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## January 2022

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### Training Opportunities

#### *Interprofessional Collaboration Workshop Recordings: Exploring the Role of Health Professional Students and Trainees as Members of the Health Workforce*

The planning committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has organized a series of public workshops to explore whether students and trainees (e.g., interns) should be viewed as members of the health workforce, particularly in times of emergency as was experienced during the COVID-19 public health crisis. This excellent, six-part workshop series brings together educators, students, administrators, and health professionals to share ideas, experiences, and data in an effort to discuss the role of learners during a crisis by drawing upon past experiences.

- [View the recorded 1.5-hour workshops](#)

#### *2021 FNCE Collection: Nutrition in Higher Education Session Bundle Now Available*

Nutrition education is constantly evolving. Stay up-to-date with the latest innovations in nutrition education with these exciting FNCE® 2021 sessions. The Academy has bundled the 5 sessions from this year's FNCE® below and offering them at a reduced price of \$90 for Academy members! Listen to all 5 to obtain 5.0 CPEUs.

- [More information about the session bundle](#)

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## February 2022

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### **CDR Approves ACEND's Request for Processing Candidates Verified by December 31, 2023 for Registration Eligibility**

During its August 6, 2021 meeting, the Commission on Dietetic Registration approved ACEND®'s request that fall term graduates who have completed their baccalaureate degrees,

DPD and supervised practice requirements by or before December 31, 2023 be processed for registration eligibility, even though CDR may not receive a final, official transcript until January 2024.

Graduates of ACEND<sup>®</sup> accredited supervised practice programs who want to become exam eligible with a bachelor's degree must be submitted to CDR by the program director by midnight Central time on December 31, 2023. CDR staff will process candidate class submissions received between December 23 and December 31, 2023, from January 2 through January 5, 2024.

- If a final academic transcript for a December 2023 graduate is delayed until 2024, the program director should make arrangements with their university's registrar to obtain an original letter confirming the candidate's degree and 2023 conferral date.
- If confirmation of degree completion which was achieved in 2023 cannot be obtained until 2024, program directors should email [cdrexams@eatright.org](mailto:cdrexams@eatright.org) requesting consideration of these circumstances and attach documentation confirming exam eligibility requirements were met in 2023.

CDR registration eligibility management staff will review candidate applications submitted after January 1, 2024 to verify degree requirements were met in 2023. Once all requirements have been verified as completed in 2023, the candidate(s) will be processed for registration eligibility even if the final transcript or letter from the registrar indicates a 2024 conferred degree date. For questions contact CDR at [CDR@eatright.org](mailto:CDR@eatright.org).

## **2022 ACEND Accreditation Standards Released**

The ACEND<sup>®</sup> Board has released the 2022 Accreditation Standards for Nutrition and Dietetics Coordinated Programs (CP), Didactic Programs (DPD), Internship Programs (DI), Technician Programs (DT) and Foreign Dietitian Education programs. New with the 2022 Standards, International Programs seeking ACEND accreditation for programs leading to graduates' eligibility to take the Commission on Dietetic Registration's credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists will follow the CP standards. The ACEND<sup>®</sup> Board appreciates the feedback and thoughtful comments received during the public comment periods.

- [2022 Standards, Guidance Information, Templates and Crosswalks](#)

The 2022 Standards will go into effect for eligibility applications for new programs seeking candidacy accreditation on September 1, 2021 and for existing accredited nutrition and dietetics programs on June 1, 2022.

- [2022 Standards Webinar](#)

## **CDR Competency Builder Resource**

The Commission on Dietetic Registration has implemented Competency Plan Builder – a new, user-friendly, quick-click digital tool to replace Goal Wizard (and Dream Wizard).

To support ACEND CRDN 2.13: Prepare a plan for professional development according to Commission on Dietetic Registration guidelines... Students and Educators are referred to the [Essential Practice Competencies Information For Students Page](#) where students can watch a 6-minute [tutorial on the new Competency Plan Builder](#), review the [New Essential Practice Competencies](#), and select Spheres and Competencies to create a preliminary plan after successfully completing the Entry Level Examination. Please contact [cdr@eatright.org](mailto:cdr@eatright.org) for questions about this resource.

## **COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements for Supervised Practice/Experiential Learning**

It has come to ACEND's attention that some students and interns enrolled in ACEND accredited programs are at risk of not completing the program when they choose not to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. Programs with supervised practice/experiential learning should inform applicants of the program's policies related to COVID-19 and other vaccines prior to their acceptance to the program. Programs using the policies of the supervised practice site should inform students or interns that they may be required to show evidence of a COVID-19 vaccination; otherwise, they may not be able to complete the program. This should be clearly communicated on the program's website and in all recruitment materials.

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## **March 2022**

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## **Federal Grant Opportunities for Dietetics Programs to Support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics has collaborated with the Academy's Policy Initiatives and Advocacy team to identify federal grant opportunities for nutrition and dietetics programs. These grants will support the recruitment, retention, and completion of nutrition and dietetics education programs for students from underrepresented backgrounds. The document entitled "Grant Opportunities for Dietetics Programs" is posted on the [ACEND® Diversity, Equity and Inclusion webpage](#). We hope that this resource can act as a catalyst for programs to apply for funding opportunities or advocate for funding that their universities may already receive. The document will be updated on a regular basis.

## **Find-a-Preceptor Database Available to all Students**

The Find-a-Preceptor Database is now available to all students! Academy membership is no longer required to search for preceptors in the database. The Find-a-Preceptor Database allows program directors and students to search for a preceptor within a certain geographical or

specialty area. To search for a preceptor on the Find-a-Preceptor Database, [visit the ACEND® preceptor webpage](#).

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## **April 2022**

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### **NDTR Test Preparation Is Now Available at eatrightPREP**

[eatrightPREP®](#) for students preparing to take the Registration Examination for Dietetic Technicians, Registered is now available from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The learning platform offers flashcards, pretest questions, and practice and simulated tests to help build and gain confidence in test-taking skills. All flashcards and questions contain a complete rationale and cited reference to explain the correct answer. A special program pricing for educators is available. There is also an eatrightPREP® for those preparing to take the Registration Examination for Dietitians.

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## **May2022**

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### **Resources for Program Directors for collaboration with NDTRs (KRDN/CRDN 2.5)**

ACEND® has a free recorded webinar "Dietetic Dream Team: How the NDTR Can Support the RDN" to assist programs in meeting ACEND® knowledge and competencies that address registered dietitian nutritionists collaboration with nutrition and dietetics technicians, registered.

The webinar is intended to be an educational tool for our programs to help program directors, faculty and students understand the role of the NDTR in supporting the RDN. NDTR program graduates share their work experiences and how their roles support the RDNs in their workplace.

Hands-on tools and activities will be provided. The program provides 1.5 CPEUs. This recording and slides are available on the ACEND® [Virtual Town Hall Meetings](#).

## Spring 2022 Dietetic Internship Match Data

Each spring, graduates of didactic programs in nutrition and dietetics (DPD) participate in a computerized match process run by D&D Digital for placement in dietetic internship (DI) programs. The results of the first round of the April 2022 computer match and a comparison with the previous five years are shown below.

	April 2018	April 2019	April 2020	April 2021	April 2022	% Change '21--'22
Students Matched	2712(57%)	2565(61%)	2485(65%)	2414(66%)	2218 (64%)	-196 (8%)
Students Preselected	228(5%)	199(5%)	228(6%)	261(7%)	357 (10%)	96 (37%)
Students Not Matched	1784(38%)	1437(34%)	1135(29%)	1001(27%)	907 (26%)	-94 (9%)
<b>Total Participants</b>	4724(100%)	4201(100%)	3848(100%)	3676(100%)	3482(100%)	-194 (5%)
Positions Filled through the Match	2712(75%)	2565(70%)	2485(68%)	2414(65%)	2218 (59%)	-196 (8%)
Preselect Positions	228(6%)	199(5%)	228(6%)	261(7%)	357 (10%)	96 (37%)
Positions Not Filled	669(19%)	905(25%)	954(26%)	1048(28%)	1161 (31%)	94 (9%)
<b>Total Positions Available</b>	3609(100%)	3669(100%)	3667(100%)	3723(100%)	3736(100%)	13 (<1%)
<b>Positions Needed for a 100% Match</b>	1115(100%)	532(100%)	181(100%)	0 (*47 more than needed)	0 (*254 more than needed)	207 (440%)
<b>Actual Match Rate (Preselect &amp; Matches)</b>	2940 (62%)	2764(66%)	2713 (71%)	2675 (73%)	2575 (74%)	(1%)
<b>Match Potential (Positions/Participants)</b>	3609 (76%)	3669 (87%)	3667(95%)	3723 (101%)	3736 (107%)	(6%)

## June 2022

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### **Removal of Start Date Deadline for ACEND®'s FEM Demonstration Program**

The ACEND® Standard's Committee voted to remove the start date deadline for the Future Education Model eligibility applications (candidacy and reorganization) and allow the FEM programs to follow the typical ACEND® timelines for programs moving through the eligibility process. FEM eligibility applications are different than applications following the 2022 Standards because they do not provide curriculum materials until after the program director attends Competency-Based Education training.

Securing institutional and/or state approvals may delay the timeline for curriculum submission; therefore, the Standards Committee set an expiration date of four years on the FEM eligibility application to ensure recency of information submitted within the application. After four years, a program will need to resubmit their FEM eligibility application to ACEND®. The eligibility candidacy and reorganization applications fee waivers remain a benefit to programs who resubmit their application to become an FEM program.

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## August 2022

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### **ACEND® Site Visit Redistribution Affects Limited Number of Programs**

The ACEND® Board has been closely monitoring the annual number of site visits along with the impact that the unbalanced number of site visits has on our volunteer program reviewer pool. In order to consistently maintain the quality of ACEND® accreditation reviews, the ACEND® Board voted at its July 29, 2022 meeting to balance the number of site visits across its seven-year accreditation cycle. A one-time one-year extension will be provided to a small number of ACEND-accredited programs in good standing whose site visit were scheduled to originally occur during a high-volume cycle. This action will allow ACEND to alleviate stress on our volunteer program reviewer pool as well as give ACEND® staff more time to support our programs each cycle.

Qualities of a program in good standing include those with a one-year pass rate over the past three-years on the RDN exam greater than or equal to 90%, no recent complaints against the program or focused site visits and no pending progress or interim reports. Not all programs that meet these criteria received an extension; programs meeting these criteria were randomly selected within high-volume site visit cycles.

Programs receiving this one-time exception to ACEND's accreditation term policy were notified on August 12, 2022 via an email to the program director. Programs can always check their accreditation status, next site visit year, and accreditation term end date on the [ACEND® Portal](#), using your Academy login information.

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## ACEND® Program Directory Search for Non-Degree DIs

Prospective dietetics students with a master's degree may complete a Dietetic Internship without having to obtain a second degree. The [ACEND® Accredited Program Directory](#) has a filter that allows these students to find Dietetic Internships with a non-degree option. The following search tip has been added to the Directory to facilitate this search:

- **For applicants with a DPD or FDE verification statement and a master's degree:** Dietetic Internships may offer the option to complete supervised practice for applicants who have completed a master's degree in any field from a U.S. institutional accredited college or university (or equivalent) and hold a DPD or FDE verification statement. To find these programs, select "None" under the "Degree Offered" filter above, and select "Dietetic Internship" from the "Program Type" drop down menu.
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## ACEND® Board Recent Decisions: Site Visit Considerations

At its July 2022 biannual board meeting, the ACEND® board made two decisions that affect site visit considerations for both program directors and program reviewers:

1. **States are no longer considered Conflicts of Interest:** Based on legal recommendations and best practice among accreditors, the ACEND board voted to update its conflict of interest policy to remove state affiliation/residency as a sole conflict of interest. Therefore, program reviewers and board members may be assigned review programs in the state where they reside, as long as there are no other direct conflicts with these programs.
2. **Practice Sites no longer need to be viewed during site visit:** In an effort to streamline site visit schedules and focus on programmatic and curricular evaluation, the ACEND® board voted to remove the requirement for program reviewers to visit supervised practice/experiential learning facilities during site visits. Due to USDE requirements, tour of the physical facilities of the ACEND-accredited program and sponsoring organization remain required. Programs who still wish to visit practice sites outside the sponsoring organization with the review team should contact the lead reviewer to assess the need for the tours. If practice site visits are included, ACEND® recommends that these visits take less than one hour to travel to, tour, and return from the practice site(s), and that only one member of the review team attends these visits.
3. **Current Student/Intern/Alumni Stakeholder Meeting clarification:** For the meetings with current students/interns and program graduates, the program should invite all

enrolled individuals and recent graduates from within the past five years to attend. It is ACEND's expectation that all students/interns in the program and recent graduates from the program during the site visit are available.

These policy updates will formally go into effect January 1, 2023; however, programs and review teams may optionally adopt these policies before then. The ACEND® Policy and Procedure Manual and sample site visit schedules will be updated by September 12, 2022.

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## **Adoption of 2022 ACEND® Accreditation Standards**

The 2022 ACEND® Accreditation Standards became effective June 1, 2022. Programs must ensure that syllabi and rotation descriptions for all program types address the 2022 Standards, Knowledge Requirements and Competencies. Any cohort beginning the professional coursework or program after June 1, 2022 must be taught the knowledge and/or competencies identified in the 2022 Standards as the course syllabi and/or rotation descriptions have been updated to reflect them.

As a reminder, programs have until December 31, 2023 to demonstrate compliance with the graduate degree requirement under Standard 1, Required Element 1.4 for Coordinated Programs and 1.4a for Dietetic Internships as well as fully implement the knowledge requirement KRDN 3.4 (CPs and DPDs) and/or competencies CRDN 3.3-3.6 (CPs, DIs and FDEs) within the curriculum.

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## **New Professional Development Resource Center**

The Commission on Dietetic Registration has created a new interactive tool to assist future and current CDR Credentialed Practitioners navigate fee payments, the recertification process and opportunities to advance their careers.

- [Explore the new professional development resource center](#)
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## **September 2022**

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### **ACEND® Welcomes New Program Accreditation Manager**

Michelle Morgan, MS, RDN, CDN joined ACEND® as a Program Accreditation Manager on August 29, 2022. Michelle previously worked as an Assistant Professor of Practice and Dietetic



Internship Director at Russell Sage College. She has experience in onsite and remote program management, curriculum and program development, alternate preceptor model implementation for clinical supervised practice experiences and international program collaboration. Michelle is thrilled to bring her experience as a former program director in higher education to her new role with ACEND®.

## **Updated Computer Matching Calendars**

The [Computer Matching Calendars for Dietetic Internships](#) have been posted for the spring and fall 2023 matching cycles.

Note the computer matching calendars are only for dietetic internship programs as DI programs participate in the computer matching process. Other supervised practice programs such as Coordinated Programs and Future Education Model Graduate Programs do not computer match and therefore do not follow the computer matching calendars. We will post guidance documents for the CPs, GPs and ISPPs in the next few weeks.

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## **October 2022**

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### **Application Deadline Recommendations for CPs, GPs and ISPPs**

Supervised practice and experiential learning programs such as Coordinated Programs (CPs), Future Education Model Graduate Programs (GPs) and Individualized Supervised Practice Pathways (ISPPs) do not participate in the computer match process done by D&D Digital and therefore do not follow the dietetic internship computer matching calendars posted on ACEND®.

Because applicants may be applying to all of these program types in a cycle, a [one-page guidance document](#) has been developed for CPs and GPs to reference when determining their application dates within DICAS or their own institutional platform.

### **Update to Preselect Program Change Guidance**

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics recently updated criteria #4 in the preselect program change guidance. Any institution that sponsors a Dietetic Internship may now grant early admission to applicants from Didactic Programs at other institutions.

Because the programs are at separate institutions, this option requires that the Dietetic Internship and Didactic Program(s) establish an affiliation agreement(s) that does not include a provision for financial compensation for the internship positions used to place students in the preselect process.

For more information about preselect criteria and guidance for the program change, please view the [ACEND® Substantive Change Guidelines](#).

## **ACEND® Board Information Session**

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics held a board information session on Thursday, October 20, for those interested in learning more about [ACEND® Board membership](#). The webinar record is [here](#).

## **Updated Verification Statements**

The 2022 Verification Statements have been updated and reflect the new program types that include Graduate Program (GP), Associate Program (AP), and International Coordinated Program (ICP). The older version of the Verification Statements will still be accepted by CDR. However, moving forward, refer to the updated Verification Statement found in [REPS](#). Please note that the program completion date on the verification statement is the date of degree conferral for those programs providing a degree. Verification Statements that are dated or issued prior to degree conferral (or program completion for non-degree programs) are invalid.

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics has unlocked the verification statement for ease of handling and formatting. After electronically signing the verification statement, *remember to lock the document before sending it to students/interns*. Additionally, please ensure that any digital signature used can be authenticated and do not expire.

For more information about verification statements, signature authentication and expiration and how to lock the document, view the [FAQs on Verification statements](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to [contact ACEND](#).

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## **November 2022**

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### **Program Applicants with an FDE Verification Statement are Eligible to apply for US-based Supervised Practice Experience**

As of June 1, 2017, Foreign Degree Education (FDE) program graduates with an FDE Verification Statement are eligible to apply to a dietetic internship. FDE programs are education programs, located in a country outside of the US, that provide the required nutrition and dietetics coursework with at least a U.S. equivalent bachelor's degree and at least 700 hours of required supervised practice experiences with a minimum of 500 hours in professional work settings in the country in which the program is located to meet ACEND's core knowledge and competency requirements to become a credentialed practitioner. A verification statement is issued to individuals who successfully complete the program as evidence of eligibility to apply for a US-based supervised practice experience in order to be eligible to take the CDR credentialing

examination. Program directors can accept these FDE graduates as they would applicants with a DPD verification statement. Programs may accept supervised practice experiences of FDE graduates using the program's prior learning policy if they choose.