

AT-FSHN: ADVOCATES FOR TRAINEES IN FOOD SCIENCE AND HUMAN NUTRITION

AT-FSHN, we train the next generation of food and nutrition professionals whose work will transform the world with their innovations, advancements, and professional integrity. Global trends project that the current and future workforce will require technically competent, capable, and credentialed professionals in the food and beverage manufacturing, nutrition, and health care sectors. These employees will need hard and soft skills to excel in industry, government, and academic positions. The graduate student mentoring program in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN) has historically provided a valuable competitive edge for trainees, as alumni and working professionals have been partnered with graduate students to guide their career explorations, provide mentoring, and advocate for their futures.



OPPORTUNITY:

FSHN graduate students earn a world-class education during their time at the University of Illinois, as our graduate programs are continually ranked in the top 10 in the nation. In the competitive fields where our graduates have plans for their careers, formal education is only a part of their learning needs. AT-FSHN fills the gap between academic learning and career training and provides FSHN graduate students with an individual mentor to help with the translation of classroom and laboratory learning into technical and skill-based talents for the workplace. By donating to AT-FSHN, you can expand our graduate students' opportunities and future potential. This unique program offers a platform for sharing of professional pathways, discussing real-world scenarios, and offering job-shadowing or mini-internship experiences. Mentors advocate for their trainees among professional networks and professional societies.



AT-FSHN, we are propelling bright minds into their preferred futures. Graduate students will be: 1) better prepared for an ever-changing workplace; 2) exposed to experienced alumni and professionals in FSHN-related careers; 3) optimally positioned for a variety of professional pathways; and 4) available to begin their careers with advanced training in critical thinking, problem solving, and interpersonal skills.



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RESOURCES REQUIRED:

Connection, communication, and coordination are the key elements of a successful AT-FSHN program. An administrative professional position is necessary to carry out these functions, to maintain the pipeline of alumni and working professionals, and to foster the graduate student-advocate matches and communications.

Support is needed to endow a part-time academic professional position in FSHN to lead the AT-FSHN program. This individual will match graduate students to their advocates, communicate with industry professionals and leaders in government and academia, and convey to our alumni the value and importance of the AT-FSHN program. The academic professional will facilitate ongoing and new relationships between external advocates and graduate trainees to continue the program far into the future.



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