Montana Dietetic Internship Application Requirements 2020-21

The Montana Dietetic Internship (MDI) integrates experiences in clinical and community nutrition, foodservice management, and a concentration in sustainable food systems to provide a unique and progressive supervised dietetic practice experience to future registered dietitians. The MDI program meets the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics Competencies for preparing knowledgeable professionals in the practice of dietetics.

Please note: In 2020/2021 we will accept students into both the MDI (internship only) and the MS/MDI program. Applicants can apply to either the MDI or the MS/MDI but cannot apply to both programs. Please clearly indicate the program that you are applying for (MDI or MS/MDI).

Please check back closer to December 2019 for updates on the application process.

Montana Dietetic Internship (DI)- Sustainable Food Systems
- Program starts in August 2020, ends in May 2021
- 40 weeks of supervised practice
- 12 non-degree graduate internship credits
- Assigned to one of eight geographic areas in Montana or Wyoming (Billings, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell, and Missoula, Sheridan or Gillette)

Master’s in science/Montana Dietetic Internship (MS/MDI)- Dietetic Systems Leadership
- Program starts in May 2020, ends in May 2022
- First year consists of online coursework; second year consists of 40 weeks of supervised practice hours
- 39 graduate level credits
- Able to remain in home community for first year; assigned to one of eight geographic areas for supervised practice (Billings, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell, and Missoula, Sheridan or Gillette)

The MDI selection process allows for slots to be filled through the preselect procedure and from the national pool of applicants; there are 24-26 slots available for each program. Graduates with degrees from Montana State University’s Food and Nutrition Program, with appropriate Verification Statements qualify to apply to MDI in the preselect category. All applications are reviewed by the MDI selection committee to determine final interns.

Application Deadlines

To be considered for MDI in the preselect category:
- Complete, or near completion of, a degree from MSU with the appropriate Verification Statement from the Department of Health and Human Development Didactic Program in Dietetics.
- Submit your application through the DICAS Portal indicating MDI as a choice by January 10th, 2020, 5:00 pm MST.
- Preselect candidates only applying to MDI do not need to register with D&D Digital.

To be considered for MDI in the national selection category:
- Submit your application through the DICAS Portal indicating MDI as a choice
- Register online with D&D Digital and enter MDI in your list of dietetic internship preferences by 11:59 pm CST, February 15, 2020.
Applicant Notification

- Applicants in the **preselect category** will be notified of the committee decision by **Friday, January 31st, 2020**, and must confirm acceptance of the match appointment with the MDI Director by **Monday, February 3rd, 5:00 pm MST**. A **non-refundable** $1,000 deposit is required by **Wednesday, February 5th, 2020** to hold your slot in the program.

- Applicants in the **national selection category** will be notified beginning at **6:00pm, CST, on Sunday, April 5, 2020**, and must confirm acceptance of match appointment on or before **Monday, April 6, 2020, 6:00 pm MST**. A **non-refundable** $1,000 deposit is required by **Wednesday, April 8, 2020** to hold your slot in the program.

To successfully apply to MDI you are asked to complete the following:

1. To be considered, an application fee of $55 needs to be sent directly to MDI upon submission of application to DICAS:
   
   Attn: Coleen Kaiser  
   Montana Dietetic Internship  
   Montana State University  
   PO Box 173370  
   Bozeman, MT 59717-3370

   Make checks payable to Montana Dietetic Internship. **Please note that the Application Fee is NONREFUNDABLE**


   Resources including instructional videos for using DICAS are available from [ACEND](http://www.acend.org).

   **Note** – individuals accepting a match appointment with MDI will be required to complete a background check. Applicants shall include in the "Background Section" of their DICAS application any information that could appear in a background check. Background checks are comprehensive and can include findings such as all arrests and criminal charges even if dismissed or deferred, as well as expunged records. Failure to disclose a discrepancy could have worse consequences than not disclosing on DICAS if discovered later upon review of a background check report and may be cause for termination from the program.

3. Submit through DICAS an official Verification Statement from an ACEND accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) or a completed Declaration of Intent to Complete Degree statement, and official transcript(s).

4. In the DICAS application personal statement section please title your statement specifically for MDI and address the following questions:
   
   a. Which program are you applying for (MDI-Internship Only or MS/MDI)?
   
   b. Why have you selected a career in the field of dietetics?
   
   c. How does your background and experience strengthen your ability to succeed in the internship and your potential to contribute to the food and nutrition profession?
   
   d. State your professional goals: short-term (1-3 years) and longer (3-5 years). How will the MDI program help you achieve these goals?
   
   e. How would a sustainable food systems background benefit you as a dietetic professional? What is the importance of considering sustainable food systems to the profession?
   
   f. Describe how you would be successful living and working in rural communities in Montana. Include your experience and/or philosophy in working with Native or minority populations.
   
   g. Address any weaknesses in your application.
   
   h. Why should you be selected as an intern for the MDI program?

   **In addition to answering the questions listed please identify your top two preferred regions for the majority of your rotation placement (Billings, Butte, Helena, Kalispell, Great Falls, Missoula or Sheridan or Gillette, WY). Preferences will be
taken into account, but there is no guarantee for a particular placement. Interns will be given their rotation placement prior to the beginning of the internship for the purposes of planning logistics.

5. Three letters of recommendation are required and will be submitted through DICAS in an electronic format. References should be written by:

- One or two collegiate professors (RDN or non-RDN)
- Employer, (RDN or Non-RDN) and/or an RDN with whom you have worked or volunteered
- Please notify your references that once their contact information has been provided to DICAS an email is generated requesting them to complete a reference for you. Refer your references to an instructional video for further clarification, Submitting Reference Letters to Centralized DI Application System

6. For national selection applicants – in addition to submitting your application to MDI through DICAS and sending the application fee to MDI/MSU, each national applicant must also register through D&D Digital and include MDI in their prioritized list.