

# 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  
Phone: 312-899-0040 ext. 5400; Fax: 312-899-4817; [www.eatright.org/ACEND](http://www.eatright.org/ACEND)

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Kasuen Mauldin, PhD, RD  
kasuen.mauldin@sjsu.edu  
Office: (408) 924-3109  
[www.sjsu.edu/nufspkg](http://www.sjsu.edu/nufspkg)  
Department of Nutrition,  
Food Science, & Packaging  
One Washington Square  
San José, California,  
95192-0058

## 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 **before January 1, 2024** include:

1. Completing a minimum of a bachelor's degree at a U.S. regionally accredited university or college and Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) coursework accredited by ACEND;
2. Completing an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program (minimum 1200 hours); and
3. 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 SJSU students from the programs BS in Nutritional Science, Concentration in Dietetics or MS in Nutritional Science.*

The SJSU DI is a ~7 months (full-time) supervised practice program with placement sites located in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. The program includes a minimum of 1200 hours of supervised practice that fulfills the core competencies for entry-level dietitians and additional competencies for an Application of Evidence-Based Practice concentration. DI rotations include:

- Clinical, 680 hours (~4 months)
- Foodservice Management, 480 hours (~3 months)
- Community, 40 hours (typically completed as a part of above rotations)

When enrolled in the DI, the curriculum requires:

- Students to enroll in 18 units of NUFSS 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.
- Additional written assignments to fulfill the ACEND core competencies. Monthly evaluation conferences involving the student, faculty instructor, and a University DI 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 is encouraged.

**DI COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:** The DI Director will issue a DI Verification statement of completion after confirming that 1200 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)..... \$5,040\*
- 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..... \$200
- Housing, transportation, and living expenses are not included in these estimates.
- Interns must have their own health insurance and (if driving) car insurance policy.
- Liability coverage/Travel 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. Stipend available at select DI sites.

# SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY DIETETIC INTERNSHIP

## APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (Note: Starting Spring 2023, applicants will need a graduate degree)

All applicants must meet these eligibility requirements:

- Have a DPD Verification Statement or a Declaration of Intent
- Completion of the following select DPD courses (or equivalent courses if taken at another institution) 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 Research Method
  - NUFS 108A Nutrition & Metab
  - NUFS 109 Advanced Nutrition
  - NUFS 110A MNT (Fall)
  - NUFS 110B MNT (Spring)
  - NUFS 111 Foodserv Prod & Mgmt
  - NUFS 113 Foodservice Systems
  - NUFS 114A Comm Nutrition
  - NUFS 190 Nutri Edu & Counsel
  - CHEM 132 Biochemistry
  - CHEM 132L Biochemistry Lab
  - *NUFS 220A (to start DI)*
- Pass the three SJSU DI Content Exams (Nutrition, Food Science, and Food Management) with scores 80% or higher before the application semester. For more info, refer to the [SJSU DI Frequently Asked Questions page](#).
- 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 on department website](#).**
- 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.
- All SJSU DI applicants must have a DPD Verification Statement no more than 3 years old at time of application (see [SJSU DI Frequently Asked Questions page](#) for list of exceptions and further details).

### Additional application requirements for Graduate student applicants:

Prior to the start of the application semester, 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.

### Additional application requirements for Undergraduate student applicants applying before Spring 2023:

Completion of an additional 6 units of coursework beyond degree requirements to include:

- One 3-unit business course (can be completed at outside institution) or select from:
  - BUS1-20N, Accounting
  - BUS3-151, Labor Relations
  - BUS3-150, Human Resources Mgmt
  - BUS2-130, Intro to Marketing
- Choose 3 units from:
  - NUFS 219A, Advanced Nutrition and Metabolism
  - NUFS 219B, Seminar in Advanced Topics in Human Nutrition & Dietetics
  - NUFS 242, Advanced Foodservice/Restaurant Management
  - NUFS 260, Multidisciplinary Health Promotion in Later Life
  - NUFS 134, Complementary and Alternative Health Practices
  - or by advisement: NUFS 194, Entrepreneurial Nutrition (1 unit) + NUFS 180, Individual Studies/Club Officer (2 units)

## APPLICATION AND SELECTION 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. Graduate students: 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 BS degree, and for graduate students, completion of project/thesis defense and MS requirements.

The SJSU DI participates in a preselection process and can select 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 on or before December 31 the previous year.
- DI start date in June/July (depending on site availability): Applications due March 1; applicants will be notified on or before May 31.

If an applicant is not selected through the preselect process, she/he may apply to other DI programs through the computer matching process.