DEPARTMENT OF

FOOD SCIENCE &
HUMAN NUTRITION

Graduate Programs

Education, research, and outreach providing a safe, nutritious, and affordable food supply
IMAGINE YOUR FUTURE

Imagine your future with a graduate degree from the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition:

- Core knowledge in food science and/or human nutrition
- Breakthrough research experience
- Relationships with top researchers in the field
- Wide variety of employment opportunities
- Network of accomplished alumni
- High starting salaries
- Graduate degree from a highly regarded institution

We prepare our students for scientific and technical careers in industry, academia, governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, commodity groups, and healthcare facilities.

“I was looking for a well-known university with access to industry and research. Many food companies recruit from our department, and I have the chance to work with top-notch scientists. My advisor has allowed me every opportunity to advance my knowledge, skills, and perspective of our field. Her support, along with that of the department, is what first attracted me to FSHN and what has allowed me to reach for even bigger dreams.”

—Sarah Scholl, Ph.D. candidate in Food Science
MORE THAN A DEGREE

The University of Illinois, the College of ACES, and the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition offer many opportunities for graduate students to develop skills outside of the classroom and laboratory.

- **Student Organizations:** You can be part of a student club in several areas of study, including food science, human nutrition, hospitality management, and dietetics. The FSHN Graduate Student Association provides added opportunities for academic, social, and career-related growth.

- **Leadership and Teaching Experience:** FSHN students can apply for mentoring and teaching positions, from K–12 up to the university level.

- **Alumni:** Our alumni continue to be involved in the department after graduation, to your benefit. They are mentors and guest lecturers, conduct mock interviews, and as professionals in their fields welcome interactions with FSHN students.

- **Professional Meetings:** We encourage our graduate students to attend professional meetings related to their area of study. Travel grants offer financial support for these growth experiences.

“**The U of I is a great research institution, but it is also a great school to enjoy sports and be a part of the action.”**

—Kirstie Canene Adams, assistant professor at Texas State University-San Marcos

Make the most of your time at the University of Illinois. Attend Big 10 sporting events. Use campus recreation facilities. Attend theater and art exhibits. Enjoy the amenities of an urban environment with a small-town atmosphere.
CUSTOMIZE YOUR EXPERIENCE

As a FSHN graduate student, you can focus your studies in either food science or human nutrition. You may also choose to pursue a professional science master’s degree in food science.

**Food Science** – Gain knowledge and skills in applying principles of science and engineering to ensure the quantity, quality, safety, variety, and attractiveness of foods. Food chemistry, food microbiology, sensory science, and food processing and engineering are the general areas of strength for our food science faculty.

**Human Nutrition** – Conduct and apply innovative research to determine how diet impacts human health now and in the future. Clinical nutrition, community nutrition, nutritional biochemistry, nutrigenomics, and nutritional toxicology are the general areas of strength of our human nutrition faculty.

“Getting involved in a FSHN research lab as an undergraduate really inspired me to continue my education and complete a research project of my own. Another reason I decided to pursue my master’s degree in food science and human nutrition was that I wanted a lot of flexibility when beginning my career. Being qualified for several industry positions improved my chances of ending up employed with a great company during a time of economic instability.”

— Katie Tryon, 2007 B.S. in Human Nutrition, minor in Chemistry; 2009 M.S. in Food Science and Human Nutrition
Professional Science Master’s Degree
The University of Illinois professional science master’s degree in food science is designed for people interested in careers in science-based settings that combine science with management and leadership responsibilities.

The program’s solid graduate-level core curriculum is integrated with business courses such as management and marketing, accounting and finance, and project management. For more information about this master’s degree, visit www.psm.illinois.edu.

Graduate Dietetic Internship
Selected graduate students can complete an internship in preparation for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics’ national registration exam for dietitians. Each year, four students enrolled in an M.S. or Ph.D. degree program in the Department of FSHN or the Division of Nutritional Sciences are accepted into the internship program. Research is the emphasis area for the University of Illinois graduate dietetic internship.

The research focus makes the dietetic internship in the College of ACES unique, said Sharon Donovan, professor and director of the dietetic internship program. “Our goal is to train the future leaders in dietetics practice and education.” Nearly all participants are completing thesis M.S. and Ph.D. degrees as well as incorporating research projects into their internships.

The dietetic internship incorporates 13 supervised practice sites where interns can gain broad-based experiences in clinical (in-patient and out-patient), community, and administrative settings. A collaboration with the Eastern Illinois Dietetic Association also provides opportunities for students to gain leadership experience.
MAKE IT HAPPEN

The entire application process for the FSHN graduate program is completed online; no additional materials are required. More information about the process is available on our website: www.fshn.illinois.edu.

Fall admission deadline: May 15
Spring admission deadline: October 1
Summer admission deadline: February 15

Before you can be accepted as a FSHN graduate student, you must secure a faculty member willing to train you and serve as your major professor. Although applications are posted for faculty to review, we advise applicants to proactively contact faculty members doing work of interest to them. Visit www.fshn.illinois.edu to review research topics of FSHN faculty to help identify one or more you might be interested in working with throughout your graduate studies.
Clarissa Koga decided to pursue a graduate education because she believed it would open opportunities for her future. And because of the Jonathan Baldwin Turner (JBT) Fellowship, she was able to study food science and human nutrition at the University of Illinois.

“I had offers at other universities, but I decided to attend U of I, where the fellowship would provide me freedom in determining my own research project,” Koga said.

The JBT Fellowship made it possible for Koga to open those new doors to her future. “As the first generation in my family to be in graduate school,” she said, “I am so thankful for this opportunity. It’s an honor to be at such an excellent institution supported by such generous donors.”

As a prospective FSHN graduate student, Patricio Lozano, originally from Quito, Ecuador, sought out Dr. Keith Cadwallader as a major professor because he believes Cadwallader has one of the best flavor research labs in the United States. “Dr. Cadwallader keeps his research well aligned with the advances taking place in the science and food industry,” said Lozano.

Lozano studied flavor chemistry under Cadwallader and deepened his understanding of physiology, chemistry, and flavor interactions. He also gained greater appreciation of the continuous efforts to comprehend the seemingly simple phenomena of tasting and smelling.

Most importantly, Lozano said, he appreciated the support and working relationship with his research advisor.

“Dr. C was and is more than my advisor; he is my friend,” Lozano said. “We went through a lot of things together, from finding funding to teaching classes together. No matter what the situation, we were always trying to understand the role of flavors in food while having a good time doing that. After all, having fun doing what you like to do is what makes those working relationships stronger.”

When choosing a research advisor, Lozano said, it’s important to be selective if you can. “Choose wisely. Papers and publications are important to tailor a career in science, but an advisor who can also offer you mentorship is essential for your development as a scientist and professional.”

The Department of FSHN at the U of I is different from any other, Lozano believes. “I think FSHN is unique because it combines knowledge and people,” he said. “Papers commonly stay on the shelves; friendships and connections last longer.”

Graduate students in FSHN have options for financial support. In addition to providing research and teaching assistantships, the department awards several fellowships. All of these funding sources provide a stipend along with a tuition waiver and partial fee waiver. Stipends generally range from $7,500 to $23,000 per year.

Professional science master’s degree students are not eligible for departmental financial aid. They are responsible for their own financial support.
How to set up a visit

To learn more about graduate programs in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, visit www.fshn.illinois.edu.

To arrange a visit to campus, contact us at 217-244-2875 or fshn-general@illinois.edu. It is helpful to be prepared to tell us the names of faculty members with whom you might like to work.