

In this recording I will address Evaluating International Students Applying to ACEND Programs

James Swain, PhD, RD

ACEND Standards Committee

I am James Swain, Associate Professor, Director, Didactic Program, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio and am member of the ACEND Board and the co-chair of the Standards Committee.

Overview

- Review 2022 Standards for non-US-Based programs
- ACEND program director role in steps of International Student Checklist
- Explain how to evaluate international students' transcripts



ACEND often gets questions about ACEND-accredited international programs as well as how to handle admissions requests from international students who do not have a verification statement from an ACEND-accredited international program. In this brief video, I will explain the routes for accepting international students into US-based ACEND-accredited programs

First, I will review the 2022 Standards for non-US Based programs. Then I will discuss how to guide international students through the international student checklist, what role ACEND program directors play in these tasks, and good practices for communicating with potential applicants who have a degree from a non-accredited international university. Finally, I will explain how to evaluate transcripts of international students with some examples.

ACEND Non-US Based Program Types

- Two types of standards for non-US based programs
 - CP: Coordinated Program
 - FDE: Foreign Dietitian Education

2022 Accreditation Standards for Non-US Based Programs



FDE



CP (ICP)

ACEND has two types of standards from non-US-based programs: CP which stands for Coordinated Program and FDE which stands for Foreign Dietitian Education. International programs who wish for their graduates to be eligible to take the CDR examination for the RDN credential when they complete the program should apply as a CP; they are referred to as International Coordinated Programs, or ICPs.

ACEND International Programs

- **ICP graduates** are eligible to sit for the RDN exam
 - Students complete minimum 1000 SP, of which 700 SP is in professional work settings
- **FDE graduates** are eligible to be accepted into a Dietetic Internship or Graduate Program
 - Students complete minimum 700 SP in the host country as part of the FDE program, but must complete a minimum 1000 SP/SEL hours in the US to be eligible to sit for the CDR exam



2022 Accreditation Standards FDE, CP (ICP)



Both FDEs and ICPs are coordinated programs with supervised practice incorporated with the didactic coursework into one program.

Again, international programs who wish for their graduates to be eligible to take the CDR examination for the RDN credential when they complete the program should apply as an ICP. Students complete their degree with coursework that includes the ACEND knowledge requirements as well as a minimum of 1000 of supervised hours in the host country to attain the ACEND-required competencies.

FDEs are set up slightly differently than ICPs. In addition to dietetic coursework, FDE students must complete a minimum of 700 supervised hours in the host country to attain the ACEND-required competencies. FDE graduates are not eligible to sit for the CDR credentialing exam until they perform supervised practice in the United States. They are eligible to get accepted into U.S.-based ACEND-accredited Dietetic Internship programs or Graduate Programs (also known as GPs). Therefore, if you receive an application from an FDE graduate, they should be treated like DPD graduates. It is up to the DI or GP program director to establish a policy for giving prior assessed learning for this supervised experience for FDE graduates.

ACEND International Programs

- 7 international programs: 5 FDE and 2 CP
 - CP: Lebanon
 - FDE: Australia, Mexico, Qatar, UAE, South Korea



Accredited Program Directory

- Graduate Programs in Nutrition and Dietetics
- Coordinated Programs in Dietetics
- Didactic Programs in Dietetics
- Dietetic Internships
- Foreign Dietitian Education
- Nutrition and Dietetics Technician Programs

[Learn About >](#)

There are 7 international programs accredited by ACEND; 2 International Coordinated Program and 5 FDEs. The FDE programs are in Australia, Mexico, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and South Korea.

You can find a list of the Universities and programs on the ACEND website under the Accredited Program Directory section.

ACEND International Programs

International Coordinated Program

Beirut

American University of Beirut - International Coordinated Program in Dietetics

American University of Beirut
Faculty of Agricultural & Food Sciences
P.O. Box 11-0236
Riad El-Solh
Beirut, 1107 2020

Program Director: Dr. Marie Claire Chamieh
Phone: 009611350000 (4484)
Email: mc31@aub.edu.lb
For full program information, visit:
<https://www.aub.edu.lb/fafs/info/Pages/NutritionandDieteticsCoordinatedProgram.aspx>

Accreditation Status: Accredited
Date of Initial Accreditation: 10/18/2013
Accreditation Term Ends: 12/31/2025
Degree Granted: BS, MS

Lebanon

Lebanese American University - International Coordinated Program in Dietetics

Lebanese American University
P.O. Box 13-5053
Chouran Beirut 1102 2801
Lebanon, P.O. Box 13-5053

Program Director: Joelle L. Abi Khama
Phone: (961)178-6456 (5803)
Email: joelle.abikhama@lau.edu.lb
For full program information, visit:
<https://5083.lau.edu.lb/academic/programs/bs-nutrition-dietetics-coordinated-program.cba>

Accreditation Status: Candidate for Accreditation
Date of Initial Accreditation: 4/13/2020
Accreditation Term Ends: 4/13/2024
Degree Granted: BS, MBA, MS

Here is a list from the ACEND website of the 2 International Coordinated Programs: The Universities are:

American University of Beirut
Lebanese American University

Graduates of these programs do not need to complete a US-based program in order to be eligible to sit for the RDN exam. They are eligible to sit for the exam as ICP graduates.

ACEND International Programs

Foreign Dietitian Education

Al Ain, UAE

United Arab Emirates University - Foreign Dietitian Education Program

Mexico DF

Universidad Iberoamericana - Foreign Dietitian Education Program

United Arab Emirates U
Dept of Nutrition and H
College of Medicine and
PO Box 15551
Al Ain, UAE, 00000

Universidad Iberoamerica
Prof Paseo de la Reforma
Lomas de Santa Fe
Mexico DF, 01219

Program Director: Nish
Phone: 97137136550
Email: mpadajachee@
For full program inform
<http://www.uaeu.ac.ae/dietetics.shtml>

Accreditation Status: A
Date of Initial Accredi
Accreditation Term En
Degree Granted: BS

Doha, Qatar

Qatar University - Foreign Dietitian Education Program

Qatar University
College of Health Sciences
Human Nutrition Departm
PO Box 2713
Doha, Qatar,

Program Director: Dr. Tah
Phone: 97444034806
Email: Tahra.e@qu.edu.q
For full program informa
<http://www.qu.edu.qa/chn>

Accreditation Status: Acc
Date of Initial Accrediti
Accreditation Term Ends
Degree Granted: BS
Program Features: Stud

Yongin-si, Gyeonggi-do

Kyung Hee University - Foreign Dietitian Education Program

Kyung Hee University
Grad School of East-West Med
Dept of Medical Nutrition
1732 Debyeong-daero, Giheun
Yongin-si, Gyeonggi-do,

Program Director: Dr. Yoo Kyon
Phone: 82312013816
Email: ypark@khu.ac.kr
For full program information, v
<http://gsm.khu.ac.kr/gsc/ED103>

Accreditation Status: Accredite
Date of Initial Accreditation: 11/1/2011
Accreditation Term Ends: 6/30/2021
Degree Granted: MS, PhD

Robina QLD

Bond University - Foreign Dietitian Education Program

Bond University
Associate Professor and Program Director
Master of Nutrition and Dietetic Practice Program
Faculty of Health Sciences & Medicine
Robina QLD, 4226

Program Director: Dianne Reidlinger
Phone: 61755950160 (1234)
Email: dreidlin@bond.edu.au

Accreditation Status: Accredite
Date of Initial Accreditation: 11/1/2011
Accreditation Term Ends: 6/30/2021
Degree Granted: MNDP

Admission Requirements: Recency of Education

Here is a list from the ACEND website of the 5 FDE programs: The Universities are:
United Arab Emirates University
Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico
Qatar University
Kyung Hee University in South Korea
and Bond University in Australia.

Again, as a dietetic internship director or Graduate Program program director, FDE graduates should be treated like any other DPD student if they apply to your program.

ACEND is regularly working with non-US based universities as we respond to their interest in securing accreditation from ACEND. Always be sure to check the list of international programs on the ACEND website to be sure you have the latest list of accredited programs.

International Students from Non-ACEND Accredited Programs

- Graduates from universities that are not accredited by ACEND:
 - From countries where ACEND has no accredited programs
 - From countries where ACEND has accredited programs, but the student is from a different university (a program not accredited by ACEND)
- These individuals must complete ACEND-accredited didactic work and supervised practice/experiential learning

ACEND accredited programs also often receive applications from international graduates who come from programs that are not accredited by ACEND. These could be from countries where ACEND has no accredited programs (for example China, France, or India) but also they could be from countries where ACEND has an accredited programs but the student graduated from a different university or a program that is not accredited by ACEND.

These individuals must complete ACEND accredited didactic work and supervised practice/experiential learning in order to be eligible to sit for the RDN exam.

International Students from Non-ACEND Accredited Programs

- Upon receiving a request from an international student with non-ACEND accredited education, refer to International Student Checklist

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/international-students>

If you receive a request from an international student with non-ACEND accredited education, you can refer them to the International Student Checklist as a starting point. This checklist can be found on ACEND's website under the Students and Advancing Education section for International Students. Program directors should be familiar with this checklist and the role they play in each step.

International Students from Non-ACEND Accredited Programs

Step 1

Your foreign degree transcripts must be evaluated by one of the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR)'s approved foreign degree evaluation agencies.*

- Program directors must find out:
 - Does my university accept foreign degree evaluations?
 - Which agencies are accepted?
 - Which accepted agencies are also accepted by CDR?

Step 1 in the international student checklist is to have the foreign degree evaluated by an approved Foreign Degree Evaluation agency. DPD, CP and GP program directors can all work with students at this step in the process. DI program directors should refer students to the ACEND program directory to find a DPD, CP or GP program to work with, as these graduates will not be eligible to enter a DI program until they receive a DPD verification statement.

Upon receiving a request from an international student, the ACEND program director should:

- Investigate whether their university accepts evaluated foreign degrees,
- Identify what foreign degree evaluation agency reports are accepted by the university (if there are any restrictions), and then
- Communicate this information to the prospective international student.

Some students have already had their international transcripts evaluated by a Foreign Degree Evaluation Agency and will provide this information to you. If the student has not had their transcript evaluated, please direct them to do so prior to moving forward, with the information about whether the ACEND-accredited program can accept the evaluation and what agencies they can use. The student should choose an agency that both the university and CDR accept. We will include a link to a list of Foreign Degree Evaluation

Agencies accepted by CDR on the next slide.

Foreign Degree Evaluation Agencies

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/international-students/foreign-degree-evaluation-agencies>

Students and Advancing Education

- Career Information
- International Students**
- Individualized Supervised Practice Pathways
- ACEND Board Dietetic Student Representatives
- Filing a Complaint

International Students

- Foreign Degree Evaluation Agencies**
- FAQs for Individuals with Foreign Degrees

Home > ACEND > Students and Advancing Education > International Students >

Foreign Degree Evaluation Agencies

The following identified, independent nonprofit agencies perform the specialized service of validating your academic degree as equivalent to the bachelor's or master's degree conferred by a U.S. institutional accredited college or university that is recognized by United States Department of Education (USDE). Contact the agency for current information, procedure and costs. CDR does not endorse any specific agency that is listed below. The list is provided as a convenience to international students and professionals. All transactions between the individual and evaluation service are considered private business transactions, without Academy or CDR intercession or obligation.

Several types of evaluations are available. A detailed course-by-course evaluation will be the most useful for the Program Director at an ACEND®-accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics or Coordinated Program. The Program Director will evaluate your previous academic preparation and identify the courses you will need to meet the didactic program requirements.

Please review all completed evaluations to ensure that the academic degree as equivalent to the bachelor's or master's degree conferred by a U.S. institutional accredited college or university that is recognized by USDE.

Academic and Professional International Evaluation, Inc. (APIE)

www.apiie.org

On the ACEND website under the Students and Advancing Education section, ACEND has a page for International Students. From here, in addition to the International Student Checklist, you can select Foreign Degree Evaluation Agencies on the left navigation pane to see a list of these agencies approved by CDR. You may only accept transcripts evaluated by the agencies approved by CDR.

International Students from Non-ACEND Accredited Programs

Step 2

Once you have received the results determining that your degree is of US equivalency you will then need to identify an ACEND®-accredited program to which you can apply. Note: Do not send the transcript evaluation to ACEND®.

Step 3

Once you have identified an ACEND-accredited program that you wish to apply to, use the information on the ACEND® website (via the link provided above) to contact the program director of that program and inform them that you are a prospective student with a foreign degree.

- In that correspondence, provide the program director with the Foreign Degree Evaluation report and explain that you wish to apply as a post-graduate student.
- The program director will evaluate the Foreign Degree Evaluation report to determine whether it can be accepted, and if so, what additional courses will be needed to satisfy the program's requirements. The program director can also provide you with information regarding admission deadlines, tuition, financial aid, and scholarship information.
- Please note that some programs do not allow prior learning (that is, a previous degree or courses taken at other institutions) to be applied to their program requirements. In this case, you may be required to complete the entire program in order to become eligible to sit for the credentialing exam.

Step 2 on the International Student checklist is for the student to reach out to an ACEND accredited program that they wish to apply to. If the student has already corresponded with you, this step is done.

In Step 3, the role of the ACEND program director is to assess the translated transcript for equivalency of courses and/or degrees according to the program's assessment of prior learning policies of evaluating coursework. Note that the evaluation must say the degree is equivalent to a bachelor's (or master's) degree from a US regionally accredited university—it should match the degree that your program requires to receive a verification statement. If the degree is not equivalent, the student will need to complete the degree in the US.

Good Practices in Communication

- Set expectations about prior learning assessment and receiving credit
- Discuss relocation
- Potential difficulties around distance education with an international visa

There are a few good practices that ACEND feels are helpful to program directors communicating with international students. We suggest you discuss this information with the application prior to doing the work of evaluating the applicant's transcript, so they confirm they are still interested in applying to the program.

First, it is helpful to be up front about your program's prior learning/experience assessment policy. International students may be expecting that some of their prior learning experiences, such as coursework, supervised practice experiences or work as an international dietitian, would apply to a program to help them complete the program more quickly. If your program's policy states that you will not accept prior learning, or your university requires that the student completes a minimum number of credit hours to receive a verification statement, it is helpful to provide this information early in the communication with the student.

Second, international students may be restricted in where they can relocate in the US, depending on their resources here. If your program is local, you would want to ensure that the student is able to reside close to your institution and meet requirements for traveling to supervised practice, if this is part of your program.


Finally, if you have a distance program, there may be restrictions around how many hours

an international student may participate in distance learning to maintain their visa. Contact your university's international student department to find out what restrictions are in place and what options you may have to accommodate the student.

How to Evaluate Transcripts of International Students from Non-ACEND Accredited Programs

Programs often ask us how to evaluate international students who come from programs that are not accredited by ACEND.

- Translated transcript evaluated as a regular US transcript
- Program determines equivalency



COURSE-BY-COURSE ANALYSIS

Name: SAMPLE, Sample

Date of Birth: July 29, 1970

Date: April 19, 2010

Ref #: 123456789

Page: 2 of 4

INSTITUTIONS - DATES - SUBJECTS	U.S. Semester Credits	U.S. Grades
Indian Institute of Technology Madras		
1997-1998		
(L) Chemistry I	3.0	B
(L) Chemistry Lab	1.0	A
(L) Introduction to Psychology	2.5	A
(L) Mathematics I	2.5	B
(L) Engineering Drawing I	1.0	B
(L) Workshop	1.5	A
(L) Thermodynamics	2.5	B
(L) Physics I	2.5	B
(L) Physics Lab	1.0	A
(L) Engineering Mechanics I	2.5	B
(L) Introduction to Computing	2.5	A
(L) Chemistry II	2.5	B
(L) English Language	2.5	A
(L) Mathematics II	2.5	B
(L) Engineering Drawing II	1.0	C
(L) Workshop	1.5	A
(L) National Cadet Corps	0.0	Pass
(L) Physics II	2.5	A
(L) Physics Lab	1.0	A
1998-1999		
(L) Engineering Mechanics II	2.5	B
(L) Mechanics of Materials	3.0	B
(L) Engineering Geology	3.0	B
(L) Electrical Sciences	3.0	C
(U) Mathematics III	3.0	B
(U) Physics III	2.5	C
(L) Building Materials and Construction	2.5	B
(L) Surveying	3.0	C
(U) Geotechnical Engineering I	2.5	B
(L) Surveying Lab	1.0	B
(U) Structural Analysis I	3.0	B
(L) Engineering Fluid Mechanics	3.0	B
(L) Civil Engineering Lab	1.0	B
(Continued on next page)		

courses

credits


grades

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THIS REPORT: An explanation of the terms used in this report can be found on the reverse side. This report is valid only when printed on watermarked paper and sealed with an official WES stamp on each page.

Here is an example of a transcript evaluated by The World Education Services (WES), one of the CDR approved foreign degree evaluation agencies. You will see in the first column the list of the courses; the second column lists the credits for each course; and the last column the grade the student received on that course.

Faculty should treat this translated transcript as a regular transcript, as if received from a US college or university. Then it is up to the program to determine the equivalency, which courses to accept, and what the student has left to complete according to the program's assessment of prior learning policies.

Sample evaluation that includes a description of the degree equivalency



A Document-by-Document report is typically required for freshman admission to universities, employment, and immigration.

CREDENTIAL EVALUATION AND AUTHENTICATION REPORT

Name: SAMPLE, Sample
Date of Birth: Month 01, 1993
Date: May 31, 2017
Ref #:
Page: 1 of 1

U.S. EQUIVALENCY SUMMARY

Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution

CREDENTIAL ANALYSIS

- Credential Authentication:** Official transcripts were sent directly by the institution

Country: India

Credential: Bachelor of Technology

Year: 2015

Awarded by: Anna University

Status: Accredited Institution

Admission requirements: High school graduation

Length of program: Four years

Major/Specialization: Chemical Engineering

U.S. Equivalency: Bachelor's degree

This report identifies and describes each credential, including: name of credential, requirements for entry and program length, and the equivalent degree in terms of U.S. education.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THIS REPORT: An explanation of the terms used in this report can be found on the reverse side. This report is valid only when printed on watermark paper and sealed with an official WES stamp on each page.

Here is another example showing the degree equivalency. As you see on the authentication report, this degree was determined to be equivalent to a Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution.

Students in a DPD Program

- Develop a course equivalency table as a record

EXAMPLE

WES Course	Cr.	Ceres University DPD Course	Cr.
Chemistry with Lab	6	CHM 105 –Gen Chem	4
Nutrition with Lab	5	NUT 102 – Intro to Nutr	3
Statistics	3	STAT 104 – Intro to Stats	3
Human Psychology with Lab	4	PSY 101- Intro to Psych	3

For international students from a non-ACEND accredited program entering a university degree program, such as a DPD, CP or GP, if the university does not provide a course-by-course equivalency, ACEND highly recommends the program director develop a course equivalency table to help keep a record and ensure that the student meets all knowledge requirements and/or competencies. DPD directors may want to consider providing the students with this record, as it will be helpful for DPD graduates as they are applying to a dietetic internship or a GP.

Once you've determined what courses might be accepted for prior learning, discuss this with the international applicant and help them determine if this is the best program for them moving forward.

Resources

- ACEND FAQs for International Students
 - <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/international-students/faqs-for-foreign-degrees>
- List of Foreign Degree Evaluation Agencies
 - <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/international-students/foreign-degree-evaluation-agencies>
- ACEND Staff
 - 800-877-1600 x5400
 - acend@eatright.org

To learn more about the process for international students to becoming credentialed, please visit ACEND's FAQ page for these individuals. If you would like to access the list of Foreign Degree Evaluation Agencies for yourself or to provide to a potential international applicant, please visit the second link on the slide. Finally, you are always welcome to reach out to ACEND staff if you have any questions about the process of accepting international students into your program.

Thank You

If you have questions or comments:

Email: ACEND@eatright.org

Thank you. If you have questions or comments, please contact the ACEND staff.