

# PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NUTRITION AND DIETETICS INTERNSHIP

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May 2024

Division of Medical and Hospital Services  
Auxiliary Secretariat for Coordination of Health Assistance  
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# Administrative Staff:

**Dr. Edna I. Dolz Sotomayor, DCN, MEd, RD, LND**  
Program Director, Clinical Coordinator & Preceptor

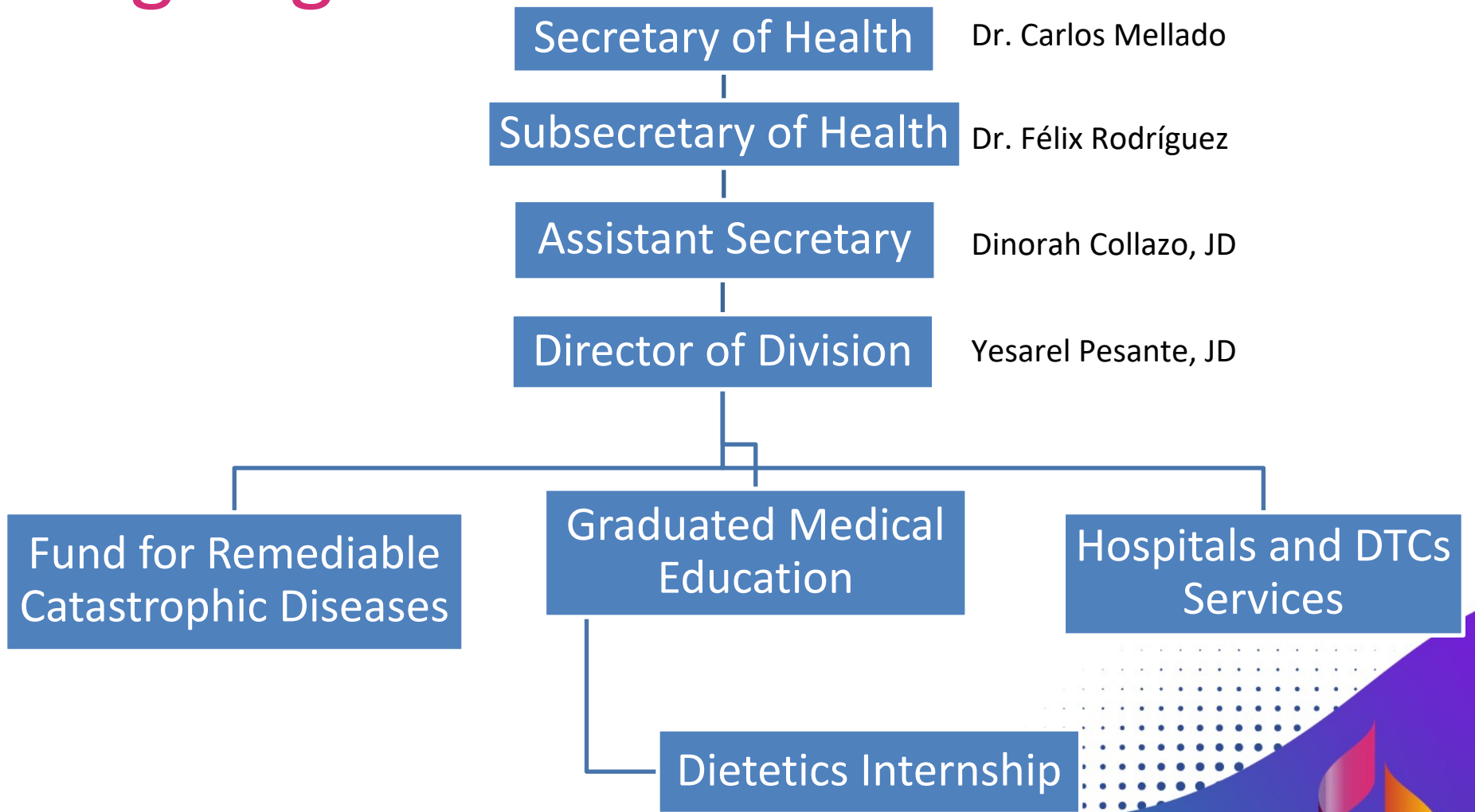
**Yesarel Y. Pesante Sánchez, JD**  
Director Division of Medical and Hospital Services

**Dinorah Collazo Ortiz, JD**  
Assistant Secretary  
Auxiliary Secretariat for Coordination of Health Assistance

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# Organigram



# Accreditation Status

- Full Accreditation  
04/22/2024 – 12/31/2031
- Interim Report  
06/14/2024
- Next Site Visit  
January – June 2030

*Standard 7.3a*

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# Accreditation Council of Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)

- Accreditation agency for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)

120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190

Chicago, IL 60606-6995

312-899-0040 x 5400

[www.eatright.org/ACEND](http://www.eatright.org/ACEND)

*Standard 7.3a*

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# Standard 7: Information to Prospective Students and the Public

- *This presentation is provided in compliance with the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) 2022.*

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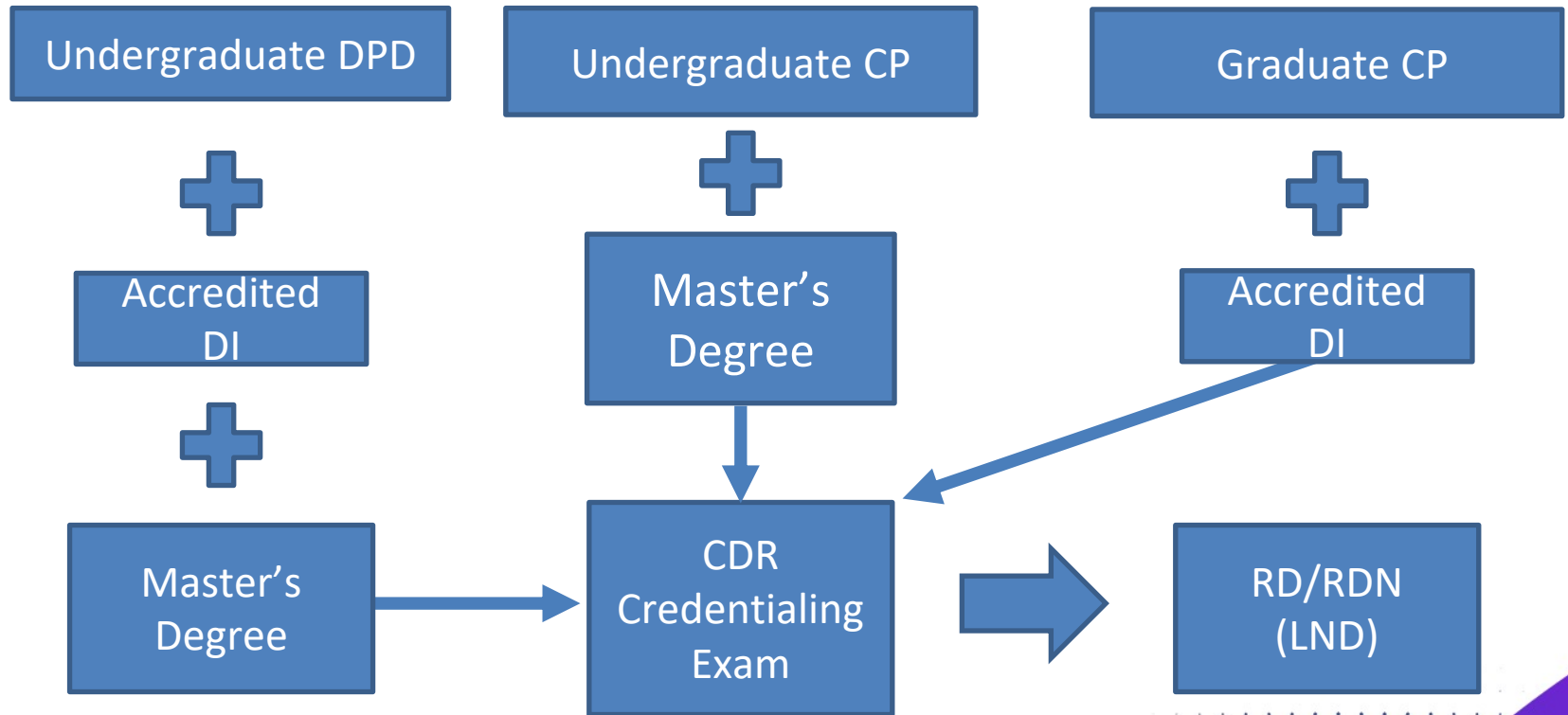


# Future Education Model

- *"Effective January 1, 2024, the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) will require a minimum of a master's degree to be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)."*
- *"In order to be approved for registration examination eligibility with a bachelor's degree, an individual must meet all eligibility requirements and be submitted into CDR's Registration Eligibility Processing System (REPS) before 12:00 midnight Central Time, December 31, 2023."*
- *"For more information about this requirement visit CDR's website: <https://www.cdrnet.org/graduatedegree>."*
- *"In addition, CDR requires that individuals complete coursework and supervised practice in program(s) accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)."*
- *"Graduates who successfully complete the ACEND Nutrition and Dietetic Internship program at Puerto Rico Department of Health are eligible to apply to take the CDR credentialing exam to become an RDN."*



# New Pathways to Become a RD/RDN





# How the Program Fits into the Credentialing Process:

- Registration:
  - Successful completion of the program provides eligibility to take the RD/RDN Exam administrated by the CDR.
  - Upon approval of the exam the student becomes a RD/RDN.
  - For information on the RD/RDN Exam:  
<http://www.cdrnet.org/certifications>

*Standard 7.3d*

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# How the Program Fits into the Credentialing Process:

- Puerto Rico Licensure:
  - Completion of the program provides eligibility to take the state board exam.
  - State licensure is conceded upon approval of the RDN exam.
  - Graduates may sit for the state exam and upon approval, become a LND. For information on licensure in PR:  
<http://www.salud.gov.pr> (*Oficina de Reglamentación y Certificación de Profesionales de la Salud*)

*Standard 7.3d*



# Description of the Program: Mission

- *To prepare entry level Registered Dietitian Nutritionists, for present and future roles; based in public health, through supervised practices consistent with the standards of education from the ACEND.*

*Standard 7.3b*

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# Description of the Program: Goal #1

Program graduates will be prepared to be competent entry level Registered Dietitians-Nutritionists.

## *Objectives / Target Measures:*

1. *“At least 80% of interns complete program requirements within 15 months (150% of planned program length)”.*
2. *“At least 50% of program graduates take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionist within 12 months of program completion”.*
3. *“The program’s one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%”.*
4. *“Of graduates who seek employment, at least 70% are employed in nutrition and dietetic or related fields within 12 months of graduation”.*
5. *90% of the employers will rate graduates’ performance as satisfactory or above.*
6. *The program pass rate on the local exam for licensed nutritionist dietitian is at least 80%.*

Standard 7.3b

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## Description of the Program: Goal #2

*Graduates will participate in some kind of community program or activity within the last year after completing the internship.*

### *Objective / Target measure*

1. In the Graduates' Survey at least 80% of the graduates will respond that have participated in some kind of community program or activity, within the last year after completing the internship.

*Standard 7.3b*

# Program Description: Objectives

- *Program outcomes data will be available upon request through [edolz@salud.pr.gov](mailto:edolz@salud.pr.gov)*

*Standard 7.3c*

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# Academic Schedule

Area	Weeks
<b>Orientation</b>	4
<b>General Clinical Dietetics Seminar</b>	1
<b>Administrative Week</b>	1
<b>Total weeks of Orientations and Seminars</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Community Nutrition</b>	15
<b>Clinical Dietetics</b>	12
<b>Food Service System Management</b>	5
<b>Staff Relief Responsibility</b>	2
<b>Total weeks of Supervised Practice</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Total weeks of orientations and seminars</b>	6
<b>Total weeks of supervised practice</b>	34
<b>Total weeks of the program</b>	<b>40</b>



# Description of Experiences: Clinical Nutrition

Specialty	Week
General Clinical Dietetics Seminar	1
General (Ob/Gyn, Medicine, Sx)	4
Pediatrics	2
Oncology	1
Cardiovascular	1
Renal	2
Critically Ill (Trauma, ICU)	2
General Clinical Dietetics - SRR	1



# Description of Experiences: Community Nutrition

Specialty	Weeks
Urban Garden	2
Sports Nutrition	1
Diabetes Center	1
Healthy Path Market	1
Centro Ararat	1
WIC	1
Food and Nutrition Commission (CAN)	1
School Food Authority	1
Head Start	1
Hospice/Homecare	1
Private Practice	2
Staff Relief Responsibility	1

# Description of Experiences: Food Service System Management

Specialty	Weeks
Diet Department	4
Cafeteria	1

# Example of Intern's Rotation Schedule First Semester 2023-2024

Rotation	Date
General Clinical Dietetics (GCD)	August 28 – October 5
Staff Relief Responsibility – GCD	October 10 - 13
Administrative Week	October 16 - 19
Healthy Path Market	October 23 - 26
Pediatrics	October 30 - November 2
Trauma	November 6 - 9
Diabetes Center	November 13 - 16
Thanksgiving Week	November 20 – 24
Healthy Habits by Getsení	November 27 – 30
WIC	December 4 - 7
School Food Authority	December 11 – 14
Vacations	December 18 - 22
	December 25 – January 5



# Example of Intern's Rotation Schedule

## Second Semester 2023-2024

ROTATION	DATE
<b>FSSM – Hospital San Francisco</b>	January 8 - February 1
<b>Nutrition Support</b>	February 5 - 8
<b>Homecare</b>	February 12 – 15
<b>Cafeteria</b>	February 20 - 23
<b>Centro Ararat</b>	February 26 – 29
<b>Head Start</b>	March 4 – 7
<b>CAN</b>	March 11 - 14
<b>Sports Nutrition</b>	March 18 - 21
<b>Holy Week Recess</b>	March 25 – 28
<b>Urban Garden</b>	April 1 – 18
<b>Administrative Week</b>	April 22 – 25
<b>Cardiology</b>	April 29 - May 2
<b>Renal</b>	May 6 - 16
<b>SRR – Community Nutrition</b>	May 20 – 23
<b>Lcda. Mariely Olivero - Private Practice</b>	May 28 - 31
<b>Administrative Week</b>	June 3 - 6
<b>Final Week</b>	June 11 – 14



# Academic Experiences

- Portfolio
- Comprehensive Exam
  - pre/mid/post
- Case studies
  - GCD
  - FSSM
- RD/RDN Exam Reviews
- Professional Continued Education



# Volunteering

- DIs need to complete at least 20 hours of community service (during their free time) in nutrition related activities.



# Costs: Tuition Fee

Item	Cost (\$)
<b>Tuition for non-residents</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Tuition for residents</b>	<b>0.00</b>

*Standard 7.3e*

## Notes:

1. Financial aid is not available.
2. Loan deferments are available.
3. Scholarships, stipends, or other monetary support are not available.

*Standard 7.3i*

# Costs: Other Required Expenses

Item	Estimated Cost (\$)
DICAS application fee	60.00*
Health Certificates	115.00
Vaccines/serum-conversion test	150.00
Uniforms (scrubs + white gowns)	500.00
Reviews (Jean Inman, Hess & Hunt, ExamPrep)	500.00
Graduation Fee	300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,625.00</b>

\*Cost of DICAS application fee will vary depending on the amount of programs applied. Additional applications are \$30.00/each.

*Standard 7.3ei*





# Estimated Cost of Living:

Item	Estimated Cost (\$)
Materials	500.00
Transportation	1,500.00
Lodging	3,500.00
Food	2,300.00
Total	\$7,800.00

*Standard 7.3e*



# Resources Available

1. Technological aids: projector, flash drives, copier, printer, scanner.
2. Teaching aids: food models, games, puppets, and plush toys.
3. Office materials: binders, sheet protectors, folders, notebooks, pens, pencils, highlighters, permanent markers, erasers, among others.



# Admission Requirements for Students without Master's Degree:

- Completed an ACEND accredited DPD with original Verification Statement
- Official transcripts
- Application through DICAS
- Participation in D & D Matching System (until spring match 2024)
- Minimum of 3.15 GPA and concentration
- Certified volunteer work (60 hours)
- TOEFL Score of 90 (PR residents)
- One-to-one interview
- For non-residents; if English is the first language, high proficiency in conversational Spanish is required.
- Be enrolled in a MS degree with length of program similar to the length of the DI program

*Standard 7.3f*

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# Admission Requirements for Students with Master's Degree:

- Completed an ACEND accredited DPD with original Verification Statement
- Completed MS degree
- Official transcripts (DPD and MS)
- Application through DICAS
- Participation in D & D Matching System (until spring match 2024)
- Minimum of 3.15 GPA and concentration
- Certified volunteer work (60 hours)
- TOEFL Score of 90 (PR residents)
- One-to-one interview
- For non-residents; if English is the first language, high proficiency in conversational Spanish is required.

*Standard 7.3f*

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# What you need to apply:

DICAS:

- <http://portal.dicas.org>

D & D:

(until spring match 2024)

- <http://www.dnndigital.com>

DI

- Interview

*Standard 7.3f*

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# Evaluation Procedure

- Competency Exam
- Evaluation of the Rotation by the Preceptor
- Evaluation of the Rotation by the DI
- Program Evaluation by the DI
- Concentration Area Evaluation by the DI Director

# Completion Requirements

- Full attendance
- Evaluations (a score of 3 or more in all competencies, 4 or more in SRR rotations)
- Score of 80% or more in post-test
- Portfolio
- Final report of each rotation
- Volunteer service (20hrs)

*Standard 9.3h*



# Notes for DICAS

## I. Three Recommendation Letters:

- a) Ask for recommendation letters ahead of time (2 from professors and 1 from other professional)
- b) Submit to DICAS the names and contact information of the persons that will write the letters.
- c) DICAS will contact those persons.
- d) Persons fill the letters directly in DICAS.

II. Declaration of Intent and VS are certified by the DPD Director in DICAS.





# Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

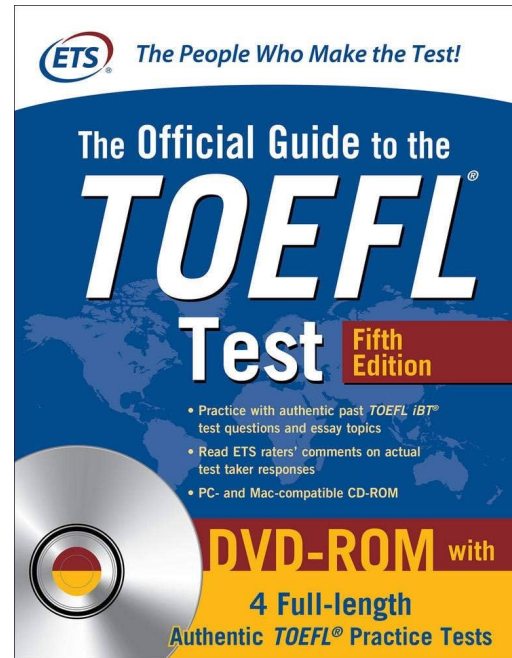
[www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)

Scaled Sections:

1. Reading (0-30)
2. Listening (0-30)
3. Speaking (0-30)
4. Writing (0-30)

Total Score = 120

Minimum Score = 90



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# Contact:

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Interns' Room – UDH





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