

Application Process for the First Cohort of Programs:

- Organizations interested in sponsoring a nutrition and dietetics program that would be accredited under the *ACEND Future Education Model Accreditation Standards for Associate, Bachelor's or Graduate Degrees* should complete the Demonstration Program Application that is available online at www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel.
- The application should include two electronic files, one with the completed application form and a second with the appendix materials. Each file should be a PDF file that is searchable and bookmarked.
- Application materials should be submitted electronically by Monday, October 9, 2017 to FutureModel@eatright.org
- No application fee is required.
- Contact ACEND at 1-800-877-1600 ext. 5400 or ACEND@eatright.org with any questions.

Application Review Process:

- Applications will be reviewed and the first cohort of programs selected by the ACEND Standards Committee's Demonstration Program Selection Committee.
- ACEND will limit the first cohort of demonstration programs to 60 programs.
- ACEND is seeking a representative sample of programs in terms of geographic location, program size, and proposed program structure for the demonstration programs.
- Program applications will be designated by the review committee as either "Reorganization" or "Candidacy" (applicants do not need to make this determination for their application) and will follow ACEND policies and procedures for that designation.
- Programs accepted in the first cohort will be notified by December 1, 2017.

Expectations of Demonstration Program Directors:

- Complete required online and in person (Feb 8-9, 2018) training
- Admit first class by September, 2020
- Provide the following program information to ACEND annually:
 - Cost of program
 - Time allocated for program director responsibilities
 - New learning, faculty, support or financial resources needed to offer program
 - Program evaluation data
 - Student competency assessment data
 - Records of amount of experiential learning time required by students to meet competencies
 - Challenges with implementing the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards*
- Assist ACEND in obtaining the following data annually (through surveys, interviews, etc.):
 - Number and percent of graduates who are employed within six months and one year of graduation and information about the position each holds
 - Graduate perception of preparedness for position and evaluation of program
 - Employer satisfaction with graduate preparedness for the position and job performance

For Additional Information

- Review back issues of the monthly ACEND Standards Updates that are posted on the ACEND website www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel.
- Participate in a monthly ACEND virtual town hall on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1:00 pm CT; information on how to connect to the town hall is available at www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel.
- Contact ACEND (acend@eatright.org; 800-877-1600 x5400).

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. The following questions are divided into four sections: 2017 Accreditation Standards, Future Education Model Accreditation Standards, Demonstration Programs and CDR Credential Exam.

2017 Accreditation Standards Questions

Question: *Required Element 3.4 states several objectives that programs are required to set (i.e. for DI programs, 3.4.c.1 indicates "The program must develop an objective that states the percent of program graduates who are expected to take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within 12 months of program completion). Can you clarify whether these percentages are to be based on the total number of graduates or just on the number of graduates for whom we have data?*

ACEND Response: The percentage set for the required program objectives, such as percentage of graduates who are expected to be admitted to supervised practice, who are expected to take the CDR credentialing exam or who are expected to be employed, is based on the total number of graduates for the program and not the number for whom the program has information. For example, if a program had 10 graduates in a given year, has data on 7 of those graduates and knows that 5 graduates took the CDR exam, the program's percentage for that objective would be determined by dividing 5 (number who took the exam) by 10 (total number of graduates) for an outcome of 50%. Getting data from graduates is important to have accurate data. Programs should consider the number of non-respondents they typically have to their alumni surveys when setting their objective targets.

Question: *Are Individualized Supervised Practice Pathways (ISPPs) being discontinued?*

ACEND Response: The ISPP was created as a temporary option for providing additional supervised practice opportunities for DPD graduates. ACEND routinely reviews data from ISPPs and determines whether to continue the pathway. The pathway has increased the number of supervised practice options and graduates of the pathway are performing well on the credentialing exam to become registered dietitian nutritionists, so ACEND is continuing the pathway at this time. Didactic Programs in Nutrition and Dietetics (DPD), Nutrition and Dietetics Internship (DI) Programs and Coordinated Programs in Nutrition and Dietetics (CP) that are accredited under the *ACEND 2017 Accreditation Standards* can sponsor an ISPP. Programs accredited under the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* will not be able to sponsor an ISPP.

Question: *After January 1, 2024, are CPs and DIs and programs with an ISPP required to confirm that students have completed a master's degree before issuing a verification statement?*

ACEND Response: Under the *2017 Accreditation Standards*, CPs and DIs determine their program's requirements for issuance of a verification statement. These requirements need to be provided to prospective and current students. Under the *2017 Accreditation Standards*, CPs and DIs and programs offering ISPPs are not required to include a master's degree. If a CP, DI or program offering an ISPP does not include a master's degree program, the issuance of the verification statement would occur when the student has completed the program's requirements. The student would be required to complete a master's degree at some point, either prior to or after completing the CP, DI or ISPP, to be eligible to take the registration exam. If a CP, DI or ISPP requires completion of a master's degree, then the student must complete the master's degree program before the verification statement is issued.

Question: After January 1, 2024, will DIs need to be linked with a master's degree program or require a master's degree for admission to their program?

ACEND Response: Under the *2017 Accreditation Standards*, DIs are not required to offer a graduate degree or to require a graduate degree of applicants. The student would be required to complete a master's degree at some point, either prior to or after completing the DI, to be eligible to take the registration exam.

Question: After January 1, 2024, will students who have a DPD verification statement but do not have a master's degree be able to apply to a DI?

ACEND Response: The *2017 Accreditation Standards for Dietetic Internship Programs* indicate that the students admitted to a DI must have a verification statement from a DPD or FDE. The *2017 Accreditation Standards for Dietetic Internship Programs* do not require that students have a master's degree for admission to a DI. DIs, however, are able to establish their own admission requirements. If a DI has established a master's degree as a requirement for admission to their program, then the student would need to have both a DPD verification statement and a master's degree to apply to that DI.

Future Education Model Accreditation Standards Questions

Question: Can the future education model graduate degree program be in any area?

ACEND Response: The *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards for Graduate Degree Programs (FG)* do not specify the title of the degree (MS, MA, MBA, MPH, PhD, DCN etc.) or the focus area of the degree (nutrition, dietetics, public health, etc.). Programs are able to determine the title and focus of the graduate degree program. What the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards for Graduate Degree Programs* do specify are the required minimum competencies that must be achieved by graduates of the program. ACEND expects that the graduate degree programs are structured to include the knowledge and experiential learning needed to develop the required competencies regardless of the title or focus area.

Question: Are master's degree CP programs and DIs with a master's degree required to move to the Future Education Model Accreditation Standards for Graduate Degree Programs?

ACEND Response: No program currently accredited under the *2017 Accreditation Standards* is required to move the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards*. The *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* are available only to programs who apply to be accredited as a demonstration program under these Standards.

Question: What was the rationale for not requiring a specified number of hours of supervised experiential learning in the Future Education Model Programs?

ACEND Response: The *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* were designed to offer more flexibility for programs in the ways they prepare students to demonstrate the required competencies. Many health profession education programs do not specify the number of hours of practice needed but rather focus on demonstration of required competencies. These programs have effectively used simulation, role-playing, and case studies to help develop the needed competence in their graduates. 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 is consistent with other health education programs and will allow programs flexibility in working with students. ACEND will collect data from the demonstration programs on how many actual hours of supervised experiential learning are needed for students to demonstrate competence. Each program will track the actual hours of supervised learning experiences in professional work settings and alternate experiences of each student.

Question: Our state licensure laws indicate a specified minimum number of supervised practice hours how will this work for programs under the Future Education Model Accreditation Standards?

ACEND Response: Required Element 1.5 in the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* states that "The program must determine its length (in years) after taking into consideration didactic learning and required supervised experiential learning needed by students to demonstrate the required competencies and mandates from the program's administration or state legislation". A program accredited under the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* that is in a state with a required number of supervised practice hours would be expected to incorporate this state legislation mandate in their decision process for number of required hours of supervised experiential learning for their program.

Demonstration Program Questions

Question: *Will the deadline for demonstration program applications for the first cohort be extended?*

ACEND Response: The October 9 deadline for applications for the first cohort of demonstration programs will not be extended. However, ACEND will issue a call for the second cohort of demonstration program applications in early 2018.

Question: *Our institution does not currently offer an ACEND-accredited program. What will be the cost to the institution in the years following waived fees?*

ACEND Response: The fees paid by ACEND-accredited programs are posted on the ACEND website www.eatrightpro.org/acend. Those fees include an annual accreditation fee and site visit fees when accreditation reviews occur.

Question: *Would community colleges interested in applying as a demonstration program to prepare Nutrition Health Associates need to have an institutional or home-like kitchen on-site for student training?*

ACEND Response: The ACEND *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards for Associate Degree Programs* indicate that programs must have the resources needed to produce the desired short- and long-term program goals and student outcomes. The Standards do not specify what those resources, including facilities need to be; programs determine what is needed for students to demonstrate the required competencies. Programs would be expected to have students demonstrate competencies such as “Demonstrates an understanding of the principles of food and nutrition”, “Applies principles of food safety and sanitation standards specific to culinary skills, food supply and food storage”, “Supports recipe modification and meal planning based on cultural needs and preferences in collaboration with other professionals” and “Demonstrates knowledge of foods, cultural and religious food traditions, eating patterns and trends in the community”. These competencies could be demonstrated in a variety of settings that would not require the program to have an institutional or home-like kitchen on site.

Question: *The proposed content for the demonstration program application that was included with the April Standards Update newsletter indicated that Required Elements 4.1 (curriculum map) and 5.1 (competency assessment plan) would need to be included in the application. The recently released demonstration program application did not include these two required elements. Was this an error or are they no longer included in the application?*

ACEND Response: Although Required Elements 4.1 and 5.1 were listed in the draft version of the demonstration program application that was included with the April Standards Update newsletter, the final version of the application, which is on the ACEND website did not include them. The ACEND Standards Committee determined it would be better to have directors of the selected demonstration programs submit these documents (curriculum map and competency assessment plan) after the required training. Program directors are asked in the application for REs 1.3 and 1.5 to describe the requirements for completing the degree, the proposed curriculum, the proposed courses to be offered, the total number of credits awarded and the total required hours of supervised experiential learning in the program and document any differences that will occur among tracks offered.

CDR Credentialing Exam Questions

Question: *After January 1, 2024, will graduates need a verification statement to take the CDR Registration exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN)?*

ACEND Response: After January 1, 2024, CDR will continue to require applicants to submit a verification statement confirming completion of an ACEND-accredited program. Those programs include the CP, DPD+DI, DPD+ISPP, and IDE programs accredited under the *2017 Accreditation Standards* and the FG program accredited under the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards*.

Question: Are graduates of both the Future Education Model associate degree and bachelor degree programs eligible to take the CDR credentialing exam for nutrition and dietetics technicians?

ACEND Response: Graduates of programs accredited under the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards for Bachelor's Degree Programs* (FB) will be eligible to take the CDR credentialing exam to become a nutrition and dietetics technician, registered. Graduates of programs accredited under the *2017 Accreditation Standards for Nutrition and Dietetics Technician Programs* (DT) and the *2017 Accreditation Standards for Nutrition and Dietetics Didactic Programs* (DPD) also will be eligible to take the CDR credentialing exam to become a nutrition and dietetics technician, registered. Graduates of programs accredited under the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards for Associate Degree Programs* (FA) will not be eligible to take the CDR credentialing exam to become a nutrition and dietetics technician, registered.