

## Rotation Description: *Nutrition Support*

Dietetic Internship Program  
University of Georgia

### Overview

This program's clinical rotations offer interns practical experience in various healthcare settings, working with multidisciplinary teams including RDNs, doctors, nurses, etc. Interns engage in thorough patient nutrition assessments and actively contribute to all phases of the nutrition care process.

The Nutrition Support rotation is a 4-week advanced clinical experience in the second year, following the MNT 1 rotation. It covers complex patient cases, including nutrition support and intensive care. Interns enhance their ability to independently manage the Nutrition Care Process (NCP), apply evidence-based care, and assess treatment outcomes. Specific emphasis is placed on learning assessment and care elements of nutrition support. Detailed objectives for this rotation are provided below.

### Rotation Objectives

<b>LEARN</b>	Deepen knowledge of the NCP and evidence-based guidelines for complex cases Understand scope of RDN practice and roles within interdisciplinary teams in regards to nutrition support Understand considerations and appropriate management of nutrition support care
<b>ACT</b>	Apply knowledge and develop skills in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• collecting data and interpreting it appropriate within the context of complex cases</li><li>• making appropriate and ethical clinical decisions using patient data, background knowledge and evidence-based practice documents</li><li>• documenting care clearly, concisely and completely</li><li>• counseling patients effectively and with cultural humility while also navigating ethical dilemmas</li><li>• developing appropriate prescriptions for nutrition support (i.e., enteral/parenteral nutrition)</li><li>• working effectively independently and in teams to achieve desired outcomes</li><li>• utilizing and evaluating programs, services and processes</li><li>• advocating for RDN participation in patient care and organization management</li></ul>
<b>CHECK</b>	Assess & evaluate growth and competence, making sure to discuss areas for improvement with preceptors Get CRDNs checked off throughout the rotation

### Key Experiences

Interns will work with various clinical populations and advanced conditions with comorbidities, such as:

- Cardiovascular, cancer, renal, post-surgery, gastrointestinal disorders, developmental disorders, etc. (experiences vary)
- Adults, older adults, children, infants (possibly people with disabilities or pregnant/lactating females)
- Diverse and under-represented populations (experiences vary)

### Typical Tasks and Competencies

Specific competencies to be met in clinical rotations are provided in CRDN Competency Rating Tables as part of your DI Binder. Below is a summarized list of experiences often obtained in the MNT 2 rotation.

- Utilize the Nutrition Care Process (assessment, diagnosis, intervention, and monitoring/evaluation).
- Conduct patient interviews, obtain food and nutrition history, and perform nutrition-focused physical exams.
- Identify and prioritize nutrition problems/diagnoses in complex cases.
- Develop and implement appropriate nutrition prescriptions and interventions, including nutrition support.
- Measure outcomes of patients and modify nutrition plans.
- Create and deliver training presentations to staff or other healthcare professionals.
- Provide staff relief to view additional aspects of the job.
- Perform management roles such as staff training, developing change management plans, billing and coding, etc.

### Resources

- **ASPEN & Articles:** Explore these resources on eLC and refer to past assignments for guidance.
- **Other Manuals:** Preceptors may have specific materials to recommend. If they do not offer this information, you can always ask them.
- **Textbooks, etc.:** Your DI Director has textbooks on a range of relevant topics such as clinical nutrition practice, counseling techniques, pathophysiology, etc. Reach out if you wish to borrow any materials before, during or after your rotation. You may also ask preceptors if you feel you would benefit from additional resources.