

A Web-Based Guide for Using School Nutrition Programs as Supervised Practice Sites for Dietetics Students

OBJECTIVES

- Assess attitudes of school nutrition (SN) directors and directors of dietetic education programs regarding school nutrition operations as supervised practice sites for dietetics students.
- Examine dietetic students knowledge of and interest in school nutrition as a career.
- Identify existing materials from the National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI) and the School Nutrition Association (SNA) which could be used to orient dietetic students to SN programs.
- Develop a guide for directors showcasing experiences meeting both Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) competencies and the NFSMI competencies, knowledge, and skills for successful practice in school nutrition.

METHOD

- An expert panel of seven SN program directors and dietetics educators convened to discuss use of SN programs as supervised practice sites and to brainstorm learning experiences for students.
- Two focus groups of eight students each were conducted at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo to determine student knowledge of and interest in SN as a career.
- Detailed guidelines for 37 SN learning experiences for students were developed utilizing materials shared by dietetic education program directors, SNA, and NFSMI resources.
- Learning experiences were reviewed by the expert panel.

RESULTS

- The Web-based guide was developed consisting of the learning experiences and video testimonials from university faculty, a SN director, and dietetic students currently involved in school-based supervised practice.
- Each of the 37 learning experiences contains:
 - ACEND and NFSMI competencies
 - Prerequisite knowledge needed
 - Student learning outcomes
 - Assessment strategies
 - Student assignments
 - Evaluation criteria
 - References
 - Length of time for each activity
- The comprehensive resource section will assist dietetic education program directors and SN directors in guiding students to materials from USDA, NFSMI, and SNA to complete SN learning experiences.

SELECTED EXAMPLES OF LEARNING EXPERIENCES

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| ■ Introduction to School Nutrition <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ National School Lunch Program Regulations■ HealthierUS School Challenge | ■ Management <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Financial Management I and II■ Competitive Foods Study |
| ■ Celebrating School Nutrition <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ National School Lunch Week■ Celebrate School Nutrition Employee Week | ■ Nutrition Education <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Classroom Teaching and Curriculum Development■ Nutrition Education for Sports Teams |
| ■ Foodservice Management <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ School Breakfast Menu Development■ Food Safety | ■ Nutrition and Wellness <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Nutrition Promotion■ Medical Nutrition Therapy in Schools |

APPLICATION

- This Web-based guide is designed to facilitate cooperation between SN programs and dietetic education programs in educating future dietetics professionals who may seek careers in school nutrition.
- Suggested learning experiences provide guidance to and enhance communication among SN professionals, dietetics program faculty, and dietetics students to achieve a high quality educational experience.
- School nutrition supervised practice experiences provide exposure for future dietetics professionals to the rewards and challenges of working in Child Nutrition Programs. This is critical to alleviate an impending shortage of qualified SN directors and enhance the delivery of food and nutrition services to America's children.



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