

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**DIETETIC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**  
**ACCREDITATION REPORT AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Action Requested:** Receive the accreditation report for the Dietetic Internship Program in the Colleges of Human Sciences and Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University.

**Executive Summary:** The program prepared a Program Assessment Report which addressed the standards of accreditation defined by the accrediting body. This accreditation review fulfilled the requirement for a mid-accreditation review. The accrediting agency granted continued accreditation until 2018. This accreditation report addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priorities for “access, affordability, and student success; educational excellence and impact; and economic development and vitality.”

**Background:**

- ◇ **Description of program.** This non-degree program is a full-time, 25-week distance program offering at least 1200 hours of supervised practice in medical nutrition therapy, community nutrition, and food service management with a concentration area in health promotion and technology. The program offers four locations:
  - ⇒ Iowa-based location – all supervised practice is completed within the state of Iowa or surrounding states. ISU faculty arrange preceptors and schedule.
  - ⇒ Nationwide location – the intern selects preceptors and facilities in his or her geographic area.
  - ⇒ Iowa-based with international location – ISU faculty arrange preceptors and schedule. The first 1000 hours of medical nutrition therapy and management dietetics are located in the U.S. The 200-hour community rotation takes place in Ghana, Africa.
  - ⇒ Nationwide with international location – the intern selects preceptors and facilities in his or her geographic area. The first 1000 hours of medical nutrition therapy and management dietetics are located in the U.S. The 200-hour community rotation takes place in Ghana, Africa.
  
- ◇ **Purpose of Accreditation.** An accredited educational program is recognized by its peers as having met state and national standards for its development and evaluation. To employers, graduate schools, and licensure, certification, and registration boards, completion of an accredited program signifies adequate preparation for entry into the profession. In fact, many of these groups require completion of an accredited program as a minimum qualification. Accreditation is also intended to protect the interests of students, benefit the public, and improve the quality of teaching, learning, research, and professional practice.
  
- ◇ **Accrediting Agency.** The accrediting body is the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). The Dietetics Internship program received 10-year accreditation in 2008 but was required to submit a five-year continuing accreditation review report. A site visit was not required.

- ◇ Review Process. The Program Assessment Report addressed the accrediting agency standards in the following areas – Program Characteristics and Finances; Program Planning and Outcomes Assessment; Curriculum and Student Learning Objectives; Program Staff and Resources; and Students. Complete guidelines are available at <http://www.eatright.org/ACEND/>.
  
- ◇ Accreditation Status. In October 2013, the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics granted continued accreditation status to the Dietetics Internship Program based on the Program Assessment Report. Accreditation is continued for a non-degree program enrolling 160 full-time intern annually and a Technology in Health Promotion concentration. The next review and site visit are scheduled for 2018.