

Future Education Model Standards Released

The ACEND Board thanks all who took time to provide input on the revised *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* that were released for public comment in February, 2017. After thorough review of all comments received and much discussion, the ACEND Board is pleased to announce the release of the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards for Associate, Bachelor's and Graduate Degree Programs* (see ACEND website: www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel). Programs interested in being accredited under these standards can apply to be an early adopter demonstration program.

After the second round of public comment, the following few changes were made in the draft standards based on the comments received:

- Master's degree standards evolved to graduate degree standards to allow for master's or doctorate programs to be accredited under the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards*
- Bachelor's degree standards use Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered as the practitioner being prepared rather than Food and Nutrition Practitioner
- Required Element 3.2 (Program Evaluation) was expanded to clarify importance of meeting program and ACEND-required objectives
- Required Element 4.1 (Curriculum Map) was reworded to allow programs flexibility in choosing which performance indicators to use to develop the competencies
- Minor wording changes were made to some competency and performance indicators

Demonstration Program Application Process

ACEND is now accepting applications for programs desiring to serve as early adopter demonstration programs and be accredited under the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards for Associate, Bachelor's or Graduate Degree Programs*. Information about the application process, the needed forms and guidance information can be found on the ACEND website: www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel. A webinar describing the application timeline, process, and expectations of demonstration programs is also on this site.

Applications are due Monday, October 9, 2017. Completed applications should be emailed to FutureModel@eatright.org. ACEND will be accepting up to 60 programs in the first cohort of demonstration programs. Selected programs will be notified by December 1, 2017.

Programs interested in becoming demonstration programs can contact ACEND for more information and to have questions answered at ACEND@eatright.org or 1-800-877-1600 x5400. Questions can also be asked during the monthly virtual town hall on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1:00 pm CT.

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/acend.
- Participate in a monthly ACEND virtual town hall on the 2nd 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.
- Contact ACEND (acend@eatright.org; 800-877-1600 x5400).

Questions That Have Come to ACEND

This section includes questions that have been raised at area NDEP meetings, 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 do programs need to submit to demonstrate they are in compliance with the 2017 Accreditation Standards?

ACEND Response: To demonstrate compliance with the *2017 Accreditation Standards*, all programs are required to submit both an updated curriculum map (including the required components checklist) and student learning outcomes assessment plan no later January 3, 2018. These documents can be submitted via email to standardscompliance@eatright.org. No cover letter or narrative needs to be included, only the templates as specified by program type below need to be provided with the program's name in the file title. The templates can be found on the ACEND web site at this link: [Curriculum Mapping Templates](#). A \$150 late fee will be assessed for information submitted after the January 3, 2018 due date. If, prior to January 3, 2018, you have already submitted any of these documents to ACEND as part of another report, such as a self-study, you do not need to resubmit them. If your program's self-study or PAR is due to ACEND after January 3, 2018, you will need to submit the required documents listed below prior to January 3, 2018 and include them in the self-study or PAR document.

Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD):

Required Element 5.1 and 5.2 KRDN Curriculum Map (DPD)

Required Element 5.1 and 5.2 RDN Required Components Checklist (CP, DPD, FDE, IDE)

Required Element 6.1 and 6.2 KRDN Student Learning Outcomes Assessment (DPD)

Coordinated Program in Dietetics (CP), Foreign Dietitian Education Program (FDE), International Dietitian Education Program (IDE):

Required Element 5.1 and 5.2 KRDN-CRDN Curriculum Map (CP, FDE, IDE)

Required Element 5.1 and 5.2 RDN Required Components Checklist (CP, DPD, FDE, IDE)

Required Element 6.1 and 6.2 CRDN Student Learning Outcomes Assessment (CP, DI, FDE, IDE, ISPP)

Dietetic Internship (DI) and DPD Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway (ISPP)

Required Element 5.1 and 5.2 CRDN Curriculum Map (DI, ISPP)

Required Element 6.1 and 6.2 CRDN Student Learning Outcomes Assessment (CP, DI, FDE, IDE, ISPP)

Dietetic Technician Program (DT):

Required Element 5.1 and 5.2 KNDT-CNDT Curriculum Map (DT)

Required Element 5.1 and 5.2 NDTR Required Components Checklist (DT)

Required Element 6.1 and 6.2 CNDT Student Learning Outcomes Assessment (DT)

The standards, guidance information, and crosswalks of the 2017 standards with the 2012 standards are posted on the www.eatrightpro.org/2017Standards. Please contact your accreditation manager or acend@eatright.org or 1-800-877-1600 x5400 if you have any questions.

Question: When should a program use a target of “100% of students will...” vs. a target of “80% of students will...” when setting student learning outcome objectives?

ACEND Response: Standard 6 of the 2017 Accreditation Standards indicates that programs must establish learning objectives that state specific activities and qualitative or quantitative target measures that will be used to assess overall student achievement of knowledge or competency. In setting these target measures, programs first determine the minimum outcome that a student must achieve to demonstrate the knowledge or competency (i.e. a rating of 3 out of 5 on the scoring rubric). If this minimum is set as the target for this learning objective, then 100% of the students must achieve it as it is the minimum expected of all students. If the program sets an outcome that is higher than the minimum (i.e. rating of 4 out of 5 on the scoring rubric), then a percentage lower than 100% can be used because not all students would be expected to achieve this higher outcome, yet all students (100%) will be expected to meet the minimum expectations.

Question: The 2012 Accreditation Standards for Didactic Programs in Dietetics included Domain 5: Support Knowledge. The 2017 Accreditation Standards do not include this domain, was it removed as a requirement?

ACEND Response: All of the curriculum requirements from Domain 5 in the 2012 Accreditation Standards are now included in Standard 5, Required Element 5.2 in the 2017 Accreditation Standards. The link between the knowledge and competency statements in the 2012 and 2017 Accreditation Standards are shown in crosswalk documents posted on the 2017 Standards webpage www.eatrightpro.org/2017Standards.

Question: Standard 6 of the 2017 Accreditation Standards indicates that “Programs are expected to assess at least one SLO from each domain annually. Within the accreditation cycle, all SLOs must be assessed at least once. “. In the program director training, ACEND indicates that directors need to measure these outcomes for each student. Can you explain what is expected of program directors related to student learning outcomes?

ACEND Response: Standard 6 of the 2017 Accreditation Standards focuses on summative evaluation of the program outcomes (i.e. data from all students are combined) and the use of these data in curriculum improvement. For this evaluation, the Standards give programs flexibility in determining the timeline for collecting and reporting on these data. Programs should use these summative data to help evaluate and make improvements in the program’s curriculum to enhance quality. One of the program director’s responsibilities is issuing a verification statement to students who successfully complete the program. The issuing of this verification statement is a “verification” by the program director that the student has demonstrated the required knowledge or competencies for that program type. In order to verify this, program directors must have a process in place in which they track that each individual student has successfully demonstrated all of the required knowledge or competency statements in order to issue the verification statement.

Question: Is there a graph of the dietetic internship computer match data?

ACEND Response: There are two graphs that are posted on the ACEND website with information about the trends in computer matching for dietetic internships. They can be found at <http://www.eatrightpro.org/~media/eatrightpro%20files/acend/computermatchingstatistics.ashx> and <http://www.eatrightpro.org/~media/eatrightpro%20files/acend/supplyanddemandchart.ashx>

Question: What is the difference in what is expected in KRDN 2.2 and KRDN 2.5?

ACEND Response: KRDN 2.2 (Describe the governance of nutrition and dietetics practice, such as the Scope of Nutrition and Dietetics Practice and the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Nutrition and Dietetics; and describe interprofessional relationships in various practice settings) focuses on governance and guidance of nutrition and dietetics practice and the role of the RDN in interprofessional practice. KRDN 2.5 (Identify and describe the work of interprofessional teams and the roles of others with whom the registered dietitian nutritionist collaborates in the delivery of food and nutrition services.) focuses on what are interprofessional teams, how do they work and what are the roles of other professionals who might be on these teams with the RDN.

Future Education Model Accreditation Standards Questions

Question: *What was done with the comments you received about the revised Future Education Model Accreditation Standards?*

ACEND Response: Thank you to all who provided comments at the area NDEP meetings, in the online survey, on the virtual town halls and through phone and emails. All of the comments were shared with the Standards Committee and the ACEND Board. Comments related to the competencies and performance indicators were also shared with our consultant, L. Worsfold, who has directed the work on developing the competencies and performance indicators. A summary of these comments will be added to the *Rationale Document*. The changes that were made based on the comments are shown in track changes versions of the Standards and are posted on the ACEND website: www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel.

Question: *The phrase “clients with less complex, less acute nutritional health needs” is used in the Future Education Model Accreditation Standards for Bachelor’s Degree Programs. What is meant by this phrase?*

ACEND Response: ACEND defines this phrase as “well-controlled and managed health conditions with little variability. Future health care needs can be anticipated and there is low risk of negative client/patient outcome associated with the condition, nutrition care plan and provided nutrition and dietetics services”.

Question: *The competencies for the master’s degree include prescribing nutrition-related pharmacotherapy; what does that mean?*

ACEND Response: ACEND views this competency as the RDN being able to recommend and prescribe the use of medications to help treat nutrition-related issues. This might include for example prescribing insulin for diabetics or prescribing prokinetic agents, anti-nausea medications, anti-diarrhea medications, and/or motility medications for patients on enteral feedings.

Demonstration Program Questions

Question: *What are the criteria for becoming a demonstration program and how many will ACEND select?*

ACEND Response: Organizations interested in sponsoring a demonstration program under the *ACEND Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* should submit the Demonstration Program Application to ACEND. The application form and information about the application process are available on the ACEND website: www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel. Organizations do not need to have an ACEND-accredited program to apply. The ACEND Board plans to select up to 60 programs total to be in the first cohort of demonstration programs and is seeking a representative sample of programs in terms of geographic location, program size, and proposed program structure. Programs desiring to be a demonstration program must complete the demonstration program application, which describes how the program will be in compliance with the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards*, must be willing to attend required ACEND training and work with ACEND to gather program and graduate outcomes data.

Question: *What support materials and training will be provided to demonstration programs?*

ACEND Response: ACEND has developed several documents to assist programs in becoming a demonstration program. The ACEND website (www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel) contains the application templates and Guidance Documents, developed for each program type, to assist program directors. A webinar describing the application process also is available. Both online and in-person training on competency based education and competency assessment will be provided/required for program directors of selected demonstration programs. ACEND staff are available at ACEND@eatright.org or 1-800-877-1600 x5400 to answer questions.

Question: *What financial incentives are there for a program to become a demonstration programs?*

ACEND Response: ACEND is providing a number of financial incentives to help offset the cost of establishing a program accredited under the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards*. The program change fee (\$250), candidacy application fee (\$2,500) and the 2019 annual accreditation fee (\$1975) all are waived for demonstration programs. In addition, ACEND will cover registration and travel expenses for the program director to attend the in-person training session.

Question: *Will there be more than one call for demonstration programs?*

ACEND Response: ACEND anticipates having several cohorts of demonstration programs. A date for the application period for a second cohort has not yet been set but is anticipated that it will occur sometime in 2018.

Question: *I have a site visit for my current program scheduled for 2018; will I still need to do that site visit if I am submitting an application to be a demonstration program?*

ACEND Response: Whether you have a site visit in 2018 will depend on what is planned for your existing program. If that program is continuing as an ACEND-accredited program, then you will need to do the self-study and site visit for that program to maintain its accreditation. If that program is being reorganized into a Future Education Model program, then the timing of the site visit will likely change. The plans for your program should be described in your demonstration program application. ACEND will work with demonstration programs individually to finalize when their next self-study and site visit will occur.