

Fontbonne University
Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway (ISPP) FAQ's

What is an ISPP?

An Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway (ISPP) is a pathway that was created in 2011 to allow more qualified students to become eligible to take the RDN exam. The current match rate over the last several years has been between 50 – 55%. In April 2016, there were 2407 unmatched students.

How is an ISPP the same as a Dietetic Internship (DI)?

We are an ACEND accredited program. Our students meet the same core competencies; we also must provide a minimum of 1200 hours of supervised practice. The students are eligible to take the same RDN exam upon successful completion of the program.

How is an ISPP different than a Dietetic Internship (DI)?

The only difference between an ISPP and a DI is that students cannot apply to our program unless they receive a “no match” via the D & D Digital matching process.

What is the ISPP at Fontbonne?

Fontbonne University includes supervised practice hours (Internship) as part of a Masters of Arts Degree in Family & Consumer Sciences: Multidisciplinary Health Communication Studies. Students begin in June and take graduate courses for 3 semesters (summer, fall, spring). They are eligible to begin their supervised practice hours the next year between May – December (1208 hours total). Once all graduate coursework and supervised practice hours are complete, they are granted the M.A. degree and become eligible to take the RDN exam.

Where will I do my supervised practice?

All students complete approximately 10 weeks in each of the main areas of practice: Clinical, Community/Public Health and Food Service Management. We strive to place students at sites where they will be a good fit, and also accommodate their interests. For example, students may choose to complete a portion of their clinical experience in long term care if that is of interest to them. We have agreements with many unique sites in the St. Louis area, including Gateway Greening, Washington University's Prevention Research Center, and Dierbergs School of Cooking.

What are your criteria for admission?

We select 12 unmatched, qualified students per year. We complete a thorough review of applicants using similar criteria as other DI programs. Our minimum GPA for professional coursework is 3.2 (B+), and we only select students with a strong academic record who we feel will be successful in graduate school. We also look for strong personal statements and letters of recommendation, and volunteer or work experience in the field of dietetics.

Do most of your students come from the St. Louis area?

No; the majority of our students have relocated from other areas. We have accepted students from around the country, including New York, Texas, and California. All students must complete their coursework on our campus, and live in St. Louis for the duration of the program (~19.5 months).

How can I learn more? Visit www.fontbonne.edu/ISPP or contact:

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