

## Social-Behavioral Survey-based Research Experience

Develop an understanding of survey-based human subjects research in nutrition/dietetics/health/public health from survey development to IRB protocol development/approval to data collection and data analysis. Develop and construct a meaningful project that will provide the intern an opportunity to conduct a small-scale survey research study and add needed information to the current body of literature on a nutrition/dietetics/health/public health topic of their choice. Through this internship the intern will develop advanced research skills and enhance leadership skills through real-world experiences building a foundation in research and leadership that extends into their career.

### Qualifications:

1. Minimum qualifications: Rising juniors and seniors from LSU and partner institutions studying Nutrition, Dietetics, Health Science, Public Health, and similar disciplines with at least a 3.0 GPA are most competitive. Second-year students and those with a minimum 2.8 GPA are also eligible and encouraged to apply. Student must have completed at least one statistics or research methods course at their institution.
2. Preferred qualifications: Prior work with survey data collection, research protocols, Qualtrics Survey Software, and/or SPSS Statistical Package. Good interpersonal, communication, organizational, teamwork and time management skills are essential.
3. Physical qualifications: The intern should be willing to be on site in Knapp Hall on the LSU Campus at a minimum of 32 hours per week (*subject to change*) and must always follow current COVID-19 safety protocols.

**Primary Contact/Advisor:** Erin McKinley, Assistant Professor and Director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics, LSU and the LSU AgCenter, School of Nutrition & Food Sciences, 285 Knapp Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

**Maximum Interns Needed:** 1

### Weeks 1-2: Primary Tasks

- Meet with the Mentors, Co-Coordinator, Interns and Director
- Submit a resume.
- Meet with Mentor once per week, identify and review internship leadership goals and overall goals for the internship.
- Complete or review CITI Human Subjects Research Training for Social/Behavioral Research

- Learn how to use Qualtrics Survey System
- Review main features of SPSS Statistical Package
- Review current state of ongoing COVID-19 study for areas they would like to assist and learn about
- Brainstorm sessions for signature project.
- Observe a virtual conference research presentation recording and live presentation over Zoom.
- Develop and plan signature project.
- Meet with Mentor to review the signature project.

### **Weeks 3 - 9: Primary Tasks**

- Meet with Mentor once per week, review and update leadership goals and overall goals, progress report on special project.
- Begin to implement signature project.
- Work with Mentor on tasks related to current data collection and analysis of ongoing COVID-19 study.
- Develop presentation on signature project.
- Construct a 250-word abstract on signature project for submission to a future professional conference.

### **Week 10: Primary Tasks**

- Review and evaluate leadership goals and overall goals.
- Attend Exit Internship Seminars with presentations on signature projects.
- Present signature project
- Participate in a reflective discussion on internship experience.
- Modify resume based on internship experience.
- Complete an exit interview with the Director and Mentor.

### **Success Measures**

- Interns will meet every week with Mentor for a brief evaluation of the internship experience. During the evaluation, interns will discuss what they have accomplished, identify where they need assistance, share future plans, and reflect upon the overall experience.
- Develop and complete internship leadership goals and overall goals.
- Develop, implement, and complete a signature project.
- Each Mentor will evaluate the intern's performance based on pre-determined criteria.