility without sacrificing depth.

Why the NHC Dietetic Internship?

A Track Record You Can Trust

NHC has been training dietitians for more than 40 years and has graduated over 300 RDNs. Our one-year CDR exam pass rate is 100% for more than ten years.

No Tuition or Internship Fees

NHC does not charge tuition or fees for the DI program.

Monthly Stipend

Interns receive a \$500 monthly stipend throughout the program totaling \$4,500 over the program year.

Expense Reimbursement

NHC covers select program-related expenses including liability insurance, textbooks, and travel costs.

Flexible Program Length

Complete supervised practice and your graduate degree in 15 months or, if you already hold a master's degree, finish the standalone internship in 9 months.

Nashville, Tennessee

Most rotations take place around Nashville — one of the most dynamic healthcare markets in the country, with unmatched access to diverse clinical settings and learning opportunities.

Depth and Diversity of Clinical Experience

Work alongside 25+ experienced preceptors across 10+ sites including a level I trauma hospital, dialysis clinics, a pediatric hospital, VA medical centers, school nutrition programs, WIC, and long-term care facilities.

Visiting Lecturers and Classes

Monthly, interns participate in education workshops led by nutrition experts from across middle Tennessee. These classes go beyond your rotation experience to expose you to the full breadth of dietetics practice — covering areas like eating disorders, outpatient nutrition counseling, oncology nutrition, sports nutrition, and more.

Build Exam Confidence

Complete CDR practice exams integrated directly into the curriculum, so exam readiness

builds gradually rather than all at once. Paired with targeted study resources, our approach is designed to make sure you cross the finish line prepared and confident.

Graduate Program Options

Choose from three fully online, 30-credit-hour graduate programs through MTSU, UA, or TTU. Programs offer optional concentration in areas like Clinical Nutrition, Sports Nutrition, and Community Nutrition.

A Real Career Path

NHC actively hires RDs in clinical nutrition and food service management. Graduates of the program are eligible for a \$2,000 sign-on bonus with a one-year work commitment, plus \$1,000 in tuition reimbursement.

We don't just train dietitians — we build careers.

- For more than eight years, 100% of graduates rate their knowledge and preparedness for entry level dietetics practice as adequate/satisfactory.
- For more than eight years, 100% of employers rate knowledge and preparedness for entry level dietetics practice as adequate/satisfactory.
- Over a five-year period, 38% of graduates choose to have a fulfilling career with NHC



Letter to Prospective Applicant

Dear Prospective Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the NHC Dietetic Internship Program. With 44 years of providing quality dietetics education, we are proud of the legacy this program has built — and equally excited about where it's headed. This packet includes everything you need to understand the program, the application process, and your responsibilities as an applicant — including graduate school requirements if applicable to you.

The NHC Dietetic Internship participates in the Dietetic Internship Centralized Application System (DICAS). Full application instructions and timelines are available in the Application section of our website. A \$50 DICAS application fee applies. Graduate school application fees range from \$50–\$75 and are only applicable if you are offered and accept a position with NHC and do not yet hold a master's degree. NHC does not charge any program application fee. **Application Deadlines:** October 1, 2026, and February 1, 2027

I encourage prospective applicants to connect with me early. Summer and fall visits — whether in person or virtual — are a great way to get a feel for the program before the application deadlines arrive. Virtual open house dates are listed on our website. To schedule a meeting or request an open house link, reach out directly: mckel.kooienga@nhccare.com or (615) 890-2020, ext. 1830

Please reach out if you have any questions about our program, I look forward to connecting with you!



Warmly,
McKel Kooienga, MS, RDN, LDN
Director, Dietetic Internship
National HealthCare Corporation (NHC)
<https://nhccare.com/dietetic-internshipnhc4014/>

Program Overview

The primary objective of the program is to train qualified individuals to become competent dietitians. For the 2027-2028 class, six dietetic interns will be selected for the program. You will experience supervised practice rotations in over ten different sites, including hospitals, long-term care centers, dialysis centers, foodservice, community and pediatrics settings. In addition, and as applicable, interns may complete an online, 30-credit hour graduate program.

The NHC DI is completed in approximately 9 or 15 months on a full-time schedule — 9 months for the internship program only or 15 months if you're concurrently taking your graduate studies. Graduate courses begin in May and extend into mid-May or August of the following year, depending on the elected program and schedule. If you plan to complete a master's concurrently, you will start May 2027 and conclude August 2028. If you already hold a graduate degree, the program will begin in August 2027 and conclude in May 2028.

How To Become a Registered Dietitian (RD/RDN)

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

- **Completed a minimum of a graduate degree** at a U.S. 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.
- **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. Typically, a practice program will run six to 12 months in length.
- **Passed a national examination** administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (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/professional-information-and-scholarships/registered-dietitian-nutritionist-fact-sheet>

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

While state interpretations of statutes may vary, it is ACEND's considered opinion that the program meets the educational requirements for dietetics licensure and certification in all states. However, completing an ACEND-accredited academic program alone does not qualify an individual for licensure or certification as a dietitian in any state. Individuals should review their state's licensing statutes and regulations to understand the specific requirements, including supervised practice and examinations needed to obtain a dietetics license. More information about state licensure and certification can be found at this link: State Licensure <https://www.eatrightpro.org/advocacy/licensure/licensure-map-and-statutes-by-state>

Accreditation Information

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.

Mission, Goals, and Objectives

The mission of NHC's DI 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. Specific outcome levels achieved for these objectives are available from the director upon request.

Program Goals and Objectives:

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

- Objective 1.1a: Non-degree Option - At least 80% of interns complete program requirements within 13.5 months (150% of planned program length).
- Objective 1.1b: Supervised Practice & Graduate Degree Option - At least 80% of interns complete program requirements within 22.5 months (150% of planned 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 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.

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 the Program Director and the NHC Assistant Vice-President (AVP), Food and Nutrition Services (FNS). 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. This will be kept on file by the director.

If the intern has a grievance or complaint related to their graduate courses, they will be encouraged to discuss it with their graduate school professor first, then their 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 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 NHC AVP of FNS. 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.

Curriculum and Schedule

The 9-month, supervised practice portion of the DI program currently provides approximately 1064 hours (August 2027-May 2028) as follows:

Orientation	Mid-August (2 weeks)
Dietetic intern classes	Mondays, ~1x/month
Alvin C. York VA Medical Center	5 weeks (160 hours)
St. Thomas Rutherford Hospital (clinical)	4 weeks (128 hours)
Fresenius Kidney Care	3 weeks (96 hours)
Lebanon Special Schools	2 weeks (64 hours)
NHC (clinical)	4 weeks (128 hours)
NHC (food services)	4 weeks (128 hours)
Pediatric (LeBonheur, UT CDD)	1 week (32 hours)
Skyline Medical Center (clinical)	4 weeks (128 hours)
PromptCare (nutrition support/wellness)	1 week (32 hours)
NHC (staff relief)	4 weeks (128 hours)
Community	1 week (32 hours)

A graduate degree is required to sit for the registration exam. NHC currently has three partnering institutions where interns who do not yet have a graduate degree may obtain one.

1. Middle Tennessee State University

Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) is a local university that offers an online Master of Professional Studies (MPS) with a concentration in Leadership in Nutrition. Please consult the official MTSU website for specific questions about applying for the MPS program. A sample schedule for the 12-15-month, fully online MPS degree that is completed in conjunction with the supervised practice portion of the program is outlined below:

Summer 2027 (9-12 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 the MPS or NFS program

Fall 2027 (6 credit hours)

PRST 6300 – Research Methods

HSC 6530 – Effective Program Management

Spring 2028 (6 credit hrs.)

PRST 6000 – Leading Organization Transformation

NFS 6300 – Entrepreneurial Skills for Nutrition Professionals

Summer 2028 (6-9 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

2. The University of Alabama

The University of Alabama offers an online Master of Science in Human Nutrition. Please consult the official University of Alabama website for specific questions about applying for the MS program. A sample schedule for the 14-month, fully online MS degree that is completed in conjunction with the supervised practice portion of the program is outlined below:

Summer 2027 (9 credit hours, does not have to be completed in middle TN)

NHM 566 – Advanced Clinical Nutrition

NHM 587 – Integrated Food Systems Management

NHM 509 – Research Methods

Fall 2027 (6 credit hours to be completed online concurrent with rotations)

NHM 585 or 588 – Clinical Nutrition Management or Advanced Food Service
Systems Management

NHM 530, 567, or 555 – Advanced Nutrition Counseling, Nutrition Support of the
Critically Ill, or Maternal & Infant Nutrition

Spring 2028 (6 credit hours to be completed online concurrent with rotations)

NHM 585 or 588 – Clinical Nutrition Management or Advanced Food Service
Systems Management

NHM 572 – Metabolism of Energy Nutrients

Summer 2028 (9 credit hours, does not have to be completed in middle TN)

NHM 573 – Advanced Vitamin and Mineral Metabolism

HHE 526 – Biostatistics

NHM 597 – MS Capstone Course

3. Texas Tech University

Texas Tech University offers an online Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics with optional concentrations in Nutrition and Healthy Weight, Nutrition and Sports, or Nutrition in the Lifecycle. Please consult the official Texas Tech University website for specific questions about applying for the MS program. A sample schedule for the 14-month, fully online MS degree that is completed in conjunction with the supervised practice portion of the program is outlined below:

Summer 2027 (9 credit hours, does not have to be completed in middle TN)

NS 5330 – Intro to Nutrition Research

NS 5346 – Clinical Applications: Carbohydrates, Proteins, and Lipids

NS 5340 – Pediatric Nutrition

Fall 2027 (6 credit hours to be completed online concurrent with rotations)

NS 5347 – Clinical Applications: Vitamins and Minerals

NS 5344 – Nutrition and Geriatrics

Spring 2028 (6 credit hours to be completed online concurrent with rotations)

NS 5342 – Biostatistics in Nutrition

NS 6318 – Maternal and Child Nutrition

Summer 2028 (9 credit hours, does not have to be completed in middle TN)

NS 6335 – Motivating Health Behavior: Coaching Theory & Application

NS 5333 – Leadership, Management, and Entrepreneurship

NS 6330 – Nutrition Supplements & Ergogenic Aids

The NHC Dietetic Internship is completed in approximately 9 or 15 months on a full-time schedule — 9 months for the internship program only or 15 months if you're concurrently taking your graduate studies. Graduate courses begin in May and extend into mid-May or August of the following year, depending on the elected program and schedule.

Supervised practice begins in August and extends to May 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 mandatory two-week Orientation for all interns is held at NHC corporate office in Murfreesboro, TN in mid-August. Before starting the program, interns must provide proof of medical insurance and professional liability insurance (paid for by NHC), complete a drug screen (paid up to \$50 by NHC), complete a background check (completed and paid for by NHC), and submit a health form with all outlined requirements.

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 for those completing a master's; 14 months for those doing the supervised practice only. 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 intern at the beginning of the program and monthly Monday class schedules are given to interns at least two weeks in advance.

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 exam. 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. 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.

Memphis Training

One week of pediatric training will be scheduled in the spring in Memphis, Tennessee. When traveling to Memphis, housing is paid for by NHC. Some meals and gas are reimbursed as well. 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. Interns also have the option to do staff relief in one of the nine states NHC operates in, depending on facility availability.

Classes

Interns will meet approximately once a month on Mondays for dietetic internship classes on various topics throughout the entire program. For interns enrolled in the online graduate degree program, they will complete any graduate coursework on evenings, weekends and Mondays.

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. 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.

Benefits and Costs

NHC Stipend

The dietetic internship is a tuition-free program. A stipend of \$4,500 (total for the year) during the supervised practice portion of the program is provided by NHC. Monthly checks of \$500 will be mailed to each intern during the nine months of supervised practice.

Insurance

Interns are required to obtain their own health insurance and professional liability insurance while completing the NHC DI program. Interns provide proof of coverage 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 and required vaccinations prior to starting the program. Interns are required to have automobile insurance and assume their own liability while traveling to and from internship practice experiences and classes.

Graduate Degree Tuition

If applicable, graduate school tuition and fees (textbooks not included) for each partnering institution are listed below.

1. Middle Tennessee State University

MTSU Graduate school tuition and fees 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. There is no tuition required for the NHC supervised practice portion of the DI. Fee schedules will be updated for 2027-2028 so please check the MTSU website for updated fees. Tuition and fees for the 2026-2027 sessions were approximately:

Summer 2026 (9 credit hours)

\$6,624 (for in-state interns) \$7,965 (e-rate for out of state interns)

Fall 2026 (6 credit hours)

\$4,416 (in-state and out-of-state interns)

Spring 2027 (6 credit hours)

\$4,416 (in-state and out-of-state interns)

Summer 2027 (3 credit hours)

\$2,208 (for in-state interns) \$2,655 (e-rate for out of state interns)

Tuition for the 6 DI credits is free for NHC dietetic interns.

MPS total tuition and fees for in-state would be approx. **\$17,644**

MPS total tuition and fees for out-of-state would be approx. **\$19,452**

Please see the MTSU Tuition site for updated information: <https://www.mtsu.edu/tuition/>

2. The University of Alabama

The University of Alabama graduate school tuition and fees are listed below. Students enrolled in a UA Online program pay the graduate e-rate of \$480 per credit hour. Fee schedules will be updated for 2026-2027 so please check the University of Alabama website for updated fees.

Total: \$14,400 (approximately \$480 tuition per credit hour (30 credit hours))

Please see the University of Alabama Tuition site for updated information:

<https://online.ua.edu/tuition-financial-aid-scholarships/tuition/>

3. Texas Tech University

The Texas Tech University graduate school tuition and fees per semester are listed below. Tuition schedules will be updated for 2025-2026 so please check the Texas Tech University website for updated rates.

Summer 2026 (9 credit hours)

\$4,194 (e-rate for out of state interns)

Fall 2026 (6 credit hours)

\$2,796 (e-rate for out of state interns)

Spring 2027 (6 credit hours)

\$2,796 (e-rate for out of state interns)

Summer 2027 (9 credit hours)

\$4,194 (e-rate for out of state interns)

Total: \$13,980 (approximately \$466 tuition per credit hour (30 credit hours))

Please see the TTU Tuition site for updated information:

https://www.depts.ttu.edu/hs/ns/masters/online_masters.php

Financial Aid

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

Once interns are accepted to the NHC DI and applied to at least one of the partnering graduate programs, they may complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Information on how to apply for FAFSA may be found at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Interns should inquire about other opportunities for financial aid through their respective graduate program's financial aid office.

Application for Nutrition and Dietetics Scholarships for 2027-2028 Academic Year

Students must be members of The Academy to be eligible. Dietetic internship applicants may also contact their state dietetic association to check on available scholarships awarded for completion of the dietetic internship. The application can typically be downloaded from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics from September to February. Traditionally, the scholarship application must be completed and postmarked by February 15, but please check the website for updated deadlines.

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

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, unless otherwise noted.

FNCE or other National Meeting

Attendance is required at a national meeting. The dates and location will be discussed upon acceptance into the program. Registration and hotel are paid by NHC. Interns are responsible for paying for their travel (gas or airfare) and meals while at the conference.

Holidays/Vacations

Interns are permitted the following vacations: spring break for one week in March, fall break for one-week in November, and winter break for two-weeks in late December. The observed holidays for the year will be Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Housing

Interns will be responsible for all housing costs during all training, except the weeks of FNCE and Memphis. Numerous apartment complexes are available in Murfreesboro and Nashville. Monthly rental for one or two-bedroom apartments is 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 buying scrubs and lab coats but will be reimbursed in the amount of \$100. 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. Interns will need access to a computer with internet access for completion of projects, internet research, and e-mail communication. Interns are required to have a laptop computer (not a tablet or iPad) for completion of RD exam practice tests, projects, internet research, and e-mail communication to use outside of rotations, as well as, during internship classes.

Transportation

Interns must always have access to a vehicle. All maintenance and mileage expenditures will be the responsibility of the intern. Facilities are in 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.

Application and Admission

The NHC DI program can only admit applicants who have completed all requirements of a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) and obtained a DPD Verification Statement. There is a three-step application process when applying to the NHC Dietetic Internship Program.

1. DICAS online application
2. Interview
3. Invitation & apply to graduate program

How To Apply

Fall applications open:

- August 5th and must be completed by October 1st for the fall application period
- Virtual interviews will be held between October 10-25th
- Students will be notified of acceptance on November 1st and must accept or decline the internship invitation by November 15th

Spring applications will open if the six positions are not filled in the fall application period:

- Must be completed by February 1st for the spring application period
- Virtual interviews will be held between February 10-25th
- Students will be notified of acceptance on March 1st and must accept or decline the invitation by March 10th

Confirm this deadline on the DICAS website. Email DICASinfo@DICAS.org for more information or questions.

Step 1: Centralized Online Application: Applications to the National HealthCare Corporation (NHC) Dietetic Internship must be submitted via the Dietetic Internship Centralized Application Services (DICAS). The fee to use DICAS is \$50 for the first designation submitted and \$25 for each additional designation. For more information, email support@dicas.myliaison.com.

- **Transcripts.** Official transcripts are required and should be sent directly from the university to DICAS.
- **Personal Statement.** Our internship application requires the completion of a 1,000 words or fewer statement where the following is addressed:
 - Reasons you want to become a dietitian
 - Experiences that have helped you prepare for your career
 - Short and long-term goals

- Strengths and areas needing improvement
- Reason why you're applying for the NHC DI Program
- If you are interested in the supervised practice option only (Graduate degree completed).
- **References.** Applicants must submit three letters of recommendation from at least one recommendation from your advisor or a professor in your major field and a work recommendation are preferred. DICAS allows you to request letters from your references who will then be prompted to upload their recommendations directly online.

Work Experience

Nutrition or food service-related work experience is recommended. Leadership roles, length of employment, number of hours worked, and volunteer experience will also be considered.

Recency of Education

If your degree was completed five or more years ago, additional coursework in nutrition or a dietetics-related area may be required, at the Program Director's discretion. Courses must be completed at a U.S. regionally accredited institution with a grade of B or better, and official transcripts must be submitted. Applicants whose degree was completed five to ten years prior to application are required to complete a minimum of six semester hours of updated coursework. No additional coursework is required if your degree was completed within the past five years.

Commitment to Diversity & Equal Opportunity

The program director seeks a diversified class, and care is taken during recruitment and selection, as well as actual administration, to protect student civil rights. Strategies to promote this effort include the opportunity to participate in virtual open houses, the concealment of applicant race, ethnicity, and age from the selection committee, and institutional provision of financial support to all interns. 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.

Step 2: Interview.

- Completed applications are evaluated by the NHC Dietetic Internship Program selection committee, which determines whether NHC's application criteria have been met. Candidates considered for acceptance are contacted to schedule a virtual 30–45-minute interview with the NHC DI Program selection committee.

Step 3: Invitation

- Following interviews, the internship selection committee will determine which students to offer spots to, who will be waitlisted, and who do not meet acceptance criteria. Notifications will be sent to students no later than March 1st. Students have until March 10th to accept or decline a spot in the program.
- **Apply For Graduate Degree***. As applicable, once accepted into NHC's program, you may apply to MTSU, UA, or TTU. Interns may apply to one or multiple programs. See each program's application process, fee, and requirements below:
 - MTSU: <https://www.mtsu.edu/graduate/apply/>
 - UA: <https://slate.ua.edu/apply/>
 - TTU: <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool/admissions/howtoapply.php>

**If you will complete a graduate degree by August 2027, you do not need to apply to a graduate program.*

