

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE 3<sup>rd</sup> COHORT OF DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS**

ACEND has issued a third call for demonstration programs to be accredited under the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards*. 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 January 11, 2019.

**Update on the Pearson VUE ACEND Summary of Candidate Testing Report**

ACEND is working with the Commission on Dietetic Registration and Pearson VUE to make a change to the ACEND Summary of Candidate Testing Report. Many program directors have voiced concern that the data in the section for “Testers within one year of First Attempt” is incomplete for the most recent year as those students hadn’t yet completed their one year time frame before the report was issued.

This report will be changed so that the data in the “Testers within one year of First Attempt” section will be based on the year in which the candidate’s one year time frame ends. In the new report, the results of candidates who take the exam for the first time in 2016 will be recorded in the year 2016 in the “first attempt” table; the “one year from first attempt” results for those same candidates will be recorded in the year 2017 in “one year of first attempt” table as that is the year that the candidate’s one year time period from first attempt ended.

The two tables in the new report will be similar to those shown below. One will include the information on exam results for the tester’s “first attempt” and a second table will include exam results for the tester’s pass rate within “one year of first attempt”. Both tables will contain the institution’s results and the national results. To illustrate using the example below, the group of candidates (n=18) who took the exam for the first time in 2015 would have their “first attempt” data shown in 2015 in the first table. The “one year from first attempt” time period for these candidates would end in 2016, thus the “one year of fist attempt” data for these same 18 candidates are shown for the year 2016 in the second table.

*Year of First Testing Attempt	First Attempt in Calendar Year			
	Institutional			National
	Examinees	Passed	Percent Passed	Percent Passed
2015	18	14	77.78%	81.49%
2016	15	14	93.33%	83.82%
2017	12	9	75.00%	79.94%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>82.22%</b>	<b>80.85%</b>

\*Year of First Testing Attempt: Year examinees took the exam for the first time.

**Ending Year of First Attempt	Testers Within One Year of First Attempt			
	Institutional			National
	Examinees	Passed	Percent Passed	Percent Passed
2015	19	18	94.74%	93.27%
2016	18	17	94.44%	93.61%
2017	15	15	100%	92.28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>96.15%</b>	<b>92.86%</b>

\*\*Ending Year of First Attempt: Year that the ‘one year from first attempt’ time frame ended for examinees, regardless of whether they passed on the first attempt.

## **NEW SCHEDULE FOR STANDARDS UPDATE AND VIRTUAL TOWN HALLS**

**Standards Updates:** Beginning this June 2018, the Standards Update will be published every other month. For 2018, the Standards Update will be issued in July, September and November.

**Virtual Town Halls:** Beginning this June 2018, the virtual town halls will be held quarterly. The next ACEND Virtual Town Hall will be held on Wednesday September 19 at 3 pm CT.

### **For Additional Information**

- Review back issues of the ACEND Standards Updates that are posted on the ACEND website [www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel](http://www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel).
- Participate in an ACEND virtual town hall; 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:** *Why did ACEND decrease the number of Standards Updates publications?*

**ACEND Response:** ACEND has decided to decrease the number of Standards Updates that are issued based on the survey that was completed by program directors. Program directors requested a decrease in the frequency of communication from ACEND to allow them to keep up with all the publications.

**Question:** *Why did ACEND decrease the number of Virtual Town Hall meetings?*

**ACEND Response:** During several of the spring town hall meetings, ACEND received very few questions from participants and these meetings were concluded in less than 20 minutes. ACEND appreciates how valuable educators' time is and wanted to minimize any addition to their workload. With a decrease in frequency of town hall meetings, ACEND anticipates that future discussions may become more robust adding value to the time spent during these town halls.

**Question:** *Standard 9, Required Element 9.3 states: "Information about the program must be readily-available to prospective students and the public via a website." What is meant by readily available?*

**ACEND Response:** Readily available means that the information can be accessed by prospective students and the public without disclosure of identity or contact information and is no more than one "click" away from the program's home webpage.

**Question: Are there different timelines for the different types of program objectives?**

**ACEND Response:** There are two different types of program objectives in Standard 3: program specific objectives and ACEND required objectives. Program specific objectives are developed by the program. Programs are required to develop at least one program specific objective for each of their program goals. Thus, if a program has three goals then at least three program specific objectives must be developed, one aligned under each goal. There are five ACEND required objectives, but these objectives differ depending on the program type; for example, a coordinated program in nutrition and dietetics (CP) must have an objective on employer satisfaction whereas a didactic program in nutrition and dietetics (DPD) must have an objective on satisfaction of the supervised practice program director.

The timelines are different for the two types of objectives. The timeline for the program specific objectives is set by the program; for example, a program may decide to collect data on one objective once every two years and/or one objective once every three years. The ACEND required objectives must be collected annually and reported in the Program Evaluation Plan Template (Standard 4, RE 4.1 & 4.2) using a three-year rolling average.

**Question: Do programs need to report the data for the Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) using the three-year rolling average?**

**ACEND Response:** The Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) (Standard 6, RE 6.1) do not need to be reported using the three-year rolling average. These SLOs are evaluated based on a timeline set by the program. However, 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.

**Question: What does ACEND consider a track?**

**ACEND Response:** ACEND defines a track as different routes or pathways within a program resulting in the same outcome. Examples of tracks include part-time vs. full-time, undergraduate degree vs. graduate degree, distance vs. onsite courses, and remote vs. local supervised practice. Required Element 4.2 indicates that **“Data on actual program outcomes for each pathway or track are collected separately according to the program evaluation plan, summarized and analyzed by comparing actual achievements with objectives”**. Programs with one or more students in separate tracks are expected to track data on those students separately. Note that post-graduate students in DPD programs that follow the same curriculum as undergraduate students are not considered a separate track.

**Question: What does ACEND consider a pathway?**

**ACEND Response:** The Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway (ISPP) is the only recognized pathway within the 2017 ACEND Accreditation Standards.

## **Future Education Model (FEM) Accreditation Standards Questions**

**Question: How does one find out which programs have become demonstration programs under the Future Education Model Accreditation Standards?**

**ACEND Response:** When the ACEND Board approves a program’s request to reorganize an existing program or grants candidacy to a new program under the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards*, the program’s information will appear on the ACEND website in a section designated for Future Education Model programs. See [www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs](http://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs) for the current list of approved demonstration programs.

## Demonstration Program Questions

**Question:** *Why is ACEND posting on its Web site the names and site visit dates of demonstration programs that are going through a candidacy for accreditation review before ACEND Board approval is granted?*

**ACEND Response:** The names of programs categorized as a reorganization will be posted on the ACEND Web site after they receive approval for their reorganization from the ACEND Board. As a USDE recognized accreditor, ACEND is required to post the names of programs that are being considered for candidacy status and provide an opportunity for third party comment. Once the site visit is scheduled for a demonstration program categorized as candidacy, ACEND posts the program's name and site visit date on its Web site here: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/public-notices-and-announcements/accreditation-decisions/programs-under-review>

**Question:** *Can a free-standing dietetic internship program apply to be a demonstration program?*

**ACEND Response:** A free-standing dietetic internship program can form a partnership with a degree-granting institution and apply to become a demonstration program. The *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* require that the program be offered by or in partnership with a college or university (RE 1.1) and specify that the demonstration of competence must be integrated in the didactic and supervised experiential learning activities throughout the curriculum (Standard 5). ACEND encourages such partnerships to submit an application for the third cohort of demonstration programs.

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

**ACEND Response:** ACEND did make minor changes to the demonstration program application for the third cohort of programs based on feedback from the reviewers and applicants of the first two cohorts. The revised application includes discussion of compliance with Standards 1, 2 and 6, and asks the program to provide an overview of the proposed curriculum and a proposed course plan, indicating in which didactic courses experiential learning is expected to be integrated. The revised application forms and a webinar on completing the application are posted on the ACEND website here: [www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel](http://www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel). ACEND developed a webinar to help clarify expectations for the content of applications submitted.

**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](http://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](mailto:acend@eatright.org); 800-877-1600 x5400) are available to answer questions and assist programs throughout the application process.