

MICHIGAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION



Student Associate Program

Melanie McCarthy, MS, RD, CHES
MDA Mentor Program Chair

PROGRAM GOALS



- ◉ To enhance students knowledge of the operation of the professional association.
- ◉ To encourage student's active participation in the professional association.
- ◉ To provide students with the opportunity to enhance their management skills in the areas of strategic planning, effective meeting management, delegation, and legislative activity.
- ◉ To develop a mentoring relationship with an MDA Board Member.
- ◉ To assist the MDA Board Member in necessary functions of their office.

PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS

The Dietetic student must be:

- Currently enrolled in an approved/accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics, Dietetic Internship, or Coordinated Program in Dietetics.
- At the Graduate, Senior, or Junior level the year of the mentoring experience.
- A member of the American Dietetic Association.
- Willing to commit to the program from October 1st through May 31st.
- Willing to provide own transportation to local meetings.

PROGRAM DESIGN

Overview:

Dietetic Students apply to the Student Associate Program. The applications are evaluated by the MDA Mentor Program Chair and members of a committee. Students who are selected will be assigned to an MDA Board member, who is interested and willing to participate in the program. The MDA Board member will direct their Student Associate's activities surrounding the following meetings and activities:

- Orientation with mentor, phone or face-to-face meeting
- Board of Directors Meetings
- ADA Public Policy Workshop
- National Nutrition Month and RD Day Activities
- MDA Annual Conference
- Annual Legislative Day

■ *Schedule/Calendar will be provided after acceptance*



PROGRAM DESIGN

- ◉ In addition to projects and activities assigned by the MDA Board Member, additional responsibilities may include some word processing, secretarial functions, and web-based activities.
- ◉ Each Student Associate will be responsible for the development and implementation of a project assigned by the MDA Board Member, which will benefit both the MDA and the Student Associate.

MDA POSITIONS

President

President-elect

Secretary Treasurer

Secretary Treasurer-elect

Delegate

Membership Director

State Policy Representative

Public Policy Coordinator

Public Relations Marketing Director

Professional Development Director

Communications Director/Newsletter Editor

Nominating Committee Chair

MDA Institute President

MDA Executive Director

MDA Webmaster

***Specific positions may only be available depending on
MDA Board Member participation***

LEARN ABOUT MDA



- Go to the MDA website to research the organization and the individual Board of Directors positions to find out what interests you most
 - You will need to log in using your ADA/MDA member number and password
 - This allows access to the “Members Only” sections
 - The MDA website contains information on how MDA works
 - Board Structure, Bylaws, Policies & Procedures Manual
 - Descriptions for the Board of Directors positions are listed in the Policies & Procedures Manual and also as individual website links

THE STUDENT ASSOCIATE MENTOR

- ◉ MDA Board Members who are interested in becoming mentors in the Student Associate Program complete the Mentor Application posted on the MDA website
- ◉ The MDA Mentor Program Chair will serve as a resource for both Student Associates and MDA Mentors by providing guidelines and suggestions

APPLICATION FOR STUDENT ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

Will include the following:

- ◉ A completed application with applicant's contact information.
- ◉ A written letter of application stating interest in program.
- ◉ A letter of reference from faculty submitted via e-mail to the MDA Mentor Program Chair.

WHEN APPLYING

- The applications are submitted to the MDA Mentor Program Chair, and those applications selected will be housed by the Chair to assure consistent follow-up evaluation of the program.
- Notification regarding selection for the program will occur within 1 month of application deadline.
- A phone interview *MAY* be scheduled with the mentor.