

SNA's Internship Program: Developing Future Directors - A Pilot Coordinated Program



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What is an internship?



- Temporary position
- On-the-job training
- Available for students:
 - College or university
 - High school
 - Post graduate adults
- Paid, unpaid, or partially paid
- Part-time vs. full-time

Why is an SNS Internship needed?



- Need for qualified school nutrition administrators
 - 27.5% school nutrition management turnover per year
- Attracts qualified individuals to the field
- Provides training & experience for interested students
- Qualifies individuals to take School Nutrition Specialist credentialing exam

School Nutrition Administrator Jobs are becoming more demanding!



- Nutrient analysis of school menus
- 2006 – Hazard Analysis Critical Control Programs mandated
- 2006 – Local School Wellness Policies Act
- Focus on cutting food costs
- Proposed nutrition standards

Competencies for School Nutrition Managers



- Nutrition & menu planning (71)
- Program accountability (44)
- Sanitation, safety & security (78)
- Equipment use & care (20)
- Procurement(35)
- Food production(42)
- Food acceptability (16)

Competencies for School Nutrition Managers



- Service (16)
- Financial management & recordkeeping (42)
- Marketing (32)
- Personnel management (96)
- Professional development (21)

What is a Coordinated Program?



- Graduate courses & internship combined
- M.S. in Food Systems Administration
 - 9 graduate credit hours per semester
 - Courses are primarily online
 - Full-time students qualify for student loans
- + SNS Internship
 - 900 hours over 2 semesters
 - 4 days per week Dallas ISD or other schools

How was this Coordinated Program developed?



- 1. Discussions between university faculty & school nutrition administrator
- 2. Approval from School Nutrition Association
- 3. Interlocal agreement between School Board & University
- 4. Appointment of school internship director
- 5. Designation of university faculty coordinator

How was this Coordinated Program developed?



- 6. Advertising for applicants
 - E-mail, listservs, brochures
- 7. Committee evaluates applications
- 8. Acceptance of applicants
- 9. Development of training schedule for interns
- 10. Supervising and evaluating intern performance

What is Texas Woman's University



- **State university in Texas**
 - Founded 1901
- **3 Campuses (Denton, Dallas, Houston)**
- **Current enrollment 12,500**
 - 60% undergraduate students
 - 40% graduate students
 - 42% minority students
 - 91% female students

What is the M.S in Food Systems Administration



- One of 4 M. S. degree programs in the Dept of Nutrition & Food Sciences at TWU
- 3 Options
 - Thesis option (30 credit hrs)
 - Professional paper (36 credit hrs)
 - Course-only (42 credit hrs) w/Exit Exam
- Complete M.S. degree in 3-4 semesters
 - (~2 years)

Graduate Courses Included in the M.S. in Food Systems Administration



- Organization & Mgmt in Foodservice Systems
- Human Resource Management
- Productivity & Quality Improvement
- Foodservice Facility Design & Mgmt
- Food Safety & Foodborne Illness
- Computer Applications in Food Systems Admin
- Professional Practicum (Internship)
- Seminar in Food Systems Administration

TWU Graduate Courses in Other Areas: *Examples*



- **Nutrition**
 - Nutrition & Women's Health
 - Nutrition Education
 - Eating Behaviors & Eating Disorders
- **Business**
 - Marketing management
 - Leadership
 - Advanced business policy

Who should apply to an SNS Internship?



- **Students with a 4-year degree:**
 - Dietetics and nutrition
 - Hospitality management
 - Business
 - Culinary
- **Registered dietitians**
- **Food industry professionals**

How does one apply to an SNS Internship Program?



- Complete application form
- Send original college transcripts
- Letters of reference (academic & professional)
- Applications evaluated based on:
 - Academic achievement
 - Employment history
 - Awards, honors & activities
 - Reference letters

Potential Challenges



- Negotiation of agreement terms with School Board & University
- School staff time to supervise interns
- University faculty time to coordinate internship
- Lack of funding to advertise program
- Student shortage of funds to pay tuition & fees, living cost, transportation, professional dress