

OVERVIEW

The department offers graduate studies leading to the Master's and Doctoral degrees, a post-baccalaureate Dietetic Internship, as well as undergraduate studies with majors in Human Nutrition and Dietetics, Nutrition and Wellness, and Nutrition Science. The UNCG Center for Research Excellence in Bioactive Food Components is an integral component of the department.



RESEARCH FOCUS

Faculty research includes both basic research and applied/translational nutrition foci. The three signature areas of research in Nutrition are: 1) obesity, energy balance and chronic disease; 2) bioactive food component effects on cell function and prevention of disease processes; and 3) nutrition risks and needs of underserved/limited resource populations.

Faculty research programs are

well-funded by NIH, USDA, foundations, industry, and state agencies. There are many opportunities for undergraduate students to be involved in faculty-mentored research and to work with graduate students.

RESEARCH FACILITIES

Department research facilities include The Dickson/Harris Teeter Cellular and Molecular Nutrition Laboratory and The Cemala Foundation Human Nutrition Research Laboratories. State of the art laboratory equipment including standard laboratory, cell culture, and molecular biology equipment as well as a real-time PCR system, spectrophotometers, a flow cytometer, microtiter plate readers, an imaging system, and light microscopes. The Human Nutrition Research Labs include anthropometric equipment available for field research, exercise testing equipment, dual-energy X-ray absorptiometer (DEXA), and Nutrition Data System for Research software for dietary intake analysis.

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Examples of on-going research include:

- ▶ How food insecurity and acculturation affect dietary behaviors in immigrants
- ▶ How community based nutrition education improves health among low income groups
- ▶ How polyphenols found in grapes and other fruits reduce inflammation and insulin resistance associated with obesity
- ▶ How curcumin, found in the Indian curry spice turmeric, fights colon cancer and obesity
- ▶ How manganese overload causes symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease
- ▶ How nutrients and other bioactive compounds as well as exercise influence bone density and prevent osteoporosis
- ▶ How bioactive compounds and traditional Chinese medicines prevent and treat a variety of metabolic disorders
- ▶ How tomato juice, a food source of lycopene, reduces the side effects of radiation therapy in men with prostate cancer
- ▶ How improving parenting skills, dietary intake and physical activity in families may prevent obesity in preschool children
- ▶ How to prevent hypertension among young African American men

