
ACEND Virtual Town Hall Meeting
November 10, 2020, 11:00 a.m. Central Time

Hosts: Rayane AbuSabha, PhD, RD
ACEND Executive Director
Presenters: Long Wang, PhD, MD, RDN, FAND
DPD Representative, ACEND Board
Cheryl Bacon, MS, RD, LDN, FAND
Vice-Chair, ACEND Board



Webinar Recording Link

<https://vimeo.com/736187994>

Introduction/Announcements: Rayane AbuSabha welcomed all in attendance and introduced Town Hall host and ACEND Board member, Dr. Long Wang.

Long indicated the objectives for the virtual Town Hall:

- Provide ACEND update and announcements
- Provide an overview of ACEND
- Discuss options for programs related to the change in credentialing exam eligibility
- Answer questions

Long began with updates from ACEND. Part of ACEND's recognition by USDE requires that we review and revise as needed our accreditation standards at least every 5 years. ACEND has spent the past year on this process. Input was received from stakeholders about the current 2017 Standards through an online survey in Fall 2019. Results of the 2020 CDR practice audit that looked at current entry-level practice, and the new USDE regulations were reviewed. Discussions were held with ACEND's legal counsel and the legal counsel for the Academy's Consumer Protection and Licensure Subcommittee (CPLS). The Draft 2022 Standards are posted on the ACEND website along with a recording of the changes within the standards and a list of Frequently Asked Questions with ACEND responses. Long encouraged participants to provide feedback via the survey and to share it with program stakeholders and anyone who might be interested in providing feedback on the 2022 Standards. The survey is posted on the ACEND website at <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accreditation-standards-fees-and-policies/proposed-2022-standards> and will be open until Wednesday November 18, 2020. Long then reviewed key features of the Draft 2022 Standards.

Long provided information for programs that are currently accredited under the 2017 Standards. All current program types (CP, DI, DPD, DT, FDE) are to continue under the 2022 Standards. However, under the Proposed 2022 Standards: DPD and Foreign Dietitian Education (FDE) programs remain at the bachelor's level; DT programs remain at the Associate level; Existing CP programs are required to move to the graduate level on or before December 31, 2023; and existing DI programs are required to either only admit students with a graduate degree or combine with a graduate degree on or before December 31, 2023. In addition, all programs must tell students they need a master's degree to be eligible to take the CDR registration exam for dietitians after January 1, 2024. An information sheet is available on the CDR website on student options after 2024.

Long explained recent decisions made by the ACEND Board. During its August 2020 meeting, the ACEND Board lifted the moratorium on Didactic Programs in Dietetics. During its October 2020 meeting, the ACEND Board waived the substantive change fee for programs adding a graduate degree. This is to assist

programs in meeting the CDR graduate degree requirement. From now until December 31, 2023 the Board will not charge a fee to any program moving to the graduate level. Also, during the October meeting, the ACEND Board made a decision to no longer use the pass rate policy as a primary factor in making accreditation decisions; this is in line with many other accreditors. Passing the RDN or NDTR exam is a very important outcome for graduates of ACEND accredited programs; however, programs will no longer be reviewed solely based on their graduates' pass rate level. There are other indicators of program quality that the board will take into consideration to ensure a more holistic review of the quality of ACEND accredited programs.

Long then provided an update on the Future Education Model (FEM) demonstration programs. He reminded Town Hall participants that the FEM Rationale Document and results of data collected from demonstration programs can be found on the ACEND website at <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accreditation-standards-fees-and-policies/future-education-model>

Long stated that ACEND is happy to announce a new accreditation system with a program director and program reviewer portal. On October 27, 2020, all program directors received an email about this portal with directions on how to use it and complete their annual report. The annual report is due December 18, 2020. Also, on October 29th, program reviewers received instructions about accessing the portal to complete their program reviewer profiles and upload a new CV. This system was developed to improve the ACEND stakeholder experience with accreditation tasks as well as increase efficiency of ACEND's processes. It should be easy to use and is based on Microsoft dynamics. The portal can be accessed from the ACEND website under the program directors' section.

Long shared that ACEND has a new webpage dedicated to diversity, equity and inclusion and discussed DEI noteworthy practices. <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/about-acend/diversity-equity-and-inclusion>

New from ACEND is a Leadership certificate training. This certificate program will provide ACEND stakeholders with training to build leadership skills and improve communication and management skills. It includes eight modules that were chosen from the Academy's Leadership Training Courses. These modules are discounted for ACEND stakeholders. To access these modules, go to the ACEND training and resources section and select "ACEND Certificate Program and Accreditation Webinars". <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/training-and-volunteer-opportunities/training-and-resources> Also on this page are several modules developed specifically for program directors, including competency-based education (CBE) and assessment.

Long closed with a reminder of ACEND communications that include the monthly ACEND Update, quarterly Virtual Town Hall and availability of ACEND staff. He then introduced Cheryl Bacon, Vice Chair of the ACEND Board. Cheryl is the program director of a free-standing Dietetic Internship at UChicago Medicine Ingalls Memorial, in Harvey, Illinois. Cheryl will be discussing Free Standing Dietetic Internship options to meet CDR's increased eligibility requirements for 2024.

Cheryl began by providing an explanation of ACEND's relationship to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. ACEND is legally part of the Academy but is required by the US Department of Education to function administratively autonomously from the Academy. ACEND's mission is to ensure the quality of nutrition and dietetics education and it serves as the accrediting agency for The Academy. The Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) is legally part of the Academy but is required by its accrediting agency, the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, to function administratively autonomously from the Academy. CDR's mission is to administer rigorous, valid and reliable

credentialing processes to protect the public and meet the needs of nutrition and dietetics practitioners, employers and consumers. It serves as the credentialing agency for the Academy.

Cheryl stated that, while CDR and ACEND are autonomous, which means the boards function and make decisions independently from each other, ACEND decisions cannot be made in a vacuum. As Long indicated, new USDE regulations require ACEND to adjust its standards to be in line with changes in credentialing and licensure requirements. With the upcoming CDR credentialing requirement in 2024 for students to have a graduate degree to sit for the RDN exam, the ACEND standards had to change in response. ACEND's legal counsel made it clear that ACEND cannot have programs with a mission to prepare RDNs and then have graduates finish the ACEND program but not be able to take the exam right away because of the "hurdle" of another degree. As Long mentioned, the missions of the CP and DI programs are to produce graduates ready to sit for the RDN exam. Having graduates finish and then wait two to three years to complete a master's degree before they can go out into the workforce is not fair to the student, but also shows USDE that our programs are not meeting their mission and their promises to their students.

Cheryl said that it is never the intention of ACEND to eliminate the free-standing Dietetic Internships as they are key to the success of students and valuable to ACEND and the education community. A DI will have the choice to accept students with a graduate degree or to collaborate with a university or college to offer a graduate degree. This will be a major program change to be submitted to ACEND. Programs have to come into compliance with this requirement by December 31, 2023. From ACEND's perspective programs do not have to add the graduate degree to the DI, or to accept students with a graduate degree, until December 31, 2023. To assist programs in making this change, as Long mentioned the ACEND Board made the decision to waive the program change fee for ACEND programs that decide to move to the graduate level. Cheryl then reviewed the recommended changes to the DI Standards that were in the slide presentation.

Cheryl then presented and discussed four options specific to the free-standing dietetic internships. She ended by reminding the Town Hall participants that ACEND staff are available to assist and answer questions.

Rayane thanked Cheryl and Long for their presentations and opened the Town Hall to questions and comments in the chat.

General Comments

- From Rayane AbuSabha to everyone:
This town hall is being recorded. It will be posted on the ACEND website along with the slides.
- I'm unable to see participants other than myself - is there something wrong with my connection? I've always been able to see everyone on the call - thanks.
- Mine too. I think it is by design.

From Rayane AbuSabha to everyone:

This is an event version of WebEx. In this version, attendees cannot see the list of other attendees. This format ensures a professional platform of WebEx for recording.

Dietetic Internships

- Is there a list of free-standing DIs so that I can reach out to similar program directors to learn more from each other?

Rayane: The list of Dietetic Internships may be accessed off the ACEND website.

- Let's say a DI will require a graduate degree but they want to offer students 3 options - MS, MPH and MBA (from 3 different universities) - would this best be done via option 2?

Cheryl: Yes, it would best fit under option 2.

- Are these the only allowed options [Those presented in the slides] or are others possible?

Rayane: These were the possible options that we can think of but if you think of any others we encourage you to share them with ACEND.

- We are a stand-alone DI program and going with the option 4 (FEM). Combining the experiential learning with Master in Biomedical Sciences (MBS). Could you please clarify if the MBS program will also have to pay the annual fee? Will ACEND be auditing this program as well? If yes to what extent?

Rayane: Each FEM partner is expected to pay the annual fee. Please see the fees for partnerships effective June 2021 posted [here](#). Also note the increase site visit fees because ACEND will have to visit both institutions. It is up to the partners to decide the financial arrangements who will pay which fees or the amount of each fee.

- Will the DI hours be permanently decreased now?
- Curious - what is the rationale of decreasing minimum hours from 1200 to 1000 hours?

From Rayane AbuSabha to everyone:

The draft 2022 Standards have the hours decreased to 1000 hours. If the Standards pass, this means this will be the case.

Cheryl and Rayane: The Board made the decision considering the 1000 hours of supervised practice required in many states' licensure laws. USDE is asking accreditors and universities that we don't hold students longer than necessary in the program and send them into the workforce as soon as possible.

- Is anyone putting their programs on hold in order to plan for this? I am also a CNM in a hospital experiencing another COVID surge.
- No plan to put anything on hold at this point. We are also located in a hospital, undergoing a surge.

From Rayane AbuSabha to everyone:

We have seen only one or two programs that have done so. But not typically.

- Can a new program in Candidacy status add a track for the required MS before the ordinarily required two years of graduated classes for such a substantive change?

ACEND Town Hall – November 2020

Rayane: This would be an exception that the Board will have to grant. Send your request to the ACEND mailbox (acend@eatright.org).

- What is going to keep programs from offering a 16 or 20 month combined graduate degree programs and lowering entry-level standards to be competitive and marketable?

Rayane: ACEND's mission is to ensure the quality of nutrition and dietetics education programs. ACEND's peer review process will be conducted to ensure the programs are delivering quality graduate education.

Internship Directors' Survey Results

- I went to the site recommended to see the responses from Internship directors' survey that Long referenced, and I do not see it. Can you please tell me which tab it's under? Thank you

From Long Wang to everyone:

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accreditation-standards-fees-and-policies/future-education-model>

DI Match

- How many of the unmatched students were not ranked by any internship?
- Do we have dropout rates also?

Rayane: In spring 2020, after 2nd round match, there were 746 DPD students who were not matched to a dietetic internship.

Consortium

- In a consortium, can one university have two DI programs underneath it using the same graduate program curriculum?
- That's an interesting question. I'm curious about the fees if an academic institution partnered with multiple freestanding DIs.

From Rayane AbuSabha to everyone:

We will need to look into it. Please contact your ACEND manager. But a consortium can be composed of more than two independent institutions.

Graduate Degree Requirement

- Won't requiring a graduate degree hold students back from practicing due to increased cost and time? Wouldn't USDE be concerned about this keeping qualified individuals from practicing/being in the workforce despite no evidence to support a graduate requirement?

Cheryl: The graduate degree is a CDR decision and not an ACEND decision. The updated USDE regulations require ACEND to adjust its standards to be in line with changes in credentialing and licensure requirements. With the upcoming CDR credentialing requirement in 2024 for students to have a graduate degree to sit for the RDN exam, the ACEND standards had to change in response.

Long: The increased requirement to take the exam was made by CDR, then ACEND has to make necessary adjustments to comply with USDE. ACEND does not have another option to keep students at the undergraduate level.

Rayane: The changes in the credentialing requirement trump all other concerns. This is because a student who enters a dietetics program with the intent to become a RDN, and then completes the program but still is not able to sit for the RDN exam creates a grave concern. This indicates that the student spent all the money and time in a program that did not meet the promise it made to the student.

- So, the graduate degree requirement for all supervised practice programs is being done (without outcomes research-based evidence to support the need for a graduate degree for entry-level practice) just because CDR has mandated it, despite CDR having no outcomes research-based data to support their mandate and the negative effect of this requirement on diversity for our profession is more than likely to be significant? This is really a problem based on the realities we're seeing as program directors, educators, and preceptors as well as compliance to our Code of Ethics that requires that we all practice based on credible evidence, not opinions or personal beliefs.

Rayane: The irrefutable evidence is that without ACEND moving to the graduate degree our students will not be able to sit for the RDN exam. ACEND is the accrediting agency for programs that lead to the RDN and NDTR credential and its mission is to protect the students in its accredited program. As such, ACEND reviews and updates its standards and takes into consideration, current trends and new developments in nutrition and dietetics education and practice and other events that may impact dietetics education.

Coordinated Programs

- Can an existing BS/CP move to a 4+1 program with giving verification for NDTR at the end of the BS/CP and verification statements for the MS/CP at the end of the master's degree?

Rayane: An individual can take the NDTR exam after they receive a DPD or CP verification statement. Under the 2022 Standards, the CP must move to a graduate level. When the CP is offered at the graduate level, the individual would not receive the verification statement until they complete the graduate degree.

- Can a CP Program be a B.S. of Nutrition with the consortium of a Master's in Public Health? The students would graduate from the university that provided the B.S. and the MPH degree.

From Rayane AbuSabha to everyone:

Yes, that seems like one pathway to join with a graduate degree. If the two degrees are part of the same university but within different departments, then a consortium is not needed. Ideally, some of the dietetics competencies and coursework should be completed during the master's degree.

FEM Programs

- Is there info from employers of these competency-based experiences on the new dietetic professionals' performance?

Long: No data yet from employers. Only one program has graduated one cohort and that was earlier this year.

- When will cohort 6 applications be due?

Rayane: The Board is discussing the potential for another cohort and we will have an answer in 2021. If approved, there will be a December 2, 2021 deadline but we are looking into having two deadlines in 2021.

Draft 2022 Standards

- Why will business and private entities no longer be allowed to have accredited supervised practice programs?

From Rayane AbuSabha to everyone:

This is only for new entities. They can be accredited through the consortium or partnership.

- Thanks, Rayane - I understand that this is for new programs, but I'm wondering why ACEND was counseled by its legal team specifically to no longer accredit businesses and private entities.

Rayane: ACEND will continue to accredit new programs that are sponsored by a consortium or FEM partnership between business entities and publicly or privately held corporations and an educational institution that offers the graduate degree.

Pass Rate

- Given that the pass rate will not be a main benchmark - What happens if a program falls below 80% Pass Rate and is that objective being removed?

Cheryl: Previously, when the Board used the pass rate as a bright-line indicator, it would automatically result in a reduced accreditation term if the program was below the benchmark (80% for RDN programs and 70% for NDTR programs). The Board decided to keep the pass rate benchmark, but we are taking a more holistic approach to what impacts the pass rate and to review all the indicators of quality of a program. Pass rate remains a key indicator of quality and will still be considered but it is not an end all, be all prompting immediate action based on a number.

- I looked for a policy regarding pass rate policy numbered as 6.7 in the ACEND P&P Manual as referred to in the November ACEND Updates and did not find it - is this policy located somewhere else?

Rayane: Following USDE's new regulations, the ACEND Board determined it will take a more holistic approach when reviewing its accredited programs to focus more broadly on a program's overall compliance with the ACEND Accreditation Standards, and consider other indicators of student and program success, in addition to the pass rate benchmark. Thus, at its October 12, 2020 meeting, the ACEND Board voted to remove policy 6.7 Program Pass Rate, from the Policy and Procedure manual to allow for a more holistic program review. Please refer to the November 2020 ACEND Update email. Information is also posted on the [ACEND website here](#).

The next Town Hall is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 11 am Central Time.

Rayane, Long and Cheryl thanked everyone for their discussion on the Town Hall. Rayane indicated that if all chat questions were not answered during session, they would be answered in the Town Hall minutes. The call ended at 12:00 pm CT.

Welcome to the ACEND Virtual Town Hall





Rayane AbuSabha,
PhD, RD
ACEND Executive
Director



Long Wang,
PhD, MD, RDN, FAND
ACEND Board

Objectives



- Provide ACEND update and announcements
- Provide an overview of ACEND
- Discuss options for programs related to the change in credentialing exam eligibility
- Answer questions

ACEND Updates and Announcements



Opportunity to Provide Feedback on the Draft 2022 Standards



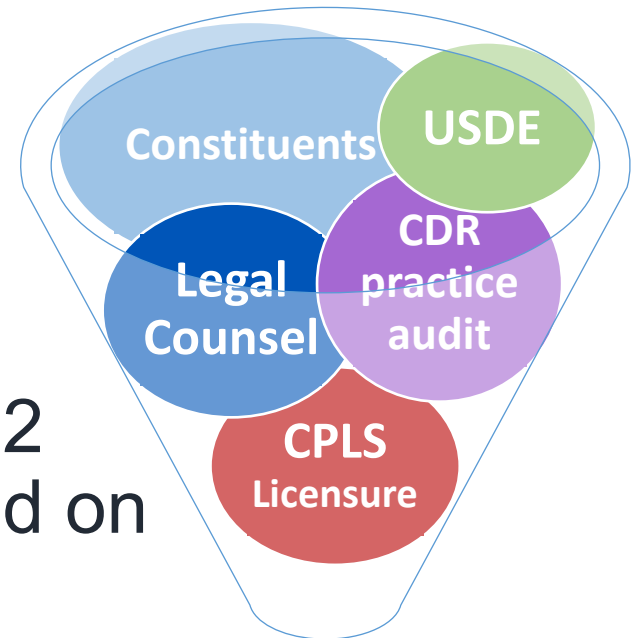
Revision Process:

- Required by USDE at least every 5 years
- Input from various sources

Public Comments:

- Survey to evaluate the Draft 2022 Accreditation Standards is posted on the ACEND website:

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/Standards>



Key Features of the Draft 2022 Standards



- Added requirement of a **graduate degree** for CP and DI prior to 2024 (USDE & legal counsel)
 - Able to accept students with graduate degrees
- Strengthened **diversity, equity & inclusion** requirements
- Strengthened **distance education** requirements (USDE)
- Decreased CP/DI/FDE **SP hours** from 1200 to 1000 hours
- Removed **tracks** (similar to FEM)
- Removed **concentration** for CP and DI (public comments)
- Removed **business/public/private entities** from DI Standards (USDE & legal counsel)
 - Grandfathered accredited entities

Information for ACEND Programs



- Existing CP, DI, DPD, DT, and FDE programs continue under the 2017 and 2022 Standards (In 2022: IDE incorporated into CP)

- Under the Proposed 2022 Standards:

- DPD/FDE programs remain at the bachelor's level
- DT programs remain at the Associate level

- On or before December 31, 2023:

- Existing CP programs are required to move to the graduate level
- Existing DI programs are required to either only admit students with a graduate degree or combine with a graduate degree

- All programs must tell students they need a master's degree to be eligible to take the CDR registration exam for dietitians after Jan 1, 2024

New ACEND Board Decisions



- Lifted the moratorium on Didactic Programs in Dietetics (August 2020)
- Waived the substantive change fee for programs adding a graduate degree (October 2020)
- Removed the current Pass rate Policy from the P&P Manual to allow for a more holistic approach to reviewing programs

Demonstration Program Cohort Updates

Future Education Model Updates X

In Cohorts 1, 2 & 3	30 Future Graduate 3 Future Bachelor's 25 programs in process
Cohort 4	Applications were reviewed and 28 are in process
Cohort 5	Applications due December 2, 2020 Posted on the ACEND website: https://www.eatrightpro.org/futuremodel

Rationale for Future Education Model Standards



FEM Rationale document and results of data collected from demonstration programs found on ACEND's Website

Eatrightpro.org/acend/futuremodel

Rationale for Future Education Model Standards

Eatrightpro.org/acend/futuremodel



■ Rationale Document on FEM Webpage

Rationale for Future Education Preparation of Nutrition and Dietetics Practitioners

ACEND® has collected data in multiple projects with stakeholders and is testing a new model for education of nutrition and dietetics practitioners.

- [Read more](#)

Virtual Town Hall

ACEND® hosts a virtual town hall quarterly to answer your questions about ACEND®'s work. All stakeholders are invited to participate. Learn more about [Virtual Town Hall Meetings](#).

FNCE® ACEND® Forum Presentation

■ Town Hall recording on the results of 2018-2019 program director surveys

Program Outcome Data of Demonstration Programs Under the Future Education Model

ACEND® is collecting and analyzing program outcome data from demonstration programs before making a decision on the implementation of the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* for all programs.

April 2020

Results of Program Director Surveys

- [Survey Presentation Recording](#)
- [Recording CPEU Certificate](#)

NEW! ACEND Accreditation System

- Program director portal
- Program Reviewer portal
- Easy to use

The screenshot shows the ACEND Accreditation Portal. At the top right, it says "JoanSmith | Logout". The main header is "Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics" with the tagline "the accrediting agency for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics" and the "eat right." logo. A green navigation bar contains "Home", "ACEND", "Training and Resources", and "Professional Development". The main content area is titled "Accreditation Portal" and is divided into two columns. The left column is for "Acend University Didactic Program in Dietetics" and includes "Accreditation Information" (Program Status: Accredited, Next Site Visit Year: 2021, Current Term Ends On: Interim/Closure Report 3 On: 10/2/2020) and "Program Details" (Program ID: 615103, Program Director: Joan Smith, Credentials: MS, RD, LDN, Email: Jsmith232@ACENDU.edu, Phone: (888) 333-3333). The right column has "Annual Report" (Start your Annual Report, Due Date: 4/30/2020) and "Current Workflows" (Reaccreditation, Click Here to Fill Potential Site Visit Dates, Due Date: 9/2/2020).

Program Directors

ACEND offers multiple resources for dietetic program directors including a program director portal which includes an accreditation forum with information and forms for meeting ACEND accreditation requirements.

- ACEND Portal
- Dietetic Internship Match for Directors
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Resources
- ISPP for Directors
- Program Director FAQs and Resources

An orange arrow points from the right towards the "ACEND Portal" link.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



New ACEND Webpage on the ACEND Website

www.eatrightPRO.org/ACENDforDEI

- **Submit DEI noteworthy practices** – on recruitment, retention, in-class/rotation activities
- Reviewed by ACEND's DEI task force

A screenshot of a webpage titled "Program Directors". The page features a photograph of five diverse professionals in business attire standing in an office setting. To the right of the photo is a list of resources for dietetic program directors. An orange arrow points from the right towards the "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Resources" item in the list.

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- Program Director FAQs and Resources

ACEND Certificate Program and Accreditation Webinars

ACEND Online Modules for Program Directors



■ ACEND Leadership and Professional Communication Skills Certificate

- Training to build leadership skills and improve communication and management skills
- 8 modules from Academy's Leadership Training Courses
- Discounted for ACEND stakeholders
- 16 CPEUs

Training and Resources

To assist programs applying for accreditation or existing program maintaining accreditation, ACEND® offers an array of services and products.

More on this Topic

Program Directors Workshops

The Program Director workshops are designed to help dietetic education program directors learn the latest accreditation standards and specific details on how to prepare for self-study reports, program assessment reports, and site visits.

ACEND Certificate Program and Accreditation Webinars

ACEND® professional development including workshops, webinars and journal club information. Some trainings offer CPE

Training and Volunteer Opportunities

ACEND provides opportunities for both accreditation and dietetics professionals to expand their knowledge with professional development resources.

- ▶ Preceptors and Mentors
- ▶ Program Reviewers
- ▶ Training and Resources



Developing the Program Student Learning Assessment Plan (2017 Accreditation Standards)

This webinar is designed to provide information on how to develop the program's Student Learning Assessment Plan.

Developing the Program Evaluation Plan (2017 Accreditation Standards)

This webinar is designed to provide information on formulating the Program Evaluation Plan and providing data to inform program strengths, areas for improvement, and strategies for the Continuous Program Improvement Plan.

ACEND Certificate Program and Accreditation Webinars

ACEND Online Modules for Program Directors



- **Program Director Webinar on the 2017 Standards**
 - Covers 2017 Standards and ACEND review process
 - 5.5 CPEUs
- **Competency Based Education and Assessment Training**
 - Presented by Leanne Worsfold
 - 5 CPEUs

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Developing the Program Student Learning Assessment Plan (2017 Accreditation Standards)

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Developing the Program Evaluation Plan (2017 Accreditation Standards)

This webinar is designed to provide information on formulating the Program Evaluation Plan and providing data to inform program strengths, areas for improvements and strategies for the Continuous Program Improvement Plan.

ACEND® Competency Based Education and Assessment Training

Learn the basics of Competency-Based Education and Assessment used by nutrition and dietetics programs under the Future Education Model Accreditation Standards. This webinar is presented by ACEND® consultant and competency assessment expert Leanne Worsfold. Ideas presented may be applied to programs under the 2017 Accreditation Standards.

Cost: \$60.00 (Member and Nonmember)

- [Purchase the webinar](#)

ACEND® Accreditation Foundation Modules: 2017 Accreditation Standards

Learn the basics of ACEND® accreditation, how to participate in the accreditation review process and the requirements to obtain and maintain accreditation under the 2017 accreditation standards. Please note that these modules are included in the registration fee for the in-person ACEND® [Program Director Workshops](#).

Cost: \$85.00 (Member) | \$115.00 (Nonmember)

- [Purchase the modules](#)

ACEND® Program Director Webinar on the 2017 Standards

This webinar series presents an overview of the Accreditation Council on Education in Nutrition and Dietetics, the 2017 ACEND® Accreditation Standards and the Accreditation review process. 5.5 CPEU is awarded for viewing the webinars and completing a short survey.

Cost: \$110.00 (Member) | \$140.00 (Nonmember)

- [Purchase the webinar series](#)

Communication from ACEND



■ ACEND Update

- Periodic update from ACEND posted on the website

■ Virtual Town Hall

- Next town hall: Tuesday January 19, 2021, 11:00 am – 12:00 noon Central Time.
- Directions for joining on the ACEND website

■ ACEND Staff

- 800-877-1600 x5400
- acend@eatright.org



Cheryl Bacon
MS, RD, LDN, FAND

Vice Chair,
ACEND Board

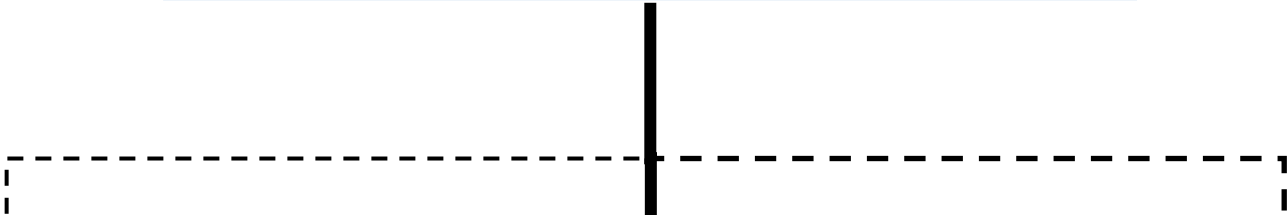
ACEND Overview



Academy Relationships



Academy of Nutrition
and Dietetics



ACEND

Accrediting Agency for
Nutrition and Dietetics
Education Programs

HOD

CFP

CDR

Credentialing Agency
for Nutrition and
Dietetics Practitioners



- **Administrative autonomy**
- **Sets national standards for education accreditation**
- **Evaluates education programs against standards**

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics



- Administrative autonomy
- Sets national criteria for registration and credentialing
- Develops/administers credentialing examinations
- Monitors ongoing continuing education

CDR

Mission: Administer rigorous, valid and reliable credentialing processes

Organizational Structure



CDR



***January 1, 2024
requirement
Graduate degree
for RDN exam***



ACEND



***2022 Standards,
include graduate
degree
Before December 31,
2023***

Proposed Draft 2022 Standards



By December 31, 2023, Dietetic Internships must:

- Combine with a graduate degree, or
- Only accept students with graduate degrees

Proposed 2022 DI Standards, RE 1.4

1.4 The internship must be a post baccalaureate ~~degree~~ program that:

- ~~Admits only individuals who have a verification statement from a **Nutrition and Dietetics** Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) or Foreign Dietitian Education program (FDE)-and have earned at least a **bachelor's-master's** degree granted by a U.S. regionally accredited college/university or foreign equivalent-, or~~
- ~~Admits individuals with a DPD or FDE verification statement and a bachelor's degree if it requires a graduate degree be completed as part of the program.~~
- ~~The program **m**ust award a verification statement **upon completing**to individuals who **complete** program requirements.~~
- ~~Existing internship programs must meet the requirements listed above on or before December 31, 2023.~~



ACEND has no plans to leave any
program behind

Accredited Free-Standing Dietetic Internships

Total Number



Total Dietetic Internship Programs	262
DIs housed in a college or university	182
Free-standing DIs: DIs not housed in a college or university	80

Dietetic Internship Match Data

2019/2020 Match



	April 2019		April 2020	
	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)
Total Participants	4,201	100%	3,848	100%
Students Matched	2,565	61%	2,485	65%
Students Preselected	199	5%	228	6%
Students Not Matched	1,437	34%	1,135	29%

Many DPD graduates remain without a dietetic internship

Options Specific to Free Standing Dietetic Internships

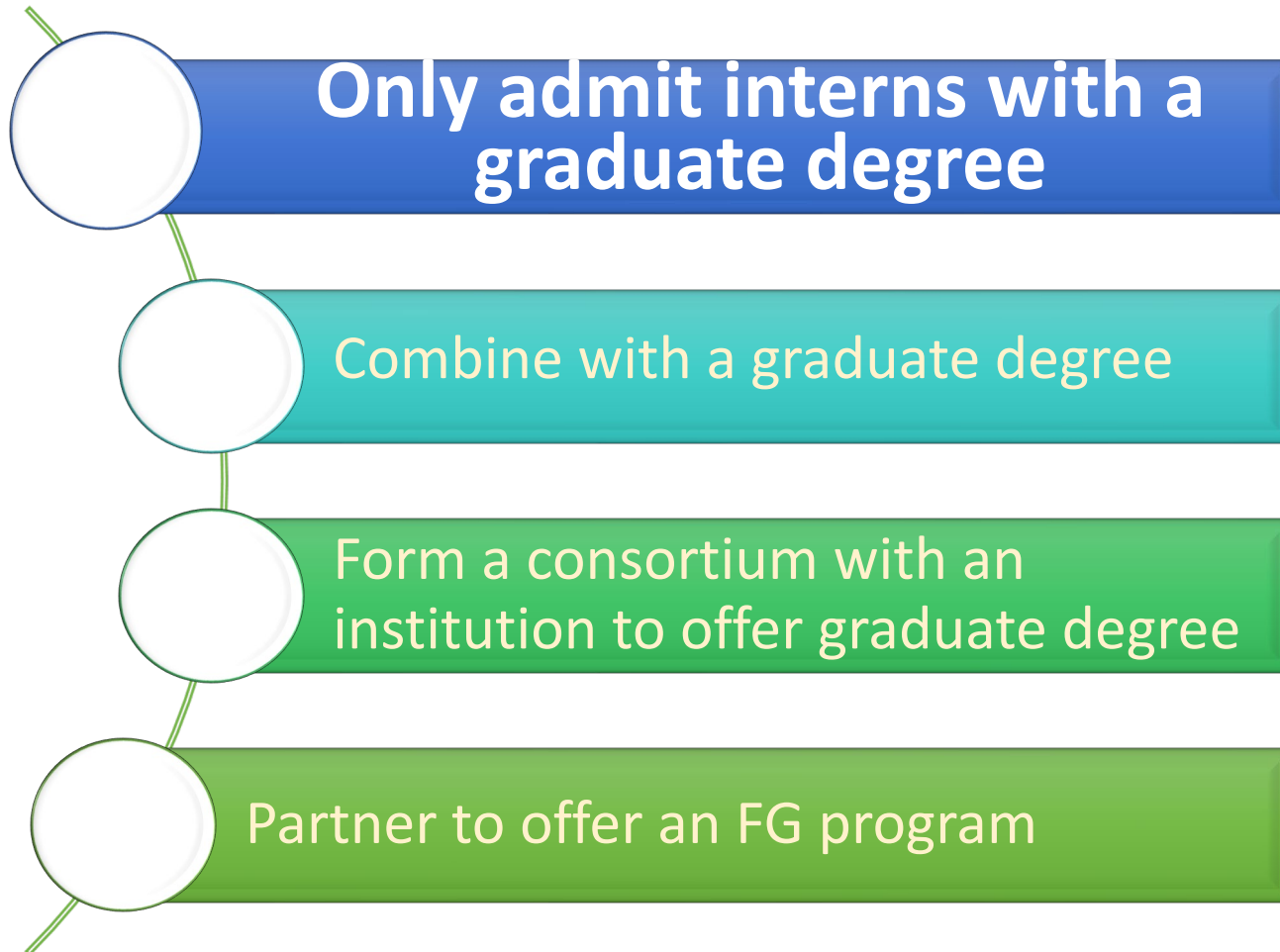


Possible Options for Dietetic Internships



- Only admit interns with graduate degree
- Submit change to combine with a graduate degree
- Form a consortium with another institution to offer the graduate degree (2017/2022 Standards)
- Partner to offer an FG program (FEM Standards)

Option 1: Only Admit Interns who Completed their Graduate Degree



Option 1: Only Admit Interns who Completed their Graduate Degree



- Dietetic internship stays the same but requires a graduate degree for admission into the program





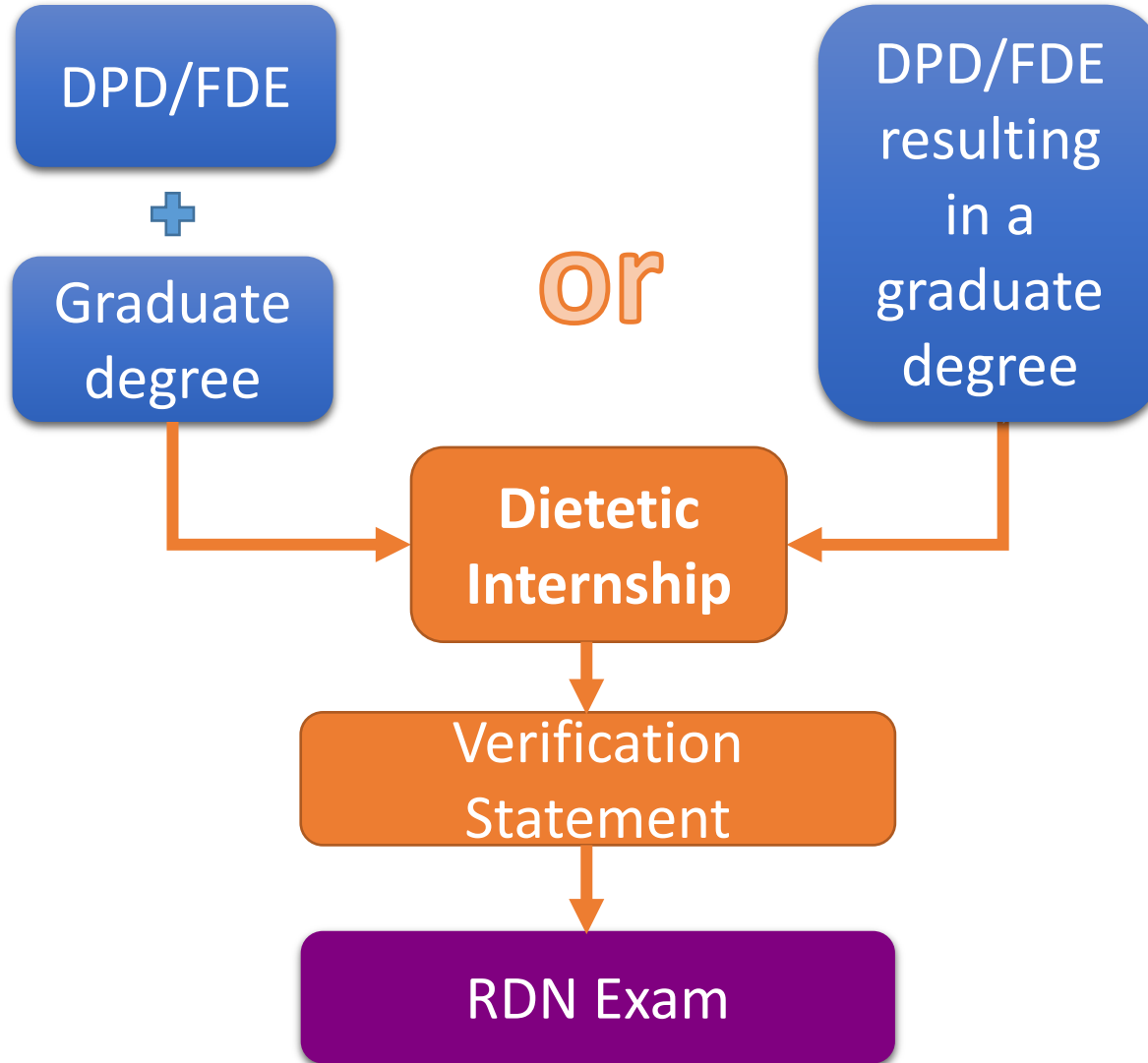
My Resume

- **Graduate Degree**

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Option 1: Only Admit Interns who Completed their Graduate Degree

Possible Routes



Option 1: Only Admit Interns who Completed their Graduate Degree

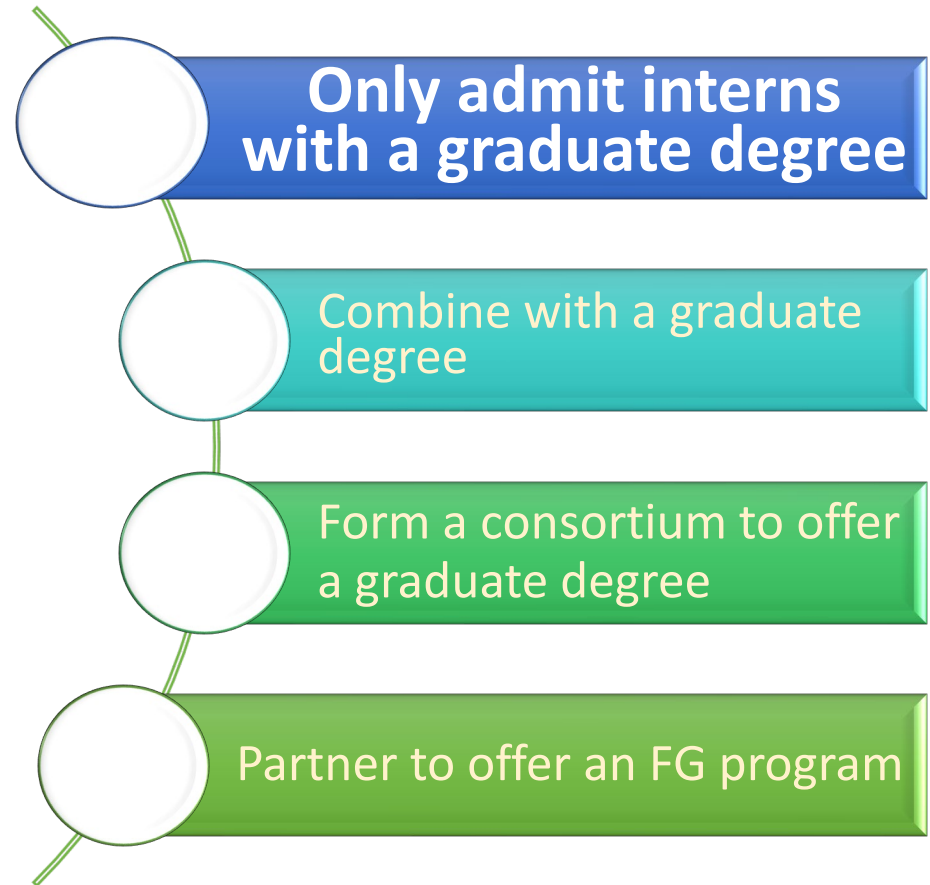


■ Opportunities:

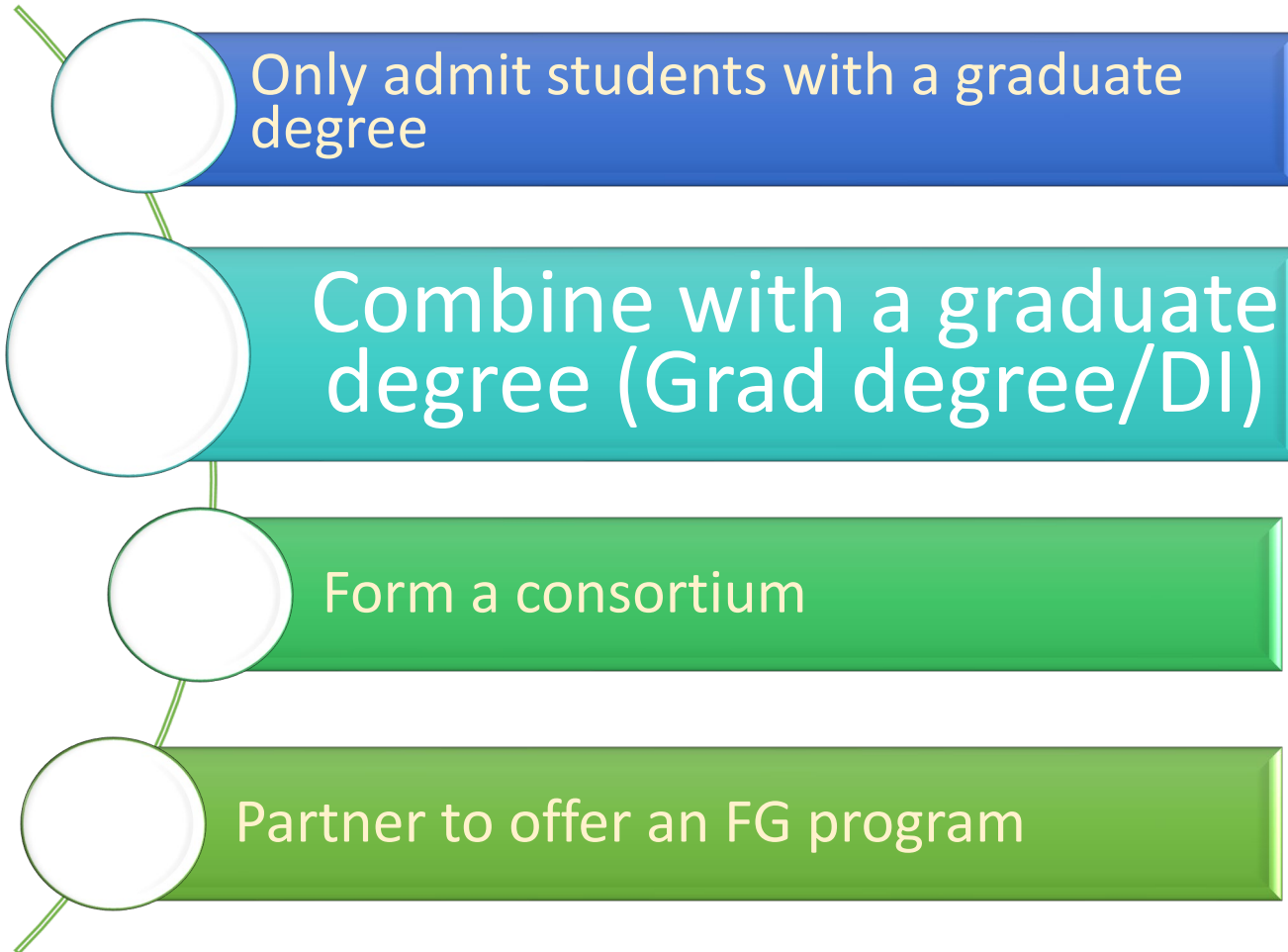
- Less work for the program
- Graduates can take RDN exam immediately

■ Possible Challenges:

- Smaller pool of applicants



Option 2: Submit Change to Combine with a Graduate Degree (Become a graduate degree/DI)



Option 2: Submit Change to Combine with a Graduate Degree (Become a graduate degree/DI)

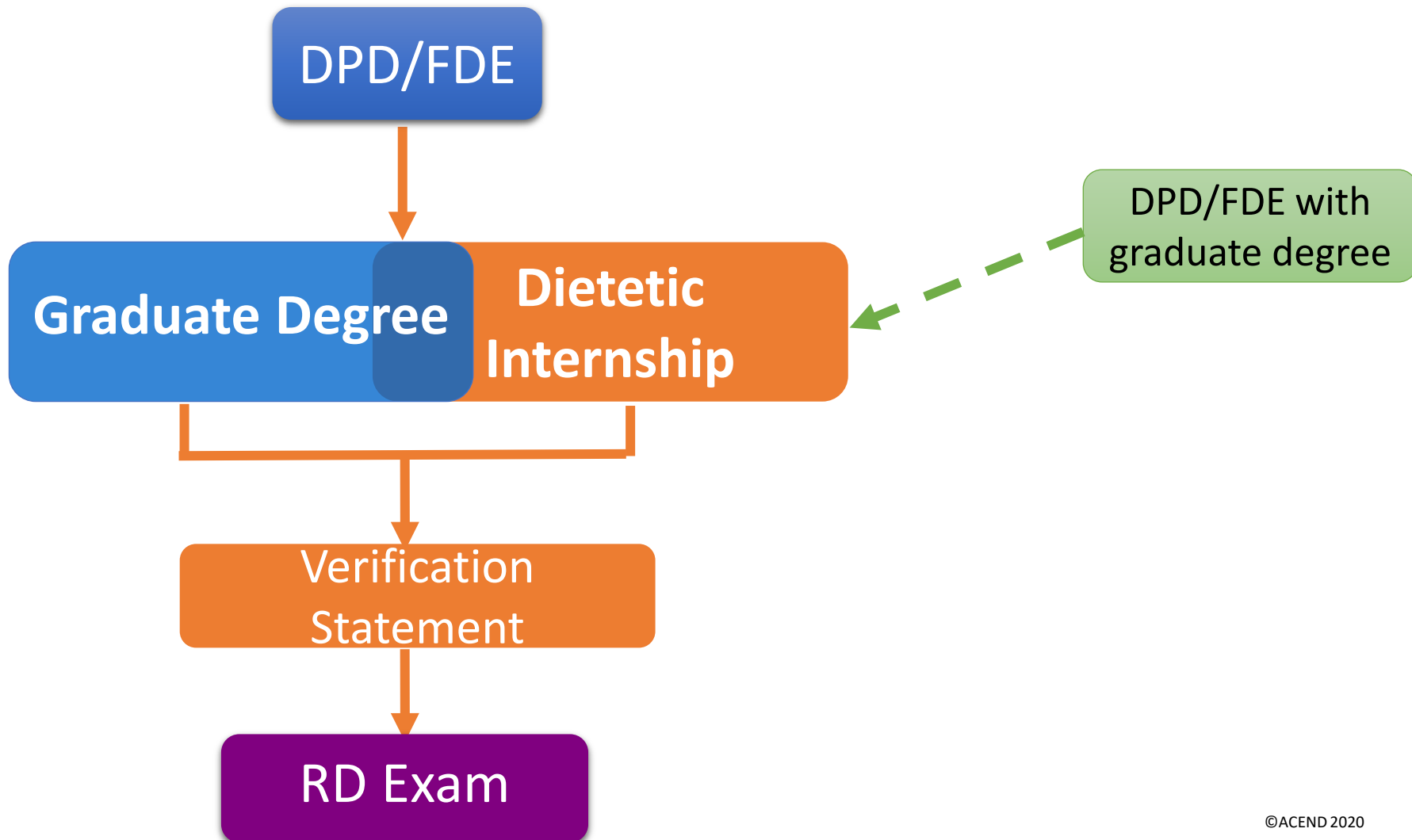


- Dietetic internship combines with a graduate degree (MS, MA, MPH, MBA, PhD, DCN, etc.)
- Verification statement provided only after interns complete the graduate degree



Option 2: Submit Change to Combine with a Graduate Degree (Become a graduate degree/DI)

Possible Routes



Option 2: Submit Change to Combine with a Graduate Degree (Become a graduate degree/DI)



■ Opportunities:

- Larger pool of program applicants
- Simpler application, if program chooses to transition to FEM Accreditation Standards



Option 2: Submit Change to Combine with a Graduate Degree (Become a graduate degree/DI)



■ Possible Challenges:

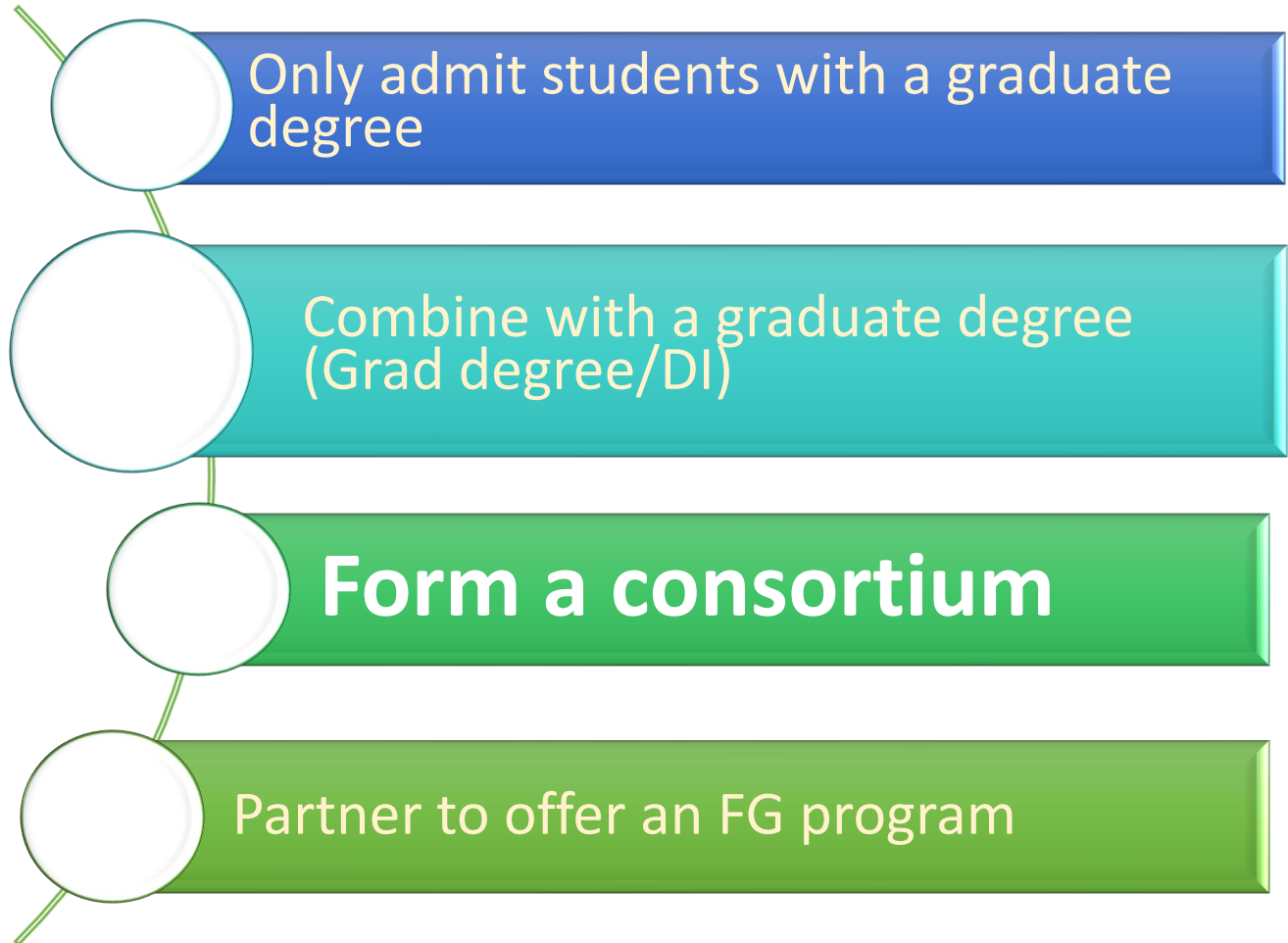
- Initial increase in workload to plan program & submit major program change to ACEND (Fee waived)
- Articulation agreement, MOU may need to be established
- Possibility of having to share decision making with regards to portions of the DI curriculum



Option 3: Form a Consortium with an Educational Institution to Offer a Graduate Degree Program



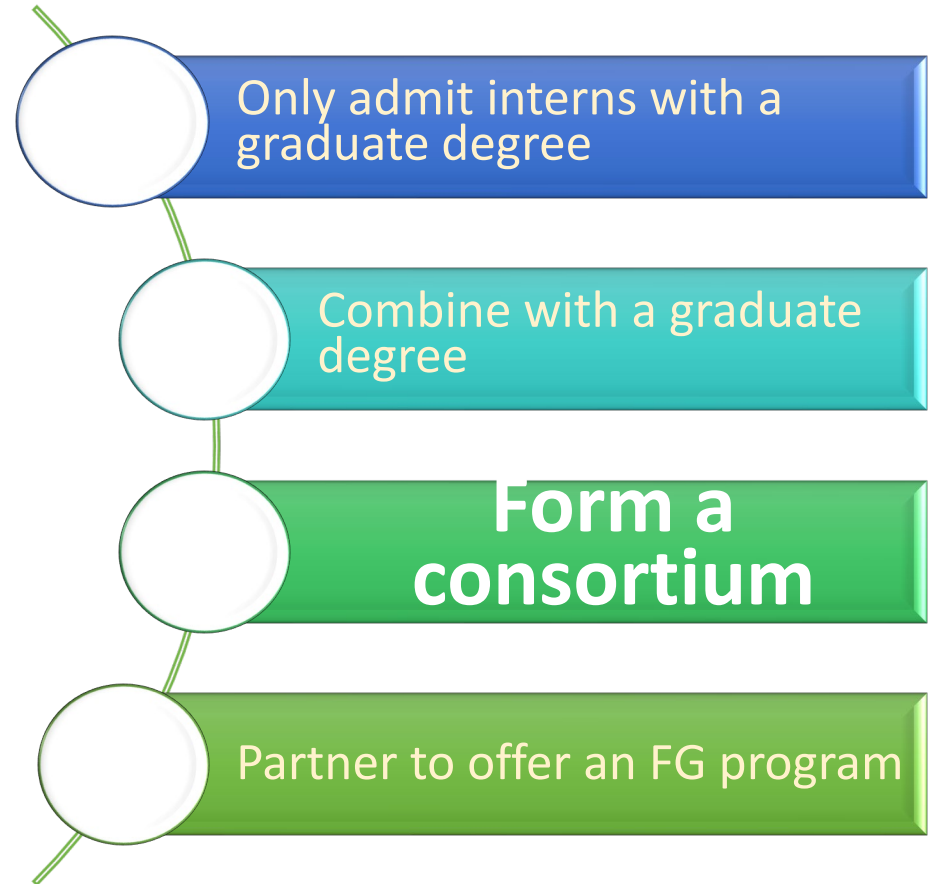
Under the
2017/2022
Standards



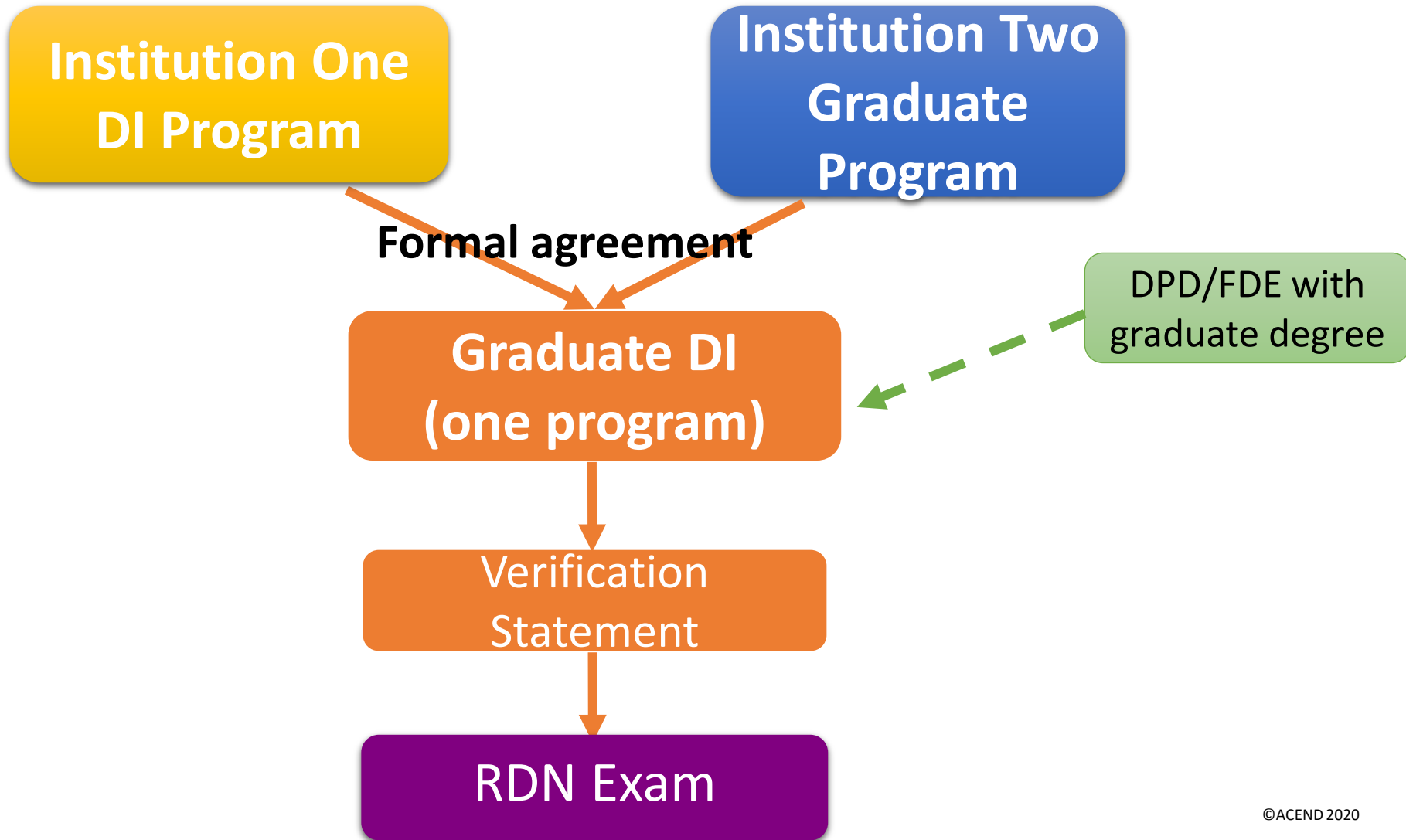
Option 3: Form a Consortium with an Educational Institution to Offer a Graduate Degree Program



- DI enters into a consortium agreement with a university/college to offer a single program under the *2017 (or 2022) Accreditation Standards*
- **Provides recognition to both institutions**
- Verification statement provided after students complete the program



Option 3: Form a Consortium with an Educational Institution to Offer a Graduate Degree Program

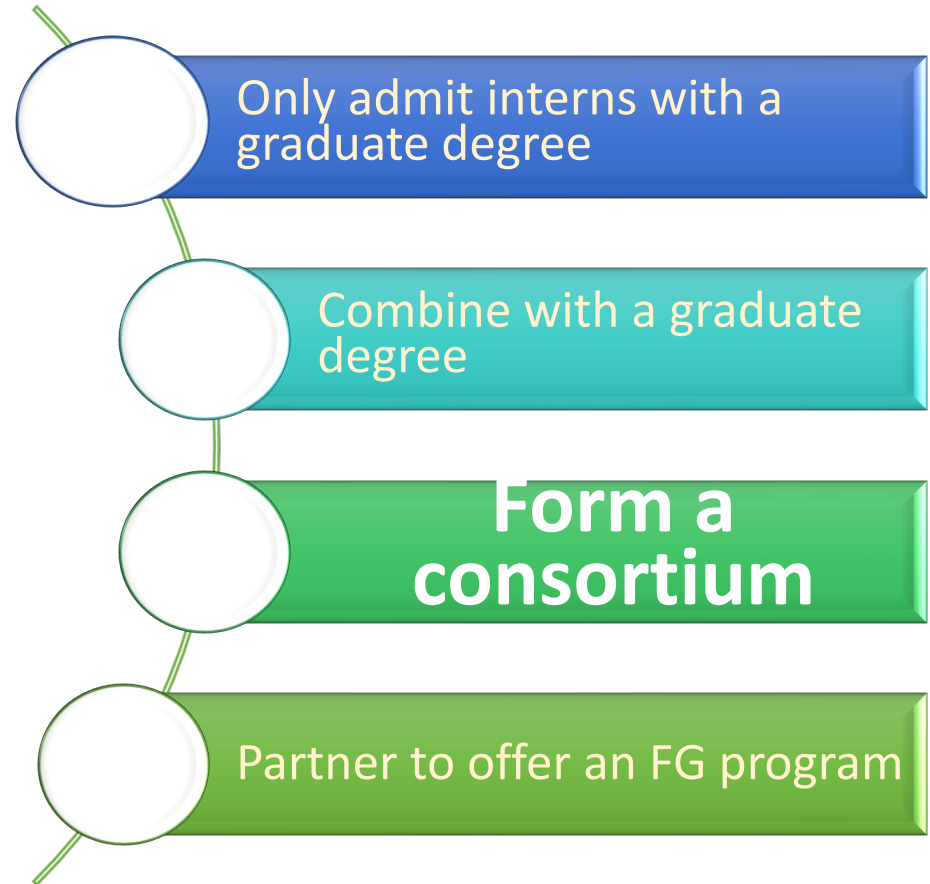


Option 3: Form a Consortium with an Educational Institution to Offer a Graduate Degree Program



■ Opportunities:

- Larger pool of program applicants (DPD/FDE students)
- Simpler application, if program chooses to transition to FEM Accreditation Standards
- Provides recognition to both institutions
- Both programs listed on ACEND website

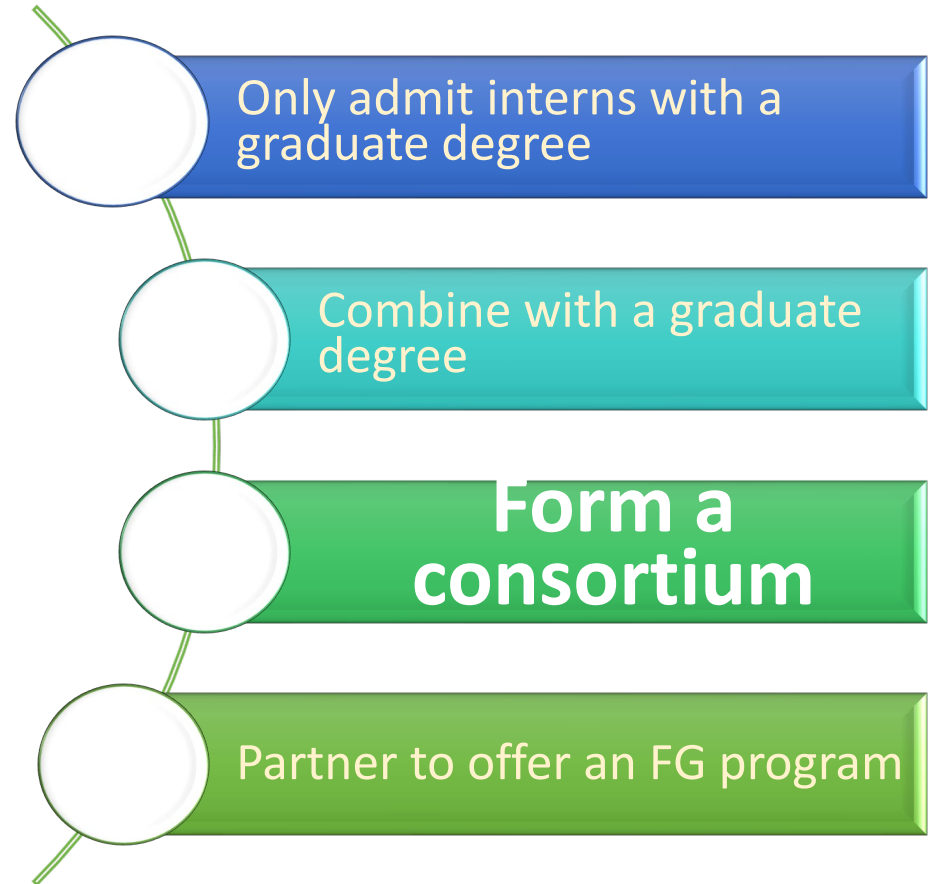


Option 3: Form a Consortium with an Educational Institution to Offer a Graduate Degree Program



■ Possible Challenges:

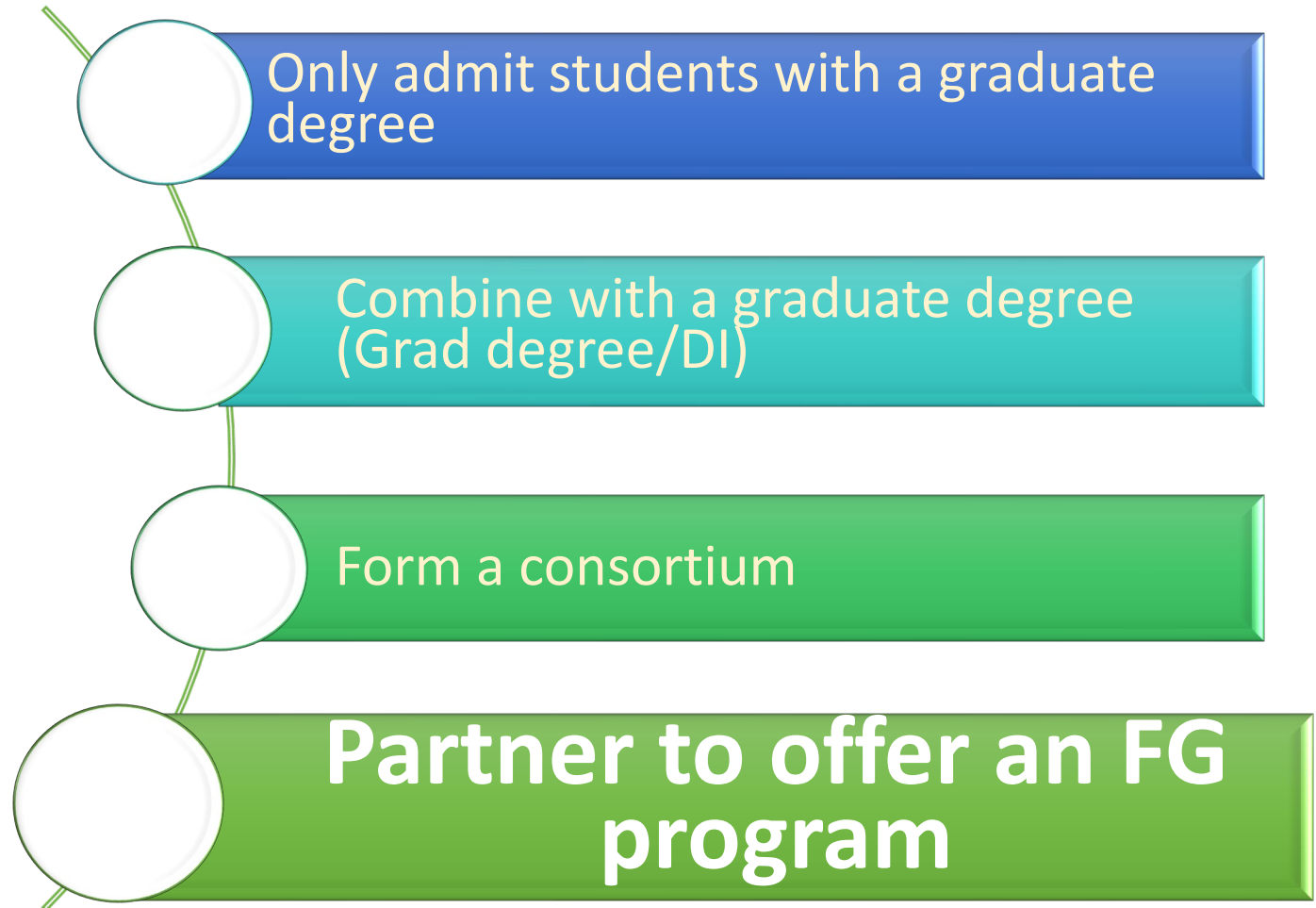
- Initial significant increase in workload to plan program
- Formal agreement must be established
- Coordinator must be assigned at each institution (one may be the program director)
- Program decisions shared
- Both institutions pay ACEND fees



Option 4: Partner to Offer a Future Graduate Program under the Future Education Model Standards



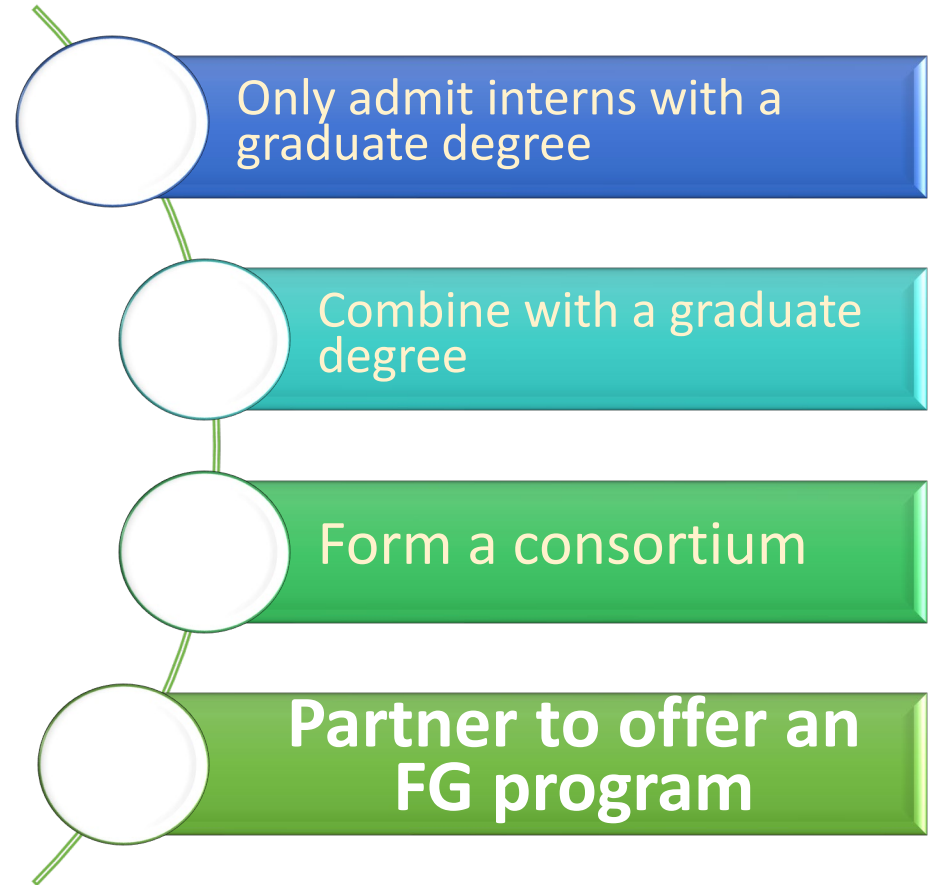
Under the
FEM
Standards



Option 4: Partner to Offer an FG Program

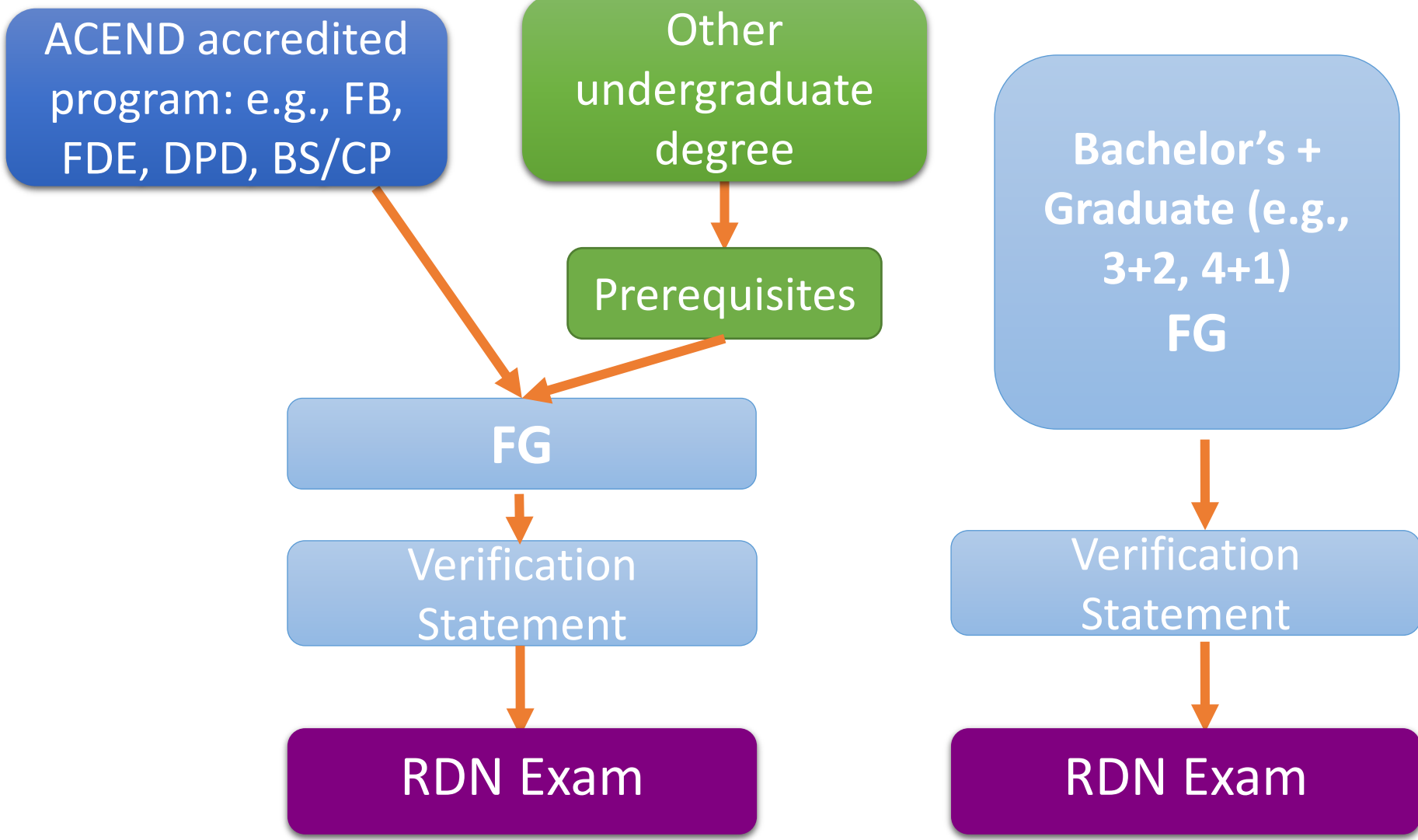


- DI partners with a university/college to offer an FG program under the *Future Education Model (FEM) Accreditation Standards*
- Verification statement provided after students complete the FG program



Option 4: Partner to Offer an FG Program

Possible Routes X

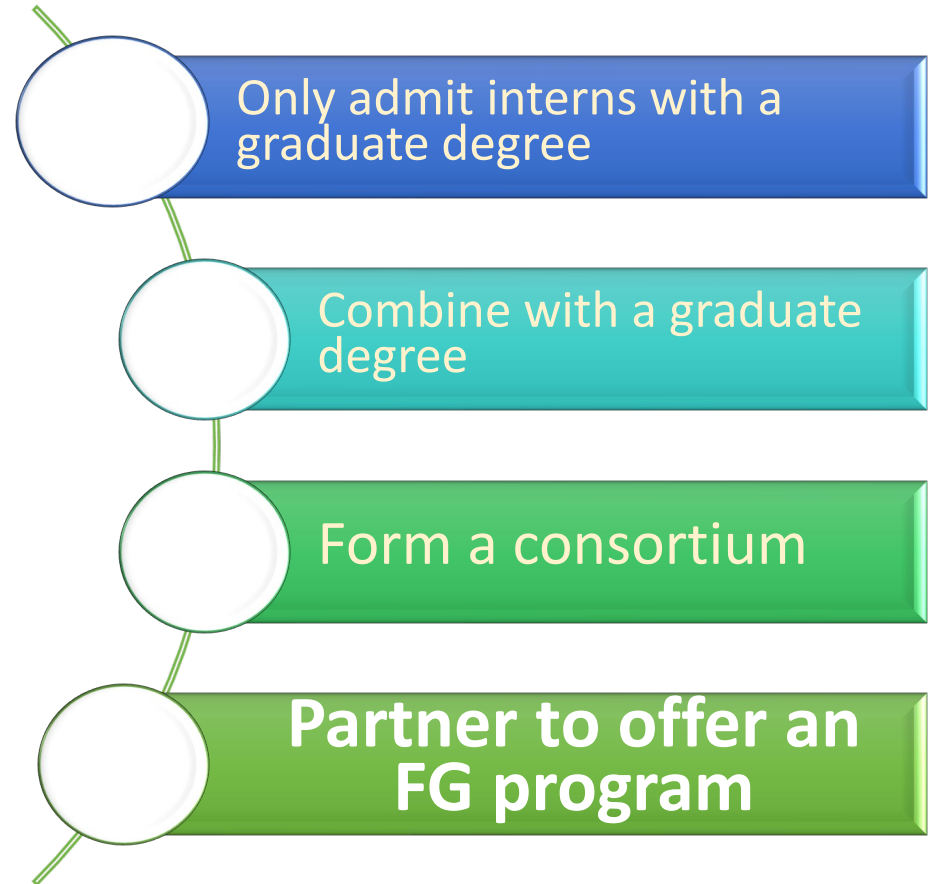


Option 4: Partner to Offer an FG Program



■ Opportunities:

- Graduate eligible to take the RDN exam upon graduation
- Wider net to recruit students: DPD, FB, post-baccalaureate, etc.
- Provides recognition to both institutions
- All FEM demonstration program benefits



Option 4: Partner to Offer an FG Program



■ Possible Challenges:

- Initial increase in workload to plan program & submit application
- Formal agreement with the college/university must be established
- Coordinator at each institution
- Increased demand for communication between partners
- Curriculum decisions are shared by the partners
- Both institutions pay ACEND fees



Option 4: Partner to Offer an FG Program

Partnership Considerations



■ Partnership Agreement

- Program may be housed at the college/university or at the institution where the free-standing DI is housed
- Financial agreement must be delineated part of the MOU between the college and the facility

- Guidelines for Partnership:

www.eatrightpro.org/futuremodel

FEM Demonstration Project Reorganization Application Process



■ Multi-phase process

1. Initial application

- Compliance with Standards 1, 2, 6

Standard 1. Program Characteristics and Resources

Standard 2. Program Mission, Goals and Objectives

Standard 6. Faculty and Preceptors

2. Training

3. Final application

- Reorganization report or self-study report and site visit – includes curriculum

Cohort 5 Application Process

Application



- Application, Guidance Document and information webinar available at: www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel
- Cohort 5 Demonstration Program Application due: **December 2, 2020 by 11:00 am Central Time**
- Board decision March/April 2021
- Latest program start date Fall 2026

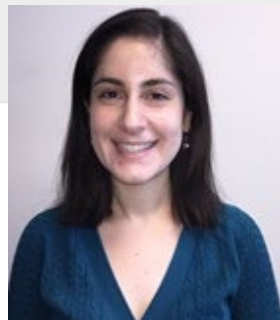
ACEND staff are always available to assist you



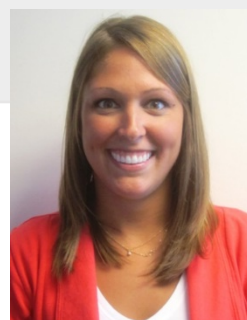
Rayane AbuSabha



Mary Ann Taccona



Amy Anichini



Lauren Bozich



Elise Cowie



Debbie Donegan



Jackie Johnson



Laurie Kruzich



Jamie Pak



Stephanie Parry



Jodi Wright

■ Contact your ACEND manager or ACEND

- 800-877-1600 x5400
- acend@eatright.org