Public Health Nutrition Graduate Research Assistantship

Job Title:
Public Health Nutrition Graduate Research Assistant

Department:
School of Nutrition and Food Sciences, Louisiana State University AgCenter

A 20-hour/week MS or PhD-level graduate research assistantship that focuses on policy, systems, and environmental approaches to improve food security and dietary behavior among rural populations is available. The position is research-based, with the goal of conducting research relevant to nutrition Extension, e.g., to facilitate evidenced-based approaches to improve dietary quality among low-income and eligible populations for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and/or Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits.

Close collaboration with Extension is a requirement of this position and may include training parish Agents on data collection techniques and coordinated data collection efforts in urban and rural parishes throughout the state under the guidance of the Principal Investigator. The graduate research assistant will be responsible for: implementing food environment measures in store locations throughout the state; facilitating and documenting focus groups/key informant interviews and surveys among key stakeholders critical for the adoption, implementation, and sustainability of evidence-based programs in retail settings; training undergraduate researchers on data entry protocol; and assisting with data analysis and manuscript development/submission in conjunction with the Principal Investigator and Extension collaborators. Alternate job responsibilities may arise based on collaborative projects and programs.

Qualification Requirements:
An ideal candidate would demonstrate educational and research background in a related field to public health nutrition (e.g., public health, biology, sociology, premed, dietetics, etc.). A PhD level student is preferred, although MS students will be considered. Strong interest in conducting community-based field research in the scope of nutrition is required. Admission to a Louisiana State University’s graduate program is a requirement for this position. External applicants should be mindful of approaching graduate school admission deadline for Spring 2020 semester: November 15, 2019.

Date Available:
This position is available for a start date of October 1, 2019 (or later depending on applicant needs). More immediate start dates will be prioritized.

Special Instructions:
A CV and brief cover letter that describes overall compatibility with and interest in the research assistantship position with two professional references listed should be emailed to Dr. Bailey Houghtaling at bhoughtaling@agcenter.lsu.edu. The job announcement will remain open until a suitable candidate has been located. Please direct questions to: Bailey Houghtaling, PhD, RDN, Assistant Professor of Nutrition, 271 Knapp Hall, Louisiana State University AgCenter, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. Phone: (223)578-2598 Email: Bhoughtaling@agcenter.lsu.edu