The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) is a health-care community dedicated to improving the health of children. It is our mission as leaders in child health to partner locally and globally to improve the health of children through the integration of research and education.

Each day SickKids staff, students and volunteers strive to provide better care than the day before, a pursuit of excellence that depends on learning, the critical link between new knowledge and its application in the care of a sick child. Our commitment to improving the health of children is demonstrated by our legacy of historical milestones and important research discoveries. The SickKids Research Institute upholds an exceptional standard of scientific research and discovery which is guided by our vision Healthier Children. A Better World. It goes to the heart of what we do to prevent disease, find cures and transform children’s health.

Visit http://www.sickkids.ca for more information about the hospital.

The Department of Clinical Dietetics

The Departments of Clinical Dietetics and Nutrition and Food Services are proud to have contributed to the education and training of dietetic students for more than 60 years. The departments are comprised of a dynamic group of registered dietitians and lactation consultants who are committed to teaching and championing comprehensive nutrition care. Our mission is to provide the highest quality, safe and fiscally responsible nutrition support and guidance.

Clinical dietitians at SickKids are integral members of interprofessional teams. Our collaboration with all members of the health care team provides for an opportunity to learn, educate and work together to enhance patient and family-centred care. Team relationships expand externally to working with our local, national and international partners.

The Department of Nutrition and Food Services

Nutrition and Food Services has led the way in the development of protocols for collection, storage and distribution of human milk, donor milk, specialty formulas, and are visionaries for patient care food service. In addition, the department is responsible for catering and café
services. The Terrace Café includes branded retail concepts, as well as a Chef’s Corner station featuring weekly specials prepared by our team of chefs. SickKids has implemented its own Meal Train program for patient meals. This is an innovative room service concept, designed and implemented to offer patient input into the timing and selection of their meals.

SickKids/Ryerson University Collaborative Dietetics Program
Professional Master’s Diploma in Dietetics (the PMDip Dietetics)

The Dietetic education program is a professional program that provides practical, hands-on dietetic experience in clinical, community, and management settings that enables students to obtain the Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice (ICDEP). The program provides learning experiences through which dietetic students complete core professional competencies required for practice as a registered dietitian.

Our Dietetic education mission is reflected in SickKids core values: To prepare graduates in delivering excellence and innovation in nutrition care, through education, and effective collaboration in a variety of practice settings. The integrity of our program is founded on providing advanced training in preparing entry-level registered dietitians with knowledge and skills required to respond to a dynamic child health environment while displaying compassion and influence.

The Dietetic education program is supported by the Learning Institute at SickKids, with a vision to improve child health outcomes and systems of care worldwide through learning and education. By using learner-centred educational practices and state-of-the-art technologies, we create and deliver exceptional learning experiences that advance practice and transform care. Every day we work to advance a learning culture that is creative and dynamic as we believe that learning is fundamental to achieving SickKids’s vision Healthier Children. A Better World.
The objectives of our program are:

- To provide experiential learning opportunities through application of nutrition care knowledge, administration food services, and population and public health, that offer skill development in a supportive learning environment.
- To increase the number of entry level dietitians with more advanced skills in managing and improving the nutritional health of children, and in identifying preventative measures to support goals.
- To encourage professional development that will support ethical practice, innovative thinking, life-long learning and a commitment to the profession of dietetics.

The PMDip Program leads to entry into a regulated health profession. The program is accredited educational program that supports ICDEP. The program is recognized by the Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP), it prepares students for eligibility for registration with a provincial dietetics regulatory body, [http://www.pdep.ca](http://www.pdep.ca).

Program Highlights

Students will rotate through Management, Nutrition Care, Population and Public Health, and Research where they will gain the knowledge and skills for entry into dietetic practice.

Management and Food Services

Students work with managers, or supervisors in all aspects of departmental operations including menu planning, food production and purchasing, marketing, service and distribution.
Nutrition Care
Students are exposed to various specialties of nutrition support and counseling practices. As members of the health-care team, students will learn to assess the nutritional status, and needs of the paediatric patient; develop, implement, monitor and adjust nutritional care plans. Clinical case study presentations will provide the student an opportunity to demonstrate strategies used for monitoring and evaluating their nutrition care plans, and the impact their interventions have on the nutrition diagnosis.

Population and Public Health (PPH)
Students are provided with the opportunity to gain experience in health promotion, community development, program planning and evaluation. This involves coordinating and delivering presentations and events aimed at population health activities in food and nutrition.

Research / Quality Improvement
There are opportunities for students to be involved in practice based research or quality improvement projects.

Throughout the program, students will have access to research, library and electronic resources, computer labs and technical support, WSIB coverage, professional liability insurance, academic and personal counselling, medical services, health coverage, athletic centre membership, student housing, discounted transit passes, learning support, and other student services provided by Ryerson University. For more information about the benefits of being a Ryerson student visit their website https://studentlife.ryerson.ca/

Dietitians of Canada (DC) Match Application Process

The program match system application process is facilitated through Dietitians of Canada, http://www.dietitians.ca/Become-a-Dietitian/Studentships-Practicum-Programs/Program-Match-Process/Studentship-Program-Descriptions.aspx. The website contains clear and specific instructions about the application procedures to be followed. Please read these instructions carefully. Only applications packages submitted online through the match system will be accepted.
How applicants are selected

APPLICATION PACKAGE

Academic Requirements
To apply, applicants must have a minimum B average (GPA 3.0 - 4.33), in the final two years of the PDEP accredited undergraduate Nutrition/Dietetics degree.

Confidential Letters of Reference
Please choose individuals, including a dietitian if possible, from an academic, volunteer, or work setting that can provide a strong reference about your performance and why you would be a good candidate for SickKids. Reference letters should highlight the applicant’s personal characteristics and the skills they will bring to our unique paediatric program.

Personal letter
A one page letter that highlights the applicant’s suitability to our program, with consideration to SickKids vision and mission. Describe how your academic, work, and volunteer experiences position you favorably in your ability to succeed in this program.

Resume
Includes relevant experience, such as, supervising staff, working with dietitians or health professionals. Applicants should clearly identify work and volunteer experiences separately, and the number of hours completed. Please include experiences that will enable you to thrive in our program.

INTERVIEWS

Interviews are typically held during the last two weeks of February for selected applicants. A panel interview will take place for approximately 30 minutes. The interview committee consists of dietitians in nutrition care, administration, and a dietetic student. Skype interviews will be offered for those candidates from out of Province.

To be successful in our program we are looking for the following:

- A learner who is self-directed, can work independently, and has effective time-management skills.
- Retains self-confidence, maturity and ability to work as an effective member of a team.
- Evidence of proficient communication and interpersonal skills.
- Able to adapt to changing rotation environments.
- Innovative and critical thinker.
- Appreciates the nutritional needs of a diverse cultural population.

Successful applicants will be contacted for a personal interview during the second week following the date of their application submission.
ACCEPTANCE

Four students will be selected into the 2019-2020 class. Program admission depends on the completion of degree requirements prior to the start of the internship. Candidates who are accepted into the program will receive instructions on how and when to register as students at both SickKids and Ryerson.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program dates</th>
<th>September to mid/late July (3 semesters)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>Rotations are scheduled according to the type of placement (i.e. 8:00 – 4:00). Hours vary by rotation, and may include evenings/weekend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotation locations</td>
<td>Travel within the GTA will be required for external rotations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation</td>
<td>Program graduates will participate in Ryerson’s convocation in the Fall of 2020. Graduates are eligible for temporary membership in all provincial licensing bodies (e.g. College of Dietitians of Ontario).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Information

Information regarding tuition and financial matters can be found on the Ryerson PMDip website: [https://www.ryerson.ca/nutrition/programs/dietetics-pmdip/](https://www.ryerson.ca/nutrition/programs/dietetics-pmdip/)

*For further information, please contact:*
Joann Herridge, MSc, RD
Dietetic Studentship Coordinator
The Hospital for Sick Children
555 University Avenue
Toronto ON M5G 1X8
Email: joann.herridge@sickkids.ca