

Hospitality Management

Department of Dietetics, Fashion Merchandising and Hospitality, College of Education and Human Services



Program of Study

The WIU Department of Dietetics, Fashion Merchandising and Hospitality offers four undergraduate degree programs: dietetics, apparel and textile merchandising, hospitality management and nutrition and foodservice management. Students completing the hospitality management program earn a Bachelor of Science degree in hospitality management. Graduates are prepared for many different careers, including management positions in lodging, foodservice, event planning and catering.

The vision of the department is for graduates to be innovative, competent and critical-thinking professionals who provide leadership and service within the workplace and in a diverse, ever-changing environment. The mission of the department is to prepare students with the technical, human and conceptual skills for careers in consumer services.

The hospitality management program prepares students for careers in the lodging, foodservice and event planning industries. Students gain knowledge and professional skills in lodging operation systems, foodservice management and event planning and management. The program emphasizes hands-on learning experiences through lab work, field trips, travel studies, study abroad, internship placements, practicum and professional experience.

Career opportunities include lodging managers for large, full-service hotels, foodservice managers in restaurants, hotels, school cafeterias and other establishments that prepare and serve food, as well as management positions in marketing, advertising and retail sales in the hospitality industry.

Faculty

Each faculty member has specialized education and industry or research experience in his or her area of instruction. Faculty hold membership in state and national organizations. They have earned master's and doctoral degrees in their fields of expertise and have additional certifications, as well.

Scholarships

The department offers more than \$10,000 in scholarships every year for eligible students in the major, based on grade point average, participation in extracurricular activities and leadership. Students should contact the academic advisor to find out about scholarship eligibility.

Additional information about scholarships is found on the departmental website at wiu.edu/dfmh, through the University Scholarship Office at (309) 298-2001, or on the Scholarship Office site at wiu.edu/Scholarship.

Student Activities

Students have many choices in their selection of departmental organizations. Any student may be selected to join DFMH Ambassadors, a group of students representing the department at University functions, or Kappa Omicron Nu (KONu) honorary society, which is open to any student with a minimum of 45 overall semester hours and a 3.2 GPA at WIU. A chapter of the Hospitality Administration Association (HAA) is designed to introduce the student members to different career opportunities in the hospitality industry. The Food and Culture Club is a University group organized by the DFMH faculty with the support of other areas on campus to recognize and celebrate cultural customs and food.

Special Opportunities

Students in the hospitality management program complete an internship of 240 work hours at the end of their coursework. The experiences are supervised and assist students in applying theory and skills in a work setting. Internship sites in the past have included AmeriSuites, Applebee's, Best Western, Courtyard Marriott, Hyatt O'Hare, Lone Star Steakhouse, Ruby Tuesday's, Sodexo, Tan-Tar-A Resort (Marriott), Holiday Inn, Joe's Crab Shack, Stoney Creek Inn, Trump Tower, Lettuce Entertain You, Inc., Weaver Ridge, Wyndham Hotels, Jason's Deli and McDonald's Hamburger University.

Students apply their knowledge of food theory in the corporate kitchen, a professional food service kitchen laboratory with an adjacent dining facility. Lunches are served weekly to the WIU and Macomb community. Students are responsible for various roles, including front of the house manager, production manager and production staff for the meal.

Study Abroad programs also enhance the curriculum. Students have visited Australia, Peru, Spain, Ireland and England, earning college credits toward their major or minor.

Minors in hospitality management and event planning management are also available in this area.

Honors College Admission Requirements

To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15 percent of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class. Comparable SAT score is acceptable. Transfer and current WIU students who wish to join the Honors College (including the Quad Cities Honors Program) must have a 3.4 grade point average on a 4.0 scale based on 12 or more semester hours. Honors credit is given for honors coursework completed at other accredited institutions. To find out more, visit wiu.edu/Honors.

After College

Students are prepared to assume a variety of careers in the hospitality industry in both hotels and restaurants, as well as in corporations and country clubs. Graduates may also choose to further their education through business school or graduate school in hospitality management.

For More Information

Additional materials about the hospitality field of study may be found in the Occupational Outlook Handbook found online at bls.gov and on the Council on Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Education (CHRIE) website (chrie.org).

Higher Values in Higher Education

Located in Macomb (population 20,000), with a campus in the Quad Cities (Moline, IL), Western offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 10,000 students in west-central Illinois. Western students have all the advantages of a large public university—strong faculty, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities—in an atmosphere free from distractions. Western offers a broad-based athletics program, sponsoring 19 NCAA Division I intercollegiate varsity sports. Football competes in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision through the Missouri Valley Football Conference; all other varsity sports compete at the Division I level through The Summit League. Western's presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,400 students. The core values that are at the heart of the University are academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth and social responsibility.

Western's GradTrac and Cost Guarantee programs ensure that students can achieve their degrees within four years while paying a fixed rate for tuition, fees and room and board.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes discrimination based on an individual's membership in the following classes: sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status, and any other classes protected by state or federal law.



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