About Packaging

Packaging is a unique discipline that blends science and technology, design, marketing and business principles. The basic goal for packaging has always been to protect a product during distribution. However, now a package is a primary means of marketing a product and is often a significant factor in the profitability of a company. Also, packaging helps protect the consumer. Consider tamper-evident packaging, for example. Packaging is a vital part of our present day economy. It's a $100+ billion a year industry that is growing as the demand for new packaging technologies continues to evolve rapidly. Today's packaging professionals are part of a team that develops the product and is largely responsible for ensuring the product is delivered to the consumer in the desired condition. Therefore, packaging plays a critical role in providing customer satisfaction - the key ingredient to a successful enterprise.

Courses

B.S Nutrition & Food Science

Packaging Major (44 units minimum)

Required
- PKG 107 Principles of Packaging (3)
- PKG 141A Packaging Materials I (3)
- PKG 141B Packaging Materials II (3)
- PKG 146 Pkg for Medical Devices & Pharmaceuticals (3)
- NuFS 139 Science and Hunger (3)
- ISE 155 Supply Chain (3)
- PKG 156 Packaging Machinery (3)
- PKG 158 Protective Packaging Design & Testing (3)
- PKG 159 Packaging Material Handling and Distribution (3)
- PKG 170 PKG Development and Management (3)
- NuFS 31 Professions in NuFS & Packaging (1)
- NuFS 103 Food Processing and Packaging I (3)
- NuFS 133 Food processing and Packaging II (3)
- NuFS 155 Fundamentals of Food Process Engineering (3)
- NuFS 192 Field Experience (4-6)

Plus Additional 11 units

Packaging Minor (15 units minimum)

Required
- PKG 107 Principles of Packaging (3)
- PKG 141A Packaging Material I (3)
- PKG 141B Packaging Material II (3)

Additional Requirement (6 unit minimum)
- PKG 146 Pkg for Medical Devices & Pharmaceuticals (3)
- PKG 156 Packaging Machinery (3)
- PKG 158 Protective Packaging Design & Testing (3)
- PKG 159 Packaging Material Handling and Distribution (3)
- PKG 170 PKG Development and Management (3)
Packaging at SJ SU

Careers in Packaging

On the basis of gross sales, packaging is the world’s third largest industry. More people are employed in the packaging and packaging operations industries than any other single business in the U.S. Projected personnel requirements indicate that the growing need for packaging professionals will far exceed the projected number of Packaging graduates. It’s easy to see why the future for careers in Packaging looks very bright. Just as attractive, starting salaries for Packaging graduates exceed national averages for most professions and industries. Whether one's interest is marketing, manufacturing, research and development, graphic design, environmental sustainability, purchasing or sales, just to name a few disciplines, the opportunities for rewarding careers in packaging are vast and lucrative.

Graduates of the San Jose State University’s Packaging program continue to gain employment at many of the world’s premier companies including Apple Computer, Hewlett-Packard, Cisco Systems, Williams-Sonoma, Stiefel Laboratories, Nektar Therapeutics, Applied Biosystems among many others. SJ SU Packaging program job placement record is impressive - on average greater than 95% placement of new graduates. Packaging is a rewarding profession. SJ SU is an outstanding environment to prepare for a future in Packaging.

What kind of jobs?

Design - Engineering - Finance

Graphics - Management - Marketing

Production - Purchasing - R & D

Sales - Technical Sales

What kind of industries?

- Biotechnology Industry
- Chemical Industry
- Consumer Goods Mfg Industry
- Electronic Equipment Industry
- Food and Beverage Processing Industry
- Medical Device Industry
- Packaging Design & Services Industry
- Packaging Materials Industry
  - Flexible Packaging
  - General Materials
  - Glass
  - Lamination/Coating
  - Metal
  - Paper/Paperboard
  - Plastic
  - Printing
  - Rubber
  - Tag/Label
  - Wood
- Packaging Machinery Industry
- Pharmaceutical Industry
- Software Industry

“I was going to focus on electrical engineering until I took the intro to packaging class and became hooked. My packaging job has taken me to over 21 countries and I’ve earned 9 patents. Also, the kind of work is very dynamic. I have worked on programs dealing with marketing graphics, procurement, supply chain, research and development, environment, regulations, outsourcing, and business practices.”

Paul G. Russell, CPP/Fellow
Corporate Packaging Program Manager
Hewlett-Packard Company
Cupertino, CA

“I had never heard of packaging engineering but became intrigued after taking “Intro to Pkg.” I switched my concentration to packaging as about every product/industry you can think of uses packaging. I have worked as a packaging engineer in the high tech industry as well as pharmaceutical industry. I’m very happy doing what I do today and I’m making more money than I ever dreamed of making at this point in my career.”

Kelly Cornell
Manager, Global Packaging Engineering & Services
Stiefel Laboratories
Palo Alto, CA

During the Intro to Packaging class, it struck me – packaging involves small, fast pace projects, with interface at all levels of the Organization. Then the higher salary ranges caught my attention. I’ve been a Packaging Engineer for more than 17 years now!”

Pat Lewis
Packaging Engineer
Cisco Systems
San Jose, CA

“The Packaging Program at SJ SU interested me because it offered a blend of Engineering, Art, Business and Manufacturing all in one major. Now being in the packaging industry for 19 years the academic choice I made definitely provided me a rewarding and challenging profession.”

Darwin Drew
Director of Engineering West
SCA Packaging North America
Hayward, CA

About Our Program

SJ SU is one of eleven distinguished academic institutions in the U.S. offering degrees in Packaging. SJ SU offers a B.S. and minor in Packaging. Classrooms and outstanding laboratory facilities are appointed with state-of-the-art scientific instrumentation and equipment. A close relationship with the Packaging Industry Associations and professionals further enhances the program to ensure up-to-date information and technology remains the backbone of the program. The result is an outstanding academic environment offering comprehensive study in the field of packaging.

“When I first started at SJSU, I found that my original major was not what I wanted for my career. I knew that I liked designing things and that I thrived better in a smaller class environment that had a more hands-on approach to learning. I was advised to take the Introductory Packaging Course and was sold. I enjoyed creating packaging designs to meet specific requirements and then testing and qualifying the packaging designs. My education in packaging at SJ SU spring-boarded me into a career that I thoroughly enjoy.”

Brian Tudor, CPP
Director, Packaging Engineering
Williams-Sonoma, Inc
San Francisco, CA