



Preparing for your Dietetic Internship Interview

1. Research Common Interview Questions

Research common interview questions and formulate your responses.

- Google “sample interview questions” or “sample dietetic internship interview questions”
 - <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/interviewing/top-interview-questions-and-answers>
 - <https://collegegrad.com/tough-interview-questions>
 - <https://www.eiu.edu/dietetics/Sample%20interview%20questions.pdf>
 - STAR Method: <https://careerservices.wayne.edu/behavioralinterviewinfo.pdf>
- Visit your school’s Career Center for interview prep resources or to schedule a “mock” interview
 - <https://msudenver.edu/career/>
 - https://events.jwu.edu/department/experiential_education_career_services_den

Type your responses in a Google or Word doc that you can use as a reference for phone interviews.

Practice reading your responses aloud, so you can hear yourself, how the delivery comes across, etc.

2. Research Your Program

Conduct in-depth research about the program(s) for which you are interviewing. Understand your prospective program’s mission, goals, outcome measures, tuition and fees, and additional required application materials, if applicable.

- Children’s Hospital Colorado: <https://www.childrenscolorado.org/doctors-and-departments/departments/nutrition/dietetic-internship-program/>
- Tri-County Health Department: <https://www.tchd.org/298/Dietetic-Internship>
- MSU Denver ISPP: <https://msudenver.edu/nutrition/dieteticinternships/msudenverispp/>
- Iowa State Distance Program: <http://www.dietetics.iastate.edu/>

If provided, research your interviewers using LinkedIn or program website – it may be helpful to know where they went to school, where they did their internships, and understand what their current role is.

3. Remember, the interview is a two-way street

Your interviewers want to make sure you are a good fit for the program, and likewise you want to make sure you are spending your money on a program that truly interests you.

Come up with 2-3 questions that YOU want to ask the interviewers at the end of the interview.

Having questions prepared shows that you are engaged and truly interested in the program.

4. Thank Your Interviewers

If you have a physical address, send a hand-written thank-you card to your interviewers. If you just have an email, sending a thank-you email works just as well!

This will remind them of your name and your interest in the program. Mention something specific that you said during the interview that reiterates your interest in the program.



You've Been Matched – Now What?

Relax!

Unless your program provides homework ahead of time, relax and let your brain have a break until the start of your program.

- CHCO: no homework prior to start, but you may have a light assignment for your first rotation.
- TCHD: no homework prior to start. Internship begins with 6 weeks of community at TCHD Admin office
- MSU ISPP: no formal homework prior to start, but helps to review MNT notes and lectures
- UNCO: Two years of graduate coursework and the internship will begin the summer after graduation. Interns must attend a 3-day in-person orientation at the start of the internship.
- Iowa State Distance: Webinar, Case Study due during your week in Iowa, PAL application

Background / Pre-Internship Items

Most programs have background screening and/or immunization requirements. This is not a complete list and prices may vary. Always check with your program director to confirm what is required.

- Background Check (~\$70)
- 10-Panel Drug Screen (~\$70) - Note that most drug screens often include marijuana, and a positive may disqualify you.
- Immunizations (Prices Vary): Programs may require specific immunizations (such as Tdap, MMR, Chicken Pox, Tuberculosis, and/or flu).
- Professional Liability Insurance (~\$20-50)
 - Suggested companies: www.hpsoc.com or www.proliability.com

Tuition

Understand the cost of each program and start thinking about how you will finance the internship and living expenses. Tuition costs as of the 2018-2019 class per program:

- CHCO: \$8,500 – first half due by May 31, the other half due by week 21
- TCHD: \$9,000 – first half due in beginning, the other half due mid-December
- MSU ISPP: \$12,000 in-state/\$16,000 out-of-state – first half due in beginning, the other half due mid-December
- UNCO: MS ~\$31,000 + DI \$8,160 - Tuition is due at the beginning of each semester, including start of the internship. Student loans can be applied to the cost of the internship.
- Iowa State Distance: \$12,255 (includes graduate school registration and tuition) – must spend a week in Iowa, so be prepared to purchase flight and accommodations separately

Tips for Success During Your Internship

Remember that it is okay if you don't know everything. The whole point is to learn.

Stay organized - keep a binder for all papers and materials you receive from preceptors.

Work ahead whenever you can. Use down-time during lighter rotations to stay on top of projects.

Write thank you cards to each preceptor - it takes time to precept in addition to doing their daily jobs.