

# **James J. Peters VAMC Dietetic Internship Program Mission, Vision, Goals and Measurable Outcomes**

## **Medical Center Mission Statement**

To provide the highest quality of health care.

## **Medical Center Vision Statement**

We envision that, as One VA, we strive to meet our veteran's current and future needs by providing state of the art health care, education, and research. The James J. Peters VA will be known for outstanding and compassionate service to our veterans, our collaboration with the communities, which we serve, and our education and research initiatives.

## **Dietetic Internship Program Philosophy and Mission Statement**

The Dietetic Internship Coordinated Masters of Science Degree in Nutrition Program is sponsored by the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Bronx and coordinated with the Department of Nutrition and Food Studies at New York University. The Program is designed to prepare entry-level dietetic practitioners with the essential skills, knowledge and performance standards for practice as clinicians, educators, consultants and researchers.

The 16-month program includes rotations in clinical dietetics, food service systems, clinical management, community nutrition and business/industry. Hospital, community, long term care and industry settings are used. Affiliations include Mt. Sinai Medical Center and other agencies/corporations in the metropolitan area. Interns complete approximately 1550 hours of supervised practice experiences and 34 graduate credits over 16 months. The academic component includes required and elective courses coordinated to provide opportunities for interns to work toward an advanced degree concurrently with practical application in the clinical setting.

This program is designed to produce a competent graduate with a well-integrated practical and theoretical education to meet the expanding role of today's dietetic practitioner. The VA and its affiliates provide a unique learning environment staffed by many internationally recognized nutrition experts in clinical and community nutrition, food service systems management, education and research. The three-semester academic research curriculum is integrated with VA and affiliated research projects led by experts in the field.

The Medical center, its affiliates and the university are now and have always been committed to the education and training of professionals in dietetics and allied health fields. The VA is affiliated with over 50 health related schools nationally and provides clinical training for 12 different health disciplines. The dietetic internship was reestablished in 1981 with a prior 29-year history as an internship. NYU has offered a Masters Degree in nutrition since 1945.

This program provides a pool of qualified, entry-level practitioners to the metropolitan New York area and the Veterans Affairs system. Graduates are well prepared to meet the expanding role of the dietitian in clinical, management and community nutrition. The program provides career placement assistance for all graduates.

## **Dietetic Internship Program Goals**

- 1) The dietetic internship will provide a structure for the intern to develop professional ethics, values, behavior and standards consistent with those of the program, the medical center, and the profession.
- 2) The dietetic internship will prepare entry-level practitioners with the skills, knowledge, experiences and capabilities to meet the expanding roles of the dietitian in a variety of practice settings.
- 3) The dietetic internship will provide a pool of competent entry-level practitioners to meet the demands of the VA system and the New York area.

## **Measurable Outcomes**

- 1) 90% of interns will complete the Master's Degree at NYU within 1 year of completing Dietetic Internship over a 10 year period
- 2) 80% of graduated intern respondents will plan to continue their dietetics education via involvement in professional organizations
- 3) Maintain at least 80% first-time pass rate on the RD exam for a five-year period
- 4) Maintain at least 90% completion rate for dietetic interns enrolled in the dietetic internship over a 10-year period
- 5) 100% of interns will initiate and complete all aspects of a research project
- 6) 50% of graduated intern respondents will plan to continue their dietetics education by attaining advanced certifications
- 7)  $\geq 50\%$  of James J. Peters Veteran's Affairs Medical Center RD positions will be held by program graduates
- 8) 90% of graduated intern respondents would consider federal employment in the future
- 9) 75% of graduated intern respondents will obtain employment in the New York City area