

## **FELLOW OF THE ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS (FAND) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**

The Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (FAND) recognizes Academy members who have distinguished themselves among their colleagues, as well as in their communities, by their service to the dietetics profession and by optimizing the nation's health through food and nutrition. From a personal perspective, being a Fellow signifies not only "tenure" in the dietetics profession, but also living the Academy's values of:

- **Customer Focus** - Meet the needs and exceed the expectations of all customers
- **Integrity** - Act ethically, with accountability, for life-long learning and commitment to excellence
- **Innovation** - Embrace change with creativity and strategic thinking
- **Social Responsibility** - Make decisions with consideration for inclusivity as well as environmental, economic, and social implications

Fellows are why the public trusts and chooses Academy members as food, nutrition, and health experts. They provide outreach in their communities, within their work settings, and have a greater commitment to continuing professional development, leadership, writing, speaking, policy and advocacy, and/or research.

### **Q: What is the purpose of the FAND program?**

A: To recognize Academy members who have made significant and sustained contributions to the field of nutrition and dietetics, establishing them as role models.

### **Q: Who developed the FAND Program?**

A: The Academy's Board of Directors (BOD) discussed a potential Fellow program, similar to those offered by other professional organizations, for many years. Based on the Council on Future Practice's recommendation in November 2012, then Academy President Ethan Bergman asked the Member Value Committee, working in conjunction with the Honors Committee, to investigate a potential Academy program to recognize individual members based on outstanding achievements, leadership, and overall contributions to the profession of dietetics.

The committees, whose work was informed by an ad hoc group of advisors, approved the program concept and recommended that the new recognition be called the Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (FAND). The Finance and Audit Committee reviewed and approved the financial aspects of this proposal in June 2013, and the BOD approved the FAND proposal at their July 2013 meeting, with the condition that all current FADAs could bypass the application process, but still pay the \$200 FAND fee.

**Q: What is the difference between the FADA and the FAND?**

A: The Fellow of the American Dietetic Association (FADA) is a credential that members successfully applied for through the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). CDR suspended the FADA program in 2002. The FAND is not a credential; it is a recognition program through the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics designed to recognize Academy members and dietetics professionals who exhibit exceptional characteristics within and outside of the Academy.

**Q: Will the FAND recognition replace the FADA credential?**

A: No. The FAND recognition should be considered completely different from the FADA credential. The application process is tailored to Academy members, as opposed to the credentialing focus of the CDR FADA.

**Q: I am an FADA. Can I use both the FADA and the FAND in my title line?**

A: Yes. If you are an FADA and choose to become an FAND, you can use both the FADA *and* the FAND in your title line, or just one of them. It is up to you. If you chose to display both credentials, your FADA will be listed before your FAND.

**Q: Is the FAND recognition similar to other health care Fellow programs?**

A: Yes. The FAND program criteria and application were benchmarked against other Fellow programs and were developed to be similar to those offered by other professional organizations like the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Heart Association, the American Physical Therapy Association, the American Occupational Therapy Association, the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Nursing, and the American Association of Diabetes Educators.

**Q: Why did CDR stop the FADA program?**

A: In general, the decision to stop the FADA program was based on scheduled evaluation data conducted in 2000-2001. CDR concluded that it supports the concept of a Fellow recognition program as a means for the Academy to honor those who have demonstrated exceptional professional characteristics, but believes that the goals of the Fellow program are more effectively met through an Academy recognition program, as opposed to a certification. CDR also made the decision to grant then-current Fellows with lifetime certificates (*source, CDR website February 12, 2013*). There were 368 FADAs when CDR suspended the program in 2002. CDR's website ([www.cdrnet.org](http://www.cdrnet.org)) provides a more in-depth explanation and we encourage you to review it there.

**Q: What if I already have an FADA credential. Can I still become an FAND?**

A: Yes. The Academy Board of Directors approved a condition in which all current FADAs can bypass the FAND application process, but still pay the \$200 FAND fee. Those who do not have the FADA credential must complete the FAND application process and document distinguished dietetics careers.

**Q: Is the \$200 FAND fee a one-time payment, or do I have to pay an annual maintenance fee?**

A: The \$200 FAND fee is a *one-time* payment. There is no annual maintenance fee.

**Q: Why do members have to pay a \$200 fee to apply for/become an FAND? We already pay dues.**

A: The Academy shares member concerns regarding the cost of the programs and benefits it offers. The expenses incurred in the development and maintenance of the Fellow program, both staff and resource related, as well as the cost of Fellow programs offered by similar organizations, were taken into consideration when developing the fee structure. Maintaining a Fellow program, including an online submission platform and tracking system, requires budgetary support; as such, the FAND fee of \$200 is required for all participants.

**Q: Why is there a two-part payment process?**

A: A bifurcated fee structure was developed so that only successful applicants will be charged the total fee of \$200. The initial, non-refundable, application fee is \$75 and the designation fee for successful applicants is \$125. This way, an applicant does not have to pay the entire \$200 fee if he/she does not have the necessary amount of points to qualify.

**Q: How did the Academy determine the eligibility process?**

A: Support for the FAND program is rooted in quantitative survey data obtained from all Academy member types. Designing the program involved considerable discussion of the eligibility requirements and requisite qualifications, including FADA status, necessary to apply for the FAND recognition. Over 50 member leaders from 5 Academy committees, including 7 FADAs, approved the final program after much discussion, deeming it the most equitable arrangement for the majority of members.

**Q: What are the basic eligibility requirements to apply for an FAND?**

A: Applicants must be current Active or Retired category Academy members in good standing, with a minimum of 5 years of previous Academy membership (any category) *and* 5 cumulative years of full-time, or part-time, nutrition and dietetics employment. Full-time employment is defined as at least 35 hours per week for at least 48 weeks per year, whereas part-time is considered to be anything less than that. Employment in the dietetics profession is defined as any position that requires or makes use of your education, training, and/or experience in nutrition or dietetics, including situations outside of "traditional" dietetics practice.

**Q: Do my 5 years of Academy membership have to be in any specific category?**

A: No. A combination of Academy membership categories is acceptable. For example, you may have 2 years as a Student member and 3 years as an Active member to be eligible.

**Q: What does the FAND application consist of? What are the major scoring categories?**

A: An applicant must score 100 or more points in three or more areas. Sections are:

- Employment in the Dietetics Profession (25 pts max)
- Academy Volunteerism (82 pts max)
- Continued Professional Education attendance – Academy related (10 pts max)
- Certifications/Credentials (49 pts max)
- Post-graduate Education (25 pts max)

- Volunteer Teaching, Mentoring, or Preceptor (20 pts max)
- Public Speaking/Presentation (20 pts max)
- Volunteer Public Service (20 pts max)
- Publishing and Research—Peer-reviewed journal (21 pts max)
- Publishing—non-refereed, non-peer reviewed, e.g. books, monographs (15 pts max)
- Sponsorship Letters (5 pts each, 2 letters required—1 from an Academy member and 1 from a professional contact outside the field of dietetics *or* from an Academy organizational unit such as a DPG, MIG, or affiliate) (10 pts max).

**Q: I meet the basic eligibility requirements to apply to become a Fellow. Does that mean I will accumulate the 100 or more points needed to become one?**

A: Not necessarily. Please look at the scoring categories very carefully and make sure you've had extensive experience in *at least* 3 of the scoring categories before applying.

**Q: Can an Academy staff member write a sponsorship letter?**

A: No.

**Q: Do I need to have a graduate degree to qualify for FAND status?**

A: No, but points are awarded for Master's and Doctoral degrees.

**Q: Can certifications/credentials bestowed by other health care associations or organizations count?**

A: No. Benchmarking against other health organizations showed that no other Fellow programs provide credit for certifications/credentials from other associations or organizations. The FAND is an Academy program; therefore, only Academy and CDR-related certifications/credentials count.

**Q: In which category should I place original articles that were reviewed for CPEU and accuracy and appeared in DPG or Affiliate newsletters?**

A: Place any original articles that did not appear in a peer-reviewed journal in the Publishing – non-referred, non-peer reviewed scoring category.

**Q: How can I apply to be an FAND?**

A: Go to [www.eatrightPRO.org/fellow](http://www.eatrightPRO.org/fellow) and sign in with your Academy username and password. Then click "Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Application."

- If you are an FADA, the application site will provide you with the option to pay the \$200 FAND fee and print your Fellow certificate.
- If you are not an FADA, the application site will prompt you to input your 5 cumulative years of full-time, or part-time, nutrition and dietetics employment. This constitutes 25 points of the 100 or more points necessary to qualify for Fellow status (out of 297

possible points). From there, it will ask you to agree to the Terms and Conditions and pay the \$75 FAND application fee.

Upon payment, you will be given access to the rest of the application and have 90 days to score the remaining 75 of the 100 or more points that are required for the Fellow designation. These 75 or more points must be obtained in three or more areas (e.g., 20 points in one section, 30 points in another section, and 25 points in another section). You cannot score all remaining 75 points in one or two sections of the application.

Once you have scored 100 or more points, you may submit your Fellow application for Academy verification. If the application is considered complete, you will be sent a link for the one-time \$125 designation fee. Once payment of the designation fee is received, you will be notified that you may begin to use the FAND acronym in your title. You will also be sent a link to a downloadable FAND certificate suitable for framing.

**Q: How many days do I have to complete the Fellow application after paying my \$75 application fee?**

A: You have 90 days to complete the application and score the remaining 75 of the 100 or more points that are required to qualify for the Fellow designation.

**Q: If I don't complete the application in 90 days, will my initial \$75 application fee be refunded?**

A: No. The initial \$75 application fee is non-refundable.

**Q: How will I be recognized as an FAND?**

A: Fellows receive:

- Entitlement to use the FAND designation in your credential line, which recognizes your professional accomplishments, valuable service to the public and pursuit of life-long learning
- Inclusion in the annual October *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics* list of new Fellows
- Ready-to-use templates to promote your new FAND status to your employer and local newspaper
- Use of the Academy Member/Fellow logo
- A Fellow certificate, suitable for framing.
- Name added to list of Fellows on the Academy's Web site

**Q: Can the Academy take away my Fellow status?**

A: Yes. The Academy reserves the right to revoke the FAND recognition if a Fellow is found to be in violation of the Academy/CDR's Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics. More information can be found here: [www.eatright.org/codeofethics](http://www.eatright.org/codeofethics).