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## **2017 and Future Education Model Accreditation Standards Compared**

There are many similarities yet several substantive differences between the *2017 Accreditation Standards* and the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards*.

### Similarities:

- Both the *2017 Accreditation Standards* and the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* include standards detailing:
  - Resources, facilities, and services needed to support the program
  - Program director expectations and responsibilities
  - Program mission, goals, objectives and evaluation
  - Faculty and preceptors
  - Supervised learning sites
  - Information for prospective students
  - Information for the public

### Differences:

- Demonstration programs accredited under the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards*:
  - need to be offered in partnership with or housed in a regionally accredited college or university
  - determine their own length based on the integrated didactic and supervised experiential learning needed to demonstrate the competencies and meet organization and state mandates
  - offer a curriculum based on the competencies and performance indicators
  - develop a competency assessment plan
  - prepare students to meet competencies that differ from those in the *2017 Accreditation Standards*
- Demonstration programs will work closely with ACEND to collect annual program, student and graduate data

## **Change in Day/Time for Virtual Town Hall**

ACEND hosts a virtual town hall each month to provide a forum for sharing information, answering questions and gathering input on ACEND's standards work. The day and time of this town hall changes periodically to allow opportunities for more individuals to attend. Starting with the July town hall (July 13, 2017), the virtual town hall will move to the second Thursday at 1:00 pm CT.

## **For Additional Information**

- Review back issues of the monthly ACEND Standards Updates that are posted on the ACEND website [www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel](http://www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel).
- Participate in a monthly ACEND virtual town hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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 three sections: 2017 Accreditation Standards, Future Education Model Accreditation Standards and Demonstration Programs.

### 2017 Accreditation Standards Questions

**Question:** *What is expected for CRDN 4.10 that is new to the 2017 Accreditation Standards?*

**ACEND Response:** ACEND expects that students can identify and analyze potential areas of risk within nutrition and dietetics practice. This analysis of risk could focus on any area of nutrition and dietetics practice and might include scenarios such as unsafe food handling, personal/institutional liability related to substandard practice or misconduct, or adverse clinical outcomes.

**Question:** *What is the difference in what is expected in Required Element 3.3 (program must establish one or more program objectives as needed to evaluate achievement of each of the program's goals) and Required Element 3.4 (program must set the following required program objectives and align them with their program goals)?*

**ACEND Response:** For RE 3.3, programs are expected to write at least one program specific objective for each program goal. In addition, as stated in RE 3.4, programs are expected to incorporate the required ACEND objectives under each goal. All of the goals and objectives could be presented in the self-study under RE 3.3 and referenced in RE 3.4.

### Future Education Model Accreditation Standards Questions

**Question:** *The Future Education Model Accreditation Standards do not specify the number of hours of supervised experiential learning. Does that mean a program sets its own length?*

**ACEND Response:** The *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* allow programs the flexibility to determine the number of supervised experiential learning hours. Programs will determine the hours required of students based on what is needed to demonstrate the competencies required in the accreditation standards plus mandates from the program's administration or state legislation.

**Question:** *Do students need a DPD verification statement to apply for the future education model graduate degree program?*

**ACEND Response:** The *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* specify the competencies a student must demonstrate to complete the program but allows programs to determine the admission requirements to enter the program. Each of the future education model degree programs is intended to stand alone. ACEND did not set prerequisite requirements for any of the degree programs. Rather, individual programs would set their own admission requirements. A future education model master's degree program could for example, choose to require verification of completion of DPD or the future education model bachelor's degree program as a prerequisite, could require specific courses or supervised experiences as prerequisites or could choose not to require any prerequisites.

### 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 be issuing 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](http://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:** Discussion of Required Elements 4.1 and 5.1 do not need to be included in the demonstration program application. These REs were included in the proposed draft but after reviewing comments received and discussing the planned training of demonstration program directors, the ACEND Standards Committee determined it would be better to have directors of the selected demonstration programs submit these documents 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 to document any differences that will occur among tracks offered.