



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 school 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

Eligibility Requirements: The applicant must have been accepted into the MS in Nutrition or MS in Exercise and Sports Nutrition program in the Nutrition and Food Sciences (NFS) Department at TWU and have/maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0. For new students starting in the Fall, you must be admitted to one of the programs above by the application due dates described. In lieu of your graduate performance, you will be assessed on the last 60 hours of your undergraduate coursework with a minimum required GPA of 3.0.

Application Timeline:

- Fall 2024 Semester Start
 - Application Due: 5/6/2024
 - Notification Day 5/24/2024
- Spring 2025 Semester Start
 - Application Due: 10/23/2024
 - Notification Day: 11/17/202

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 MS program (obtained from TWU Self Service portal by student–download unofficial transcript and submit with application contents as a PDF as described below)
 - 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).
- 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 Practicum: Houston-Application Form
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: 1 Academic and 1 Professional

Submission Instructions:

1. Complete and submit the SNS: Houston- Application Form–[LINKED HERE](#)
 - a. Supporting materials should be submitted as 1 single PDF file (aside from letters of recommendations) to the form linked above.
2. SNS Practicum: Houston-Recommendation Letter Request 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 advanced notice.
 - c. These will be submitted directly to the SNS Program Coordinator for inclusion in your application.
2. All materials must be received by the deadlines described in the ‘Application Timeline’. Applications or materials received after the deadline will not be considered.
3. All selection decisions are final and are not subject to appeal.