



Overview of the UCSF Dietetic Internship

Updated 9.2026



Overview

- **UCSF Health**
- **Department of Nutrition and Food Services**
- **UCSF Dietetic Internship program**
- **Intern Benefits**
- **Admissions Process**
- **Application Process**
- **Program Contacts**

UCSF Health

- UCSF Health ranked among the nation's top hospitals for pediatrics and adults and is a highly regarded academic institution
- 6 Bay Area campuses
 - Parnassus
 - Mission Bay
 - Mt. Zion
 - Stanyan
 - Hyde
 - Oakland (UCSF dietetic interns do not currently rotate here)
- Additional affiliate locations throughout the Bay Area

Parnassus Heights

- Inpatient and outpatient facilities for adults
- 600 inpatient beds – acute, transitional, and critical care
- More than 75 adult specialties



Mission Bay

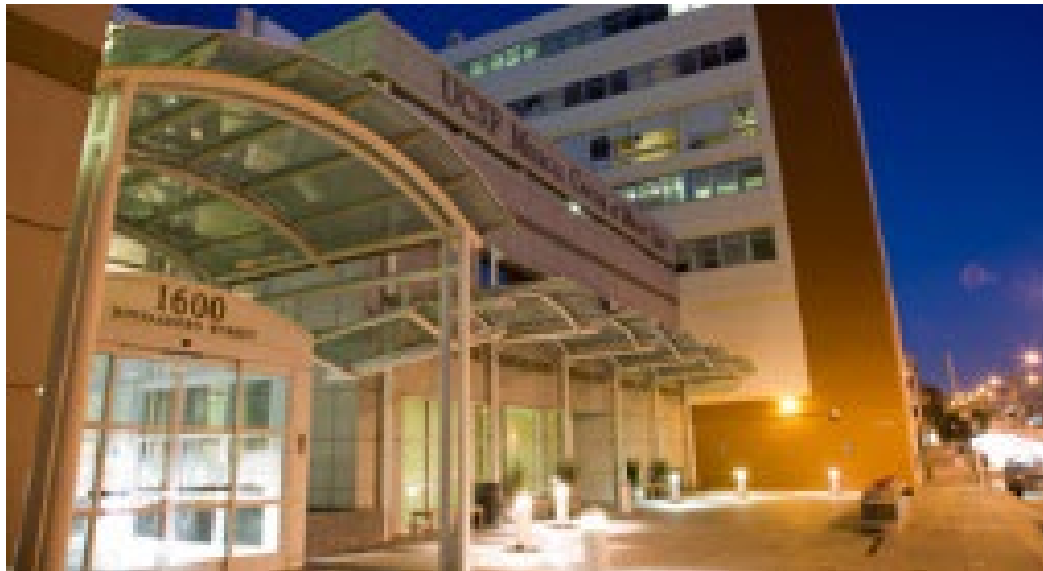
- 3 inpatient hospitals on one site (295 beds)
 - UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital - San Francisco
 - UCSF Bakar Cancer Hospital
 - UCSF Betty Irene Moore Women's Hospital
- Ambulatory Care: UCSF Ron Conway Family Gateway Medical Building with outpatient clinics for women, cancer and pediatric patients
- Over 50 clinical specialties for adults and pediatrics



UCSF Health

Mount Zion

- Outpatient clinics, surgical facilities, and 53 inpatient beds including 7 ICU beds.
- Langley Porter Psychiatric Hospital – inpatient behavioral health



Stanyan and Hyde



- Burns, adolescent psych, general medicine, acute rehab
- Stanyan: 275 beds
- Hyde: 288 beds
- Community hospitals

UCSF Nutrition and Food Services

- NFS is one department at 5 campuses
- NFS includes:
 - *Clinical nutrition*
 - Department made up of inpatient RDs (adult and pediatrics), outpatient RDs (adult and pediatrics), inpatient DTRs, and dietetic interns.
 - *Patient food Services*
 - >1500 patient meals daily
 - Room service system for patient food services
 - *Retail food services*
 - >\$4.5M retail transactions each year
- Focus on sustainability best practices throughout department

Internship Facts

- Founded in 1934
- Over 800 graduates
- Full-time, 10 months long with a clinical nutrition focus



Program Strengths



Teaching hospital



Collaborative and innovative
preceptors



Interns treated as members of
professional staff

Two Tracks: Adult or Pediatric

- **Similar timeline:**
 - *18 weeks of acute care*
 - *4 weeks of critical care*
 - *2 weeks of staff relief.*
- **Additional 5 weeks of adult acute care or pediatric acute care**
- **Achieve same competencies**

General Schedule

- Inpatient Clinical Nutrition (26 weeks)
 - Clinical Nutrition Core: Acute Care (18 weeks including 1 week staff relief)
 - Advanced Clinical: Critical Care (4 weeks)
 - Clinical Expansion:
 - Pediatrics (1 week didactics, 4 weeks practice)
 - Adult acute care (5 weeks practice)
- Food Service Management (7 weeks)
- Ambulatory Care – Pediatric or Adult pending track (2 weeks)
- Off-Site Community Nutrition (2 weeks)
- Staff Relief – Pediatric or Adult acute care pending track (2 weeks)
- Electives (1 week)

Plus...

- Didactics (Throughout rotations)
- Additional projects (Throughout the year)

Clinical Nutrition Core

- Learn to consistently apply the Nutrition Care Process with all patients:
 - Assessment
 - Diagnosis
 - Intervention
 - Monitoring and Evaluation
- Practice:
 - Interview skills
 - Navigating the electronic health record
 - Working with an interdisciplinary team
 - Working with several comorbidities
 - Discharge planning
- Interns are expected to take responsibility for their patients, following them closely throughout their admission, analyzing assessment data, and adjusting the plan of care.



Lance Iversen / The Chronicle

Advanced Clinical Nutrition: Critical Care

- 4 weeks
- Medical-Surgical, Neuro, Cardiac ICUs
- Medically complex patients
- Manage nutrition support
- In-depth discussions include:
 - *Metabolic response to critical illness/injury*
 - *Mechanical ventilation, ECMO, CRRT*
 - *Indirect calorimetry*
 - *Acid-base balance*

Clinical Expansion: Pediatrics

For interns in the adult track

- 1 week of classes
- 4 weeks in rotation
- Pediatric patients from birth to 21 years of age
- Apply Nutrition Care Process with medically and nutritionally complex patients, including:
 - Assessment of growth and intake
 - Oral, enteral, parenteral nutrition regimens
 - Patient and family educations
- Participation in multi-disciplinary rounds

Clinical Expansion: Adults

For interns in the peds track

- Adult acute care
- 5 weeks in rotation
- Adults and geriatric patients
- Apply Nutrition Care Process with medically and nutritionally complex patients, including:
 - Oral, enteral, parenteral nutrition regimens
 - Patient educations
 - Discharge planning



Food Service Management

- Daily activities include working in daily operations and individual and group project management
- Key group projects are
 - **Patient theme meal project-** a hands on planning and execution of a patient meal
 - **Business plan-** an analytical project that proposes a solution to current problem
 - **In-service project-** design and deliver staff education related to food safety, sanitation or customer service
- **Individual projects** are focused on current departmental priorities of process improvement for patient safety, patient satisfaction, environmental sustainability, design and construction, employee engagement, and technology implementation



Ambulatory Care

- 2 weeks in pediatrics or adults pending track
- Apply assessment skills from acute care rotations
- Practice nutrition counseling and motivational interviewing
- Typically interns are placed in in Dialysis, Cardiology, Weight Management, Adolescent Medicine, and Diabetes

Off Site Community Nutrition

- 2 weeks
- Placed with local community partner
- Increase understanding of larger food and nutrition support system
- Participate in organizational projects, including development of patient education materials

Staff Relief

- 2 weeks in acute care
- Demonstrate entry level competence and practice independently with support of RD resource

Electives

- 1 week
- Interns can indicate preferences for UCSF outpatient specialty clinics
- Off-Site electives are scheduled as able.

Other Learning Activities

Classes and Meetings

- Clinical skills and case studies
- Public policy
- Professional skills
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion

Speaking opportunities

- Formal clinical case study
- Management presentations

Benefits for Interns

- No tuition fees
- Stipend – approx. \$49,000/year
- Medical, dental and vision insurance
- Meals provided when on duty
- Employee rate for UCSF Fitness Center
- Car is not required to get between UCSF sites within San Francisco

2027-2028 DI Class

- 5 interns total
 - 2 to be placed in pediatric track
- Dates: 8/2/27 – 6/2/28
 - *There will be onboarding tasks to complete prior to the start date*
- Full-time, including some shifts outside of a normal Monday – Friday
- Interns will get two weeks off in late December – early January

Admissions Requirements

- Completion of a minimum of a master's degree from a college or university recognized by the US Department of Education (USDE).
- DPD coursework completed by internship start date.
- Must have recent relevant course work (within the last 3 years).

Once admitted...

- DPD Verification statement and official transcripts
- Onboarding compliance
 - UCSF Background Check
 - Health Clearance and Drug Screen
- Proof of visa status for non-US citizens

Application Process

1. DICAS on-line application

- Available: 8/4/26
- Due: 11:59 p.m. CST **January 15, 2027**

2. Application Fee

- **Fee:** \$50 [separate from the DICAS application fee]
- **Payment method:** Check or money order made out to UC Regents ONLY
- **Deadline:** Payment must be postmarked by January 5, 2027 to arrive by the January 15, 2027 application deadline.
 - Applications without the fee paid by January 20 will not be considered.
 - If payment timing is a barrier, please reach out.
- Mailing address available on UCSF Dietetic Internship Website.

Interview

- Interviews with top candidates will be in early February 2027.
- Applicants selected to be interviewed will be notified and given instructions for determining interview time.
- Panel interviews to be conducted via Zoom



Notification

Applicants will be notified of their acceptance status (accepted, waitlist, denied) by March 1, 2027.

Applicants should accept or deny their placement by March 10, 2027.

General Selection Criteria

1	Academic preparation
2	Experience – work and volunteer
3	Personal statement + UCSF essays
4	References
5	Other criteria – DTR credential, bilingual

There is no perfect applicant!

Program Contacts

- **Liz Sullivan, DI Director:**
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<http://nutrition.ucsf.edu/internship>

