

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> COHORT OF DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS**

ACEND has issued a second call for demonstration programs to be accredited under the future education model. The application materials are posted on the ACEND website: [www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel](http://www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel). Applications are **due by 11 am CT on April 16, 2018**. A new webinar about the demonstration application process has been added to the website: [www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel](http://www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel) ACEND is offering a Program Director's workshop on October 19-20, 2018 that is focused on the *ACEND Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* to assist directors in learning more about the standards and the demonstration program application process.

**Overview of the Future Education Model Demonstration Program Application Process**

The process to become a demonstration program includes multiple phases. Phase 1 involves the submission and review of program applications followed by a decision by the ACEND Board on whether the programs move forward in the demonstration program application process. This phase has been completed for the first cohort of demonstration programs and 19 programs are moving to the next phase. Phase 2 involves program directors' attendance at an on-line training and an in-person workshop on competency-based education and competency assessment. The two-hour webinar training for the first cohort was held on January 5, 2018 and will be held on July 12, 2018 for the second cohort. The webinar familiarized demonstration program applicants and ACEND Program Reviewers with the Future Education Model competency structure, terms and expectations. The webinar also provided a brief and general orientation to competency-based education, the Future Education Model Competencies and Miller's Pyramid of Assessment. Miller's Pyramid (described in detail in the February 2018 Standards Update) provides the framework being used by ACEND for assessing competence as students move from learning the information (*Knows*), to demonstrating their gained knowledge and skills (*Shows*), to actually applying their learned skills, such as during experiential learning (*Does*).

The in-person workshop took place on February 8-9, 2018 in Chicago, IL for the first cohort and will occur on August 9-10, 2018 for the second cohort. The purpose of the workshop was to provide attendees with in-depth training on competency-based education principles and familiarize them with competency-based assessment methods and tools. Workshop participants collaborated on several activities to practice and apply competency-based education and assessment, including developing their program's mission, mapping the competencies within their curriculum and creating competency-based assessment tools.

Phase 3 differs depending on whether the program was classified as a reorganization or a candidacy in Phase 1. Programs categorized as a reorganization will submit a report detailing their compliance with several Standards. This report will be evaluated by a review committee and when approved by the ACEND Board, the program's accreditation will continue as a reorganized program. Programs approved as reorganization will undergo a comprehensive review (self-study/site visit) typically within four years. Those identified as candidacy programs will follow ACEND's candidacy procedures, which include completion of a self-study and a site visit before a decision on accreditation is made by the ACEND Board. Once the ACEND Board makes a decision to either grant reorganization or candidacy, ACEND will post the program information on the ACEND website.

## **Revised ACEND 2017 Accreditation Standards**

The ACEND Board has made some minor modifications to the *ACEND 2017 Accreditation Standards* based on stakeholder feedback. The revised standards, which go into effect July 1, 2018, are available on ACEND's website ([www.eatrightpro.org/2017Standards](http://www.eatrightpro.org/2017Standards)).

### **ACEND 2017 Accreditation Standards: Summary of Changes**

Several wording changes were made to the *ACEND 2017 Accreditation Standards*. Track changes versions of revised *2017 Accreditation Standards* are available at: [www.eatrightpro.org/2017Standards](http://www.eatrightpro.org/2017Standards). The key changes include:

1. The five ACEND-required objectives must be stated verbatim as specified in RE 3.3. For example for the required objective "Program Completion," every program's evaluation plan must include an objective that states:

**CP, DP, DT, FDE, IDE Programs:** "At least 80% percent of program students complete program/degree requirements within X years (150% of the program length)," with X representing 150% of the specific program's length.

**DI Programs:** "At least 80% percent of program interns complete program/degree requirements within X months (150% of the program length)," with X representing 150% of the specific program's length.

2. RE 3.3 states that for the five ACEND-required objectives, programs must **evaluate these objectives annually** using an **average of data from the previous three years**. These annual data will be reported in Column G of the Program Evaluation Plan (RE 4.1). Seven years of data must be reported for the ACEND-required objectives; each year's data being the average of the previous three years. For example, if the first year of the accreditation cycle is 2015, then the data reported for 2015 will be the average of data from 2013, 2014 and 2015; the data reported for 2016 will be an average of the data from 2014-2016 and so on.

Note: The program-specific objectives are evaluated over a timeline set by the program; the number of years of data collected will depend on that timeline. Neither the program-specific nor the ACEND-required objectives need to include a statement of time such as "over a three year period." Similar to the program-specific objectives, the Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) (Standard 6, RE 6.1) can be evaluated based on a timeline set by the program. Programs are expected to assess at least one SLO from each domain annually. Within the seven-year accreditation cycle, all SLOs must be assessed at least once. SLOs that are not met must be assessed annually until resolved. The number of years of data reported in the SLO Assessment (RE 6.2) will depend on the timeline set by the program.

3. RE 4.2.c and RE 4.2.d stipulate that the targets set for the program-specified and the ACEND-required objectives must be met and program changes need to be made to improve outcomes for objectives that are not met.
4. The order of RE 5.1 and 5.2 were switched. All of these changes have been made in the *Guidance Document for the 2017 Accreditation Standards*, which is available at [www.eatrightpro.org/2017Standards](http://www.eatrightpro.org/2017Standards) and to the Jura self-study document.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 3:00 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 during town hall and in-person meetings, on phone calls or through emails and ACEND's response to each. The following questions are divided into several sections to help categorize the responses.

### 2017 Accreditation Standards Questions

**Question:** *Has Jura been updated to include the changes in the 2017 Accreditation Standards?*

**ACEND Response:** Programs that have self-studies due after July 1, 2018 have been given access to the revised Jura self-study document that includes all of the revisions made to the *2017 Accreditation Standards*.

**Question:** *Do Interim or Progress Reports submitted to ACEND prior to July 1 need to reflect the changes made to the 2017 Accreditation Standards?*

**ACEND Response:** The revisions to the *2017 Accreditation Standards* do not become effective until July 1, 2018 so reports submitted prior to that date would not need to reflect the changes. However, programs could be proactive and incorporate the changes to demonstrate that they will have them implemented by July 1.

**Question:** *Is the moratorium on new Didactic Programs in Nutrition and Dietetics (DPD) still in effect?*

**ACEND Response:** In June, 2009, the ACEND Board issued a moratorium on new DPD programs. That moratorium is still in effect because the number of DPD graduates continues to exceed the number of internship openings.

**Question:** *How often does the ACEND Board make program decisions?*

**ACEND Response:** The ACEND Board meets every month. The board meets in person twice a year (currently January and July) and on conference calls the other months. Decisions on program accreditation following a site visit typically are made at the in-person meetings. Decisions on substantive program changes and candidacy typically are made at both in-person and conference call meetings.

**Question:** *What is ACEND's vision for stand-alone Nutrition and Dietetics Internship (DI) programs?*

**ACEND Response:** ACEND is continuing to accredit DI programs under the 2017 Accreditation Standards and has made no decision to discontinue accreditation of DI programs. The *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* include expectations that didactic and experiential learning are integrated in a single program. The *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* allow for partnerships to be formed among different institutions. Stand-alone DIs will be able to form such partnerships with educational institutions of their choosing to deliver a Future Graduate (FG) program. ACEND is currently accrediting demonstration programs under these standards and collecting data on program outcomes before making any decisions on changes to the current Standards.

## **Future Education Model Accreditation Standards Questions**

**Question:** *Did the employer data collected by ACEND and reported in the Rationale Document differentiate entry-level practice at year 1, year 2 and year 3?*

**ACEND Response:** ACEND did not collect employer data asking for employer expectations of graduates at years 1, 2 or 3 of entry-level practice.

**Question:** *What data were used to support the proposed Nutrition Health Associate position?*

**ACEND Response:** The ACEND *Rationale Document* (see [www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel](http://www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel)) includes a summary of the data collected that helped inform the visioning group and Standards Committee as it developed its recommendations for the education needed to prepare future practitioners including the Nutrition Health Associate. In addition, the Standards Committee examined several reports and documents released by various state groups discussing the value and need for community support personnel, such as the Nutrition Health Associate type position being recommended.

**Question:** *Can the competencies expected of a Future Education Model Bachelor's Degree graduate be completed in two years?*

**ACEND Response:** The ACEND *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards for Bachelor's Degree Programs* (FB) specify the competencies needed by graduates of the program. The Standards do not specify program length. Directors of FB programs would develop their programs based on the required competencies and determine the length of time needed for a student to complete the program and earn a Bachelor's degree.

## **Demonstration Program Questions**

**Question:** *When will the names of the programs in the first cohort of demonstration programs be announced?*

**ACEND Response:** The application process to become a demonstration program is a multi-phase process. Programs in the first cohort currently are in the middle of that process. Program names will be announced and added to the ACEND website when the ACEND Board approves an existing program's request for reorganization or grants candidacy to new programs. ACEND anticipates that decisions on the reorganization programs in the first cohort likely will be made between April and December of 2018 and decisions on candidacy programs in the first cohort likely will be made between January and June of 2019.

**Question:** *Will the demonstration programs submit their self-study document through Jura?*

**ACEND Response:** Demonstration programs will submit their self-study report using Jura. A self-study document specific to the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* has been set up in Jura for demonstration program use.