Program Statistics

• **2015-2016 class.** N=89 applicants for 10 slots; interviewed 40; filled class in first match.

• **Pass rate.** 94% (47/50) over a five year period.

• **Completion rate.** 100% over a five year period.

• **Job placement.** 80% in < 4 months of graduation; tech emphasis helps for non-traditional jobs. 50% go into clinical; 50% go non-clinical. Current class below.
Interns in Action
in MD, DC & VA
Presentation Goals

- Explain what makes University of MD College Park Dietetic Internship different from other internship programs
- Provide descriptions of rotations and sites
- Review of associated costs.
Differences:
Information Technology Management (IT) Emphasis

- IT rotations at **WCS** or **CNPP** (5 weeks) + **IFIC** (3 weeks)
- Interactive training in personal professional website development
- Writing for the web – high literacy (WCS, IFIC) and low literacy (**FSNE**)
- Social Media – **blogs**, **twitter**, etc.
- Technology tools – web-conference plus online: surveys, presentation software, scheduling, etc.
Differences:
Student Visibility…

...Globally through personal professional websites

Professionally via poster abstract at District of Columbia Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Department Poster session and/or state DPG.

A few interns generally submit a second abstract to FNCE.

Social media posts are recognized, one intern had 10,000+ hits after a selfie with the MD Governor was posted during a 2015 photo session.
Poster Presentations at DCMADA/DCMAND
Differences:
Strong Community Component

• 1 week in MD SNAP-Ed **Food Supplemental Nutrition Education (FSNE) program - activities**
• 2 wks in **Community foodbank**
• 3 Weeks in community agencies
• 1 week in Clinical Long Term Care
• Class trips to sites such as the Vegetarian Resource Group.
Differences:
Strong Clinical Component

- 8 weeks in community hospital
- 2 weeks in another type of clinical environment
- 2 weeks of adult staff relief
- 2 weeks in major pediatric center at Children’s National Medical Center.
- Elective option.
Differences:
Interns rotate through many different sites where:

• All preceptors want interns (no one is “required” to take students).
• A high level of expertise exists amongst community and IT preceptors.
• Interns gain a broad perspective of the field by working with persons with different behavior, teaching, and management styles.
• Interns develop a network of contacts with many different preceptors.
A 10.5 Month Job Interview
Food Service Management: undertaken in areas of anticipated future growth outside of hospitals:

- 6 weeks in a 2500 bed Continuing Care (retirement) community setting
- 3 weeks in University Campus Dining Service
- Sustainability rotation in Campus Dining.
Theme Meals at Riderwood & Campus Dining Services
Differences:

Health insurance is available

- Health insurance is currently available through the university
- Interns are no longer eligible for loans through the university.
- No Financial Aid is available.
- Private loans are hard to get.
Program Costs:

• Tuition $7,400 including technology classes
• Application fee of $40.00
• Estimated personal/additional costs:
  • $9000 – rent, utilities, food
  • Computer < 3 years old*
  • $150 – Tspot (not PPD), Tdap (tetanus+)
  • Varies – proof of MMR, polio, immunization records
  • Blood titre demonstrating vaccination for chicken pox, hepatitis B is still effective.
• Physician health screen
Estimated Costs, cont.

- **$100** – textbooks for program + lab coats
- **$5,000** – travel and limited parking (if gas is at $5/gallon)
- **Varies** – Mandatory - personal health insurance, personal automobile insurance & professional liability insurance
- **$500** – local transportation, class day meals
To be eligible to apply, an applicant must meet the following criteria...

- Applicant has completed Didactic Program in Dietetics academic requirements
- Applicant (has or will have) completed a B.S. or B.A. degree by 8/15/16 (for 2016-2017 class)
- Applicant has earned an overall grade average (GPA) of at least 3.0 out of 4.0 and an average of at least 3.0 out of 4.0 in professional courses.
- Applicant has had experience (paid or unpaid) in food, nutrition or dietetic setting.
Application Packet Must Include, continued – International Students

- International students must complete international students checklist form at website (http://nfsc.umd.edu/dietetic-internship/application-forms)

- Results of "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (TOEFL) for applicants speaking a native language other than English. Score of at least a total of 84-99 with sub-scores of speaking = 22; listening = 18-25; reading = 21-24; writing = 22-24.
Completed Application is submitted to DICAS:

• This program is using the on-line centralized internship application email: [DICASinfo@DICAS.org](mailto:DICASinfo@DICAS.org).

• Applicants who apply to internships using DICAS will be asked to complete a personal statement in with required questions. Verification or intent to complete forms are sent to DICAS.

• Official **Transcripts from all colleges and universities attended** should be sent to: DICAS-Transcript Dept., P.O. Box 9118, Watertown, MA 02472
Supplemental Materials Sent to UMCP

• A $40.00 check made out to “University of Maryland” covering application fee

• International applicants must submit international student form from our website

Note: applications must be received by February 15, 2016!!
DICAS Application Letter includes:

- Why do you want to enter the dietetics profession?
- What are some experiences that have helped to prepare you for your career?
- What are your short-term and long-term goals?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses or areas needing improvement?

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS for suppl. section:

- How has your education & experience prepared you for THIS internship, i.e. Why are you applying to THIS program?
- Provide a description of your information/computer technology skills.
Applicant Interviews:

• Top applicants will be interviewed in person (or if out-of-state by phone) for forty-five minutes during the end of February through the first three weeks of March 2016.

• The interview provides the applicant with information about the program and allows applicants to demonstrate their potential to the Selection Committee.
Applicants will be ranked using standard criteria including:

- Interpersonal skills
- Organizational Skills
- Flexibility and ability to deal with change
- Academic performance
- Self-directed, independent learning style
- Compatibility of applicant’s goals with mission of program
- Quality of references
- Perceived understanding of the field
The Internet has become a major source of information and sales competing effectively with both newsprint and television for clients. It has made the world a smaller place and global competition - twenty-four hours a day - a reality. Future dietetic practitioners must be able to effectively disseminate credible nutrition information through the Internet, Social Media and evolving phone apps if we are to address nutrition-related issues including obesity, healthy food choices and healthy lifestyles. Or be left behind as others, who can have digital competency, pass us by.