Imagine yourself in FOOD SCIENCE & HUMAN NUTRITION at the University of Illinois...
FSHN – Our mission

In the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN), our mission is to implement education, research, and outreach programs to provide a safe, nutritious, and affordable food supply that enhances human health.

We will help you apply science and technology in areas ranging from nutrition and wellness to food safety and restaurant management. The food and nutrition fields are growing, so you can look forward to numerous employment options with outstanding salaries. Many students also pursue professional training (medical, dental, veterinary) and graduate school.

FSHN students benefit from interacting with and learning from top researchers in their specialties. Our faculty members are conducting breakthrough research in food engineering, food safety and quality, foods and health, nutrient delivery, taste perceptions, and more. They bring this world-renowned expertise to the classroom and offer opportunities for students to participate in their research.

A few reasons to choose Food Science and Human Nutrition…

• Top-quality education
• Degree programs tailored to your interests
• Professors and advisors who take an interest in your future
• World-class researchers
• A community atmosphere within a Big Ten campus
• Exciting internships
• Myriad employment options
• Stimulating careers with high starting salaries
FSHN concentrations

There are four great ways to customize your major in Food Science and Human Nutrition in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (ACES).

- **Dietetics**: Apply knowledge in food and nutrition to improving and maintaining good health. Prepare to take the registration exam to be a registered dietitian.

- **Food Science**: Draw from many disciplines, including biology, engineering, and chemistry, to better understand food processing and, ultimately, to improve food products.

- **Hospitality Management**: Integrate basic principles of business, science, and hospitality with the goal of pursuing a career in restaurant management.

- **Human Nutrition**: Focus on the science of human nutrition and the relationship of diet and lifestyle to human health.

“My degree prepared me for thinking critically, creatively, and independently.”

– FSHN Alumnus

**Did you know?**

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* recently ranked the U of I food science program as one of the top five in the nation.

The *Gourman Report*, a rating of undergraduate programs in American and international universities, consistently ranks U of I’s hospitality management program as one of the top programs in the nation.

In recent results, an impressive 94 percent of U of I dietetics students passed the registered dietitian exam on the first attempt, while the national average is just 80 percent.
Top 10 reasons to choose FSHN

1. Discover the family-like atmosphere in the College of ACES.

2. Conduct research in excellent campus facilities.

3. Work with outstanding faculty, advisors, and staff.

4. Find excellent internship opportunities in Food Science (food industry), Hospitality Management (restaurant industry), and Dietetics and Human Nutrition (health industry).

5. Develop professional and leadership skills.

6. Connect with a club for each concentration.

7. Enjoy U of I’s state-of-the-art recreational facilities.

8. Learn about the other disciplines in our department in FSHN classes.

9. Apply for numerous scholarship opportunities.

10. Utilize our excellent Career Services Office in the College of ACES.

“The Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition is like an extended family. When you look at the challenges of going off to school, there is a connection for you.”

– FSHN Alumnus
Scholarship opportunities

FSHN students have access to nearly $2 million in scholarships in the College of ACES. The Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition awards more than $60,000 a year in scholarships to nearly 100 deserving students. The scholarships range from $250 a semester to $40,000 over the course of four years.

Memorial scholarship honors nutrition educator

Friends and family of Dr. Robin Orr, a tireless advocate for nutrition education, have honored her memory by providing scholarships for students of dietetics in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition.

Dr. Robin Orr’s passion and dedication guided her efforts in directing food assistance and education programs that touched more than one million of Illinois’ most vulnerable citizens. She served on numerous state and national committees to guide the development and administration of food program legislation. She also collaborated with fellow researchers and nutrition advocates on subjects including obesity, cancer, hunger, and food policy reform.

The Robin Orr Food and Nutrition Education Fund was established to embody the passion with which Robin approached food and nutrition education and leave that legacy for future generations in the nutrition and dietetics fields.

The first recipient of the new scholarship was Chloe Bierbower, a student in dietetics. Chloe is pictured at left with Robin’s sister, Jenny Orr Davis, and Robin’s husband, Sam Hill.

In addition, generous donations from alumni and friends to many other scholarships provide valuable financial support for students in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition. Students benefit greatly from this generosity.
Beyond the classroom

Students looking for a field where they can apply science and math interests will find themselves in the right place in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition. We offer students many hands-on experiences in science and management, allowing them to apply what they learn in the classroom.

Internships: The College of ACES Career Services Office and the Department of FSHN organize on-campus interviews for internships with a wide variety of food and nutrition companies and organizations. During their studies, most FSHN students have an opportunity to experience at least one internship.

Study Abroad: Students interested in a study-abroad experience can take advantage of the many opportunities offered through the college and university. Our students have expanded their global perspective by studying in Argentina, Brazil, France, Honduras, Japan, Lithuania, the Netherlands, and Russia, among other locations. For example, FSHN students (pictured left) participated in a study-abroad tour of China with Dr. Hong Chen and Dr. Bill Helferich.

Research Experiences: Many students deepen their learning experience by seeking opportunities to work with FSHN researchers. Many research labs offer part-time positions for pay and/or academic credit.

Student Organizations: Our department offers student clubs specific to each concentration in FSHN. Students are encouraged to join any club of their choice, including the Association of Food Technologists, the Hospitality Management Association, the Human Nutrition Club, the Student Dietetics Association, and the FSHN James Scholars and Undergraduate Researchers Association.

Alumni: FSHN alumni remain engaged with the department after graduation, to the benefit of current students. They serve as mentors, conduct mock interviews, give guest lectures, and welcome interaction with students as professionals in their fields.
Opening the door to rewarding career opportunities

The career options available to students with a degree in Food Science and Human Nutrition are endless. Here are just a few of the great career paths our students follow.

Dietetics
- Clinical dietitian
- Dietitian in a public, private, or government health program
- Dietetic manager in a business or clinical setting
- Sports nutrition dietitian

Food Science
- Quality control technician
- Food chemist or microbiologist
- Food manufacturing supervisor
- Food product research and development coordinator
- Quality assurance technician
- Food industry sales representative
- FDA or USDA food inspector

Hospitality Management (focus on the restaurant and food business)
- Assistant restaurant manager
- Catering/banquet director
- Account executive
- Event planner/sales manager

Human Nutrition (graduates typically pursue additional career preparation)
- Medicine and allied specialties
- Public health
- Dentistry
- Veterinary medicine
- Laboratory research in industry, academia, and government
Imagine yourself in FSHN, and plan a visit today!

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How to set up a visit

The best way to imagine yourself in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at the University of Illinois is to see it firsthand! Contact us today to tour our beautiful campus, check out our department, and meet our faculty and students.

To schedule a visit, contact the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at 217-244-4498, or email fshn-general@illinois.edu.

We recommend planning your visit at least two weeks in advance so we can arrange the appointments you have requested and send you confirmation materials, travel instructions, and parking information.