

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY DIETETIC INTERNSHIP

Accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND), 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190 Chicago, IL 60606-6995
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PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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MISSION

The mission of the SJSU Dietetic Internship (DI) Program is to provide a high-quality supervised practice experience that will prepare entry-level Registered Dietitians/Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RD/RDN) who are employable in dietetics and related fields and apply an evidence-based approach to nutrition and dietetic practice and life-long learning.

PROGRAM GOALS

Goal 1: Graduates of the program will be prepared to practice as entry-level RD/RDN.

Goal 2: Graduates of the program will develop skills that foster an evidence-based approach to nutrition and dietetic practice and life-long learning.

BECOMING A RD/RDN - The steps to becoming a RD/RDN include:

1. Completing Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) coursework accredited by ACEND;
2. Completing a minimum of a graduate degree at a U.S. regionally accredited university or college
3. Completing an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program (minimum 1000 hours); and
4. Passing a RD national exam administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR).

RDs must complete continuing professional educational requirements to maintain registration. In California, RDs practice under California Business and Professions Code Section 2585-2586.8.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The SJSU DI is only available to students from the SJSU Department of Nutrition, Food Science, and Packaging who already have a graduate degree or are getting a graduate degree at the time of application, and applicants must have received/will receive at least one of the following degrees from our Department: BS in Nutritional Science, Concentration in Dietetics and/or MS in Nutritional Science (if SAGE MS degree, must be in Dietetics Concentration).

The SJSU DI is a minimum of 1000 hours (~25 weeks full-time) supervised practice program with placement sites located in San Jose and surrounding areas. The program fulfills the core competencies for entry-level dietitians and additional competencies for an Application of Evidence-Based Practice concentration. DI rotations include:

- Clinical, 560 hours (~14 weeks)
- Foodservice Management, 400 hours (~10 weeks)
- Community, 40 hours (as a part of above rotations)

When enrolled in the DI, the curriculum requires:

- Students enroll in 18 units of NUFS 280A (12 units during either Fall or Spring + 6 units during Summer).
- Professional work experience based on ACEND core competencies for entry-level in the areas of clinical/medical nutrition therapy (MNT), community nutrition, and foodservice management, with a program emphasis of *application of evidence-based practice*. This work will be conducted under the supervision of RDs/other qualified professionals.
- Once every 4 - 6 weeks, evaluation conferences involving the student, facility preceptor, and a DI Site Coordinator.
- Completion of required learning activities, which may include: applying the nutrition care process, written case studies; charting in electronic medical records; developing and implementing nutrition education programs; in-service trainings for staff; food production management, delivery, and service; personnel management; strategic planning; application of principles of finance; utilization of technology.
- Development of a poster presentation and abstract is required, as well as, membership in AND and involvement in local dietetic/nutrition-related professional organizations

DI COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS: The DI Director will issue a DI Verification statement of completion after confirming that 1000 hours of supervised practice in all major rotations have been successfully completed, all core and concentration/emphasis competencies have been met at a proficient level, and all assignments and evaluations have been completed. The DI Verification is a statement that the Intern demonstrates the skills necessary to practice as an entry-level RD and is ready to sit for the RD exam.

PROGRAM COSTS - Approximate costs include, but may not be limited to the following:

- SJSU Enrollment Fees (18 units)..... [SJSU Bursar's Office](#)
- AND Student Membership Fee..... \$58
- Facility On-Boarding Fees (e.g. Background Check, TB test, immunizations, etc.)..... ~\$100
- Technology Expenses (internet, software, etc.)..... ~\$100
- CDR RD Exam Fee..... \$250
- Housing, transportation, and living expenses are not included in these estimates.
- Interns must have their own health insurance and (if driving) car insurance policy.
- Student Professional Liability Insurance is supplied by the University at no cost to the Intern.

* Enrollment is through Special Sessions, which is not eligible for Financial Aid. Program does not offer a loan deferment plan. Department [Circle of Friends](#) alumni group offers scholarship opportunities.

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APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All applicants must meet these eligibility requirements:

- Already have a graduate degree or are getting a graduate degree at the time of application. Prior to the start of the application semester, SJSU MS students must provide a completed draft of MS project writeup/thesis. MS project/thesis defense must be completed by the time the DI starts.
- Have a DPD Verification Statement (obtained within the past 5 years) or a Declaration of Intent.
- Completion of the following select DPD courses (or equivalent courses per GPA calculation worksheet provided by the DI Director) with a GPA of 3.2 or higher (with no grade lower than a C accepted):
 - NUFS 101A Food Science
 - NUFS 103 Food Processing
 - NUFS 106A Nutrition Life Span
 - NUFS 106B/295 Research Method
 - NUFS 108A Nutrition & Metab
 - NUFS 109 Advanced Nutrition
 - NUFS 110A and 110B MNT
 - NUFS 111/113 Foodservice
 - NUFS 114A Comm Nutrition
 - NUFS 190 Nutri Edu & Counsel
 - CHEM 132 Biochemistry
 - *NUFS 220A (to start DI)*
- Documentation of a minimum of 450 hours of dietetics work/volunteer experience is required. Dietetic work experience must have been completed in the United States and within the last five years. Half or 225 hours must be in a hospital-like setting. Half or 225 hours may be acquired in non-clinical settings. These hours must be completed before the application semester. **For more info, refer to the [DI Frequently Asked Questions page](#).**
- During the application semester, enrollment in NUFS 220A (Advanced MNT, 3 units) and NUFS 280A (DI, 1 unit). Passing NUFS 220A with a C grade or better is required for starting the DI.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION/SITE PLACEMENT PROCESS

Detailed instructions on how to submit your DI Application Packet to the DI Director will be given during NUFS 280A.

The SJSU DI application packet will consist of electronic files of the following:

1. A personal statement addressing preparation for the internship and applicant's professional goals
2. Resume including work/volunteer experiences in nutrition/dietetics/foodservice/food management
3. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution (official transcript)**
4. Verification Statement of completion of an ACEND-accredited DPD within the past five years (or Declaration of Intent showing the application semester is applicant's last semester**)
5. Grade point average calculation worksheet (minimum 3.2 GPA in select DPD classes)
6. Three letters of recommendation, typically from faculty member(s) and dietetics-related work/volunteer experience supervisor(s)
7. Confirmation from MS project advisor that a completed draft of writeup has been submitted**

** DI start date will be contingent upon obtaining DPD Verification Statement and completion of project/thesis defense and MS requirements.

The SJSU DI is accredited for a maximum of 25 dietetic interns per year. There are two rounds of applications each year:

- DI start date in January/February (depending on site availability): Applications due October 1 the previous year; applicants will be notified regarding site placement/acceptance on or before December 1 the previous year.
- DI start date in June/July (depending on site availability): Applications due March 1; applicants will be notified regarding site placement/acceptance on or before May 1.

If an applicant is not accepted through the internal SJSU DI site placement process, they may apply to external DI programs (reach out to the DPD Director for guidance: giselle.pignotti@sjsu.edu).

LINKS AND RESOURCES:

- Department site: www.sjsu.edu/nufspkg
- SJSU Dietetic Internship (DI) Program site: www.sjsu.edu/nufspkg/programs/dietetic-internship.php
 - Program Overview and Accreditation Status, DI Handbook and DI Application Timeline and Requirements
- SJSU DI Frequently Asked Questions page: www.sjsu.edu/people/kasuen.mauldin/FAQ_SJSU_DI/
 - Regarding SJSU DI eligibility criteria and the SJSU DI Application semester
 - Recency of education policy for SJSU DI application
 - Regarding the required 450 hours of dietetic work/volunteer experience
- SJSU Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD): www.sjsu.edu/nufspkg/programs/didactic-program-in-dietetics
- SJSU Spartan Accelerated Graduate Education (SAGE) Program: www.sjsu.edu/nufspkg/programs/nutritional-science-spartan-accelerated-graduation-education
- SJSU Master of Science in Nutritional Science Program: www.sjsu.edu/nufspkg/programs/ms-nutritional-science
- Department Circle of Friends Scholarships: www.sjsu.edu/nufspkg/scholarships
- Department LinkedIn Group: www.linkedin.com/groups/13554995/
- Department Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1416333378560753>