



# Aramark

## Distance Learning Dietetic Internship

The Aramark Healthcare's Distance Learning Dietetic Internship is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 120 Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60606, 1-800-877-1600.

# Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. *Do I need to find my preceptors and locations?***

No, the Aramark Dietetic Internship is a distance program with a difference. The best sites and preceptors are selected for you! Students apply to the program with one application, but rank into D&D all the preselected hospital sites where they are able to complete an internship with Aramark. One application with many demographic locations for you to rank – a real edge on matching!

### **2. *How do I select my location?***

The Location Selection Sheet lists all of the geographical locations and D&D numbers available during the upcoming year.

You will rank all the sites you are willing to complete your internship at and attach the document to your DICAS application to inform the Regional Internship Directors of your selection. On the day you rank your internship choices into D&D, you will select the correct number for the Aramark geographic locations where you want to be placed. The more sites you rank, the better your chance is to match!

### **3. *Can I come and visit an internship site?***

Because the Aramark internship is a distance program with locations spread across the US, we do not set-up students for site visits.

### **4. *Can I come and visit the internship directors?***

The Regional Internship Directors will always be open to talking to you about the internship! They are available via phone, email, and Skype calling. Virtual Open Houses are planned during October,

November and January for you to learn more about the internship and ask questions to the Regional Directors.

**5. Does the Aramark internship provide financial aid? Can I make payments?**

Aramark is not a college or university and federal financial aid is not available. One half of the tuition is due upon acceptance to the program. The other half is due prior to orientation. The internship will work with you on payments, but the tuition is due prior to the first Monday after Labor Day which is orientation week. Aramark Healthcare does not have the ability to accept credit cards or electronic payments. Payments should be submitted in the form of a personal or certified check.

Students who apply and receive financial aid while completing a Master's degree through The Southern Mississippi University may apply funds from financial aid to the Aramark Dietetic Internship program fee.

**6. Do you participate in the fall and spring match?**

The Aramark Dietetic Internship only participates in the spring match. Specific dates and deadlines can be confirmed with DICAS.

**7. What is your pass rate?**

The internship has a recent pass rate of 93% for first time test takers and 96% overall pass rate! Full program outcomes data are available upon request.

**8. Can I do my internship part time?**

No. The internship is accredited based on a full-time curriculum to be completed from September through May. One week of vacation is added into the schedule for a 35 week experience.

**9. What does the daily schedule look like for an intern?**

Interns are expected to complete practice experience with the same work hours as their preceptor. Expect a 40+ hour week during your internship. You will also be expected to complete coursework, projects, and meetings after rotation practice hours.

**10. Do you accept students with a F-1 Visa?**

Because the Aramark Dietetic Internship is a distance program, students with an F-1 Visa are not eligible.

**11. What qualities are in a great application?**

- A complete application. Don't assume we will look at your resume when your application does not have work and volunteer experience. Take time to fill in all the information asked for in the application.
- Attention to detail. Spelling and grammar errors do not give the application reviewers a good impression of you.
- Accurate breakdown of your GPA. The reviewers consider an application incomplete if they have to recalculate your GPA.
- A well-written application letter. Include all the information requested and find a way to make your letter stand out to the reviewers. Make it interesting to read and insightful into you!

**12. What characteristics do you look for in an Aramark interns?**

- Self-directed
- Skilled at time management
- Leadership
- Maturity

**13. Does it really matter if my overall and DPD GPAs are not >3.0 or Science GPA >2.8?**

Yes. Applications with lower GPAs will not be considered.

**14. Do you have a preference on who provides my references?**

The program requires three letters of recommendation - one from a professor; one from a work manager or volunteer supervisor; and one from either a professor, work manager, or a volunteer supervisor. No additional recommendation letters are desired. You will need three references from teachers and work supervisors who really know you and your quality of work. Make sure the people writing your recommendation letters will highly recommend you! Letters which are generic or vague tell us you may not be a match for the Aramark Dietetic Internship.

**15. Is there anything I need to send in with my application fee?**

No. There are no additional documents that you send in with your application fee. You only need to submit your \$50 check to the address provided; making sure your name is on the check.

**16. Are there supplemental documents I need to submit with my application in DICAS?**

Yes, you will need to download the Location Selection Sheet, check all the locations you would be willing to locate to for your internship and upload the completed Location Selection Sheet as a supplemental item in the application. Detailed instructions are located

**17. Will I be notified for an interview?**

No, you will need to provide a video interview as part of your application. The video interviews should be recorded using available technology, e.g. webcam, video on phone, etc. The video length should be 5 minutes or less. Questions for the intern to answer in the video interview can be found in the Video Interview video, available on website. Once the video has been recorded, upload the file to a video sharing site, such as YouTube or Google Drive. A share link to the video should then be inserted into your personal statement.

**18. How many interns were accepted into the Aramark internship last year?**

A total of 51 interns were placed into the internship in 2016/2017.

**19. How do I find the Aramark Dietetic Internship in DICAS and D&D?**

When you reach the Program Designation section in DICAS, you will want to click on "Add New Entry." The DICAS system will then allow you to search for the internship you would like to submit your application. To submit your application to the Aramark internship, you will need to enter "Pennsylvania" in the search box. You will then be able to find Aramark Healthcare listed.

In the D&D Digital system, you will need to scroll down to Philadelphia, PA to find all of our geographic

locations. For example, you will find our geographic location of "Aramark, Grand Junction, CO" listed under Philadelphia, PA instead of under Grand Junction, CO. Additionally, the D&D Digital numbers for each geographic location are listed on our website as well as our Site Selection document so you can look specifically for those numbers in the D&D system too.

**20. *I have downloaded the Location Selection document from the website and filled it out. What do I do with it now?***

You need to scan the Site Selection document and the DPD Course Listing Form into one document that is less than 5 Mb in size. Then, attach the scanned document to your application in DICAS as a supplemental item when you reach the Program Designation section of your application.

**21. *Can I keep my part-time or full-time job during the internship?***

A full-time job is not possible. The internship hours are a full work week at 40+ hours. We strongly discourage trying to keep your part-time job. You will be working on projects and supplemental learning activities after work hours and on weekends.

**22. *Will I have to do anything during the summer to prepare for the internship program?***

The Regional Internship Directors will schedule a conference call with all interns by mid-June to review the onboarding requirements. Interns will be provided with information about this call in May. Following the call, interns will be expected to start completing the onboarding requirements in order to ensure completion by the start of the program. Onboarding requirements include, but are not limited to, a physical examination and purchasing professional liability insurance, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics membership, required references, etc.

Interns may have to visit their assigned account to complete hospital orientations or visit with the Employee Health department to ensure their onboarding requirements meet the hospital requirements. These visits are usually scheduled during the month of August.

**23. *Does the program offer a master's degree?***

Yes. The Aramark Dietetic Internship program is collaborating with the University of Southern Mississippi to offer a master's degree in Nutrition and Food Systems with an emphasis in Dietetics Practice. The degree program is online, allowing students to complete their master's degree from wherever they complete their supervised practice experience through the internship program. No visits to the Southern Miss campus are needed.

**24. *Do I need to take the GRE?***

Students who pursue the master's option with the internship will need to take the GRE. A GRE score is required as part of the application process for the master's degree. Students interested in only the internship, no master's degree, do not need a GRE score to apply to the Aramark Dietetic Internship program.

**25. *When should I take the GRE?***

It is recommended you take the GRE prior to the February 15<sup>th</sup> application deadline in order to assure your scores will have time to be processed and received by the university. Taking the GRE before this date will also give you time to retake the GRE if your scores are less than ideal.

**26. Does this master's degree program require a minimum GRE?**

No minimum GRE scores are required. However, GRE scores are weighted along with GPA and letters of recommendation. The total score in each of these areas is calculated to determine admission status. So, if you have a very high GPA and excellent letters of recommendation, your GRE scores may not have to be at the top percentile.

**27. How long is the master's program?**

The program lasts between 18 and 24 months. Interns accepted into the master's program will begin classes in June before the internship starts in September. Most interns choose to take some time off the summer after the internship to study for the RDN exam and find a job. Other students who take a full course load in that summer are more likely to finish within 18 months.

**28. How many hours is the master's degree?**

The master's degree program starting in the summer of 2017 is a 36-credit hour degree program.

**29. Do I have to write a thesis?**

No, the degree program is non-thesis. However, a capstone research project is required. Students can choose to use one of the research projects completed during supervised practice as the foundation for their research project.

**30. How much does the graduate degree cost?**

The cost for the entire degree, including course fees, is approximately \$15,000. Out-of-state fees are waived for online programs at the University of Southern Mississippi.

**31. Can I receive financial aid for the master's degree program?**

Yes, students can receive financial aid.

**32. If I apply to the Aramark Dietetic Internship program, have I also applied to graduate school?**

No. Application to the internship and the graduate school are two separate processes.

**33. When should I apply to graduate school?**

While you are not required to apply until after match day, it is strongly recommended that you apply before April 1<sup>st</sup>. Applying by this date gives adequate time for your application to be processed and for GRE scores to arrive. Once you are accepted into the internship, you can pay the application fee and officially "submit" your application.

**34. Who can I contact for more information regarding the master's degree?**

Elaine Fontenot Molaison, PhD, RD, serves as the Department Chair and Graduate Program Director for the Department of Nutrition and Food Systems at the University of Southern Mississippi. She can be reached at 601.266.5377 or via email at [elaine.molaison@usm.edu](mailto:elaine.molaison@usm.edu). The program website is available at [www.usm.edu/nutrition/dietetics-practice](http://www.usm.edu/nutrition/dietetics-practice).