





### Faculty Member Contact Information

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### **1 Funded, 1-2 Unfunded URCA Assistant**

	This position is <b>ONLY</b> open to students who have declared a major in this discipline.	<b>M</b>
	This project deals with social justice issues.	
	This project deals with sustainability (green) issues.	
✓	This project deals with human health and wellness issues.	
✓	This project deals with community outreach.	
	This mentor's project is interdisciplinary in nature.	<b>I</b>

**Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?**

No

**How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?**  
(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

10 hours/week

**Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?**

No

**Location of research/creative activities:**

Campus- Lukas Annex and Vadalabene Center; Athlete Nutrition Center and FRESH Nutrition Lab

### **Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity?**

**Ideally, this will be a continuation of the fall research and creative activity, as this is a continuing project that requires consistent and ongoing data collection and monitoring, since it involves the day to day operations of a real food service**

**operation.**

**This is a unique opportunity for students in nutrition and dietetics to develop skills in food service management. This is both a research and creative project. The research component includes 2 areas: 1) qualitative case study from a**

**student perspective on learning outcomes from experiential learning in leadership and management of the athlete nutrition center. This includes evaluation of food safety standards, allergen awareness, cultural sensitivity, customer**

**service, policy and procedures for staff, and the daily operations of purchasing, receiving,, storage, and serving food,**

**as well as learning budgeting and financial management; 2) initiating a compost collection and disposal system for the athlete nutrition center. This includes both qualitative and quantitative data collection and evaluation. The compost**

**collection will be monitored and overseen by the URCA student and faculty mentor.**

**Composting in the athletic center will involve a promotional and educational campaign, as well as implementing the actual system from collection to**

**disposal through collaboration with community partners, New Earth Farms. The intent is to improve sustainable efforts in food service management in the athlete nutrition center, and produce data that is translated into impact, for example:**

**amount of food waste/scraps collected per pound or gallon translated into cost savings and reduced impact on environment. (The compost bin literally just arrived 10/15/25)**

### **Brief description of student responsibilities?**

In collaboration and supervision with faculty mentor, students in this position will be directly managing and overseeing the athlete nutrition center food service facility. Students will be responsible for inventory management, procurement of food and supplies, planning food events, food preparation, food safety and allergen management, and engagement with the athlete "customers". The student will have both FOH and BOH responsibilities, primarily in the daily operations of the athlete nutrition center as they would learn to do in the professional role of a food service manager, director, and/or dietitian of a larger food service facility. Students will be involved in developing standard operating procedures and providing training/instruction to other student volunteer-staff.

In addition, the student will oversee the implementation of a new compost collection program in the athlete nutrition center. This program has been a year in development in partnership with community agencies to fund and support improving sustainability efforts in the athlete nutrition

center. The student will collect data on quantity of food waste/scraps and compostable items, as well as total volume collected over the semester. We will explore the impact of the compost collection program, as far as reduced food waste, improved sustainability, education and knowledge about food waste among athletes, and attempt to determine environmental impact. There is also qualitative data collection on the student impact, as the person overseeing the compost initiative, and value of the program for the athletes and athletic department.

**URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?**

**Yes**

### **Requirements of Students**

**If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours) please indicate all required days and times:**

**The hours for this position will in conjunction with the athlete nutrition center hours 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM, Monday- Friday weekdays. Schedule will be determined around student class schedule. Some weekend communication may be involved with faculty mentor i**

**If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?**

There may be occasional need for food/supply purchasing that could involve use of personal vehicle.

**Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:**

Preferably, student has completed NUTR 408 or is taking concurrently

Helpful if student has taken NUTR 409, but not required

**Other requirements or notes to applicants:**

This position is a lot of fun, you get to spend time with the athletes and coaches, and they appreciate and enjoy the nutrition center. It's not a traditional type of research experience.