

# The Certificate in Excellence in School Nutrition Program

The Certificate in Excellence in School Nutrition program includes five undergraduate courses offered through Framingham State University (FSU), designed specifically for directors of school nutrition programs and managers who wish to advance in their school nutrition careers. The Office for Food and Nutrition Programs at ESE has approved this program as **the state-recognized certificate for school nutrition directors**, as outlined in the USDA hiring standards shown in the table below.

## Take courses from the comfort of your home!

Courses in the program utilize a blended learning environment. This includes one to three face-to-face Saturday classes per semester from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at FSU combined with online conferencing classes scheduled on Wednesdays from 4:00 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.



Hiring Standards for New School Nutrition Program Directors			
New directors — those hired on or after July 1, 2015 — are subject to the new education requirements below. Existing directors will be grandfathered in their current positions as well as in the Student Enrollment category where they currently are working. (School Nutrition Program Directors are the individuals responsible for the operation of school nutrition programs for all schools under the local educational agency (LEA).)			
Minimum Requirements for Directors	Student Enrollment 2,499 or less	Student Enrollment 2,500-9,999	Student Enrollment 10,000 or more
<b>Minimum Education Standards</b>  See the final rule for additional preferred educational standards for new directors	Bachelor's degree, or equivalent educational experience, with academic major in specific areas; * <b>OR</b> Bachelor's degree in any academic major, <b>and</b> State-recognized certificate for school nutrition directors; <b>OR</b> Bachelor's degree in any academic major, <b>and</b> at least 1 year year of relevant school nutrition programs experience; <b>OR</b> Associate's degree or equivalent educational experience, with academic major in specific areas, * <b>and</b> at least 1 year of relevant school nutrition programs experience; <b>OR</b> High school diploma (or GED) <b>and</b> at least 3 years of relevant experience in school nutrition programs.  (For an LEA with less than 500 students, the State agency may approve a candidate who meets the educational standards but has less than the required 3 years experience.)	Bachelor's degree, or equivalent educational experience, with academic major in specific areas; * <b>OR</b> Bachelor's degree in any academic major, <b>and</b> State-recognized certificate for school nutrition directors; <b>OR</b> Bachelor's degree in any academic major <b>and</b> at least 2 years of relevant school nutrition programs experience; <b>OR</b> Associate's degree or equivalent educational experience, with academic major in specific areas, * <b>and</b> at least 2 years of relevant school nutrition programs experience.	Bachelor's degree, or equivalent educational experience, with academic major in specific areas; * <b>OR</b> Bachelor's degree in any academic major, <b>and</b> State-recognized certificate for school nutrition directors; <b>OR</b> Bachelor's degree in any academic major <b>and</b> at least 5 years experience in management of school nutrition programs.  * Specific majors/areas of concentration: food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business, or a related field.
<b>Minimum Prior Training Standards</b>	At least 8 hours of food safety training is required either not more than 5 years prior to their starting date or completed within 30 days of the employee's start date.		

Source: [https://healthymeals.fns.usda.gov/hsmrs/ProfStandards/profstandards\\_flyer.pdf](https://healthymeals.fns.usda.gov/hsmrs/ProfStandards/profstandards_flyer.pdf)

## There is no cost to apply!

Please complete the pre-registration form online @ [www.johnstalkerinstitute.org/cert/](http://www.johnstalkerinstitute.org/cert/)



The John C. Stalker Institute  
of Food and Nutrition  
AT FRAMINGHAM STATE UNIVERSITY

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## Program Description:

The program includes five undergraduate courses offered through Framingham State University (FSU), designed specifically for directors of school nutrition programs and managers who wish to advance in their school nutrition careers. Curriculum is based upon competencies identified by national research conducted by the Institute of Child Nutrition, the Massachusetts Statewide Needs Assessment and USDA Professional Standards and is designed to assure that directors and managers have the knowledge and skills necessary to support nutrition and education goals. Projects are designed to provide real-life applications and emphasize the USDA HealthierUS School Challenge and the School Nutrition Association Keys to Excellence.

## Courses:

- NUTR 616 Nutrition and School Nutrition Programs
- NUTR 620 Computer Applications in School Nutrition
- NUTR 617 Foodservice Systems in School Nutrition Programs
- NUTR 618 Management of School Nutrition Programs
- NUTR 619 Professional Development and Communication in School Nutrition

NUTR 616 Nutrition and School Nutrition Programs is approved for 60 hours of SNA Continuing Education Units (CEUs) as a Nutrition Education Core Course.

Each course provides **four credits** and **60 hours of Professional Standards CEUs**. Courses may be used towards the Liberal Studies Program at FSU and possibly degree programs at other universities. The program is appropriate for those with or without a bachelor's degree.

Please refer to the FSU Tuition and Fees web page at <https://www.framingham.edu/admissions-and-aid/student-accounts/tuition-fees/> for an up-to-date schedule of fees.

For questions, contact Karen McGrail at [kmcgrail@framingham.edu](mailto:kmcgrail@framingham.edu)



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