

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 2ND 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. 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

Future Education Model Demonstration Program Research Logic Model

ACEND released a draft of its proposed research logic model for the demonstration program project in November 2017 and invited comments on the model. Thank you to those who provided input. A final version of the model is attached to this newsletter.

ACEND Future Education Model Demonstration Program Research Logic Model provides a way to conceptualize and articulate components of the demonstration project. The model is a two-page graphic representation and summary of the planned goals, objectives, activities and outcomes of the demonstration program project of the future education model. ACEND plans to use this management tool to show relationships among the objectives, planned activities and desired outcomes of the demonstration project and to provide the framework for evaluation of the demonstration program project.

On the top of the first page of the logic model graphic are the overall aim and goal of the future education model demonstration program project. As shown in the left column of the first page, the objectives of the project are divided into three broad groups: demonstration program selection, demonstration program engagement and data collection and analysis. The activities that are planned to address each objective are shown in the right hand column of the first page. The number in parentheses after each activity designates its corresponding objective(s).

The second page of the logic model details expected short- and long-term outcomes. These outcomes are linked to one or more objectives, which are shown in the parentheses after each outcome. The outcomes are grouped based on the target group (demonstration programs, students/graduates, ACEND Board, and employers). Data collection will include measurement of these outcomes.

ACEND is using the logic model to guide the development of the data collection instruments to be used in the project as well as the types of data to be collected. The demonstration program directors will be involved in helping to review and refine the instruments before data collection begins.

ACEND will continue to share results of the work with the future education model in the *Rationale Document* that is posted online at www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel.

CHANGE IN TIME AND DATE OF VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETINGS

ACEND periodically changes the day and time of the monthly virtual town halls to accommodate different teaching schedules of its stakeholders. Starting on January 17, 2018, the virtual town halls will be held on the **3rd**

Wednesday of the month at 3:00 pm CT. Information on joining the town halls is posted on the ACEND website: www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel.

For Additional Information

- Review back issues of the monthly ACEND Standards Updates that are posted on the ACEND website www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel.
- Participate in a monthly ACEND virtual town hall on the 3rd 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.
- 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: *The 2017 Accreditation Standards indicate that the pass rate will be reviewed on a five-year average. ACEND announced that the ACEND Board had changed that review to a three-year period but the 2017 Accreditation Standards have not yet changed. Should program change their program objective to reflect the three year time frame or leave it as five years?*

ACEND Response: The ACEND Board did change its policies to reflect the review of registration exam pass rate over a three-year period and proposed a similar change to the *2017 Accreditation Standards*. The proposed change in the Standards was put out for public comment in fall 2017. The ACEND Board currently is reviewing the public comments received and will make a decision on changes to the *2017 Accreditation Standards* at its January meeting. Once a decision is made, ACEND will indicate a date for implementation of any changes.

Question: *ACEND posted potential changes to the 2017 Accreditation Standards and the call for comment ended in early December, when will the changes become final?*

ACEND Response: The ACEND Board members are reviewing the comments received. The Board will discuss the comments and make a decision on the proposed changes at their January meeting. Once a decision is made, an announcement of the changes and the implementation of the changes will be made.

Future Education Model Accreditation Standards Questions

Question: *Will programs accredited under the future education model go through the computer match process?*

ACEND Response: Admission to future education model programs will be through applications directly to the program similar to what occurs currently with the didactic (DPD), coordinated (CP) and technician (DT) programs. There are no plans at this point to do computer matching for admission to the future education model programs.

Question: *Are graduates of the Future Education Model Bachelor's Degree Programs (FB) eligible to apply to a Dietetic Internship (DI) program?*

ACEND Response: Students applying to a DI program must have a verification statement from a DPD program. The curriculum for the FB program differs from that of the DPD program. Graduates of the FB program would be able to apply to the Future Education Model Graduate Programs (FG), if they wanted to pursue further education to become a registered dietitian nutritionist. Graduates of FB programs who wanted to apply to a DI program accredited under the *2017 Accreditation Standards* would need to take the additional coursework needed to obtain a DPD verification statement to be eligible to apply to a DI program.

Question: Will ACEND eventually require that the graduate degree be an MS in nutrition?

ACEND Response: The *Future Education Model Standards for Graduate Degree Programs* (FG) do not specify the title of the degree (MS, MA, MBA, MPH etc.) or the focus area of the degree (nutrition, dietetics, public health, etc.). Programs are allowed to determine the title and focus of the graduate degree program they are offering. ACEND does not expect to change to requiring a specific degree title or focus. ACEND will continue to focus on the competencies required of graduates that are detailed in the FG standards.

Question: Will ACEND work with programs in creating rubrics and activities to meet the competencies identified in the Future Education Model Accreditation Standards or will programs need to determine these on their own?

ACEND Response: The process to becoming a demonstration program for the future education model includes mandatory online and in-person training on competency-based education and competency assessment. ACEND will work closely with program directors in helping them create their competency assessment plans. Templates and rubrics will be shared among demonstration programs to help facilitate development of the assessment plans.

Demonstration Program Questions

Question: When will ACEND announce the names of the programs selected as the first cohort of demonstration programs for the future education model?

ACEND Response: The process to become a demonstration program includes multiple phases. The programs chosen as demonstration programs will follow ACEND's current policies for earning or continuing their accreditation; those identified as a reorganization of an existing program follow ACEND's substantive change procedures for reorganization of an existing program and those identified as a candidacy follow ACEND's candidacy procedures. Phase 1 of the demonstration program selection process for the first cohort of demonstration programs involved review of the program applications in which programs demonstrated compliance with Standards 1, 2, 6, 8 and 9. The applications were reviewed by a review team, the ACEND Standards Committee and ACEND Board. A decision was made by the ACEND Board on whether the programs would move forward in the demonstration program process and whether to categorize the programs as a reorganization or candidacy. This phase has been completed for the first cohort and 19 programs are moving to the next phase. Phase 2 involves program directors' attendance at on-line and in person training on competency-based education and competency assessment. The training sessions will be held in January and February, 2018. Phase 3 differs depending on whether the program was classified as a reorganization or a candidacy. Programs categorized as a reorganization will submit a report detailing their compliance with Standards 4 and 5. When this report is approved by the ACEND Board, the program's accreditation continues as a reorganized program and ACEND will post the names of these programs on its website. Those identified as candidacy programs will follow ACEND's candidacy procedures. They will complete a self-study and have a site visit. Once they are granted candidacy accreditation by the ACEND Board, their names will be posted on the ACEND website. All demonstration programs will be accredited under the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* and graduates of those programs will be considered graduates of ACEND-accredited programs.

Question: Were there any changes made to the application process for the second cohort of demonstration programs?

ACEND Response: ACEND did make some changes to simplify the demonstration program application for the second cohort of programs based on feedback from the reviewers and applicants of the first cohort. The revised application forms are posted on the ACEND website www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel. The application has been shortened and now only includes discussion of compliance with Standards 1, 2 and 6. ACEND developed a webinar to help clarify expectations for the content of applications submitted. This webinar is also on the future education model website. There also were some changes made to phase 3 of the application process. Programs categorized as a reorganization in the second cohort will submit a report demonstrating compliance with Standards, 4, 5, 8 and 9 after completion of the mandatory training.

Question: What assistance is available to assist programs interested in applying to become a demonstration program?

ACEND Response: The ACEND website, www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel, includes a webinar recording of helpful tips for completing the application and a guidance document detailing information to include in the application narrative. ACEND staff (acend@eatright.org; 800-877-1600 x5400) are always available and willing to answer questions and assist programs throughout the application process.

Question: *Could the “start by” date of 2021 for the cohort 2 demonstration programs be extended to allow programs sufficient time for getting program approval from their institutions?*

ACEND Response: The ACEND Standards Committee has extended the “start by” date for the cohort 2 demonstration programs. Programs accredited under the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* in cohort 2 of the demonstration project must admit their first class of students no later than fall 2024. Programs can begin admitting students as soon as they are approved as a demonstration program.

ACEND Future Education Module Demonstration Program Research Logic Model

Aim	Assure the public and confirm confidence that ACEND-accredited programs produce graduates who are adequately prepared for future practice in nutrition and dietetics.	
Goal	Engage demonstration sites in a process to measure program and graduate outcomes under the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i>.	
Components	Objectives	Activities ^a
Demonstration Program Selection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select demonstrator sites that are willing and have the capability to implement future education model accredited programs. 2. Obtain a representative sample of demonstration programs in terms of geographic location, program size, and proposed program structure. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Engage in communication activities (e.g. ACEND website, FNCE and NDEP meetings, emails, newsletters, town halls)(1)(2) b) Create application and selection materials, conduct selection process and evaluate processes, materials and criteria. (1)(2)
Demonstration Program Engagement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Create a community of early adopters to network and develop a competency-based program framework with supporting materials and templates. 4. Identify opportunities and challenges faced by programs and management strategies used to implement and meet the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i>. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> c) Provide training to program directors on the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i>, including Competency-Based Education (CBE) methodology and assessment. (3) d) Create opportunities for sharing and disseminating early adapter program materials, identified opportunities and challenges; and management strategies (e.g. listserv, webinars, FNCE breakout sessions, ACEND website, blog). (4)
Data Collection and Analysis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Obtain evaluation data to inform potential revisions to the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i>. 6. Evaluate the impact of <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i> on program outcomes, employability and job preparedness of program graduates, integrated experiential learning, competency assessment and market place need for program graduates at each degree level. 7. Identify similarities and differences among programs in meeting the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i>. 8. Compare program and graduate outcomes of programs accredited under the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i> with those of other ACEND-accredited programs. 9. Publish demonstration program project data. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> e) Obtain IRB approval for research study. (6)(9) f) Create metrics and survey tools to collect data from demonstration programs; report data annually. (6)(7) g) Create survey to collect evaluation information on the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i>. (5) h) Create metrics and survey tools to collect data for program graduate comparison from programs accredited under the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i> and those accredited under other ACEND Standards. (8) i) Conduct focus groups with program directors, faculty, preceptors, students and employers. (6)(7) j) Write and publish research articles. (9)

^a Numbers in parentheses (#) indicate the objective being addressed by the activities or outcomes

ACEND Future Education Module Demonstration Program Research Logic Model

Target Group

Short-term Outcomes

Long-term Outcomes

	Demonstration Programs ^a	Students/Graduates ^a	ACEND Board ^a	Employers ^a
	<p>I. A minimum of 60 demonstration programs (5 Associate, 10 Bachelor, 45 Graduate level) under the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i> with representation from across the USA by 2020. (1)(2)(5)</p> <p>II. 100% of program directors trained on the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i>, including CBE. (1)</p> <p>III. 100% of programs providing evidence of student and faculty training on CBE concepts. (1)</p> <p>IV. 80% participation of demonstration program directors in early adopter community of practice activities. (2)(3)(7)</p> <p>V. List of benefits, challenges and management strategies related to implementation of the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i>. (3)(4)(5)</p> <p>VI. 80% of faculty and preceptors providing ratings of satisfied/very satisfied” with integrated experiential learning, CBE and student competency demonstration. (6)</p> <p>VII. The same or better program outcomes (completion, exam pass rate and employment) from programs accredited under the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i> as other ACEND-accredited programs. (6)(8)</p> <p>VIII. The same or better diversity of graduates of programs accredited under the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i> as other ACEND-accredited programs. (6)(8)</p>	<p>IX. At least 100 students enrolled per degree level in programs accredited under the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i> by 2020. (2)(5)</p> <p>X. The same or better performance of graduates from programs accredited under the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i> compared to performance of graduates of other ACEND-accredited programs.(5)(6)(8)</p> <p>XI. The same or better graduate self-reports of being “ready” and “confident” for practice from graduates of programs accredited under the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i> compared to graduates of other ACEND-accredited programs. (6)</p> <p>XII. The same or better employment of graduates from programs accredited under the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i>, compared to graduates of other ACEND-accredited programs. (6)(8)</p>	<p>XIII. Analysis and report on data annually; and create a trending document second reporting year. (6)(7)(8)</p> <p>XIV. Accreditation Standards, including the competencies, modified based on stakeholder feedback, annual reports and data collected. (5)(6)(7)(8)(9)</p> <p>XV. A competency map template and guidance materials and templates on CBE assessment for program directors and reviewers. (5)(7)(9)</p> <p>XVI. Articles with results of the demonstration program project published in the <i>Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics</i>. (9)</p>	<p>XVII. The same or better ratings by employers that graduates of programs accredited under the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i> are competent and prepared for future practice, compared to graduates of other ACEND-accredited programs. (6)(8)</p> <p>XVIII. The same or better ratings by employers that graduates of programs accredited under the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i> displayed in practice the competencies for the degree they have earned, compared to graduates of other ACEND-accredited programs. (6)(8)</p> <p>XIX. The same or better ratings by employers that they chose graduates of programs accredited under the <i>Future Education Model Accreditation Standards</i> because of their academic preparation, compared to graduates of other ACEND-accredited programs. (6)(8)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A community of educators who network and develop CBE program materials, templates and structures. (1)(2)(3) ACEND-accredited programs using integrated experiential learning and CBE to prepare graduates for future practice in nutrition and dietetics (6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduates adequately prepared for practice.(6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Accreditation Standards to best prepare graduates for future practice.(5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment of graduates prepared for practice and working to their full competence. (6)