

**Season's Greetings from ACEND:** As we enter the holiday season, we thank you for all that you do to help educate the next generation of nutrition and dietetics practitioners. We value the input you are providing us for our work on the future accreditation standards. We wish you all the very best this holiday season. ACEND Board and Staff

### **FNCE® Round Table Discussion**

Thank you to the 200+ educators and practitioners who attended the Round Table discussion at FNCE. ACEND received valuable input on a variety of topics and concerns. All of the table discussion notes have been shared with the ACEND Board and the ACEND Standards Committee and will be included in their continued discussion and planning for the future education model standards and competencies. Below is a summary of the issues raised in at least two or more table discussions:

#### **Public Comment**

- Survey too long; clarify that individuals can go to specific sections to complete
- Extend the deadline for comments

#### **Draft Future Education Model Standards**

- Some very supportive of model; concern that supportive voice not being heard
- Some question whether three levels of practitioners are needed; some suggested associate degree be eliminated, some indicated bachelor degree should be eliminated; others want no change to current model
- Some opposed to moving to master degree, others desire that the degree be a practice doctorate
- Some suggested that bachelor prepared practitioner be the RDN and the master prepared be considered advanced practice RDN; should having 5 years practice before going on for master degree
- Concern raised that 450 hours of experiential learning maybe too many for bachelor degree programs to do; DPD grads currently pass NDTR exam without any supervised experience, will compete for placements
- Universities may choose only one degree level program because of cost of running both; i.e. may choose only master and not do bachelor as well
- Comments that if want programs to be competency-based should allow programs at all three degree levels to determine how to develop competency – i.e. do away with the required hours and the distinction of where hours obtained (professional work settings, simulation etc.) and let programs decide
- Further clarification needed on role of associate degree practitioner and types of jobs that are available for them; concern whether programs will attract students if no credential
- Concern whether students will pay for a four-year degree to be a technician; other terms should be explored
- Some want bachelor degree program a requirement to enter master program; others want programs to decide their own prerequisites
- Guidance on numbers of faculty needed and time allocation needed for the director would be helpful (i.e. faculty/student ratio)
- Academic requirement for program director should be same as faculty, i.e. allow program to determine if experience equivalent
- The number of performance indicators is too many for programs to have to show in a curriculum map
- Need more differentiation in bachelor and master competencies/performance indicators, many the same; also need to clarify difference in role of graduates of each program related to MNT; clarify complex/less complex
- Questions raised on the potential impact on diversity in nutrition and dietetics programs by moving to master requirement; some felt diversity would decrease others that it would increase
- Need more clarity on what is meant by “integration” of didactic and experiential learning
- Concern whether there are sufficient preceptors for supervised learning in all three degree programs
- Clarify how profession is being elevated with proposed model
- Find ways to help facilitate linkages with university programs and stand-alone DI for developing future education model programs
- Concern that DT, DPD, and DI programs may close
- Question whether program director of master program needs doctoral degree; will there be sufficient doctoral RDs
- Clarify whether bachelor prepared practitioner is supervised by master prepared practitioner

## Infographic

- Not clear that it is skills not jobs
- Skills for bachelor graduate do not match what is listed as competencies in the standards

## Demonstration Program Criteria/Guidelines

- Need to include urban/rural, large/small, for profit/not for profit, public/private, small/large enrollment, onsite/distance, multiple organization structures, geographic distribution
- Consider shorter application, then when programs selected have them do full eligibility application
- Eliminate \$500 application fee or return it to those not selected
- Consider incentives to programs such as onsite assistance, drawings for student registration to FNCE, recognition, fee waivers
- Clarify whether students for future education model programs will go through the match process
- 6-8 months may not be long enough to prepare eligibility application

If you believe there were points made at your table that are not included in this summary or other issues ACEND should be considering, please email them to [acend@eatright.org](mailto:acend@eatright.org).

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED!

ACEND has extended the public comment period **until DECEMBER 30, 2016** for comments on the draft proposed *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards for Associate, Bachelor and Master Degree Programs in Nutrition and Dietetics* on the online survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FEMComments>). The survey allows respondents to select sections they would like to respond to and skip questions, if desired. Respondents can also stop and re-enter the questionnaire from the same computer as many times as needed until the responses are submitted.

## For Additional Information

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

## Questions That Have Come to ACEND

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

### **Question: What will be done with the information that was collected from the FNCE® round table discussions?**

**ACEND Response:** ACEND thanks everyone who participated in the educator round table discussions at FNCE. The discussions provided important information for ACEND about the future education model including criteria for pilot programs, outcomes data to collect, experiential learning options, concerns about implementation and questions about the future standards and competencies. All of the information has been shared with the ACEND Standards Committee and the ACEND Board and will be combined with the data gathered in the public comment survey to be reviewed by the Committee as they continue to develop the future education model. Responses to questions and concerns will be shared in this and future editions of the monthly update.

**Question: Are concentrations still required?**

**ACEND Response:** The 2017 Accreditation Standards for Nutrition and Dietetics Internship Programs (DI), Coordinated Programs (CP), Foreign Dietitian Education Programs (FDE) and International Dietitian Education Programs (IDE) all include a required element within Standard 5 indicating that “the program’s curriculum must include at least one program-defined concentration that builds on the core knowledge and competencies and develops additional depth necessary for future proficiency in a particular area”. The draft *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* do not include the expectation that programs will have a concentration, however programs can still have a concentration, if they choose.

**Question: Does the doctoral degree that is required for the director of the Future Education Model Master Degree Program need to be a PhD in nutrition?**

**ACEND Response:** The doctoral degree indicated as a requirement for the director of the Future Education Model Master Degree Program can be any doctoral degree (i.e. PhD, EdD, DCN) and it can be in any field.

**Question: When will the Future Education Model Standards become effective?**

**ACEND Response:** The date for implementation of the *Future Education Model Standards* has not been set. The standards are still in draft form. Public comment on the draft standards are being collected until December 30, 2016 at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FEMComments>. ACEND anticipates finalizing the *Future Education Model Standards* in spring 2017. Once finalized, ACEND will offer programs the opportunity to apply to be accredited under these standards and serve as demonstration programs. ACEND will collect data about the programs and the outcomes of the graduates before making a final decision about the future education standards.

**Question: Will there be online submission for the 2017 Standards?**

**ACEND Response:** ACEND has purchased the Jura software to be used for online submission of self-study reports. The software is in the final testing phase; ACEND hopes to have it launched before the end of the year. Programs will then be able to write their self-study under the 2017 Accreditation Standards online through this system.