



NUTRITION & FOOD SCIENCES TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY

School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) Practicum: Houston

The mission of the Texas Woman's University (TWU) School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) Practicum is to provide students with the training and opportunities to pursue a career in the field of school nutrition.

School Nutrition Association (SNA) research indicates that a shortage of qualified School Nutrition directors is expected in the very near future. The SNS Practicum has been created to take a proactive approach and encourage the best and brightest to pursue a school nutrition career.

Objectives

1. Prepare students to assume district level supervisory positions in school nutrition.
2. Prepare students to understand and assess the nutritional needs of diverse populations, especially of school-aged children at risk and of limited income.
3. Provide an environment in which students can appreciate and perform the variety of tasks required for operating successful school foodservice programs.
4. Prepare students to communicate effectively in interactions with other professionals and stakeholders.
5. Provide students all or part of experience required to sit for the SNS credentialing exam.

Qualifications, Host Site, and Application Review

For this program, students must be enrolled in graduate coursework leading to completion of the MS in Nutrition or MS in Exercise and Sports Nutrition (ESN) at TWU and have/maintain a minimum of a 3.0 GPA.

We partner with Spring ISD- Food and Child Nutrition Services to serve as the host site for training of the SNS Practicum students in the areas of food service administration, communication and marketing, nutrition education, and operations.

The SNS Practicum Coordinator will review applications, select students, and monitor student progress.

Student Responsibilities and Requirements

- The student will be responsible for ensuring all of the requirements are met to successfully pass the SNS credentialing exam, if they choose to sit for it.
- SNS students are expected to be active learners and assume the major tasks associated with completing their curriculum and planned experiences. At the onset of the practicum, the student and Program Director will discuss and agree on the schedule. This schedule should be considered a working document to allow maximum flexibility and afford the student and host institution the best possible experience for both parties. They will follow the schedule similarly to a course outline or syllabus.
- Students must satisfactorily complete 90% of all planned experiences for successful completion of the program/course.

School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) Credentialing Exam

The Credentialing Program of the School Nutrition Association was created to enhance the professional image of school nutrition professionals, elevate professional standards, and enhance individual performance. SNA believes one of its fundamental purposes is to develop and encourage the highest standards and provide education programs for professional development of school food and nutrition personnel. The Credentialing Program includes standards for academic and specialized training, knowledge and skills and builds upon standards and plans that have been developed since the founding of SNA in 1946.

The SNS Practicum curriculum is based on the competencies and content areas of the School Nutrition Specialist Credentialing Exam Study Guide. For more information on the SNS credentialing exam qualifications and requirements, see the [SNS Credentialing webpage](#).

SNS Practicum: Houston – Application Guidelines

Application Timeline (exact dates available on the SNS webpage)

- Fall Semester
 - Application Due: Early May
 - Notification Day Mid Mid-May
- Spring Semester
 - Application Due: Mid-October
 - Notification Day: End of October

Selection Criteria:

- Depth of passion and proper grammar as portrayed in Cover Letter/Letter of Interest.
- Employment History, awards, honors, and activities as portrayed in Resume.
- Academic Achievement
 - Minimum 3.0 GPA required in graduate coursework
 - Last 60 hour GPA from undergraduate transcripts as reviewed on TWU Graduate School admissions application (obtained from TWU Graduate School application portal by SNS Program Coordinator).
 - GPA in MS Program (obtained from TWU Self Service portal by student–download unofficial transcript and submit with application contents described below)
- Letters of Recommendation
 - Academic Recommendation: must be completed by an instructor or advisor who is familiar with your academic work.
 - Professional Recommendation: should be completed by a current or former supervisor/employer.

Application Content:

1. SNS Application Form (see link below)
2. Cover Letter/Letter of Interest (PDF)
3. Resume (include information from selection criteria above) (PDF)
4. TWU Unofficial transcript, if applicable. (PDF)
5. 2 letters of recommendation: Academic and Professional

Submission Instructions:

1. SNS Application Form–[LINKED HERE](#)
 - a. Supporting materials should be submitted as 1 single PDF file (aside from letters of recommendations) to the SNS Application Form linked above.
2. Recommendation Letter Form–[LINKED HERE](#)
 - a. Send the link above to your chosen supporters.
 - b. Recommendation letter requests should be sent to supporters with at least 2 weeks advance notice.
3. All materials must be received by the deadlines described in the 'Application Timeline'. Recommendations and transcripts may be sent separately, if necessary, but it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all pieces are received by the deadline. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.
4. All selection decisions are final and are not subject to appeal.