



**Utah State  
University**

**morrison**  
healthcare  
DIETETIC INTERNSHIP

## Utah State University – Morrison MSDI Program

**Advance Your Career with a Combined Master's Degree and Dietetic Internship**

**Offered Jointly by Utah State University (USU) and Morrison Healthcare Dietetic Internship**

A combined master's degree and dietetic internship is now offered jointly with Utah State University (USU) and Morrison Healthcare Dietetic Internship. Students in this program are simultaneously enrolled in and complete all the requirements for a clinically focused dietetic internship with Morrison Healthcare while pursuing their graduate degree online through USU. The master's program at USU focuses on leadership and management and provides value-added support for your clinical supervised practice experience. Students will earn a Master's in Dietetics Administration (MDA). Students who successfully complete the internship and the graduate program will be awarded a verification statement from MHC, making them eligible to sit for the Registered Dietitian (RD) Exam. Students will be awarded 9 graduate credits toward their master's degree upon completion of their internship with Morrison Healthcare.

### Program Format

This flexible online program is designed for busy and motivated graduate students. Fully asynchronous coursework allows you to balance academic demands with your internship rotations.

Total Graduate Credits: 31

#### Year 1

- Summer 1: Begin with 2-3 fully online graduate courses (4-7 credits).
- Fall 1: Complete two online courses (6 credits) while beginning supervised internship rotations with Morrison Healthcare.

#### Year 2

- Spring 2: Continue your internship rotations while taking two online courses (6 credits).
- Summer 2: Conclude your MDA coursework with 1-3 online courses based on your previous course schedule. (6-9 credits).

Upon completion of Year 2 in August, students graduate from USU with the Master of Dietetics Administration (MDA) and receive their verification statement.

Internship rotations are arranged through Morrison Healthcare and are available at sites across the United States, offering flexibility and diverse clinical experiences.

USU MDA Semester	Summer 1 (May-Aug)	Fall 1 (Aug-Dec)	Spring 1 (Jan-May)	Summer 2 (May-Aug)
USU Credit Hours	4-7 credits *	6 credits	6 credits	6-9
USU MDA Courses  (9 credits of graduate credit will be awarded for completing internship experience.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NDFS 6450 Dietetics Career Essentials (1)</li> <li>• NDFS 6580 Application of Research Principles in Dietetics (3)</li> <li>• NDFS 6570 Communication Techniques in Dietetics (3)</li> </ul> <i>*Credits in summer based on student preference.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NDFS 6770 Dietetics Leadership and Management I (3)</li> </ul> <b>AND</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NDFS 6800 Motivational Interviewing (3)</li> </ul> <b>OR</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NDFS 6320 Advanced Sports Nutrition (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NDFS 6780 Dietetics Leadership and Management II (3)</li> </ul> <b>AND</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NDFS 6470 Global Public Health (3)</li> </ul> <b>OR</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NDFS 6210 Advanced Public Health Nutrition (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NDFS 6980 MDA Master's Project (3)</li> <li>• NDFS 6580 Application of Research Principles in Dietetics (3)</li> <li>• NDFS 6570 Communication Techniques in Dietetics (3)</li> </ul> <i>*Credits in summer are based on student preference and the first summer course completion.</i>
MHC Internship		Start MHC Internship (4 days a week) while continuing with the degree	Continue from MHC Internship (4 days a week)	MHC-UA students will receive their verification statement upon completion of their MS degree



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### **USU Admissions Requirements:**

- Graduate from an accredited nutrition/dietetics program with a DPD Verification Statement OR be in the process of completing an accredited nutrition/dietetics program and will receive a DPD Verification Statement or Foreign Dietitian Education program (FDE) upon completion.
- Applicants must have a DPD GPA of 3.0 or greater.
  - No Ds or Fs in any DPD/Prerequisite courses.
  - Approximately 400 hours of work or volunteer experience is required.
  - Applicants to the USU MDA must secure preceptors and training sites prior to applying.
  - Applicants must have technological competence.
  - Both a bachelor's degree and a DPD Verification Statement must be conferred prior to August 1<sup>st</sup> of the year a student plans to start the MDA.
  - The GRE is not required for admission.
- Application deadline for Summer/Fall 2026: **March 1, 2026**
- Complete online application for Summer 2026 and submit the following application elements:  
<https://graduate.ua.edu/prospective-students/apply-now/>
  - Application fee payment
  - Statement of purpose
  - Unofficial transcripts
    - Official copies would be required upon acceptance
  - 3 letters of recommendation
    - Please let individuals know that you will need these letters in addition to those submitted to DICAS.
  - Language scores\* (non-native English speakers)
  - Select the Summer/Fall Term

### **Tuition:**

**USU MDA Tuition:** Utah State University offers competitive graduate tuition, and out-of-state fees are waived for distance learners. The cost is \$535 per graduate credit hour, totaling approximately \$11,200 for the required coursework (plus any applicable college or course-specific fees). Students also receive 9 graduate credits for their internship experience at no tuition cost. A \$50 per-credit review fee applies to these awarded credits, totaling \$450. Tuition is due on a semester-by-semester basis. Deposit to hold spot: \$500, which will be applied to the first semester tuition.

**Morrison Healthcare Dietetic Internship Tuition:** Deposit to hold spot: \$2500, paid on acceptance into the MSFCS program; remainder tuition fee of \$8356, paid prior to rotations beginning in the second fall.

***If you are interested in the USU MDA, please contact Lacie Peterson, the program director, prior to applying.***

### **Contact Information:**

**Lacie Peterson, PhD, RDN, CDCES, FAND**

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Program Director

USU Master of Dietetics Administration

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Program Director, MHC Dietetic Internship