
ACEND Virtual Town Hall Meeting

Questions

January 14, 2020, 11:00 a.m. Central Time

Hosts: Judy Kaplan, MS, RD, LD

DT Program Representative-elect, ACEND Board

Rayane AbuSabha, PhD, RD

ACEND Executive Director



Introduction/Announcements: Judy Kaplan welcomed all in attendance.

Judy reminded participants that the 2017 Standards are up for revisions. Stakeholder feedback to evaluate these standards was gathered between September and November 2019. The Standards Committee is using the feedback as they work on the draft of the 2022 Standards. The first draft of the 2022 Standards is expected to be completed in Spring or Summer 2020. ACEND hopes to release the draft standards for public comment in the late summer or early fall of 2020.

In response to dietetic internship directors' request to discuss the options available to free-standing dietetic internship programs, ACEND dedicated a special virtual town hall specific to this topic and invited all dietetic internship directors and faculty to attend. The webinar was recorded and is now posted on the ACEND website at <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/program-directors/program-directors-faq/future-options-for-free-standing-dietetic-internships>

ACEND often gets questions about international programs. ACEND has posted on its website a recording to provide program directors with information on evaluating international students from FDE (Foreign Dietitian Education), IDE (International Dietitian Education) and non-ACEND accredited programs. The recording is meant to help program directors understand how to evaluate students from international programs and is posted on the ACEND website under program director FAQs.

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/program-directors/program-directors-faq>

Judy then provided an update on the Future Education Model Standards. The demonstration program process for the future education model accreditation standards is moving along well. There are 18 demonstration programs that have already been accredited from the first three cohorts: 16 are Future Graduate programs and 2 are Future Bachelor's programs. These programs are listed on the ACEND website under "Accredited Programs". <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend>. There are an additional 41 programs in Cohorts 1, 2 and 3 that are in the process of completing reports and/or self-studies.

In Cohort 4, 27 applications were received and included applications from Future Bachelor and Future Graduate programs. Among these applications were a number of partnership applications between universities and free-standing dietetic internships. The Board will vote during its in-person meeting in January if there will be a Cohort 5 for demonstration programs. The Board has had this discussion before, and it is likely that we would want to continue with additional cohorts so that more demonstration programs apply.

Judy thanked all those in attendance who serve as program reviewers and encouraged them to consider applying to become reviewers for the FEM programs. She then provided the dates of the upcoming 2020 program director workshops under both the 2017 and FEM Standards which are March 5-6 and August 13-14 respectively.

Judy discussed how ACEND will continue to provide updates on the development of the Standards, announced April 14th as the date of the next Town Hall and reminded participants to reach out to ACEND staff for assistance or with questions. Judy then opened the Town Hall to questions.

Questions/Comments:

1. Can you comment on the number of Nutrition and Dietetics Technicians programs that are closing? It appears there will be fewer than 25 programs in the near future.
Response: As a Diet Tech program we find opportunities in the field every day for our graduates. We hear that often it is the lack of enrollment that causes programs to close, not the lack of job opportunities. Administration cannot justify keeping the program open with low enrollment.

2. Could you speak more on predictions regarding job potential for diet techs?
Response: Looking at the Bureau of Labor Statistics for jobs available at the state and national level, we are hopeful there will be more openings in long term care for techs due to the malnutrition piece. The Labor and Statistics Bureau is showing an increase in jobs for those at the associate's level, especially those related to home health community positions with older populations such as long-term care and home health care. Judy has been sending out the marketing materials from CDR to the community regarding techs and the jobs for which they can be employed.

3. Will you share some of the computer match information such as number of students with a master's degree?
Response: The computer match information is posted on the ACEND website under:
 1. About ACEND - Enrollment statistics
 2. Program Directors – Dietetic Internship Match for Program DirectorsData on number of students with a master's degree is currently not separated from other data but ACEND will look into doing for future reports.

The next town hall is on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 11 am Central Time.

Judy thanked everyone for their discussion on the town hall. The call ended at 11:22 am CT.