

Alabama Department of Education, Foodservice Systems Management in Child Nutrition Dietetic Internship

Why Consider a Dietetic Internship at the Alabama Department of Education?

Registered Dietitians (RDs) are food and nutrition experts who have met the criteria to earn the RD credential. Child nutrition programs in schools provide a wonderful career opportunity for individuals concerned with health and wellness of children. Today, child nutrition programs provide not only lunch during school, but also breakfast and after school snacks. Child nutrition professionals are active in creating a healthful school environment, which includes nutrition education from the cafeteria to the classroom. A career in child nutrition is a rewarding opportunity to provide both healthful meals and nutrition education to children.

To become a Registered Dietitian one must complete a three step process:

- 1.** Complete a minimum of a bachelor's degree at a U.S. regionally accredited university or college and course work accredited or approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) of the American Dietetic Association (ADA).
- 2.** Complete a CADE-accredited supervised practice program (internship) at a health-care facility, community agency, or a foodservice corporation or combined with undergraduate or graduate studies. Typically, a practice program will range from 6 to 12 months in length. The Alabama Department of Education is one of four internships nationwide offered in child nutrition and the only internship with the specific focus of Foodservice Systems Management in Child Nutrition Programs.
- 3.** Pass a national examination administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). For more information regarding the examination, refer to CDR's Web site at www.cdrnet.org

After becoming a Registered Dietitian, there are professional educational requirements to maintain registration. The Alabama Department of Education offers several opportunities yearly to gain continuing education credits through meetings and workshops.

Alabama Department of Education

The Alabama Department of Education (ALSDE) is located in the Gordon Persons Building in state capitol of Montgomery. Dr. Joseph Morton is the Alabama Superintendent of Education. Reporting to Dr. Morton are two Deputy State Superintendents over Instructional Services and Services. Two Assistant State Superintendents report to the Deputy State Superintendent of Instructional Services and the Assistant State Superintendent of Administration and Financial Services reports directly to Dr. Morton.

ALSDE supports 67 county and 65 city school systems composed of 1,541 schools. The breakdown of these schools includes:

Elementary	928
Middle	193
Junior high	436
Senior high	543
Career/technical	70

Enrollment for 2006-2007 totaled 743,364 students.

Local school districts employ 49,574 teachers and over 37,000 support personnel who are dedicated to the mission of providing students with academic excellence. Alabama ranks among the top 15 states with the most National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs).

Alabama boasts its academic achievements for 2006-2007. The senior-class passing rate for the Alabama High School Graduation Exam was 95% for reading; 95% for language; 96% for math; 96% for science, and 94% for social studies. The SAT scores for 2006 exceed the nation average for reading, math and writing. Alabama ranked first in 4th grade reading gains on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

Alabama Child Nutrition Program

The Division of Administrative and Financial Services administers the Alabama Child Nutrition Program (CNP) under the direction of Mr. Perry Fulton. Mr. Fulton oversees the School Nutrition Program as well as the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program. The Child and Adult Care Feeding Program is under the direction of Mr. James Peoples.

June Barrett, M Ed, RD, LD, SNS oversees the School Nutrition Program Section. The School Program staff is composed of four Education Specialists; Dr. Mary Kay Meyer, RD; DeLois Smith, MS; and Heather McDermott, MBA, and Valerie Smitherman, MS, RD, LD. June Barrett will serve as DI director. The function of the state staff is to provide local school districts with technical assistance for the administration of the federally funded School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program. USDA provides guidelines for operation of school meals programs. The state staff assists CNP directors to ensure they meet USDA regulations and Alabama Department of Education Policies.

The statewide system of schools served 32,770,332 breakfasts and 97,182,639 lunches during 2006-2007. The breakdown of these meals by eligibility percentage includes:

	Breakfast	Lunch
Free	24,304,161 (74.17%)	49,807,764 (51.25%)
Reduced	2,814,204 (8.59%)	9,054,346 (9.32%)
Paid	5,651,967 (17.25%)	38,320,529 (39.43%)

Alabama Department of Education Mission and Philosophy

Mission Statement

The mission of the Alabama Department of Education is “*To provide a state system of education which is committed to academic excellence and which provides education of the highest quality to all Alabama students, preparing them for the 21st century.*”

The objectives of the Alabama Department of Education are that every student should have: *Safe and Disciplined Schools, Quality Teachers, Challenging Curricula, and Effective School Leaders*. These objectives are achieved through the following.

- Safe and Disciplined Schools
 - Character education
 - Student responsibility
 - Conduct standards
 - Community involvement
- Quality Teachers
 - Evaluations
 - Testing
 - Accountability
 - Development
 - Outstanding programs preparing teachers
- Challenging Curricula
 - Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI)
 - Alabama Math, Science, & Technology Initiative (AMSTI)
 - Comprehensive courses of study
 - Technology availability
 - Career/technical programs meeting international business and Industry standards
- Effective School Leaders
 - Emerging leaders
 - Principals Leadership Academy
 - Superintendent Academy

The successful implementation of the four objectives ensures that all Alabama students will have the opportunity to receive a quality education, preparing them for future endeavors.

Alabama Child Nutrition Program

The Child Nutrition Program operates under the mission of the Alabama Department of Education.

Alabama Child Nutrition Program Goals

The goal of the Alabama Child Nutrition Program is that all foods available to students will meet the USDA Guidelines and Alabama Nutrition Policy. The State agency strives to achieve this goal by:

- Providing technical assistance to local Child Nutrition Programs
- Yearly School Foodservice Manager training
- Bi-yearly Child Nutrition Program Director training
- Specialized training from grants
- Monitoring of programs

The School Program staff of the Alabama Child Nutrition Program ensures these activities are performed to the highest standard by employing qualified staff and providing them training on the latest USDA regulations. All staff holds a M.S. degree or PhD. Two of the staff, in addition to the Internship Director, are Registered Dietitians.

Mission of the Dietetic Internship

The mission of the proposed Alabama Department of Education Dietetic Internship (DI) is to *“provide a quality dietetic internship program through which interns will develop skills to translate knowledge of nutrition and management into effective application and practice that will support and enhance the learning process of students in Alabama, preparing them for the 21st century.”* Planned experiences and educational opportunities of the DI will prepare graduates for entry-level positions in a variety of setting, with emphasis in Foodservice Systems Management in Child Nutrition Programs.

The ALSDE program has an emphasis in foodservice system management in child nutrition programs but will provide interns with a well-rounded foundation in dietetics through rotations in a variety of dietetic practices. Rotations are chosen to provide supervised practice experiences so that all interns can meet the 46 core competencies and the 10 foodservice systems management competencies. Upon completion of the DI, graduates will be able to perform a wide range of functions necessary to perform in an entry-level position in a variety of dietetic practice settings.

The mission of ALSDE focuses on the support and enhancement of the students learning process. A hungry, poorly nourished child cannot learn as effectively as a well nourished child. Therefore, the DI program focuses on foodservice management in child nutrition programs.

- 1 Prepare students to meet entry-level performance requirements as defined by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetic Education (CADE) and pass the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) Registration Examination.
- 2 Prepare students to communicate effectively in interactions with others in large and small group setting as well as in one-on-one situations.
- 3 Prepare students for unique challenges in foodservice systems management in child nutrition programs.

The outcomes used to measure the goals of the program include program completion rate, passing rate on the Registration Examination for Dietitians, and graduate and employer surveys conducted by the program.

Cost

The interns will be state employees and have full benefits offered to all state employees. This will include a stipend of \$16,040.70 with a fringe benefit package including insurance and retirement valued at \$795 per intern.

In addition to the insurance offered by the Alabama Department of Education, interns will be required to carry Personal Liability Insurance. This may be obtained by ADA members through a group plan.

Interns will be responsible for obtaining their own housing. Estimated housing cost is \$500-\$800 per month.

A \$50 non-refundable application fee will be charged all applicants.

Affiliations with program hospitals and other agencies may require either a uniform or lab coat. Interns must comply with these guidelines while at program facilities. Estimated cost for lab coat or uniforms is \$30-\$50. Non-skid shoes will be required for the rotation in school foodservice facilities.

Interns will be required to be or become during the foodservice management rotation Serve-Safe Certified. The cost of the materials and exam is approximately \$150.

Interns will be encouraged to join the American Dietetic Association, School Nutrition Services DPG of the American Dietetic Association, and the Montgomery Dietetic Association. Estimated cost for membership dues is \$100.

Schedule

The Dietetic Internship would begin in August 2010, and be a full time eight-month program with 1280 hours of supervised practice. (Holidays and non-supervised practice hour are not included in the 1280 hours.) The division of time is as follows: orientation 2 weeks, management 12 weeks, clinical 10 weeks, community 6 weeks, and the last 2 weeks in the State agency office. At the end of the internship 60 hours will be devoted to a special project determined by the intern and Internship Director. During the eight months, there are nine state holidays.

Requirements for Completion

Dietetic interns must receive a rating of at least satisfactory completion for each, assignment, case study, project, group nutrition education class, presentation, checklist of

objectives/competencies and professionalism evaluation in order to successfully complete the program with a one year time frame.

Compliance with Alabama Department of Education policies and procedures is required. Interns are expected to demonstrate behaviors consistent with the “Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics.”

Accreditation Status

The Alabama Department of Education Dietetic Internship is currently granted candidacy for accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education of the American Dietetic Association, 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60606-6995, 312-899-0040 ext5400.

Admission Criteria

- All applicants to the program must be graduates from an accredited didactic program in nutrition with an A-/B+ average (3.5 on 4 point scale) by the start of the internship.
- Prior foodservice experience is required.
- Be recommended by one professor and one employer
- No credit will be given for prior experience. All interns must complete all assignments and rotations regardless of prior experience.
- A preference will be give to applicants with experience in working with children.

Application Packet

A complete application packet must received by February 16, 2010

Address packet to: June Barrett, Administrator
Child Nutrition Programs
5163 Gordon Persons Building
PO Box 302101
Montgomery, Al 36130-2101

The packet must include:

- Completed application form. (The application in Word format can be downloaded from **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**www.ALSDE.EDU>Sections>Child Nutrition>Publications>School Programs>Forms> Internship Application.
- An official Verification of Completion of the ADA Didactic Program, or Declaration of Intent to Complete Program form.
- An official transcript from all colleges or universities attended. Copies will be accepted, originals must be provided upon acceptance.

- Two original recommendations with completed standard ADA recommendation form must be submitted. One must be from a professor and the second from an employer. No copies will be accepted. The forms can be downloaded from www.ALSDE.EDU >Sections>Child Nutrition>Publications>School Programs>Forms> Internship Recommendation.
- A DVD video (no more than 5 minutes) of the applicant discussing his/her career goals and why he/she would like to be considered for the Alabama Department of Education Dietetic Internship.
- A \$50 (non-refundable) application fee in form of a money order made to Child Nutrition, Alabama Department of Education.

No materials will be returned.

Computer Matching

In addition to submitting the application to the Alabama Department of Education dietetic internship, all applicants must register with D&D Digital Systems for computer matching. To register for computer matching, please go to the D&D Digital Web site at www.dnndigital.com/ada. You must register for computer matching by February 16, 2010 deadline date.