

Univeristy of Maryland Dietetic Interns Work with Dining Services

Have you noticed that pair of women walking around the kitchen in white lab coats and wonder what they were doing? They are actually part of the University of Maryland College Park Dietetic Internship. The internship is a required training program for post-graduates who want to become Registered Dietitians. A Registered Dietitian (RD) is authorized by law to provide nutrition education, counseling, or menu planning for citizens. To receive this, students must complete an accredited bachelor's degree program, an internship program (such as the University of Maryland Program) and finally pass the Dietitian Registration Exam.

The University of Maryland College Park Dietetic Internship is a diverse internship that exposes interns to an array of opportunities. In addition to the typical clinical, community and foodservice rotations, the University of Maryland Dietetic Internship Program has an information technology component that makes it unique to all other internships. Eight interns are accepted each year into the program. The internship class of the 2007-2008 year included: Jinee Burdg, Jennifer Carlson, Monica Cohen, Laryessa England, Heather Fliehman, Priscilla Flowers, Elizabeth Heeschen, and Gina Lesako.

The interns rotate through the University of Maryland Dining Services as part of their foodservice management component. During this three-week period, the interns are exposed to a variety of aspects of the dining system. The interns participate in receiving, cooking, and serving the food. They also work with managers who order the food, plan the menus, budget, and insure that the operations run smoothly and safely.

The newest component of the University of Maryland rotation is the Wellness Program, titled "A Call to Wellness." In prior years, interns have worked on creating specialty sandwiches, but this year has been unique in the development of the Wellness Program. The inception of this program came from the Student Affairs Wellness Task Force who encouraged all departments on campus to take responsibility for the health and well being of their employees.