

### **REVISED FUTURE EDUCATION MODEL STANDARDS RELEASED FOR COMMENT!**

ACEND has reviewed all of the public comments received and has revised the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards*, competencies and performance indicators for associate, bachelor and master degree programs. The revised documents are available on the ACEND Standards Website at [www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel](http://www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel). Public comments on the revised standards can be made at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RevFEMComments> until April 28, 2017.

#### **Comments Received**

ACEND thanks everyone who took the time to provide input on the draft *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards*. More than 1,200 individuals provided input to the online survey, more than 200 provided input at the Educator Roundtables at FNCE and nine organizations provided input on behalf of their group. Responses were received from program directors, faculty members, preceptors, practitioners, employers, students/interns and some from outside the profession. There were a wide array of opinions, often conflicting opinions, which were received.

#### **What was done with the Input?**

All the ratings, comments and letters were reviewed in depth by the members of the Standards Committee, the ACEND Board and ACEND's consultant, Leanne Worsfold. The Standards Committee and the ACEND Board held multi-day meetings in January and worked with consultant Worsfold to discuss, face-to-face, the input received and to make decisions about changes needed in the draft standards. After discussing the divergent views expressed in the public comments and reviewing data that had been collected, the ACEND Standards Committee and Board made the decision to continue with its development of draft standards for associate, bachelor and master degree levels to be tested in demonstration programs and made several changes to the standards, competencies and performance indicators. All of the ratings, themes that emerged from the comments and ACEND decisions based on the input are being compiled and will be added to the *Rationale Document*, which will be updated on the ACEND website in March to make the information available to all stakeholders.

#### **What Changes were made in the Standards?**

The revised draft Future Education Model Standards and a webinar discussing the changes have been posted to the ACEND website ([www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel](http://www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel)). Both tracked changes and clean versions of the revised standards are posted. Key changes made include the following:

- In Standard 1, the term "partnership" is defined as an option for program sponsorship.
- In Standard 1, qualifications for the director of the master degree program were changed to "Have earned a doctoral degree and have three years professional experience post credentialing or have earned a master degree and have five years professional experience post credentialing".
- In Standard 1, specified minimum number of practice hours was removed to reflect a focus on competency-based education.
- In Standard 4, the requirement that performance indicators be included on the course syllabi was removed.
- In Standard 4, the learning experiences expected in bachelor and master degree programs were more clearly differentiated.
- In Standard 6, the academic degree requirement for faculty was changed to a master degree for master degree programs and sponsoring institution's criteria for appointment for associate and bachelor degree programs.
- The title of the associate degree graduate was changed to Nutrition Health Associate and the title for the bachelor degree graduate was changed to Food and Nutrition Practitioner.
- The numbers of competencies (C) and performance indicators (PI) were reduced for each degree program. The current draft standards includes Associate: C=20, PI=112; Bachelor: C=36, PI=166; and Master: C=37, PI=218.
- Clarification was provided in the competencies and performance indicators to better differentiate the expectations of the bachelor and master degree prepared practitioners in providing client/patient care.

## What will Happen Next?

ACEND has released the revised draft standards for a second round of public comment that will be open until April 28, 2017. ACEND will review the input received and finalize the draft standards. These standards will be released for voluntary adoption by demonstration programs. The process for this application process is still being finalized. ACEND anticipates that the first cohort of demonstration programs will begin accepting students by fall 2019. Data will be collected on the demonstration programs and their graduates and reviewed by ACEND prior to any decisions being made about implementation of the future education model standards. **Only demonstration programs will be accredited under the future education model standards.** All other programs will continue to be accredited under the 2017 Standards. Current CP, DI, DPD, and DT programs are not required to come into compliance with the future education model standards. They will be for demonstration programs only.

## 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; 312-899-4872).

## Questions That Have Come to ACEND

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

**Question:** *Standard 5 of the 2017 Standards indicates that the KRDN/CRDN (KNDT/CNDT) must be included on the syllabi; can the syllabi include only the number; e.g. KRDN 1.1, or does it need to include the full text of that knowledge or competency statement?*

**ACEND Response:** The requirement that syllabi include the KRDN/CRDN (KNDT/CNDT) that are covered in that course was added to the 2017 Standards to help assure that students had a clear understanding of where the required knowledge and/or competencies were being covered in a program. If the full text is not included in the syllabi, the instructor must share with students where the full text can be found, e.g. in a program handbook or online course management system.

**Question:** *Does my Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) need to have 450 hours of supervised practice by June 1, 2017?*

**ACEND Response:** DPD programs are not required to have any hours of supervised practice. All DPD programs will be expected to come into compliance with the 2017 Accreditation Standards for Didactic Programs in Nutrition and Dietetics by June 1, 2017. However, these standards do not require that programs provide any hours of supervised practice for students. Where the confusion may be coming is that ACEND has also released draft standards it is proposing for future education at the bachelor degree level. These standards do combine the didactic learning and supervised experiential learning requirements into one program. These standards are expected to be released for voluntary adoption by demonstration programs later this spring. Current DPD programs are not required to come into compliance with these standards but could choose to apply to serve as a demonstration program.

**Question:** *When will the Future Education Model Accreditation Standards be finalized so my program can submit an application to be a demonstration program?*

**ACEND Response:** ACEND hopes to have the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* finalized later this spring. The revised standards are currently out for a second round of public comment. ACEND will review the comments received and make decisions to finalize the standards. Those standards will be released for voluntary adoption by demonstration programs. They will not be mandated for all programs.

**Question: How much time will programs who are interested in becoming a demonstration program be given to complete their eligibility application?**

**ACEND Response:** ACEND anticipates that programs will be given several months to complete the eligibility application. ACEND is still finalizing the details of the criteria and eligibility application requirements. A draft of these requirements was discussed at the Educator Roundtables at FNCE and will be discussed at the area NDEP meetings this spring.

**Question: Will ACEND share the input received during the public comment period?**

**ACEND Response:** ACEND is currently having the data received compiled into a report that will be added to the *Rationale Document*. Stakeholders will be informed when the revised document is uploaded to the website.

**Question: Will CP, DPD, DT, and DI programs be required to shift to the future education model by 2024?**

**ACEND Response:** CP, DPD, DT, and DI programs do not need to shift to the future education model by 2024. All currently accredited programs will continue their accreditation under the 2017 Standards. The future education model standards will only be available for programs who volunteer to serve as demonstration programs. Data will be collected on the demonstration programs and their graduates and reviewed by ACEND prior to any decisions being made about implementation of the future education model standards.

**Question: Will it be possible to have a “phase out” time for an existing nutrition and dietetics program while simultaneously adopting the Future Education Model Standards?**

**ACEND Response:** Demonstration programs who are planning to reorganize or close an existing accredited program and start a program under the future education model would be expected to develop a teach out plan for the students in the existing program. That teach out plan time line could overlap with the launch of a future education model program.

**Question: Could an existing master degree program in nutrition or public health apply to be a future education model master degree program?**

**ACEND Response:** The *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* do not specify in what the field the degree should be. The Standards do specify the competencies that students must demonstrate; demonstration programs will be allowed to specify the degree and it could be nutrition or public health.

**Question: Could a university partner with more than one institution offering supervised experiences to sponsor a future education model program?**

**ACEND Response:** The *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* do not specify a limit on the number of organizations/institutions that can be included in the partnership that sponsors a future education model program so a university and several institutions offering supervised experiences could form a single partnership to sponsor a program.