
ACEND® Standards Update
August, 2016
Release of 2017 Standards

**Accreditation Council
for Education in
Nutrition and Dietetics**

the accrediting agency for the
 Academy of Nutrition
and Dietetics

2017 Standards

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND®) Board has released the *2017 Accreditation Standards for Nutrition and Dietetics Coordinated Programs (CP), Didactic Programs (DPD), Internship Programs (DI), Technician Programs (DT) and Foreign (FDE) and International (IDE) Dietitian Education Programs*. The 2017 Standards are available on the ACEND website (www.eatright.org/acend). ACEND thanks all who participated in surveys and provided input throughout the development of the 2017 Standards.

Implementation

The 2017 Standards will go into effect for eligibility applications for new programs in nutrition and dietetics on September 1, 2016 and for existing accredited nutrition and dietetics programs on June 1, 2017. All programs will be expected to come into compliance with the 2017 Standards to earn or maintain ACEND accreditation. PARs submitted after June 1, 2017 and self-study reports submitted for site visits after June 1, 2017 will need to show compliance with the 2017 Standards. All programs will need to post on ACEND's accreditation software their curriculum map and student learning outcomes assessment plans based on the 2017 Standards by January 1, 2018 to verify compliance with the 2017 Standards, random audits will be conducted to assure compliance.

Program Director and Program Reviewer Support

Several types of support are available to assist program directors and program reviewers interpret the 2017 Standards. Crosswalks have been developed to show linkages between the 2017 and 2012 Standards and between the knowledge and competency statements in the 2017 and 2012 Standards. The crosswalks are available on the ACEND website (www.eatright.org/acend). Guidance information and report templates for the 2017 Standards are being developed and are expected to be released within the next few weeks.

A variety of training sessions are planned to help program directors better understand the 2017 Standards. Program director workshops will be held on October 14-15 in Boston and February 19-20 and March 19-20 in Chicago. Online materials are also being developed. Learn more on the ACEND website (www.eatright.org/acend).

A variety of sessions also are planned to assist program reviewers better understand the 2017 Standards. A seminar on the 2017 Standards will be held for program reviewers on October 15 in Boston and a series of online webinars are planned for later this year. Contact ACEND at acend@eatright.org for more information.

Accreditation Software

ACEND recently purchased accreditation software that will be used to help facilitate and simplify submission of reports, such as self-study documents and annual reports. Program directors will have the ability to write narrative and upload documents for their self-study into the system. Reviewer's and program director's comments related to the self-study and site visit also will be stored in the system. ACEND hopes to have the software operational later this fall for program directors to begin to use for development of self-study documents under the 2017 Standards for site visits in Fall 2017.

For Additional Information

- Review information on the ACEND Standards Committee Website www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/Standards.
- Review back issues of the monthly ACEND Standards Updates for questions that have been raised about ACEND's Standards work and responses to those questions that are posted on the ACEND Standards Committee Website www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/Standards
- Participate in a monthly ACEND virtual town hall on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 4:00 pm CT; information on how to connect to the town hall is available at www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/Standards.
- Contact ACEND (acend@eatright.org; 312-899-4872).

Questions That Have Come to ACEND

Question: I have my site visit in the spring of 2017 before the implementation date for the 2017 Standards, can I do my self-study under the 2017 Standards?

ACEND Response: ACEND will allow programs who have site visits in the spring of 2017 to do their self-study under the 2017 rather than 2012 Standards, if they choose. PARs submitted after June 1, 2017 and self-study reports submitted for site visits after June 1, 2017 will need to show compliance with the 2017 Standards.

Question: If I have a class of students graduating in the fall of 2017, will that class of students need to have been prepared with the new competencies such as mentoring?

ACEND Response: ACEND realizes that when students start in a program, the planned curriculum is identified for them. ACEND will not expect that programs make curriculum changes for students already enrolled in the program but will expect that the changes will be made to the curriculum moving forward so that any students starting the program after June 1, 2017 will be assured of having the knowledge and competence identified in the 2017 Standards.

Question: The 2012 Standards indicated that complaints needed to be retained for five years; the 2017 Standards now says they must be retained for seven years. I have a site visit in early 2018, will I need to try to go back and find data on complaints for two additional years?

ACEND Response: ACEND changed the timeline for maintaining complaints to match the current seven year accreditation cycle. Under the 2012 Standards programs were reviewed, either via a PAR or self-study every five years. Programs will not need to go back to try to get additional data to assure they have seven years of data but rather moving forward should be sure that they keep data for seven years.

Question: Would you consider changing the day and time of the virtual town hall?

ACEND Response: ACEND has been very pleased with the interest and participation in the virtual town hall meetings. ACEND has found that there likely is no one best day/time to hold the sessions and so has plans to change the day/time of the meetings every few months to help allow individuals maximum opportunity to attend some of the town hall sessions. The virtual town hall sessions for August and September will continue on the second Thursday of the month at 4:00 pm CT. Starting in October the virtual town halls will change to the first Tuesday of the month at 2:00 pm CT.

Question: An early version of the 2017 Standards included the term “experiment with” and the final version states “practice and/or role play” mentoring and precepting others, why did the language change?

ACEND Response: ACEND received several comments about the use of the term “experiment” being too scientific for what students/interns were being expected to be able to do. ACEND, after much discussion, changed to the use of “practice or role play”. ACEND believes there is much that can be done with students to help prepare them to serve as preceptors and to mentor other. Using the term “practice or role play” suggests that they will not be proficient at mentoring and precepting but at least will have had some practice in developing these skills. Practice might involve working with a fellow student or an employee such as a diet clerk or foodservice worker. Role playing might involve use of scenarios that a program’s preceptors have experienced. Students could be asked to role play how they might handle each scenario. For example, one scenario might be the intern’s first day in a rotation. One intern could role play the new intern and another the preceptor. The student as preceptor could role play what she/he might say to orient the intern to a rotation, the student as intern could ask questions of the preceptor and the preceptor answer. Another scenario might involve a preceptor having to coach an intern on some aspect of skill development.