

**CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MINOR CHANGES TO FEM ACCREDITATION
STANDARDS DUE JANUARY 7, 2019**

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND®) is proposing minor revisions to the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* (see: eatrightPRO.org/FutureModel). **Public comments on the proposed revisions to the Standards can be made at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RevisedFEM> until January 7, 2019. We encourage you to provide your input.** Please share this information with your constituents/colleagues. If you or they have questions, please send them to acend@eatright.org or call 312-899-4872, so we can respond to them.

FNCE 2018 ACEND Forum Highlights:

On Sunday, October 21, ACEND held its Forum titled: *Demonstration Program Innovations in Educating Future Practitioners*, which featured Dr. Jennifer Tomesko, director of the first accredited demonstration Future Graduate program and Dr. Riva Touger-Decker, department chair at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. The program admitted its first class of students in fall, 2018.

Dr. Tomesko shared innovative approaches they used as they reorganized their coordinated, dietetic internship and master's degree programs into a Future Graduate program, which integrates experiential learning using a hybrid model of both distance and in person instruction. Dr. Tomesko shared examples of their flipped classroom, concept mapping, use of objective structured clinical examinations (OSCE) with standardized patients and use of technology to access point of care resources. Her presentation detailed strategies they used to build stronger relationships with, and better train, their preceptors for the shift to competency-based education. She also discussed the challenges and benefits of being a demonstration program.

Dr. Touger-Decker provided an administrator's perspective on why they chose to become a demonstration program and strategies they used to manage change. She detailed the multi-year process used by their program and how stakeholder input and involvement was initiated and used. Dr. Touger-Decker shared the financial model used for the program and how they addressed challenges and opportunities in launching the program.

A link to the recording of their presentation will be available in a few weeks.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE 3rd 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. Applications are due by 11 am CT on January 11, 2019.

NEW SCHEDULE FOR ACEND STANDARDS NEWS AND VIRTUAL TOWN HALLS

Standards News: The Standards News is now published quarterly. The next Standards News will be issued in February 2019.

Virtual Town Halls: The virtual town halls are held quarterly. The next ACEND Virtual Town Hall will be held on Tuesday January 8, 2019 at 11 am CT. Please note the new day and time.

For Additional Information

- Review back issues of the ACEND Standards Updates that are posted on the ACEND website 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.
- 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: *Will CP, DPD, DT, and DI programs be required to shift to the future education model by 2024?*

ACEND Response: CP, DPD, DT and DI programs do not need to shift to the future education model by 2024. All currently accredited programs will continue their accreditation under the *2017 Accreditation Standards*. In fact, the Standards Committee has begun work on the *2022 Accreditation Standards*. The *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* will only be available for programs who volunteer to serve as demonstration programs. Data will be collected on the demonstration programs and their graduates and reviewed by ACEND prior to any decisions being made about implementation of the future education model standards.

Question: *After January 1, 2024, will DIs need to be linked with a master's degree program or require a master's degree for admission to their program?*

ACEND Response: Under the *2017 Accreditation Standards*, DIs are not required to offer a graduate degree or to require a graduate degree of applicants. The student would be required to complete a master's degree at some point, either prior to or after completing the DI, to be eligible to take the credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutrition (RDN) after January 1, 2024.

Question: *Are programs expected to adhere to the "one-click" expectation for program information on websites?*

ACEND Response: Based on concerns raised by program directors, ACEND gathered data from the website audit on the actual number of clicks currently used to get to program information. The ACEND Board will discuss its definition for "readily available" and the expectation for information to be no more than one click during its next Board meeting.

Question: What are the minimum items programs must keep records of indefinitely? Can these items be retained electronically?

ACEND Response: The ACEND Document Retention Procedures Appendix may be found in the 2017 and FEM Guidance Information Documents which are available on the Standards pages of the ACEND website (www.eatrightpro.org/2017Standards; www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel). The documents that must be kept indefinitely and the form(s) in which the documents may be stored are explained in detail in the appendix. When documents are retained in electronic format, the program must ensure that they are stored in a way that they may be easily accessed in case of change in program leadership.

Question: How are dietetic internship programs planning to meet the 2024 CDR graduate degree eligibility requirement for the RDN credentialing exam?

ACEND Response: Dietetic Internship (DI) programs appear to be using several different models to assist their graduates in meeting the 2024 CDR eligibility requirement for a minimum of a graduate degree to take the credentialing exam to become a registered dietitian nutritionist. Some DIs have made having a graduate degree an admission requirement; others have partnered with a college or university to offer a graduate degree concurrently or combined with the DI; and others will have graduates pursue the graduate degree after completing the DI. The admission requirements and expectations for program completion are determined by the DI program. A change in requirements for program completion (i.e. adding a graduate degree as a requirement for completion of the DI program) is considered a substantive program change and requires submission of a substantive change request (see: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accreditation-standards-fees-and-policies/acend-policy-and-procedures>).

Question: Are preceptors allowed to take more than one student at a time under the 2017 Accreditation Standards?

ACEND Response: ACEND does not specify the preceptor to student/intern ratio in the 2017 Accreditation Standards. A preceptor can accept more than one intern. Some programs use a model where they have a faculty member assigned as a preceptor at the supervised practice site, similar to nursing programs, and in this site the faculty member/preceptor may oversee the work of several interns.

Future Education Model (FEM) Accreditation Standards Questions

Question: Is there a minimum number of performance indicators that a program must meet?

ACEND Response: ACEND has not specified a minimum number of performance indicators to be included in the curriculum; the program will make that decision. ACEND will collect curriculum materials from programs to determine use of the performance indicators. However, every competency must be represented as being assessed by at least one performance indicator at the same level (or higher) as the competency. The identification of which performance indicators are being assessed in the program will be detailed in the curriculum map.

Question: Must every performance indicator shown on the curriculum map be at the DOES level of performance in order to demonstrate that a student met the competency it represents?

ACEND Response: Performance indicators need only be met at the minimum level specified for that performance indicator. Competencies and performance indicators are set at all three levels of performance. Some competencies and performance indicators are expected to be demonstrated at the “KNOWS” or knowledge-level of performance (e.g., Competency 1.2 for the Bachelor’s program: *Demonstrates an understanding of Anatomy and Physiology*). Some competencies and performance indicators are expected to be demonstrated at a “SHOWS” level of performance or demonstration of the knowledge typically in a simulated or artificial environment (e.g., Competency 1.2 for the Associate program: *Integrates knowledge of determinants of health into all aspects of nutrition care and services*). At the highest level of performance, the competencies and performance indicators are set at the “DOES” level, an expectation of demonstrating a level of doing something in an actual work environment or simulated artificial setting.

Question: What is the student to preceptor ratio in the Future Education Model?

ACEND Response: ACEND does not specify in either the 2017 or *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards* the preceptor to student ratio. A preceptor can accept more than one student with either version of the accreditation standards.

Question: What impact will the proposed future education model have on student diversity in nutrition and dietetics programs?

ACEND Response: Ethnic diversity in student enrollment in ACEND accredited programs has increased over the past 10 years. Most notably, the number of Hispanic students has nearly doubled. ACEND talked with other health profession accreditors (Physical Therapy, Pharmacy, Occupational Therapy) who have moved their education requirements to a graduate level and learned that this change did not decrease student diversity in those professions. In pharmacy, for example, under-represented minority students (Black, Hispanic, Native American) were 10.6% of the student population in 1988, prior to implementing their practice doctorate degree requirement, and 11.4% in 2012 after implementation. In physical therapy, under-represented minority students were 5.2% of graduates in 1997 prior to beginning doctorate level preparation and were 9.8% of graduates in 2017. Diversity of students currently enrolled in dietetic internships combined with a graduate degree (males = 10%; under-represented minorities = 9%) and in coordinated programs at the graduate level (males = 10%; under-represented minorities = 11%) is similar to the diversity of students in dietetic internship programs that do not offer a graduate degree (males = 8%; under-represented minorities = 9%). The future education model includes preparation for careers in nutrition and dietetics at associate, bachelor and master degree levels allowing students many options for entry into future nutrition and dietetics careers and facilitating professional growth and development through subsequent degree levels. ACEND Standards encourage programs to foster diversity in their student selection process. ACEND currently monitors and will continue to monitor student diversity in all accredited programs.

Demonstration Program Questions

Question: Does ACEND require a specific scale (e.g., 5 point Likert scale or a dichotomous Met/Did not meet) that demonstration programs should be using to assess if students are achieving the competencies?

ACEND Response: During the ACEND CBE training workshop, several types of scales are discussed that may be used to assess if students are meeting the competencies and associated performance indicators; however, ACEND does not specify a particular scale. It is up to each program to determine how they will be assessing student competence and the type of scale(s) to be used.

Question: I am preparing an application to be a demonstration program and I am wondering whether I should use the proposed wording of ACEND required objectives in Standard 2 that was recently released for public comment?

ACEND Response: Those submitting an application to be a demonstration program as part of cohort 3 have the choice to follow the language of the current *Future Education Model Standards* or to use the new wording of the proposed FEM accreditation standards, both found at www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel.