

DI - IUP

The internship is separate from the MS, but carries graduate credits. Our literature about the DPD does mention the internship/MS, but is not really promotional for those programs.

Some thoughts about our program:

- Second-largest in PA, and largest in the state system of higher education
- 35 years in dietetics education
- Emphasizes faculty student interaction, strong advisement system, career counseling

Q. Do you look for students having a certain number of science courses?

A. They should have HS biology and chemistry -- extra is helpful. However, we have no control, because if they're admitted to the university, they can declare just about any major they want.

Q. What do you say when counselors say their high school students wouldn't think \$60,000 is enough money so they don't tell them about the field of dietetics?

A. This may sound defensive, but I guess that means they must not be telling their students about teaching or any other "human service" profession, since none of them pay that well. I suspect it's more likely they just don't think about dietetics because it's not a large/high salary/"glamour" field. I think we need to be telling them about the accelerating public interest in nutrition and where we fit.

Q. Do you think there are not enough RDs in the field? (This is not necessarily our message. That was the FCS teachers' message to the counselors, that there were not enough FCS teachers available for the schools that needed them.)

A. Manpower studies show increasing demand -- I'm not so sure about shortage. However, we have >95% placement in the field with our BS program, so it appears there are lots of jobs/internships for good students. (Excuse the sarcasm, but how can they recommend FCS, considering the low pay?)

Susan Dahlheimer

DPD - Immaculata U.

Q. Do you prefer that your applicants have had science courses in high school?

A. We do not have any additional requirements other than the regular admissions requirements of 2 units of science (1 with a lab) and 2 units of math. Since we are a science-based profession and that is what often trips students up, more math and science in high school is very beneficial for success.

Q. Guidance counselors like to know about salaries.

A. As far as salaries go I just received some information from Regina Mingle who is an RD but her job is as VP of Human Resources for the Jefferson Health System in Philadelphia. She looked up some information for our DI's and found that the average entry level salary (1st. 3 years) for an average size hospital in the Philadelphia area is \$46,500 and for home care is \$56,500. She also mentioned that the better quality organizations don't necessarily pay the most because they don't have to.

Sue Johnston

Immaculata University

DPD – West Chester University Nutrition and Dietetics as a Degree and as a Career

It's an exciting time to study nutrition --

- Obesity in the U.S.
- High protein – Low Carb diet craze
 - Dr. Atkins
 - Sugar Busters
 - South Beach Diet
- Even Krispy Kreme is laying off employees and losing market share.
- Weight loss over the counter products that contain ephedrine were pulled because a number of people died from using those products.
- The Baby Boomers – your parents and grandparents are aging – Within the next 10 years – 1 out of every 4th person you see will be over the age of 65. Special challenges of preventing disease (chronic). Living as a vital, healthy aging person !!
- Six of the top 10 diseases that Americans die from are diet – related. Heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, osteoporosis and liver/kidney disease.

At one time, medical schools did not have even ONE nutrition class mandatory for doctors – now, our medical system is changing – it is understanding that what someone eats – their food choices, the portion sizes, how often during the day they eat, if it is a simple carbohydrate, has fiber, high in saturated fat --- all can help PREVENT chronic disease.

So, it is an exciting time to study nutrition – the SCIENCE of food.

The degree at WCU is: a bachelor of science of nutrition and dietetics. It is science based – notice the chemistry courses that set the foundation for understanding the elements and the chemical structure of protein, CHO and fats. Other science classes include: anatomy – physiology and microbiology. To develop research skills, statistics and research methods courses are also required.

Job outlook

- Clinical: pediatrics, diabetes, cardiac rehab, hospitals, home health care
- Political / Government: Dairy Council, FDA, USDA, ADA, lobbyists, consumer groups
- Researchers: government, universities, food companies, pharmaceutical companies.
- Private practice: sports, fitness centers, eating disorders, women's clinics.
- Education: colleges, universities, medical schools, public school systems.
- Community: health departments (WIC), elderly feeding programs, day care
- Also: wellness centers, sports nutritionist, freelance writers, food stylists, food sales, foodservice equipment or pharmaceutical companies that sell specialty food supplements to hospitals and grocery stores.

Salary ranges – average: \$ 48,000 Advanced degrees increase salary ranges.

Advanced / Complementary degrees

Physician's Assistant	Entrepreneurs – own business
Physical Therapy	Clinical: eating disorders, crohn's disease, diabetes
Doctors	Masters – Public Health - community
Nurses	Educators: elementary, high school, college
Respiratory Therapy	Food Service/Management Hospitality

Hi Jan -- I'm not sure if you want remarks about West Chester University or about the profession of dietetics. I've got a "blurb" I share with prospective students that come to our open house, but it is more about the profession than the University. Let me know if you'd like me to send it to you. As for our school.

Enrollment is 12,500 year - 1/2 are commuters. We are located in the county seat of West Chester, a thriving, small town about 45 minutes from Philadelphia. The university is in the town, so off-campus housing is in the borough of WC - with great restaurants, shops and nightlife. Many of our students are from small towns in PA, and are often the first generation from their families that are going to college. I can truly say that our students are really nice young people and it is one of the reasons that I enjoy teaching at WCU. We are part of the 14 state universities in PA, and I believe, the largest. We are quite affordable, compared to other schools in our area (not sure about this, but about \$5500 per year?) Our school gets over 18,000 applicants each year for about 1800 freshman slots. Good grades in high school, good SAT scores will help you get into WCU. In our BS in Nutrition/Dietetics program, we have just shy of 180 majors !! Minimum grades in sciences are set at a C, however, in order to be competitive for internships, GPA's need to 2.8 or higher.

We are a big, little program, with an open door policy for all students. We get to know our majors, encourage them to be involved in the Student Dietetic Association on campus, and are quite proud of our graduates as they go on to their internships and careers.

I hope this helps... please let me know if you'd like the other piece about job outlook, ..etc... Lynn

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