

Competency-Based Education Programs – Benefits to Demonstration Programs and Students:

- The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) has released the *Future Education Model Accreditation Standards for Graduate Programs (GP) in Nutrition and Dietetics*, which are competency-based education (CBE) programs that integrate classroom learning with hands-on supervised experiential learning activities.
- Nutrition and Dietetics is joining other health professions that have transitioned to CBE model, such as physical therapy, speech language pathology, occupational therapy, audiology, nursing and pharmacy.
- CBE fosters work readiness. In the *FEM Accreditation Standards*, the curriculum is guided with the competencies and their respective performance indicators, which are defined based on the desired behaviors and job skills targeted.
- Employers see potential value in job applicants who will study using CBE since it aligns academics with the skills they seek in their employees.
- Students will benefit from programs that offer both the required experiential and didactic in a single degree program versus the most common dietetics education traditional process of completing a bachelor's degree program and then requiring a separate application to a supervised practice program; reducing both anxiety and expense for the student.
- *FEM* demonstration programs have access to CBE support materials from ACEND, along with online and in-person training on CBE and competency assessment.
- *FEM* demonstration programs and their organizations gain national recognition as leaders and early adopters.
- Directors of demonstration programs will participate in a network of educators implementing the *FEM Accreditation Standards*, as well as in tele-networking and in-person meetings with other demonstration program directors.
- Directors of demonstration programs will have access to collated data, collected by ACEND from stakeholders of demonstration programs, which can be used to inform enhancements to their programs.
- Financial benefits include waived fees for the candidacy application, a one-year accreditation fee, training webinars and travel and registration for the in-person training on CBE and assessment. For a list of current fees visit the website at: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accreditation-standards-fees-and-policies/fee-schedule>
- No decision has been made to discontinue existing program types (CP, DI, DPD, DT, FDE, IDE) under the 2022 *Accreditation Standards*.
- CP, DPD, DI and IDE programs that do not offer a master's degree must tell students they need, at minimum, a master's degree to be eligible to take the CDR registration exam for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists after January 1, 2024.
- There has been no change to the degree requirement to take the CDR registration exam for Nutrition and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (NDTR).

Communication:

- For more information on the degree-based *FEM* standards and submitting applications to become a demonstration program visit <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accreditation-standards-fees-and-policies/future-education-model>
- ACEND hosts quarterly virtual town halls. Go to: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/public-notice-and-announcements/virtual-town-hall-meetings> for more details.
- Contact ACEND at 1-800-877-1600 ext. 5400 or futuremodel@eatright.org with any questions.

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