



FUEL YOUR DIETETIC CAREER





The Best Care

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to providing veterans with the best health and nutrition care anywhere.

Here are just a few of the ways we are succeeding:

- VA dietetics professionals use the American Dietetic Association's (ADA) Nutrition Care Process and Model to ensure veterans receive evidence-based, quality nutrition care.
- Thanks to VA's award-winning computerized patient record system and other automated food service systems, our dietitians work in an efficient, virtually paperless environment that lets them focus more fully on patients' nutritional needs.
- The ADA Foundation recently awarded the "President's Circle Nutrition Education Award" to VA's MOVE! (Managing Overweight/Obesity for Veterans Everywhere) program.
- Our overall patient satisfaction scores have been higher than the private sector health care industry for six consecutive years.
- Our quality scores exceed the national average, according to three different quality assessment organizations.



The Best Careers

VA is the largest, most technologically advanced integrated health care system in the U.S. It is also one of the largest employers of dietitians in the Nation.

At VA, you can practice dietetics to your fullest potential. Because we are a nationwide network with more than 1,400 sites of care, you will have a wider range of practice settings, specialization opportunities, and leadership positions at your fingertips. Plus, health care is not a business decision at VA. That's why, unlike the private sector where nutrition services may or may not be covered, VA dietitians can provide the nutrition counseling that each patient requires.

Our more than 1,200 dietitians are valued members of VA's interdisciplinary care teams. They work together with physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, and a variety of allied health professionals to achieve the

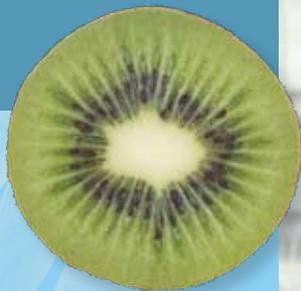
most positive patient outcomes possible. Care teams are charged with providing our Nation's veterans – both young and old, male and female – with top-notch care and education. That often means VA dietitians must tackle nutritional challenges that accompany injuries and conditions not as commonly seen in the private sector.

Consider a career at VA. In return for your commitment to quality nutritional care for our Nation's veterans, VA offers highly competitive salaries, first-rate employment benefits, extensive tuition reimbursement and continuing education programs, and ample paid leave.

The Best Benefits

At VA, dietitians enjoy one of the best employee salary and benefits packages available anywhere:

- Highly competitive salaries
- Generous annual paid leave, including up to 26 vacation days, 10 Federal holidays, and 13 sick days
- Family and Medical Leave Act, Family Friendly Leave Act, and Voluntary Leave Transfer Program to provide leave for various health reasons
- Up to 15 days of military leave for active reservists and National Guard members
- A variety of comprehensive health, life, and long-term care insurance options, all with reasonable and partially paid premiums
- Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), with basic contribution and employer matching by the Federal Government
- Tuition support and paid leave for training
- Employee wellness program and free health care screenings
- Child care available at some facilities
- Free parking at most facilities



The Best Opportun



Occupations

Clinical Nutrition Services

Clinical dietitians at VA work in a variety of settings and roles across the country. They base their practice on evidence-based principles and national clinical practice guidelines. In addition to advanced clinical roles with expanded scopes of practice, VA offers a wide range of specialization opportunities:

- Ambulatory Care
- Cardiac
- Diabetes
- Disease Prevention
- Geriatrics and Extended Care
- Health Education and Promotion
- Home-Based Primary Care
- Nutrition Support
- Organ Transplant Care
- Patient Education
- Polytrauma
- Psychiatry
- Rehabilitation
- Renal
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Substance Abuse
- Weight Management
- Wellness and Outreach Programs
- Women's Health

Food Service Management

Food Service Management dietitians provide care to our Nation's veterans in a wide variety of food service and food production operations:

- Advanced Food Preparation and Delivery Systems
- Conventional Operations
- Cook Chill Operations
- Food Commissary and Food Banks

In every aspect of food service management, our dietitians are committed to the environment through VA's food sustainability, recycling, and other green initiatives.

Expanded Health Care Leadership Roles

Many VA dietitians are promoted into leadership roles within VA, including:

- Health Care Management
 - Multi-Department Management
 - Hospital Administration/Executive Leadership
 - Quality Management Coordinator
- Patient Education Coordinator
- Internship Director
- Clinical Computer Application Coordinator
- Clinical Management

Research

As one of the largest research organizations in the U.S., VA offers funded research opportunities at VA medical centers with university affiliations. VA dietitians initiate and direct programs that have yielded meaningful results and improved patient outcomes. VA dietitians work as clinical investigators, conducting health care outcomes research on a variety of topics of critical importance to veterans:

- Cardiovascular disease
- Diabetes
- Food service systems
- Hypertension
- Nutrition screening techniques
- Nutrition support
- Obesity



VA – The career you want, the future you deserve

1-800-949-0002

www.VAcareers.va.gov



VA Dietetic Internship Programs

VA offers accredited dietetic internships – both post-baccalaureate and combined master's programs – at multiple locations across the U.S. Our dietetic interns work in a variety of stimulating practice sites alongside highly skilled preceptors as part of the interdisciplinary health care team.

Here are just a few of the reasons why you should consider applying for a VA Dietetic Internship:

- You'll be paid a generous stipend of \$10,000 to \$14,000, depending on the U.S. location of the program.
- All VA internship programs have excellent (many 100 percent) first-time pass rates for the Registration Examination.
- Low student-preceptor ratios will provide you with individualized instruction.
- You'll gain deep expertise caring for a patient population with complex medical conditions and working with the ADA's Nutrition Care Process and Model.
- If you choose to stay, VA offers a wider variety of nationwide career and advancement opportunities at the completion of your internship.

Visit www.nutrition.va.gov for details on how to apply. (Only U.S. citizens are eligible for admission into VA Dietetic Internship Programs.)

“VA medical centers provide an environment that is ideal for dealing with the extremes of real-life dietetics. My internship offered me many opportunities to explore my individual interests, as well as more non-traditional routes in dietetics. Overall, it was a fantastic experience. So much so, that I decided to stay as an employee!”

— Jackie Henderson, RD, LD
Outpatient Dietitian





Advanced Technology

VA has invested in the cutting-edge technology it takes to support its administrative and clinical dietitians, as well as the entire patient care team. First and foremost, VA has built the best computerized patient record system in the Nation, recently earning Harvard's prestigious "Innovations in American Government Award." The system performs many functions that support VA dietitians' daily decision-making:

- Nutrient and menu analysis
- Recipe storage
- Many clinical calculations
- Diet orders and between meal nourishments
- Notification of potential food/drug interactions
- Individual meal tickets or diet cards
- Patient food preferences

Other VA food service management and professional development technologies include:

- Food and supplies Internet procurement system
- Food management software that supports inventory management, recipes, cycle menus and patient menus, cost and nutritional breakdown, and analysis
- Electronic multi-site feeding coordination of integrated VA health care centers
- Benchmarking systems to review and analyze costs
- National VA mail groups and VA Web sites that aid in peer communication, document sharing, and networking



Education Support

VA actively supports its dietitians' educational pursuits through several scholarship and tuition reimbursement programs, as well as a wide range of on-site training, mentoring, and leadership programs. Work schedules are easily accommodated for all conferences, on-site training, and advanced degree coursework.

VA is revolutionizing health care each and every day. Be a part of a groundbreaking team. Join VA.

VA hiring decisions are made locally. You can search for open positions by visiting www.VAcareers.va.gov. Job announcements include minimum qualifications and application instructions specific to each position.

To learn more about hiring procedures, job openings, or how to apply for a position, contact the local recruiter or Human Resources Management Office at the VA facility where you desire employment. You can find a listing of VA facilities in the "VA Networks" section of the VA Careers Web site.

Employment information can also be obtained by calling 1-800-949-0002 or by writing to:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Central Office
Nutrition and Food Service (111N)
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420



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www.VAcareers.va.gov



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