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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Announces New Dietetic Internship Program

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly has been granted developmental accreditation for its new Dietetic Internship program.

“The program aims to produce competent individuals who will become contributing members to the field of dietetics,” said Program Director Susan S. Swadener, an instructor in the university’s Food Science and Nutrition Department.

The program will start Sept. 13, and the deadline for applications is June 30. Applicants to the program must be graduates of an American Dietetics Association didactic program in dietetics and have a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited school.

The internship program will be housed in the Food Science and Nutrition Department at Cal Poly but will have rotation sites in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. A total of eight interns will be selected for the 2004-2005 class. Five of the interns will be placed in San Luis Obispo County and three will be placed in Santa Barbara County.

The program will help meet the nation’s need for registered dietitians and to prepare graduates to meet the requirements for dietetic registration, Swadener said.

Training for the program will consist of:
· Nutrition therapy – a total of 288 hours (nine weeks) will be spent at a hospital and/or extended care facilities plus one week at a renal care center.
· Food service management – 288 hours (nine weeks) will be completed in a hospital or school district.
· Community nutrition – 320 hours (10 weeks) will be spent in a variety of locations including county health departments, University of California Cooperative Extension, Head Start/Early Head Start programs, senior programs and a homeless shelter.
· Elective – 64 hours (two weeks) will be given to interns to
participate in a dietetic-related field of their interest.
· Professional staff experience – during this 96-hour (three week) portion of the program, interns will serve as the acting dietitian at a selected facility.
· Class and seminar – 120 hours (30 weeks)

For details, contact Swadener at (805) 756-6132 or sswadene@calpoly.edu.

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