

Demonstration Programs Draft Guidelines

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) has developed draft guidelines and criteria for demonstration programs who seek accreditation under the Future Education Model Accreditation Standards, which ACEND hopes to finalize later this spring. These draft guidelines and criteria are attached to this document for your review.

The guidelines include information on the proposed application process to become a demonstration program and the types of data that will be collected from programs and graduates.

ACEND is requesting stakeholder feedback on these guidelines and criteria before finalizing them. Please send your comments to ACEND@eatright.org

REVISED FUTURE EDUCATION MODEL STANDARDS COMMENT PERIOD ENDS SOON!

ACEND reviewed all of the public comments received on the first draft of the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards*, revised them and released the revised version for public comment. The revised documents are available on the ACEND Standards Website at www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel. Public comments on the revised standards can be made at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RevFEMComments> until **April 28, 2017**.

For Additional Information

- Review back issues of the monthly ACEND Standards Updates that are posted on the ACEND website www.eatrightpro.org/acend.
- Participate in a monthly ACEND virtual town hall on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm CT; information on how to connect to the town hall is available at www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel.
- Review FAQs for the *Future Education Model Standards* posted on the ACEND website: www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel.
- Contact ACEND (acend@eatright.org; 312-899-4872).

Questions That Have Come to ACEND

This section includes questions that have been raised on town hall meetings, on phone calls or through emails and ACEND's response to each.

Question: *If a program is not selected to be a demonstration program, can it request to be allowed to be accredited under the Future Education Model Accreditation Standards?*

ACEND Response: No, only demonstration programs will be able to be accredited under the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards*. All other currently accredited nutrition and dietetics programs (Coordinated Programs, Didactic Programs, Dietetic Internships, Dietetic Technician, Foreign Dietitian Education and International Dietitian Education Programs) will need to come into and maintain compliance with the *2017 Accreditation Standards*. Once the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* are finalized later this spring, ACEND will issue a call for demonstration program applications. ACEND wants to view program and graduate outcomes data from the demonstration programs before making decisions on whether to implement the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* with all programs. Thus, **only those programs that are selected as a demonstration program will be able to be accredited under the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards*.**

Question: What size sample does ACEND plan to use to evaluate the demonstration programs?

ACEND Response: ACEND desires at least five demonstration programs at each degree level, but will accept up to 60 total programs in the first cohort of demonstration programs. ACEND is seeking a varied sample of programs in terms of geographic location, program size, and proposed program structure for the demonstration programs. ACEND has set a minimum sample size for data analysis of at least 100 graduates for each program degree level.

Question: Will students choose to enter a demonstration program?

ACEND Response: Although ACEND is terming programs as “demonstration” programs for the purpose of data collection, the programs will be fully accredited nutrition and dietetics programs under the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* and can market the program to students as an ACEND-accredited program. Graduates of the Future Education Model Master Degree Program will be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) and graduates of the Future Education Model Bachelor Degree Program will be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become a Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered.

Question: How will ACEND ensure quality in the Future Education Model Programs, if the number of hours of required supervised experiential learning is not specified?

ACEND Response: As ACEND moves to competency-based education with the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* for the demonstration programs, it will closely monitor each program’s competency assessment plan and the student outcomes. Each program will track the actual hours of supervised learning experiences in professional work settings and alternate experiences of each student. ACEND is aware, based on reports from program directors and program reviewers, that the actual number of hours to be able to demonstrate competence currently varies among students. Use of this competency-based approach with the demonstration programs will allow program flexibility in working with students, yet will provide ACEND with needed data on how many actual hours of supervised experiential learning are needed for students to demonstrate competence.

Question: Did ACEND consider the alternate models of educating future nutrition and dietetics practitioners that were suggested to ACEND during the public comment period?

ACEND Response: The ACEND Standards Committee received several alternate model suggestions related to the needed educational preparation of future nutrition and dietetics practitioners. Each was carefully reviewed and discussed. For example, there was a continuum of proposals on the degree level for preparing the entry-level dietitian nutritionist that ranged on one end that entry-level educational preparation for dietitian nutritionists should stay at the bachelor degree level to proposals at the other end that education should move to the practice doctorate. After much discussion, the Standards Committee recommended to the ACEND Board that ACEND continue with development of the proposed associate, bachelor and master degree standards with competencies designed to prepare graduates with the added skills needed in future practice and evaluate graduate outcomes in the demonstration programs.

Question: What credential is available for Nutrition Health Associates?

ACEND Response: The *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards for Associate Degree Programs* propose a new practitioner, termed the Nutrition Health Associate. The Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) ultimately has responsibility for credentialing decisions. CDR initiates new credentials based on surveys (practice audits) of nutrition and dietetics practice roles. The results of the practice audits are used to develop the certification examination content specifications. Currently there is not a credential available for the Nutrition Health Associate; CDR could explore creating a credential once sufficient numbers of these practitioners are in the workforce. This same practice occurred when the Nutrition and Dietetics Technician educational accreditation was created.

Question: Is the Nutrition Health Associate a reincarnation of the Nutrition and Dietetics Associate recognition that was dropped by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics?

ACEND Response: The proposed Nutrition Health Associate practitioner is a very different practitioner than the Nutrition and Dietetics Associate (NDA) recognition that was proposed by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics several years ago. The Nutrition Health Associate will be a graduate of an associate degree program and is envisioned to work as part of a team with individuals in their homes and community settings to address social determinants of health, support the individual's progress towards wellness, and assist with healthcare navigation and education. The proposed NDA designation was intended for graduates of Didactic Programs in Nutrition and Dietetics who are prepared with a very different skill set.

Question: Has ACEND considered titles other than Food and Nutrition Practitioner for the Future Education Model bachelor degree graduate?

ACEND Response: ACEND requested suggestions for the title of the bachelor prepared practitioner during its public comment period last fall and reviewed several different names as options. ACEND decided that the title Food and Nutrition Practitioner best reflected the skill set of graduates of the Future Education Model bachelor degree program and included it in the revised standards. ACEND has requested comments on the proposed revisions including the new title. Comments and suggestions for alternate titles can be made at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RevFEMComments> until April 28, 2017.

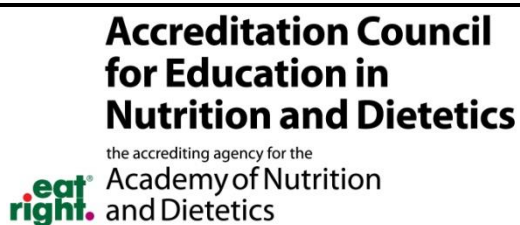
Question: Has ACEND dropped the required 1200 hours of supervised practice for dietetic internships?

ACEND Response: ACEND has not dropped the minimum required hours of supervised practice for programs accredited under the *2017 Accreditation Standards*. Required Element 1.6 of the *2017 Accreditation Standards* specifies that Coordinated Programs (CP), Nutrition and Dietetics Internships (DI), Foreign Dietitian Education (FDE) and International Dietitian Education (IDE) programs "must document that students complete at least 1200 hours of supervised practice experiences" and Nutrition and Dietetic Technician (DT) programs "must document that students complete at least 450 hours of supervised practice experiences". What may be creating confusion is that the revised *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards for Associate, Bachelor and Master Degree Programs* do not specify a minimum number of hours of supervised learning experiences for students in those programs.

Question: What will programs need to submit to show they are in compliance with the 2017 Accreditation Standards, and when does this need to be submitted?

ACEND Response: All currently accredited nutrition and dietetics programs will need to demonstrate that they have come into compliance with the *2017 Accreditation Standards* by submitting their revised curriculum maps and student learning outcomes assessment plans. These documents will need to be submitted to ACEND prior to January 1, 2018. ACEND is hoping to have these documents submitted through its new accreditation software, Jura, but is still working with the company to modify the software to allow this to happen. If the documents cannot be submitted through Jura, ACEND will have programs submit them as PDF documents attached to an email. All program directors will receive an email in May detailing the method for submitting their curriculum map and student learning outcomes assessment plan to ACEND to demonstrate compliance with the *2017 Accreditation Standards*.

Proposed Plans for Future Education Model Demonstration Programs



Application/Selection Process for the First Cohort of Demonstration Programs:

- Institutions/Organizations interested in sponsoring a demonstration program under the *ACEND Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* should submit the Demonstration Program Application to ACEND. Institutions do not need to have an ACEND-accredited program to apply.
- Applications will be reviewed by an ACEND review committee and decisions made on programs for the first cohort of demonstration programs.
- ACEND will limit the first cohort of demonstration programs to 60 total degree programs.
- ACEND is seeking a representative sample of programs in terms of geographic location, program size, and proposed program structure for the demonstration programs.
- Demonstration programs will be required to provide outcome data to ACEND.
- Demonstration program directors will be required to participate in online training and attend a training session held in Chicago on the demonstration program process, competency-based education assessment and data collection expectations (tentatively planned for June 2018).
- Program applications will be designated as either “Reorganization” or “Candidacy” and will follow ACEND policies and procedures for that designation.
 - Reorganization: Includes existing ACEND-accredited program(s) that are reorganized into a future education model program at the same degree level (e.g. dietetic internship combined with a required master’s degree). These programs can begin admitting students when accepted as a demonstration program and will be required to submit a self-study report and schedule a comprehensive site visit after two classes have graduated, typically within four years.
 - Candidacy: Includes proposed new future education model programs and existing ACEND-accredited program(s) that are proposed as a future education model program at a different degree level. These programs will be required to submit a self-study report and schedule a comprehensive site visit before the first class of students can be admitted.

Timeline:

October 16, 2017	Demonstration Program Application due date
December 1, 2017	Demonstration Program acceptance announced
September 1, 2020	Last date for first cohort of demonstration programs to begin admitting students

Waived Fees:

- \$250 - Program change fee
- \$2500 - Candidacy application fee
- \$1975 – 2019 Annual accreditation fee waived for one year
- Online and in-person training session expenses including registration and travel expenses will be covered by ACEND

Proposed Demonstration Program Application for Programs Seeking ACEND Accreditation Under the Future Education Model Standards

The Demonstration Program Application will ask programs to provide information related to the following:

- **Standard 1: Program Characteristics and Resources**
 - Required Element 1.1: Program Location
 - Required Element 1.2: Program Resources
 - Required Element 1.3: Degree Offered
 - Required Element 1.4: Program Director
 - Required Element 1.5: Program Length

- **Standard 2: Program Mission, Goals and Objectives**
 - Required Element 2.1: Program Mission
 - Required Element 2.2: Program Goals
 - Required Element 2.3, 2.4: Program Objectives

- **Standard 4: Curriculum and Learning Activities**
 - Required Element 4.1: Curriculum Map

- **Standard 5: Competency Assessment and Curricular Improvement**
 - Required Element 5.1: Competency Assessment Plan

- **Standard 6: Faculty and Preceptors**
 - Required Element 6.1: Faculty Expectations
 - Required Element 6.2.a, 6.2.b: Faculty Requirements

- **Standard 8: Information to Prospective Students and the Public**
 - Required Element 8.3: Information about the Program

- **Standard 9: Policies and Procedures**
 - Required Element 9.2: Program Policies

- **Additional Information**
 - Timeline for program implementation
 - Phase out plan for current program, if applicable

Proposed Outcomes Data to be Collected from Demonstration Programs Seeking ACEND Accreditation Under the Future Education Model Standards

Programs seeking ACEND Accreditation as a Demonstration Program under the Future Education Model Standards for an Associate, Bachelor, or Master Degree Program (Standards are available at www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel) will be expected to provide the following data to ACEND:

- **Data Obtained from Program Director About Program**
 - Description of program organization (e.g., public/private, standalone/partnership, Carnegie classification)
 - Admission requirements, including required prerequisite courses or degrees
 - Cost of program (collected annually)
 - Length of program
 - Time allocated for program director responsibilities
 - New learning, faculty, support or financial resources needed to offer program
 - Hours of supervised experiential learning in professional work settings and alternate experiences
 - Description of how experiential learning is integrated in program
 - Information about education and credentials of faculty and preceptors
 - Number/percent of preceptors who are paid by the program
 - Annual program evaluation data
 - Number and demographic information for enrolled students
 - Annual student competency assessment data
 - Records of amount of experiential learning time required by students to meet competencies
 - Challenges with implementing the Future Education Model Standards
- **Data Obtained about Graduate Outcomes**
 - Number and percent of graduate who complete the program within 150% of program length
 - Number and percent of graduates who take the CDR credentialing exam (NDTR/RDN) within 12 months of program completion
 - Number and percent of graduates who pass the CDR credentialing exam on the first attempt and within one-year
 - Number and percent of graduates who are employed within six months and one year of graduation
- **Data Obtained from Graduates Who Complete the Program**
 - Evaluation of the program (at time of graduation)
 - Description of graduate's current position and geographic location (1 year after graduation)
 - Academic degree and credentialing required for position (1 year after graduation)
 - Perception of preparedness for position (1 year after graduation)
- **Data Obtained from Employers of Graduates Who Complete the Program**
 - Satisfaction with graduate preparedness for the position
 - Satisfaction with graduate job performance