

## ***FAQs about Applying to a Dietetic Internship***

### **Where can I see a list of DI's?**

[Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics website](#) lists all accredited programs by type of program and organized by states. Program websites are available on this resource.

### **When are applications due?**

Application due dates and corresponding notification dates are listed on the following [Academy website](#) under "Timelines."

### **How many internships can I apply to?**

There is no limit to the number of internships you can apply to. There are however, usually additional application fees for each program. Be sure to only apply to programs you are willing to accept.

### **How much do internships cost?**

Check the Academy's website for a list of approximate cost for each internship program, cost of living is not included. Depending on the program, some offer financial aid.

### **When should I start my DICAS application?**

Go to <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/dietetic-internship-match-students>, scroll down until you see "Timelines" and choose the date which you are applying for.

\*Start as early as possible, even if it is just to familiarize yourself with the DICAS format, get an overview of the documentation that will be necessary, and the required steps.

Please view the tutorial video below:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qP28aNF\\_hkI&t=](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qP28aNF_hkI&t=)

### **When should I order my official transcripts?**

You will need official transcripts for each college or university you have attended. Order these as soon as possible as some will take longer to receive than others. Consider ordering transcripts as soon as you sign up for DICAS.

- If your GPA is close or below the program's cut-off, you may need to consider retaking certain science or nutrition related courses to better position yourself as a candidate. Speak to your advisor for further guidance. If you do repeat a course, you only count the new grade toward your GPA.

### **How do I order official transcripts?**

When you log onto the DICAS website, go to <https://portal.dicas.org/dicasHelpPages/instructions/transcripts/>. The link will go through the step-by-step process. Please note that some institutions may charge a transcript fee. Transcripts will be sent directly to DICAS, you will not receive a copy. Periodically check the DICAS application to verify that the transcripts have been received. If DICAS has not received your transcripts, please follow-up with the individual institutions. Keep in mind, once DICAS receives your transcripts, it can take 7-10 business days for them to upload.

### **When should I ask for references?**

Ask as early as possible, you want to give your references an appropriate and respectful amount of time to complete their letter. Build relationships early to reflect a positive letter. Be sure to only ask those you are confident will provide a strong recommendation. Most programs require three letters of recommendation. While you can choose a maximum of four, quality is better than quantity. Continue to track the progress of your references and send kind reminders as the deadline approaches for any that may be delayed.

### **Do I need a resume?**

Yes, keep your resume updated as you start and complete new jobs/volunteer experiences. Be sure to keep your manager's contact information. You will need to document this as well as the amount of hours you have worked/volunteered, and your roles and responsibilities in both your resume and the DICAS application.

### **What is a personal statement?**

Your personal statement is an opportunity to show off your writing skills, discuss your experiences and demonstrate to directors why you are a good fit. Make sure to have your statement reviewed by multiple people such as an advisor, mentor, career services, family member, and/or friend. Start your personal statement as soon as possible to enable time for you to take breaks and view it with fresh eyes. Most programs use the standard format of questions:

1. Why do you want to enter the dietetics profession?
2. Discuss experiences that have helped to prepare you for your career.
3. What are your short-term and long-term goals?
4. What are your strengths and weaknesses or areas needing improvement?
5. What other information do you consider important for the selection decision?

Some programs require a separate statement which include different questions, and length. Please see your programs requirements. Be sure to send the correct statement to the correct program.

### **Do I need to take the GRE?**

Some internship programs require the GRE to be completed prior to your application. Your results will be sent to DICAS. Allow yourself enough time to prepare for the GRE. Use a study technique that best fits your needs whether it be official courses or at home self-paced study materials. There is a fee to take the exam. Please visit the GRE website for more information: [www.ets.org/gre/](http://www.ets.org/gre/)

**Should I contact the internship directors?**

Yes. Attend Dietetic Internship open houses when possible. If you cannot, reach out to the directors to show your interest. Be sure to have specific questions about their program that cannot be easily answered on their website.

**Final Words:**

Remember, be thorough when reviewing your application. Check for spelling and grammatical errors as these simple mistakes can cause internship directors to overlook your application.

Keep in mind that if you do not get into a program your first round, a second round opportunity opens. Please speak with your advisor for further information.

**Additional Resources:**

a. DICAS: <https://portal.dicas.org>

b. D&D Digital: <https://dnddigital.com>

c. DI sites: <http://www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/content.aspx?id=6442485424>