



## **Pursue the Virginia Tech Internship in Nutrition and Dietetics in Partnership with the Optional Online M.S. in Agricultural & Life Sciences (OMALS)**

*DPD graduates can be eligible for the registered nutritionist (RDN) exam in just 15 months through this efficient, flexible option to earn a Virginia Tech graduate degree alongside the internship.*

### **Highlights**

- **Individualized plan of study** - Enroll in graduate classes and internship experiences that support your professional goals and areas of interests.
- **Coordination of coursework and rotations** - Program directors schedule 1,000+ supervised practice hours aligned with your coursework in a variety of nutrition and dietetics settings.
- **Combined cost for both programs: \$40,000\*** - Invest your time and resources efficiently. Tuition and fees are the same for in-state and out-of-state students.
- **Timeline: May 2026 - Aug 2027** - Complete both programs in 15 months. Alternatively, candidates who are eligible for our early graduate school enrollment option can begin online classes in Jan 2026, enabling a lighter course load over the summer and during the internship.

<b>OMALS Coursework (30 credit hours)</b> Concentration: Applied Nutrition and Physical Activity - Dietetic Internship	
<b>Core Courses:</b> (9 credits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Communicating Research and Leadership in Agriculture and Life Sciences (3 credits)</li><li>● Advanced Concepts in Community Food Systems (3 credits)</li><li>● Community Based Applications of Qualitative Inquiry (3 credits)</li></ul>
<b>Internship Coordinated Courses:</b> (15 credits) <i>Internship experiences and coursework are combined.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Clinical Practice in Dietetics (4 credits)</li><li>● Food and Nutrition Management and Leadership (3 credits)</li><li>● Community Practice in Dietetics (2 credits)</li><li>● Project and Report (6 credits) - student-designed capstone project</li></ul>
<b>Concentration Courses:</b> (6 credits) <i>Students select two courses in the Applied Nutrition and Physical Activity concentration.</i>	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Advanced Health Counseling (3 credits -VT DPD grads not eligible)</li><li>● Body Image and Disordered Eating (3 credits)</li><li>● Public Health Administration (3 credits)</li></ul> <p>Your timeline will determine which courses are available for your plan of study. Visit <a href="https://www.cals.vt.edu/academic-programs/online/courses.html">https://www.cals.vt.edu/academic-programs/online/courses.html</a>.</p>

*\*Combined cost of ~\$40,000 includes the \$10,000 internship program fee as well as all graduate tuition and most fees. Tuition is updated annually according to the bursar's fee schedule.*



### Sample Schedule - May 2026 Start Date

<b>Graduate Coursework</b> (Tuition and Fees: ~\$30,000)	<b>Internship</b> (Fee: \$10,000)
<p><b>Summer 2026</b> (6-9 credits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ALS 5234: Advanced Concepts in Community Food Systems (3 credits)</li> <li>1-2 concentration courses (3-6 credits) - see course list <a href="#">here</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Fall 2026</b> (7 credits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ALS 5104: Communicating Research and Leadership in Agriculture and Life Sciences (3 credits)</li> <li>HNFE 5064: Clinical Practice in Dietetics* (4 credits)</li> </ul> <p><b>Spring 2027</b> (9 credits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ALS 5134: Community Based Applications of Qualitative Inquiry (3 credits)</li> <li>HNFE 5074: Food and Nutrition Management and Leadership* (3 credits)</li> <li>HNFE 5084: Community Practice in Dietetics* (2 credits)</li> <li>Project &amp; Report (1 credit)</li> </ul> <p><b>Summer 2027</b> (5-8 credits, depending on credits completed in summer 2026)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project &amp; Report (5 credits)</li> <li>0-1 concentration course, if remaining (0-3 credits) - see course list <a href="#">here</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Summer</b> - no internship hours; summer coursework is online; residence location is flexible</p> <p><b>Fall</b> - 500 internship hours; reside in internship location</p> <p><b>Spring</b> - 500 internship hours; reside in internship location</p> <p><b>Summer</b> - residence location may be flexible depending on scope of project &amp; report and any remaining internship hours</p>

### Scheduling Notes

- Students are eligible to take the RDN exam once the graduate degree is conferred, internship requirements are complete, and all competencies are met. This can be achieved in August 2027 following the sample schedule described above.
- Early Graduate School Enrollment Option: Students who are Virginia Tech undergraduate nutrition and dietetics seniors or students who have earned a bachelor's degree (from any university) by December 2025 may begin online OMALS classes in January 2026. They must apply to the internship during our early enrollment option in the fall. They will start the internship in August 2026 and be eligible for the RDN exam in August 2027, benefitting from a lighter course load over the summer and/or during the internship.
- Students who wish to pursue the internship or the OMALS program part-time should discuss their scheduling needs with the internship director before submitting an application. Flexible scheduling is available and may result in a timeline that extends beyond 15 months.

### Contact Information

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*\*These courses are going through university governance after successful implementation as temporary special studies.*