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## ACEND® Standards Update

July, 2016

### Update on Standards Revisions

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## Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

the accrediting agency for the  
 Academy of Nutrition  
and Dietetics

#### Draft 2017 Standards

Thank you to those who provided input to ACEND about the revised draft 2017 Standards. The ACEND Standards Committee is reviewing comments received and finalizing the 2017 Standards for presentation to the ACEND Board. ACEND expects to release the final 2017 Standards this fall and will announce at that time the implementation date for the new standards.

Guidance material to assist program directors interpret the standards is being finalized. The guidance material will be a separate document and will be designed to clarify information needed to document compliance with each standard. New templates are being developed to reflect the changes in the 2017 Standards.

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 this fall for program directors to begin to use for development of self-study documents under the 2017 Standards.

#### Future Education Model Standards

ACEND is working with consultant, Leanne Worsfold to analyze data collected in the validation study of the proposed competencies and performance indicators for the future education model associate, bachelor and master degrees. Thank you to the 1,000+ individuals who provided input to the online survey, 96 of whom were awarded gift prizes such as tablets, Fitbit bands, and gift certificates in a raffle drawing. Data collected will be used to finalize the competencies to be included in the draft future education model standards.

The ACEND Standards Committee and Expanded Standards workgroup have been developing the standards for the future education model programs. The group spent a week in Chicago in June carefully going through all of the input and comments from the validation study and making decisions on the draft competencies and performance indicators. ACEND anticipates having the draft version of the standards and competencies for the future education model associate, bachelor and master degree programs ready for public comment later this fall.

#### For Additional Information

- Review information on the ACEND Standards Committee Website [www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/Standards](http://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](http://www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/Standards)
- Participate in a monthly ACEND virtual town hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/Standards).
- Contact ACEND (acend@eatright.org; 312-899-4872).

## Questions That Have Come to ACEND

**Question: Can you explain the changes in the required knowledge (KRDN, KNDT) statements in the 2017 Standards?**

**ACEND Response:** The required knowledge statements in the 2012 Standards were statements that specified “the curriculum must...” Many of the knowledge statements in the 2012 Standards contained tips that became the components of the student learning outcomes assessment plan. In the 2017 Standards these curriculum requirements were moved to one section that focused on curriculum requirements (5.2a in CP, DPD, DT, FDE and IDE Standards). A separate section containing the knowledge statements that student must demonstrate was developed (5.2b in CP, DPD, DT, FDE and IDE Standards); many of these knowledge statements were tips in the 2012 Standards. Four of the knowledge and competency domains from the 2012 Standards (Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice, Professional Practice Expectations, Clinical and Customer Services, and Practice Management and Use of Resources) were retained as domains in the 2017 Standards. The fifth domain from the 2012 Standards that contained the support knowledge was not retained as a domain in the knowledge section, rather that content was included in the curriculum requirements section (5.2a) of the 2017 Standards.

**Question: Will there be new self-study templates for program directors to use for doing their self-study under the 2017 Standards?**

**ACEND Response:** The ACEND Board is still finalizing the 2017 Standards and has not yet set the implementation date for them. Self-studies for site visits occurring after that implementation date will need to show compliance with the 2017 Standards. When the 2017 Standards are released, ACEND will also release revised templates to use when developing the self-study document under the 2017 Standards. ACEND recently purchased accreditation management software and will be moving toward having all reports, including self-study documents, submitted through this system. ACEND hopes to have this system ready for programs to use sometime later this fall.

**Question: Are there documents to help program directors better understand the changes that have occurred in the 2017 Standards?**

**ACEND Response:** ACEND is preparing several documents to assist program directors transition to the 2017 Standards. A guidance document is being prepared that will detail for each standard and required elements what should be included in the narrative, what should be attached in the appendix and what materials should be available onsite to help demonstrate compliance with each standard and its required elements. Crosswalk documents also will be available that show the linkages between the 2017 and 2012 Standards and competencies. Beginning with the program director training that will be held in Boston on October 14 and 15, ACEND staff will cover the 2017 Standards and assist program directors to better understand what is expected to demonstrate compliance with the standards. Program directors can sign up online for the program director workshop on the [upcoming events page](#) of the eatright.pro website. Online training materials also are being developed and will be available later this year.

**Question: The original draft 2017 Standards had the competency “Experiment with mentoring and precepting”, the revised version now uses “Practice and/or role play mentoring and precepting”. Why was the verb changed and what is ACEND expecting with this competency?**

**ACEND Response:** ACEND received several comments in its survey about the draft 2017 Standards suggesting the use of the term “experiment” was too scientific for what likely was expected of students/interns; many suggesting changing to the use of the terms “practice or role play”. After careful discussion, the Standards Committee changed the verb to “practice or role play”. The committee believes there is much that can be done with students to help prepare them to serve as preceptors and to mentor others. Using the term “practice or role play” suggests that graduates will not be proficient at mentoring and precepting but at least have had some practice in developing these skills. This might occur in practicing these skills with a fellow student/intern or with employees such as a diet clerk or foodservice worker. Role playing might involve student/interns role playing scenarios that preceptors have experienced with other students/interns. One scenario, for example, might be the intern’s first day in a rotation. One intern could play the new intern and another the preceptor. Another scenario might involve students/interns role playing the role of a preceptor having to coach an intern on some aspect of skill development.

**Question: How might DPD programs evaluate the knowledge requirement that students “Demonstrate an understanding of the importance and expectations of a professional in mentoring and precepting others”?**

**ACEND Response:** One of the major concerns that has been identified in our educational preparation of future nutrition and dietetics practitioners is the need for more practitioners to serve as preceptors for the experiential learning component of the education process. ACEND believes that nutrition and dietetics education programs can play a critical role in reducing the shortage of preceptors by preparing students with an understanding of the role of preceptors, the importance of this role and the need for graduates to serve in this role once they enter practice. There are many ways students might demonstrate this understanding such as a paper written on the topic, presentations developed on the topic to be given to other students, question(s) asked on an exam, or senior level students mentoring entering students.

**Question: Does ACEND anticipate that there will be fewer registered dietitian nutritionists being educated after implementation of the future education model master degree program?**

**ACEND Response:** ACEND does not expect that the future education model will result in any reduction in the number of credentialed practitioners being educated. ACEND will collect data from the programs who pilot the future education model to gain knowledge of the numbers of students being prepared and the resources needed to prepare students in these programs.

**Question: Will the students need to have a bachelor’s degree to take the NDTR credentialing exam after January 1, 2024?**

**ACEND Response:** The Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) sets the criteria for eligibility to take the exam to become a nutrition and dietetics technician, registered. At this time, CDR has not made any changes to the eligibility requirements to take that exam. Complete information about eligibility requirements can be found on CDR’s website [www.cdrnet.org](http://www.cdrnet.org)