

Prior Assessed Learning (PAL)

PURPOSE

To clearly define the instances in which Program Leadership will assess the prior learning of an intern matched with the St. Cloud Hospital Dietetic Internship (SCH DI) and to outline the application process as well as potential outcomes.

CentraCare adopts the following Policy/Procedure for:

CentraCare - St. Cloud Hospital

POLICY

- A. Interns who are accepted into the SCH DI Program can choose to apply for a Prior Assessed Learning (PAL) in food service management if they have *minimally* 1040 hours of post-baccalaureate experience in a food service leadership role including, but not limited to, the following:
 1. Food Service Director
 2. Assistant Food Service Director
 3. Certified Dietary Manager (CDM)
 4. Dietetic Technician, Registered (DTR)
- B. Interns who are accepted into the SCH DI Program can choose to apply for a PAL in community nutrition if they have *minimally* 1040 hours of post-baccalaureate experience in a nutrition role including, but not limited to, the following:
 1. WIC Nutritionist/Technician
 2. Corporate Wellness Consultant
 3. Public Health Nutrition
 4. Food Regulation Industry
 5. Dietetic Technician, Registered (DTR)
- C. Experiences must meet the defined Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) learning outcomes and competencies
- D. Approved prior learning experiences cannot replace any of the program assignments due for a grade.
- E. Academic coursework or any experiential learning completed as part of an academic course will not be considered for PAL.
- F. Tuition and other fees will not change regardless of PAL status.
- G. Qualifying prior learning experiences will potentially replace supervised practice of up to 400 hours total, with the following distributions:
 1. Up to 160 hours of hospital food service and/or
 2. Up to 80 hours of school food service and/or
 3. Up to 160 hours of community nutrition.
- H. Applying for PAL does not guarantee that any or all of the experience will count toward supervised practice hours.
- I. The Program Director makes the ultimate judgment on whether or not to grant the applicant prior assessed learning hours and if so, how many supervised practice hours to replace in either food service management, community nutrition, or both.

DEFINITIONS

Program Leadership: one or more of the following individuals: the Program Director, either or both of the Program Managers, and the Food Service Dietitian.

Supervised Practice: Practical experiences in which the intern's work is overseen by a professional who is

credentialed in their role, most of whom are Registered Dietitians

WIC: Women, Infants and Children Program

PROCEDURE / GUIDELINE

- A. Interns who are matched with the SCH DI Program and would like prior learning to be assessed should email the Program Manager to notify them of their interest in PAL no later than May 1st.
- B. The PAL application should be emailed to the Program Manager no later than June 1st.
- C. The PAL application must include the following:
 - 1. A completed PAL Application Form
 - 2. A portfolio of sample work
 - 3. A \$20 processing fee in the form of a check made out to the St. Cloud Hospital
- D. The PAL application will be reviewed by minimally two individuals, including one of the Program Managers.
- E. The food service RD or designee will review all applications for prior learning in food service management.
- F. The PAL applicant will receive a response from Program Leadership no later than September 1st.

LINKS TO RELATED DOCUMENTS

PAL Application

REGULATORY CITATIONS

Facility specific, none stated

REFERENCE CITATIONS

Facility specific, none stated

APPROVING COMMITTEE(S)

DI Work Group and/or Steering Committee