

SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES
PROPOSAL FOR DIFFERENTIAL TUITION (DT) FOR POST-BACCALAUREATE
CERTIFICATE-DIETETIC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (PBC-DI)

October 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate-Dietetic Internship Program (PBC-DI) in the Department of Nutrition (NTR), in the School of Health and Human Sciences, at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) requests permission to increase its school-based tuition by \$200.00 per student credit hour for all NTR courses (15 student credit hours) in the PBC-DI program. This action is necessary to address the increasing costs of providing specialized instruction in the complex field of dietetics. If approved, this program-based differential tuition (DT) would be implemented for students who enter the program in Fall 2018. DT funds would be used to offset the costs of delivering this quality clinical education to students pursuing a career as a *Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)*. Following are details explaining why these higher tuition costs are justified, that the resulting tuition rates are still highly competitive with in-state traditional university-based peer dietetic internship programs, and that this change in tuition will not limit student access.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

Established in 1980, the UNCG Nutrition Department's supervised dietetics practice program has provided clinical education for >350 students pursuing the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) credential. The UNCG PBC-DI program is one of 6 traditional, university-based accredited dietetic internship programs in North Carolina.

Program Mission:

The mission of the PBC-DI program is to prepare competent entry-level registered dietitian nutritionists for positions in clinical, foodservice, and community nutrition to improve health and enhance quality of life of individuals, families and communities. Through a supervised practice curriculum, the program is structured to provide diverse learning opportunities that enable program graduates to further develop and apply their knowledge and skills in order to provide quality nutrition care in diverse practice settings. The learning environment emphasizes the importance of self-reflection, oral and written communication, problem solving, teamwork, life-long learning, service and professional engagement.

PBC-DI Plan of Study:**Table 1. Post Baccalaureate Certificate-Dietetic Internship - 15 student credit hours (sch)**

PBC Course Name	Fall	Spring/Summer
Supervised Preparation for Professional Engagement	NTR 602 3 sch	
Supervised Preparation for Practicum in Clinical Dietetics	NTR 693 3 sch	
Clinical Dietetics Practicum-Foodservice Management		NTR 606-A 3 sch
Clinical Dietetics Practicum-Clinical Nutrition		NTR 606-B 3 sch
Clinical Dietetics Practicum-Community Nutrition		NTR 606-C 3 sch
Totals: 1200 supervised practice hrs 15 grad student credit hrs		

Program Length:

- The UNCG PBC-DI program is a full time, 10-month program including 15 student credit hours of supervised preparation (10 weeks) and supervised clinical practice (27 weeks) leading to completion of the post-BS certificate program. As required by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, with oversight by the US Department of Education, students complete a minimum of 1200 hours of supervised clinical experiences both on-campus and at approved affiliated sites. The program is in full compliance with ACEND accreditation standards and is awarded accreditation through 2018. The program is currently completing the process for applying for continued accreditation, including

submission of a self-study report in September 2017 and site visit by ACEND program review team in November 2017.

RDN Exam Pass Rate:

Upon successful completion of program requirements, students earn eligibility to sit for the RDN credentialing exam administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). Upon passing the exam, graduates are credentialed as RDN and are eligible for state licensure to practice nutrition. The pass rates for our program are as follows:

Metric 1: First-Time Pass Rate over the most recent Five-Year Period = 94.03% (63/67)
Rating = “Excellent”

Metric 2: One-Year Pass Rate over the most recent Five-Year Period = 100% (67/67)
Rating = “Excellent”

Surveys conducted annually as part of requirements for accreditation show a favorable evaluation of the program by graduates and their employers. This success may be attributed to:

- campus-based supervised preparation – 10 weeks of alternate supervised experiences including case studies, role-play exercises and simulation;
- supervised clinical practice in the work setting – 27 weeks of field experience within hospitals, foodservice/commercial kitchens, public health departments, outpatient clinics, schools and long-term care settings;
- clinical supervision received by our students during their enrollment in the program.

RATIONALE FOR ENHANCED SUPPORT

The program accreditation requirements create a significant need for additional revenue provided from differential tuition. In addition to the actual costs of maintaining specialty accreditation, this program requires the support and commitment of qualified program faculty and preceptors.

Summary of program operation costs - Annual accreditation fees charged by ACEND:

Table 2. ACEND Accreditation Fee Schedule 2017-2021

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Accreditation Fee	\$1900	\$1975	\$2025	\$2075	\$2125
Advanced Degree Program Listing	\$275	\$275	\$275	\$275	\$275

Total	\$2175	\$2250	\$2300	\$2350	\$2400
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- Future site visits for comprehensive peer review for continuing accreditation occur between 5-7 years after being awarded accreditation or re-accreditation charged every 5-7 years by ACEND (The program is currently under review for continued accreditation):
2017=\$6300; 2018=\$6680
- Program operating expenses:
Mailing, photocopying, desk supplies, telephone services, printing
- Accreditation standards training for PBC-DI program director (provided by ACEND):
Annual attendance at Nutrition and Dietetic Educators and Preceptors (NDEP) area meeting; Annual attendance at The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo (FNCE)
- Program marketing:
\$350/year
- Clinical supervision during campus-based supervised preparation: Students are supervised by program director who is a Registered/Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist.
- External clinical placements: Clinical rotations are supervised by qualified professionals with appropriate levels of experience, licensure/certification. Each clinical placement is covered by a current clinical education instructional agreement, approved by attorneys in both the university and site placement facility.
- Student onboarding requirements: Every student must be trained on all federal, state and local/agency requirements, including specified OSHA, HIPAA and bloodborne pathogen universal precautions; Students must comply with all site placement facility requirements for criminal background check, professional liability insurance, urine drug screen and immunizations/titers prior to placement.
- Collection and assimilation of data for reporting student learning outcomes and achievement of program goals and objectives: >500 data points for ACEND as well as data for UNCG office of accreditation and assessment (OAA).

Summary of proposed uses for revenue generated through Differential Tuition:

The program will use revenue received through differential tuition for the following:

- Program accreditation
- Program administration
- Program growth and development

- Graduate student development and support

Details on proposed use of projected revenue:**A. Program Accreditation**

1. Accreditation fees-annually
2. Accreditation fees-reaccreditation (self-study report preparation and on-site visit every 5-7 years)
3. Collection, assimilation and reporting of >500 data points (annually)
4. Improvement and maintenance of program website

B. Program Administration

1. Program Director financial support for CEU opportunities
2. Program Director financial support for attendance at professional meetings for networking with peer program directors and learning about best practices (annually)
3. Program Director financial support for management of teaching workload
4. Clerical/administrative support
5. Purchase of clinical education technology (electronic system) for overall program management and administration (currently we utilize a “paper system”)

C. Program Growth and Development

1. Program Director support for travel with interns on field trips, conducting site visits to monitor intern performance and progress, and marketing the program to increase the number of experiential learning site partners
2. Provide opportunities for interns to interact with clinical professionals/experts and related exposures such as field trip to a farm to learn sustainable agriculture
3. Development of a strong recruiting/marketing campaign to attract the best students who will serve the needs of NC as RDNs in hospitals, outpatient clinics and public health venues, commercial/institutional kitchens and private practice
4. Provide opportunities for clinical preceptors to attend training on supervision of students in the work setting, as required by ACEND
5. Provide honoraria for professionals who serve the program through teaching and service on the advisory board and DI selection committees
6. Maintenance of excellence and financial viability of the PBC-DI professional program
7. Development of a social media platform for program
8. Creation of marketing video including program alumni speaking on, "Why choose the UNCG PBC-DI?"
9. Strengthen connections with program alumni by creating alumni engagement opportunities
10. Program director support for increasing the cohort class size. Although accredited for 21 students, the program is forced to limit admission to 12-15 students per year due to

the need for additional program support. Program growth would serve the needs of students in the UNCG Nutrition Department who wish to complete a supervised practice program in the Greensboro region.

D. Graduate Student Development - Supports UNCG Nutrition Department Strategic Plan Objective #2: Provide support for graduate student development through professional and research meetings.

1. Provide financial support to all interns so that they may attend the Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo. Our students tell us that they would not otherwise be able to afford the cost of attendance and this is a great marketing tool for our program as we have been awarded grant funding for 3 years in a row for interns to attend the conference. *DT revenue would enable our program to sustain this benefit to our students!*
2. Program will cover the cost of as many out-of-pocket expenses as possible such as criminal background check, urine drug screen, professional liability insurance, lab coat so that our students who take student loans to attend the program incur fewer costs out-of-pocket.
3. Cover the cost of an RDN exam review course (current cost = \$400/per student). Our students tell us that this benefit would be much appreciated as completion of a review course may increase the likelihood of the program graduate passing the RDN exam on the first attempt.
4. Support School of Health and Human Sciences interprofessional education and interprofessional practice initiatives.
5. Provide opportunities for celebration (such as a group dinner at the end of the DI year).

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Differential tuition was discussed with current students on September 28, 2017 (Class of 2018). Generally, students expressed an understanding of the need to move to a differential tuition model for the PBC-DI and were supportive of the additional expense to maintain the high quality and integrity of the program. Feedback is summarized as follows:

☐ UNCG would still be an “affordable” program, even with differential tuition. ☐ Students were attracted to our program because, unlike other NC programs, UNCG offers students financial support for attending the Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo. ☐ Students suggested ways the DT revenue could be best utilized to offset out-of-pocket costs of the program (funds can benefit students if program could cover costs of criminal background check, professional liability insurance, urine drug screen and lab coat). ☐ Program is still “very competitive” when compared to other peer programs’ costs plus fees and requirement to pay out-of-pocket to attend the national conference.

Table 3. Comparison Tuition Data obtained from program information posted on websites on 09/28/2017

Dietetic Internship Program	In-State	Out of State
East Carolina University	\$6407 + cost of required credentialing exam review course	\$18,724 + cost of required credentialing exam review course
Duke University Hospital (private) (not university-based)	\$6500 (no grad credit included)	\$6500 (no grad credit included)
University of NC at Greensboro (current tuition and fees)	\$6572 + \$200 user fee	\$18,575 + \$200 user fee
Western Carolina University	\$7605	\$16,012
Winthrop University Rock Hill, SC	\$7028	\$13,448
North Carolina Central University	\$9,533 + \$450 acceptance fee + cost of required FNCE attendance	\$20, 868 + \$450 acceptance fee + cost of required FNCE attendance
Meredith College (private)	\$12,600 + cost of required FNCE attendance	\$12,600
Solmaz Institute Lenoir-Rhyne University (private)	\$14,220 + \$1605 fees + cost of required credentialing exam review course	\$14,220 + \$1605 fees + cost of required credentialing exam review course

Appalachian State University	\$15,442	\$41780
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Table 4. Proposed Expenditures for Differential Tuition

Differential Tuition (DT) Proposal Revenues and Expenditures			
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Projected Enrollment	12	12	12
PBC sch (per student)	15	15	15
Total sch per year subject to DT	180	180	180
DT (requested) per sch	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Estimated Revenues	\$36,000.00	\$36,000.00	\$36,000.00
School of Health & Human Sciences (10%)	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00
Program Accreditation	\$7,300.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,600.00
Program Administration	\$9,500.00	\$9,500.00	\$9,500.00
Program Growth & Development	\$5,600.00	\$5,400.00	\$5,300.00
Graduate Student Development & Support	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Total	\$36,000.00	\$36,000.00	\$36,000.00