

# Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) is the accrediting agency for education programs preparing students for careers as registered dietitian nutritionists or nutrition and dietetics technicians, registered.

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## News And Updates

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### ACEND Programs Enrollments and Trends

ACEND makes available program enrollment data aggregated for all its accredited programs on an annual basis. This information is self-reported by all ACEND-accredited programs via the annual report. The results of program enrollments for FY 2023 have been posted on the ACEND website under About ACEND - [ACEND Data here](#). Updated tables include the Program Enrollment Trends from 2000-2023 and Diversity Enrollment Trends from 2000-2023.

#### Key Points

- There were 8.5% fewer enrolled students and interns reported in 2023 compared to 2022. Enrollment in all ACEND-accredited programs was 14,754 in 2023 compared to 16,128 in 2022.
- Dietetic Technician program (DT), Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD), Coordinated Program (CP), and Dietetic Internship (DI) enrollments declined in 2023 compared to 2022 (10.1%, 7.6%, 8.2%, 23.7%, respectively).
- Compared to 2022, enrollment in Future Education Model Graduate Programs (GP) in 2023 was 34.9% higher. This is a 431 increase in students compared to a decline of 1,088 students enrolled in DIs and CPs combined.
- As a result of the 8.5% decline in total enrollment, enrollment in races and ethnic groups declined for the following: White (not Hispanic), Black or African American, Asian, and Hispanic/Latino of any race (12.8%, 12.7%, 12.6%, 10%) and increased for the following: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, American Indian and Alaska Native, Two or More Races, and Not Able to Report Ethnic Origin ( 17.6%, 86.7%, 18.1%, 35.1%, respectively).

## D&D Digital Matching Data Available until June 15th

With the Spring 2024 being the final match through the D&D Digital Matching service, ACEND wanted to remind program directors that the ACEND and D&D Digital contract ends on **June 15, 2024**. This means that after June 15, 2024, data normally obtained from D&D Digital will no longer be available including matching data and match/no match lists.

ACEND encourages program directors to pull any data needed from D&D Digital platform prior to **June 15, 2024** as it will be unavailable after that date. If you need any data related to computer matching after that date, you can reach out directly to D&D Digital at [info@dnddigital.com](mailto:info@dnddigital.com); however, there will be a cost to programs associated with obtaining that data.

## ACEND Introduces New Doctoral Standards for the RDN Practitioner

Dietetics is facing a shortage of RDNs with terminal degrees. With only 2.4% of RDNs holding a terminal degree, there is an urgent need for doctoral-prepared RDNs to fill needed positions in academia and meet the increased demand in industry, government, and other sectors (Davis et al., J Am Diet Assoc 2023). This concern, combined with the request from current Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition (DCN) programs to the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) to ensure quality of doctoral programs, led to the ACEND Board's decision to develop the Advanced Practice Doctorate (APD) Standards for the RDN.

The APD is distinct from the entry-level master's degree as well as the research PhD. It incorporates advanced didactic coursework, an advanced practice residency, and applied research to achieve core competencies. Students entering an APD program must already have the RDN credential and must have earned a bachelor's degree with a minimum of four years of full-time post-credentialing work experience or a master's degree with a minimum of two years of full-time post-credentialing work experience. The new ACEND APD Accreditation Standards will be released June 1, 2024 for voluntary adoption by academic institutions.



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