**DIETETIC INTERNSHIP**

**Program Document**

**Department of Nutrition, Food Science & Packaging**

**SJSU**

**SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Program Director**

Colette LaSalle, PhD, RD  
Colette.LaSalle@sjsu.edu

**San Jose State University**

San Jose, CA 95192-0058  
(408) 924-3100

www.sjsu.edu/nufspkg/

The Dietetic Internship (DI) at San Jose State University (SJSU) is a 7 months (full time) or 12 months (part-time) supervised program, currently granted continued accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), 120 S. Riverside Plaza Suite 2000, Chicago, 60606-6995, 800/877-1600, ext. 5400. Upon successful completion of DI program, individuals will be eligible to write the Registration Examination for Dietitians from the Commission on Dietetic Registration. Passage of the examination is required for certification as a Registered Dietitian from the Commission on Dietetic Registration, the credentialing agency for The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND).

The mission of the Dietetic Internship (DI) Program is to provide students with a supervised practice experience that will prepare them as competent and effective dietetic practitioners to be employable in a management role in a wide variety of settings. The DI program provides experiences in foodservice, clinical and community rotations. The DI is designed to prepare the intern for entry level professional practice in dietetic in health care institutions, agencies, or community programs. The DI provides for the achievement of the core competency requirements for entry level dietitians through a minimum of 1200 hours of practice under the direct supervision of leaders in the field of dietetics.

**Procedure**

Students are required to attend a mandatory DI orientation workshop. The meeting date/time are posted during the semester throughout the Central Classroom Building (CCB). Applications to the DI are accepted twice annually for full or part-time placement. If accepted, students can start the DI in Spring semester (January or February) or Summer (June or July) depending on site availability.

Applicants must enroll in one unit of NuFS 280A for orientation to DI during the semester of application. Undergraduate students must have completed the B.S. degree in Nutritional Science with Concentration in Dietetics to start the DI. B.S. students must enroll in the DI through Open University. M.S. students may delay graduation until completion of the DI.

Applicants are interviewed at facilities participating in the SJSU DI Program. Applicants may list preferences in the application packet. Placement at facility of choice is not guaranteed. The final placement decision is based on mutual agreement of the applicant, the facility and the NuFS Department.

Applicants must contact Department Chair and DPD Director, Dr. Ashwini Wagle for DICAS submission of application packets.

**At the end of the internship students will be able to:**

- Meet professional practice expectations;
- Advocate for the profession of dietetics and consumers on nutrition issues;
- Effectively communicate, market and educate individuals and community-based groups;
- Perform the nutrition care process in health and disease in individuals and groups;
- Management and delivery of clinical, community, and customer services; and
- Integrate scientific information and research into practice.

**Measurable Program Goals**

- The program will prepare graduates to be qualified to practice as an entry level Registered Dietitian.
- The program will prepare graduates to be employable in a wide variety of settings.
- The program will prepare graduates to continue their professional involvement. Program outcomes are available upon request. Please contact the DI Director, Dr. LaSalle.

**SJSU Dietetic Application Requirements**

**Track 1: Qualifications for B.S. Degree Applicants**

**Registration and Tuition Fees – Policy**

For a current schedule of SJSU costs, check with the Bursar’s office (408) 924-1601, and the Office of the Registrar (408) 924-7500.

http://www.sjsu.edu/bursar/  
http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/

* Amount varies depending on enrollment as full time, part time status or in special sessions (Special Sessions not eligible for Financial Aid).
Completion of Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND), Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD academic requirements at SJSU).

Completion of the B.S. degree in Nutritional Science with a Concentration in Dietetics from SJSU.

Completion of the following courses with a GPA of 3.2 or higher is required (with no grade lower than a C accepted)*:  
- NuFS 101A Food Science
- NuFS 103 Food Processing I
- NuFS 106A Hum Nutr in the Life Span
- NuFS 106B Research Methodology
- NuFS 108A Nutrition & Metabolism
- NuFS 108L Nutrition Lab
- NuFS 109 Advanced Nutrition
- NuFS 110A Medical Nutr Therapy (MNT)
- NuFS 110B Medical Nutr Therapy (MNT)
- NuFS 111 Foodserv Prod Mgmt
- NuFS 113 Foodservice Sys: Proc & Mgmt
- NuFS 114A Community Nutrition
- NuFS 190 Nutrition Edu & Counseling
- Chem 132 Biochemistry
- Chem 132L Biochemistry Lab
- NuFS 220A Advanced MNT

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 should be in a hospital like setting. Students cannot request a DI site where they have obtained previous experience. Half or 225 hours may be acquired in foodservice setting.

Completion of three multiple choice basic content exams in Nutrition, Food Science and Foodservice Management with scores of 80% or more.

Completion of Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD).

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 should be in a hospital like setting. Students cannot request a DI site where they have obtained previous experience. Half or 225 hours may be acquired in foodservice setting.

Completion of the equivalent coursework listed under the B.S. qualifications with a GPA of 3.2 or higher, including NuFS 220A.

Completion of required learning activities which may include a spectrum of experiences: applying the nutrition care process, preparation of written case studies of surgical, medical, and other types of patients; charting in patient/client medical charts; assessment, planning and implementing nutrition education programs for clients and in-service training programs for staff; food production management, delivery, and service; personnel management; strategic planning; application of principles of finance; and utilization of computers.

Development of a poster presentation and abstract is required, as well as, membership in AND and involvement in local dietetic/nutrition related professional organizations is encouraged.

** If GPA is lower than 3.2, applicants may be considered based on their circumstances. Contact DI Director for Petition.

Track 2: Qualifications for M.S. Degree Applicants - Non SJSU DPD Students

- Completion of the M.S. degree requirements in Nutritional Science from SJSU including the Master's Project/Thesis. A complete project draft should be provided at the time of DI application.
- Completion of three multiple choice basic content exams in Nutrition, Food Science and Foodservice Management with scores of 80% or more.
- Completion of Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD).
- 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 should be in a hospital like setting. Students cannot request a DI site where they have obtained previous experience. Half or 225 hours may be acquired in foodservice setting.
- Completion of equivalent coursework listed under the B.S. qualifications with a GPA of 3.2 or higher, including NuFS 220A.
- Completion of required learning activities which may include a spectrum of experiences: applying the nutrition care process, preparation of written case studies of surgical, medical, and other types of patients; charting in patient/client medical charts; assessment, planning and implementing nutrition education programs for clients and in-service training programs for staff; food production management, delivery, and service; personnel management; strategic planning; application of principles of finance; and utilization of computers.

Students to enroll in 18 units (full-time and part-time) of NuFS 280A to meet the requirements of continuous enrollment during the DI.

Track 3: Qualifications for M.S. & SJSU DPD Applicants

- Completion of an Undergraduate BS/BA degree from an accredited US institution or a non US college/university that is recognized by the International Education Research Foundation.
- Enrolled in the MS program and met the graduate program application requirements.
- MS Project defense by the time the internship starts. Students must provide, at the time of application, a completed project draft (completion of data collection and analysis).
- Completion of all Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) academic requirements at SJSU*.
- Support courses may be taken at another accredited institutions and, NuFS 8 or equivalent can be taken at another institution.
- Completion of coursework listed under the B.S. qualifications with a GPA of 3.2 or higher, including NuFS 220A.
- Completion of Master's coursework beyond the DPD coursework will include:
  - A. NuFS 201 Colloquium (3)
  - B. NuFS 220A Advanced MNT (3)
  - C. Two NUF5 graduate courses by advisement (6)
  - D. NuFS 280A DI Application supervision (1) (includes a $25 fee)
- Completion of three multiple choice basic content exams in Nutrition, Food Science and Foodservice Management with scores of 80% or more.
- 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 should be in a hospital like setting. Students cannot request a DI site where they have obtained previous experience. Half or 225 hours may be acquired in foodservice setting.
- Development of a poster presentation and abstract is required, as well as, membership in AND and involvement in local dietetic/nutrition related professional organizations is encouraged.

** Completion of required learning activities which may include a spectrum of experiences: applying the nutrition care process, preparation of written case studies of surgical, medical, and other types of patients; charting in patient/client medical charts; assessment, planning and implementing nutrition education programs for clients and in-service training programs for staff; food production management, delivery, and service; personnel management; strategic planning; application of principles of finance; and utilization of computers.

While enrolled in the DI, the curriculum requires:

- Full-time DI starts in Jan/Feb or June/July and end in Aug/Sept or Dec/Jan. Part-time DI start at the same time as full-time but take 12 months to be completed.
- Professional work experience based on AND core competencies for entry level in the areas of MNT, community nutrition, and foodservice with a SJSU program emphasis of management. This work will be conducted under the supervision of registered dietitians, nutritionists, and other qualified professionals.
- Additional written assignments to fulfill the AND core competencies. Monthly evaluation conferences involving the student, facility instructor, and a university DI coordinator.
- Completion of required learning activities which may include a spectrum of experiences: applying the nutrition care process, preparation of written case studies of surgical, medical, and other types of patients; charting in patient/client medical charts; assessment, planning and implementing nutrition education programs for clients and in-service training programs for staff; food production management, delivery, and service; personnel management; strategic planning; application of principles of finance; and utilization of computers.

While enrolled in the DI, the curriculum requires:

- Completion of 12 additional units of coursework beyond degree requirements to include:
  - NuFS 220A Advanced MNT (3)
  - NuFS 280A DI Application supervision (1)