
ACEND® Standards Update

June, 2016

Draft 2017 Revisions

Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

the accrediting agency for the
 Academy of Nutrition
and Dietetics

Changes Made to the Draft 2017 Standards

Thank you to all of you who have provided input to ACEND about the draft 2017 Standards. We received more than 800 responses to our online survey, interacted with more than 200 attendees at the Nutrition and Dietetics Educators and Preceptors (NDEP) area meetings this spring, heard comments from multiple attendees on our monthly town halls and received numerous phone calls and emails. All of that input was reviewed by the ACEND Standards Committee and several changes were made to the draft 2017 Standards as a result. Key changes include:

- Changed from use of term “guideline” to “required elements” to more clearly identify elements required to show compliance with each standard
- Standard 1: Removed expectation that programs set a minimum enrollment; Clarified that at least 75% of the supervised practice hours needed to be in professional work setting and allowing for up to 25% of hours to come from alternate practice experiences such as simulation, case studies and role playing
- Standards 1 and 10: Clarified expectations related to recording of hours in professional work settings versus alternate practice experiences
- Standard 3: Removed the required program outcome objective related to the percent of graduates involved as preceptors or instructors; Clarified that the program objective based on data from an external source would be employer satisfaction for CP, DI, DT, FDE and IDE programs and supervised practice program director for DPD programs
- Standard 5: Brought all curriculum requirements together into one required element; Revised wording for competency on experimenting with mentoring others
- Standard 8: Clarified that DPD programs are not required to have experiential learning included in their program, but if they require students to gain experiential learning at facilities other than the sponsoring institution, they will be required to have affiliation agreements with those facilities.

The revised draft 2017 Standards are available at: www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/Standards Please provide your comments on these revisions at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/REV2017STD that will be open until June 30.

Virtual Town Hall

ACEND has received several requests from educators who teach during the time of the current virtual town hall to consider offering the town hall at a different time. Effective with the June 9th town hall, the time of the town hall will switch to 4:00 pm CT on the second Thursday of each month. See www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/Standards for information on how to connect to the town hall meeting.

For Additional Information

- Review information on the ACEND Standards Committee Website 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
- Participate in a monthly ACEND virtual town hall on the 2nd Thursday of each month; information on how to connect to the town hall is available at www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/Standards.
- Contact ACEND (acend@eatright.org; 312-899-4872).

Questions That Have Come to ACEND

Question: Why will ACEND be requiring in the 2017 Standards that Didactic Programs in Nutrition and Dietetics (DPD) have affiliation agreements?

ACEND Response: Experiential learning is not required in DPD programs. However, under the 2017 Standards, if DPD programs do require that students complete experiential learning at facilities other than those of the sponsoring institution, they will be expected to have affiliation agreements in place between the program and facility. ACEND sought guidance from its legal counsel about this matter, and based on the need to assure patients/clients, students and the institutions/facilities are protected, ACEND was advised to require that affiliation agreements be in place any time a program is requiring students to complete experiential learning in facilities that are not part of the sponsoring institution. As a result, ACEND has modified the proposed language in Standard 8 for the draft 2017 Standards for DPDs to reflect this expectation.

Question: What programs will ACEND accredit in the future?

ACEND Response: ACEND currently accredits six types of programs: didactic programs in dietetics (DPD), dietetic internships (DI), coordinated programs (CP), dietetic technician (DT) programs, foreign dietitian education (FDE) programs and international dietitian education programs under the 2012 Accreditation Standards. ACEND has reviewed and revised these standards (as required by USDE every 5 years) and released the draft 2017 Accreditation Standards. ACEND expects to finalize the 2017 Standards by fall 2016 and the ACEND Board will set a date for implementation. All currently accredited programs will need to come into compliance with the 2017 Standards to maintain their accreditation.

ACEND has recommended a future model of education in nutrition and dietetics that differs from what it currently accredits. ACEND is working on three new additional sets of accreditation standards and competencies for the future education model associate, bachelor and master degree programs. ACEND expects to release these future education model accreditation standards and competencies for public comment in 2016 with a final version released sometime in 2017 for voluntary adoption.

When the future model accreditation standards are released, ACEND will be accrediting nine different types of programs for a period of time; the DPD, DI, CP, DT, FDE, and IDE programs will be accredited under the 2017 Standards and the future education model programs will be accredited under the Associate, Bachelor and Master Degree Standards. ACEND will collect data from these future education model programs and their graduates before making a decision on which types of programs to continue to accredit. At the time of that decision, ACEND will announce which program types it will continue to accredit in the future and which program types it will discontinue to accredit. If a decision is made to implement the recommended future model for all programs, sufficient time (likely 10 years or more) would be given for programs to make the changes needed to come into compliance with these standards.

Question: Could future education master programs admit students who have not completed an undergraduate dietetics program?

ACEND Response: ACEND is still developing the standards that will specify the expectations for future education model programs and the competencies expected of program graduates. ACEND anticipates that each program will set the prerequisite requirements for admission into its program and will be responsible for ensuring that its graduates achieve the competencies specified for that degree level program.

Question: How will programs be chosen to be pilot programs for the future education model? What data will be collected from programs and graduates? Will there be training for the pilot programs and when would that happen?

ACEND Response: ACEND is still developing the guidelines and processes for selecting programs to pilot the future education model associate, bachelor and master degree programs and the data that will be collected from programs and the graduates. ACEND thanks those who provided input about these topics at the roundtable discussions at FNCE and at the recent NDEP meetings. Any additional comments/suggestions about the pilot process can be sent to ACEND@eatright.org. ACEND hopes to finalize this information and release it by year end. Training will be provided for pilot programs on both the future education model standards and on the data that will need to be collected as part of the pilot study. The dates for training have not yet been set, but ACEND anticipates it will occur sometime in 2017.