

HMD 464: Practicum in Dietetics
Department of Applied Human Sciences
Western Kentucky University
Summer 2018

Instructor Information

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Introduction/General Information

The focus of this course is for the student to gain experience working in a dietetic-related setting. The student is expected to work at least 120 hours.

Please contact me at any time, if you have questions or problems.

Important Dates

Before the end of the spring 2018 semester, the CO-OP Information Sheet must be completed and turned in to Dr. Payne-Emerson.

All reports and employer evaluations must be completed within one week of completion of the course experiences. Thus, if a student finishes the experiences by June 5, then all reports and the employer evaluation should be completed June 12. ***Unless otherwise arranged, all experiences must be completed and all assignments and evaluations must be received by July 31.*** Additional information regarding report and assignment submission is listed subsequently.

Course Description/General Course Objectives

Course description: Supervised dietetics-related field experience. Practicum sites must be approved by the instructor. Students are responsible for field experience expenses and transportation.

Prerequisites: HMD 362

Outcome objective: At the end of this course students will be able to describe the daily activities of registered dietitians and apply didactic knowledge to complete work responsibilities at the practicum site.

1. To reinforce the learning experience of the profession of dietetics obtained through lectures and assignments.
2. To enable the student to better understand the actual daily work of a dietitian.
3. To provide the student with an opportunity to interact with professionals in the health care field.

Basic Course Requirements

1. All students will meet with the course director during the semester prior to the course to complete an application form. **All sites must be approved, in advance, by the course**

instructor. Before the end of the spring semester, the CO-OP Information Sheet must be completed and turned in to Dr. Payne-Emerson.

2. Each student is responsible for finding his/her own experiential site; however, the course instructor will provide guidance.
3. Students should be accepted into the Nutrition and Dietetics program before registering for the course. This means the application for admission must be completed and signed by the student, advisor and DPD Director.
4. The course and related experiences must be completed during the summer semester.
5. The applied experiences can consist of full-time or part-time employment. A minimum of 120 hours must be completed. If the student is unable to find dietetic-related employment, the student may acquire a minimum of 120 dietetic-related volunteer hours. The volunteer facility/agency must be approved by the course instructor, and the facility/program must have a true VOLUNTEER program, where you are there as a "VOLUNTEER" not as a dietetic student. An affiliation agreement may be required by sites who consider you as a student, not as a volunteer. Affiliation agreements will not be established for practicum sites. The instructor must receive an email from the supervisor/volunteer coordinator documenting that the site does not require an affiliation agreement prior to beginning volunteer hours.
- 6. All students must register for the course, HMD 464, during the prescribed WKU registration period and pay applicable tuition and university fees.**
7. All students must meet with the instructor, either in a group meeting or individually, before starting the course.
8. If the student does not have a job, someone from career services center may help her/him put together a resume and cover letter and assist with a job search.
9. All students must provide the instructor with a phone number and email address where the student can be reached during the course. The student will provide this information on the coop/internship information sheet. This form **must** arrive to the instructor before the student is able to register for the course. This form also indicates where the student plans on completing the experiences, as well as supervisor information.
10. The student will develop objectives for the experiential portion of the course and negotiate these objectives with the employer; these objectives are a part of the "Learning Plan".
11. Students must complete all required assignments for the course.

Prerequisites for HMD 464

Before participating in HMD 464, students must complete the following requirements:

1. Admission to the Nutrition and Dietetics concentration.
2. Completion of HMD 362 Medical Nutrition Therapy I
3. Be aware that site requirements may include obtaining current negative two-step TB skin test, proof of immunity to MMR and hepatitis B; completion of a 7-year, multicounty background check; drug urine screen; and/or acquisition of professional liability insurance coverage. Additional site-specific requirements may exist and need to be completed by the student, as requested. The student is responsible for any expenses including liability insurance (\$20.00), TB skin test (\$20), background check (\$23.00+), transportation, lodging, meals, and miscellaneous expenses that may not be covered by the site.

Potential Sites for Experiences

- Hospital
- Rehabilitation Hospital
- Long-term care/nursing home

- School Foodservice / Summer Feeding Programs
- Hospice of Southern Kentucky (food preparation)
- Aramark
- Community Action of Southern Kentucky (food service)
- Diabetes camp
- Cooperative Extension
- Center for Courageous Kids—Camp Courageous
- Other camps or nationally-based internships linked to the dietetic field