

Matching Dietetics Students with Community Placements

Students at the six Wisconsin dietetics programs seek opportunities for experiential learning that will help them develop foundation knowledge and competencies, and gain experience with diverse audiences.

Local partners addressing issues such as child obesity, food insecurity/hunger, and nutrition policy are encouraged to use this system to recruit help outside their membership.

A USDA Higher Education Challenge Grant now makes it possible to promote public health and community nutrition practicum opportunities with a web-based format that's easy for both students and community partners to use.

The long term goal: valuable educational experiences will build a better workforce to contribute to a healthier Wisconsin.

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Community Connections for Wisconsin Dietetics Students

Information for Community Partners



Partnership for Public Health Nutrition

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How does the listing process work?

Community partners can use the website to “advertise” for a student with the necessary skills or experience for a project they want to accomplish.

Students can search the listings, and when they find one that matches their interest and availability, they can contact the agency directly.

Dietetics program faculty may also use the site to find placements for community nutrition classes.

Who are the students?

Most are juniors and seniors majoring in dietetics or nutrition at Mt. Mary College, UW-Green Bay, UW-Madison, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Stout, or Viterbo University. Interns from those schools and University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics may also take advantage of these opportunities.

Students vary in the skills and experience they bring to a placement, just as placements vary in their expectations. Some students seek volunteer opportunities, others want a paid position, and some are interested in academic credit.



Community Partner Checklist

Before listing a placement:

- Designate a project that is to be completed by the student within a timeframe you specify.
- Determine what competencies will be developed by the student in this placement (see list on website).
- Draft a paragraph with specific information about the experience you will offer, and what you require of a student.
- Designate a primary mentor for the student to ensure the student is appropriately supervised in their work.

Before selecting a student:

- Determine what pre-existing skills the student will need in order to complete the project.
- Review the Student Information Sheets of any interested students to ensure a good fit.
- Contact faculty at the student's school if you have questions about program requirements or policies.

After selecting a student:

- Develop a work plan with goals and objectives to guide the student in their activities.
- Provide regular opportunities for the student to receive guidance and feedback.
- Communicate with the student's faculty mentor in a timely manner about any concerns that arise.
- Participate in evaluation of the student's experience.
- Participate in evaluation of this website to inform future improvements.

What makes a good placement?

A placement should help students:

- develop skills for future careers in public health or community nutrition.
- gain experience with diverse audiences.
- feel like they are making a real contribution to the work of your program or agency.
- determine what aspects of a career in public health or community nutrition appeal to them.
- make progress toward gaining foundation knowledge and developing competencies for entry level dietitians specified by the ADA Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE).

What will your agency gain?

- progress on a project that furthers your program or agency's mission.
- access to current, fresh ideas and information about nutrition science and technology.
- satisfaction from playing an important role in developing future public health/ community nutrition professionals.
- improved visibility with dietetics students—your future employees and colleagues.



Partnership for Public Health Nutrition

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