

Evaluating International Students Applying to U.S. Based ACEND Programs



Accreditation Council
for Education in
Nutrition and Dietetics
Association of Nutrition
and Dietetics

In this recording I will address Evaluating International Students Applying to ACEND Programs

James Swain, PhD, RD
ACEND Standards Committee



Accreditation Council
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Academy of Nutrition
and Dietetics

I am James Swain, (James introduce yourself here) Associate Professor, Director, Didactic Program, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio and he is a member of the ACEND Board and the co-chair of the standards committee.

Overview



- Review 2017 Standards for non-US Based programs
- Explain how to evaluate international students' transcripts
- Provide good practices for communicating with international students

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ACEND often gets questions about international programs as well as how to handle requests from international students who do not have a verification statement from an ACEND-accredited international program. In this brief video I will explain the routes for international students in US Nutrition and Dietetics programs

First, I will review the 2017 Standards for non-US Based programs. Then I will explain how to evaluate transcripts of international students with some examples. Finally, I will provide some good practices for how to communicate with students who have an degree from an non-accredited international university who wishes to apply to your ACEND accredited program.

ACEND Non-US Based Program Types



- Two types of standards for non-US based programs
 - IDE: International Dietitian Education**
 - FDE: Foreign Dietitian Education**

2017 Accreditation Standards for Non-US Based Programs



FDE



IDE

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ACEND has two types of standards from non-US Based programs: IDE which stands for International Dietitian Education and FDE which stands for Foreign Dietitian Education

ACEND International Programs



- **IDE graduates** are eligible to sit for the RDN exam
 - Students complete minimum 1200 SP, of which 900 SP in the US
- **FDE graduates** are eligible to be **accepted** into a Dietetic Internship or Future Graduate program
 - Students complete minimum 1200 SP in the host country as part of the FDE program, **but must complete a minimum 1200 SP hours in the US to be eligible to site for the CDR exam**



2017 Accreditation Standards FDE, IDE



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Both FDE and IDE are coordinated programs with supervised practice incorporated with the didactic coursework into one program.

Again, IDE stands for International Dietitian Education and IDE students are eligible to sit for the RDN exam. Students complete a minimum of 1200 of supervised hours, some of which is in the host country, but at least 900 hours must be in the United States.

FDE, stands for Foreign Dietitian Education. In addition to dietetic coursework, FDE students must complete a minimum of 1200 hours in the host country. FDE graduates are not eligible to site for the CDR credentialing exam until they perform supervised practice in the United States. Therefore, if you receive an application from an FDE graduate, they should be treated like DPD graduates. They are eligible to get accepted into U.S.-based ACEND-accredited dietetic internship programs or Future Graduate programs. It is up to the DI or FG program director to establish policy for giving prior assessed learning for this supervised experience for FDE graduates.

ACEND International Programs



- 5 international programs: 5 FDE and 1 IDE
 - **IDE:** Lebanon (FDE track); **FDE:** Mexico, Qatar, UAE, South Korea



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There are 5 international programs accredited by ACEND; 1 IDE and 5 FDE. The FDE programs are in Mexico, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and South Korea. The program at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon has two tracks an IDE and an FDE track.

You can find a list of the Universities and programs on the ACEND website under the Accredited Programs section.

ACEND International Programs

United Arab Emirates University
Department of Nutrition and Health
College of Food and Agriculture
P.O. Box 15551
Al Ain, UAE,

Accredited
Accreditation Term Ends: 06/30/2026
Emphasis: Clinical Nutrition
Enrollment Per Class: 24
Enrollment: Fall term, Sophomore year, Spring term
Degree Granted: BS
Other Information: This is a Foreign Dietitian Education (ACEND accredited Dietetic Internship).

American University of Beirut
Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences
P.O. Box 11-0236
Riad El-Solh
Beirut, 1107 2020

Accredited
Accreditation Term Ends: 12/31/2024
Emphasis: Medical Nutrition Therapy
Enrollment Per Class: 20
Enrollment: Fall term, Junior year
Degree Granted: BS
Other Information: Program offers two tracks- FDE track eligible to take the credentialing exam for RDNS. The IDE US for eligibility to take CDR's credentialing exam for RDI

Qatar University
College of Health Sciences
Human Nutrition Department
P.O. Box 2713
Doha, Qatar,

Accredited
Accreditation Term Ends: 12/31/2024
Emphasis: Clinical Pediatric Nutrition
Enrollment Per Class: 30
Enrollment: Fall term, Spring term
Degree Granted: BS
Other Information: This is a Foreign Dietitian Education (ACEND accredited dietetic internship program).

Universidad Iberoamericana
Department of Health
Prolongacion Paseo de la Reforma No. 880
Lomas de Santa Fe
Mexico DF, 01219

Accredited
Accreditation Term Ends: 12/31/2025
Emphasis: Health Promotion/Disease Prevention
Enrollment Per Class: 60
Enrollment: Fall term, Summer term
Degree Granted: BS
Alternate Education: Evening didactic courses , Indep
Other Information: This is a Foreign Dietitian Education (ACEND accredited dietetic Internship).

Kyung Hee University
Graduate School of East-West Medical Science
Department of Medical Nutrition
1732 Deogyesong-daero, Gilheung-gu
Yongin-si, Gyeonggi-do, 446-701

Accredited
Accreditation Term Ends: 06/30/2022
Emphasis: Clinical Nutrition

Here is a list from the ACEND website of the 5 international programs: The Universities are:

- United Arab Emirates University
- American University of Beirut
- Qatar University
- Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico
- And Kyung Hee University in South Korea.

Note that ACEND currently has two other international programs that have applied for candidacy as FDE programs. In addition, ACEND is regularly working with non-US based universities as we respond to their interest in securing accreditation from ACEND. Always be sure to check the list of international programs on the ACEND website to be sure you have the latest list of accredited programs.

Again, as a dietetic internship director or Future Graduate program director, if you get any students who studied under these FDE programs, the FDE graduates should be treated like any other DPD student.

International Students from Non-ACEND Accredited Programs



- Students from universities that are not accredited by ACEND:
 - From countries where ACEND has no accredited programs
 - From countries where ACEND has accredited programs but the student is from a different university (a program not accredited by ACEND)

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Programs also often receive applications from international students who come from programs that are not accredited by ACEND. These could be from countries where ACEND has no accredited programs (for example China, France, or India) but also they could be from countries where ACEND has an accredited program but the student graduated from a different university or a program that is not accredited by ACEND.

International Students from Non-ACEND Accredited Programs



- Upon receiving a request from an international student
 - Request that their transcript be evaluated by a Foreign Degree Evaluation Agency
 - Check your university policies about accepting foreign degrees that have been evaluated
 - If university policies support accepting international transcripts, use the following steps to assess the student's transcripts

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Most often, international students will email program directors of DPD or CP programs requesting that their transcripts be evaluated to see if they are eligible to apply to their program and potentially get credit for their previous education. Some students have already had their international transcripts evaluated by a Foreign Degree Evaluation Agency and will provide this information to you. If the student has not had their transcript evaluated, please direct them to do so prior to moving forward. We will include a link to a list of Foreign Degree Evaluation Agencies later in this recording.

The second step after receiving the request from an international student is to check with your university policies to ensure that your program can accept an evaluated foreign transcript.

Finally, if the university allows these transcripts to be accepted and the student submits their evaluated transcript materials, the program director can then assess the translated transcript for equivalency of courses and/or degrees according to the program's assessment of prior learning policies of evaluating coursework

Note that the evaluation must say the degree is equivalent to a bachelor's (or

master's) degree from a US regionally accredited university. If the degree is not equivalent a student will need to complete the degree in the US

How to Evaluate Transcripts of International Students



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Programs often ask us how to evaluate international students who come from programs that are not accredited by ACEND.

Foreign Degree Evaluation Agencies

The following identified, independent nonprofit agencies perform the specialized service of validating your academic degree as equivalent to the bachelor's or master's degree conferred by a U.S. regionally-accredited college or university.

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/information-for-students>

Academic and Professional International Evaluation, Inc. (APIE) PO Box 5787 Los Alamitos, CA 90721-5787 562/594-6498 api@apiinc.com www.apiinc.org	Globe Language Services, Inc. 305 Broadway, Suite 401 New York, NY 10007 212/227-7994, fax: 212/2693-1489 info@globelanguages.com www.globelanguages.com
Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute, Inc. (ACEI) PO Box 6908 Beverly Hills, CA 90272 310/275-3531 or 800/234-1587 Fax: 310/275-3528 acei@acei.edu www.acei.edu	International Education Research Foundation (IERF) Credentials Evaluation Services, Inc. PO Box 3665 Culver City, CA 90231 310/258-9451 www.ierf.org
American Education Research Corporation, Inc. (AERC) PO Box 396 West Covina, CA 91793-0396 626/938-4404 Fax: 626/939-9081 aerc@amerc.com www.amerc.com	Josef Siley & Associates International Education Consultants 7101 SW 102nd Avenue Miami, FL 33173 305/279-1616 Fax: 305/279-1338 or 279-1984 jsiley@jse.com www.jse.com
Brucan Educational Information Services 3317 Finley Road, Suite 214 Fring, TX 75042 214-653-3869 Fax: 972-600-8500 info@brucan.com www.brucan.com	SpanTran: The Evaluation Company 2400 Augusta Drive, Suite 451 Houston, TX 77057 713/266-8005 Fax: 713/789-6022 www.spantran.com
Center for Educational Documentation, Inc. (CED) PO Box 170116 Boston, MA 02117 617/338-7171 Fax: 617/338-7101 www.ced-boston.com	World Education Services, Inc. (WES) Bowling Green Station PO Box 5087 New York, NY 10274-8057 212/966-6311 Fax: 212/966-6100 info@wes.org www.wes.org

On the ACEND website under Information for Students, select Foreign Degree Evaluation Agencies. This will open the file you see on the screen with a list of several of these agencies. This list has been approved by CDR. You may only accept transcripts evaluated by these agencies approved by CDR.

WES
World Education Services

COURSE-BY-COURSE ANALYSIS

Name: SAMPLE, Sample Date: April 19, 2010
Date of Birth: July 29, 1970 Ref #: 123456789 Page: 2 of 4

INSTITUTIONS - DATES - SUBJECTS	U.S. Semester Credits	U.S. Grades
Indian Institute of Technology Madras		
1997-1998		
(L) Chemistry I	3.0	B
(L) Chemistry Lab	1.0	A
(L) Introduction to Psychology	2.5	A
(L) Mathematics I	2.5	B
(L) Engineering Drawing I	1.0	B
(L) Workshop	1.5	A
(L) Thermodynamics	2.5	B
(L) Physics I	2.5	B
(L) Physics Lab	1.0	A
(L) Engineering Mechanics I	2.5	B
(L) Introduction to Computing	2.5	A
(L) Chemistry II	2.5	B
(L) English Language	2.5	A
(L) Mathematics II	2.5	B
(L) Engineering Drawing II	1.0	C
(L) Workshop	1.5	A
(L) National Cadet Corps	0.0	Pass
<i>(No credit was indicated on the original transcript)</i>		
(L) Physics II	2.5	A
(L) Physics Lab	1.0	A
1998-1999		
(L) Engineering Mechanics II	2.5	B
(L) Mechanics of Materials	3.0	B
(L) Engineering Geology	3.0	B
(L) Electrical Sciences	3.0	C
(U) Mathematics III	3.0	B
(U) Physics III	2.5	C
(L) Building Materials and Construction	2.5	B
(L) Surveying	3.0	C
(U) Geotechnical Engineering I	2.5	B
(L) Surveying Lab	1.0	A
(U) Structural Analysis I	3.0	B
(L) Engineering Fluid Mechanics	3.0	B
(L) Civil Engineering Lab	1.0	A
<i>(Continued on next page)</i>		

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THIS REPORT: An explanation of the terms used in this report can be found on the reverse side. This report is valid only when printed on watermarked paper and sealed with an official WES stamp on each page.

- Translated transcript evaluated as a regular US transcript
- Program determines equivalency

courses → credits → grades

Here is an example of a transcript evaluated by The World Education Services (WES), one of the CDR approved foreign degree evaluation agencies. You will see in the first column the list of the courses, the second column lists the credits for each course and the last column the grade the student received on that course.

Faculty should treat this translated transcript as a regular transcript, as if received from a US college or university. Then it is up to the program to determine the equivalency and which courses to accept and what the student has left to complete according to the program's assessment of prior learning policies.

■ Sample evaluation that includes a description of the degree equivalency

WES
WORLD EDUCATION SERVICES

A Document-by-Document report is typically required for freshman admission to universities, employment, and immigration.

CREDENTIAL EVALUATION AND AUTHENTICATION REPORT

Name: SAMPLE, Sample Date: May 31, 2017
 Date of Birth: Month 01, 1993 Ref #: Page: 1 of 1

U.S. EQUIVALENCY SUMMARY

Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution

CREDENTIAL ANALYSIS

1. **Credential Authentication:** Official transcripts were sent directly by the institution
Country: India
Credential: Bachelor of Technology
Year: 2015
Awarded by: Anna University
Status: Accredited Institution
Admission requirements: High school graduation
Length of program: Four years
Major/Specialization: Chemical Engineering
U.S. Equivalency: Bachelor's degree

This report highlights the U.S. equivalency of your credential.

This report identifies and describes each credential, including: name of credential, requirements for entry and program length, and the equivalent degree in terms of U.S. education.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THIS REPORT: An explanation of the terms used in this report can be found on the reverse side. This report is valid only when printed on unwatermarked paper and sealed with an official WES stamp on each page.

Here is another example showing the degree equivalency. As you see on the authentication report, this degree was determined to be equivalent to a Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution

Students in a DPD or FB Programs



- Develop a course equivalency table as a record

EXAMPLE

WES Course	Cr.	Ceres University DPD Course	Cr.
Chemistry with Lab	6	CHM 105 –Gen Chem	4
Nutrition with Lab	5	NUT 102 – Intro to Nutr	3
Statistics	3	STAT 104 – Intro to Stats	3
Human Psychology with Lab	4	PSY 101- Intro to Psych	3

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For international students entering and a DPD program or a Future Bachelor program, if the university does not provide a course by course equivalency, ACEND highly recommends the program director develop a course equivalency table to help keep a record and provide the students with this record as they are applying to a dietetic internship or an FG program.

Good Practices



- Set expectations about prior learning assessment and receiving credit
- Discuss relocation
- Potential difficulties around distance education with an international visa

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There are a few good practices that ACEND feels are helpful to program directors communicating with international students.

First, it is helpful to be up front about your program's prior learning assessment policy. International students may be expecting that some of their credits would apply to a program to help them complete the program more quickly. If your program's policy states that you will not accept prior learning, or your university requires that the student completes a minimum number of credit hours to receive a verification statement, it is helpful to provide this information early in the communication with the student.

Second, international students may be restricted in relocated in the US, depending on their resources here. If your program is local, you would want to ensure that the student is able to relocate to your institution and meet requirements for traveling to supervised practice, if this is part of your program.

Finally, if you have a distance program, there may be restrictions around how many hours an international student may participate in distance learning to keep their visa. Contact your university's international student department to find out what

restrictions are in place and what options you may have to accommodate the student.

Resources



- **ACEND FAQs for International Students**

- <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/information-for-students/education-and-credentialing-requirements-for-those-with-foreign-degrees>

- **List of Foreign Degree Evaluation Agencies**

- <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/information-for-students/foreign-degree-evaluation-agencies>

- **ACEND Staff**

- 800-877-1600 x5400
- acend@eatright.org

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To learn more about the process for international students to becoming credentialed, please visit ACEND's FAQ page for these individuals. If you would like to access the list of Foreign Degree Evaluation Agencies for yourself or to provide to a potential international applicant, please visit the second link on the slide. Finally, you are always welcome to reach out to ACEND staff if you have any questions about the process of accepting international students into your program.

Thank You

If you have questions or comments:

Email: ACEND@eatright.org



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Thank you