



Zata Vickers is a professor in the department of Food Science and Nutrition at the University of Minnesota. She coordinates the undergraduate food science program and advises both undergraduate and graduate food science students. She has teaching responsibilities for the introduction to food science course, a class taken by undergraduate students in both nutrition and food science. She also teaches the department course on sensory evaluation of food, the sensory evaluation portions of the Wines and Vines course in Horticulture, and has conducted sensory evaluation short courses for food industries and for other Universities.

Her current research interests focus on food acceptability, and more specifically sensory factors that influence the acceptability of foods. For example her research group has examined the relationship of tasting ability to liking of whole wheat vs. refined wheat breads, how liking of foods can change with repeated consumption, and whether people make trade offs between the sensory quality of food and a food's perceived healthiness.