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## ACEND Virtual Town Hall Meeting

### Questions

November 12, 2019, 11:00 a.m. Central Time

Hosts: James Swain, PhD, RD, LD, FAND

DPD Representative, ACEND Board

Co-Chair, Standards Committee

Rayane AbuSabha, PhD, RD

ACEND Executive Director



**Introduction/Announcements:** James Swain welcomed all in attendance.

James reminded participants that the 2017 Standards are up for revisions and the Standards Committee is conducting a survey to gather feedback regarding these Standards. The survey is posted on the ACEND website at <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend> and will be open until Wednesday, November 13, 2019.

In response to dietetic internship directors' request to discuss the options available to free-standing dietetic internship programs, ACEND dedicated a special virtual town hall specific to this topic and invited all dietetic internship directors and faculty to attend. The webinar was recorded and is now posted on the ACEND website at <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/program-directors/program-directors-faq/future-options-for-free-standing-dietetic-internships>

ACEND often gets questions about international programs. James explained that ACEND, under the 2017 Standards, has two types of non-US Based programs: International Dietitian Education (IDE) and Foreign Dietitian Education (FDE) programs. There are 5 international programs accredited by ACEND; 1 IDE and 5 FDE: The FDE programs are in Mexico, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and South Korea while the program at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon has both an IDE and an FDE.

James then explained the process used by program directors to evaluate international students who come from programs that are not accredited by ACEND. Programs directors must request transcripts be evaluated by a transcript evaluation service agency approved by CDR. The list may be accessed from the ACEND website under Information for Students. He showed an example of a transcript evaluated by World Education Service, Inc. (WES) and how to identify degree equivalency.

James then provided an update on the Future Education Model Standards. The templates for FEM Standards 4 and 5 have been revised and are available on the ACEND website. Also available are the FEM Partnership Agreement guidelines. James provided an update on the number and status of the demonstration programs.

James thanked all those in attendance who serve as program reviewers and encouraged them to consider applying to become reviewers for the FEM programs. He then provided the dates of the upcoming program director workshops under both the 2017 and FEM Standards.

James then opened the Town Hall to questions.

### Questions/Comments:

1. I heard that one of the approved FEM demonstration program's universities pulled out.  
Response: None of the demonstration programs that went through all the phases of initial application, training, and report submission, and were approved by the Board have pulled out. Any university that pulled out of the process has done so in the midst of the process, often due to administration changes.

2. On the FG application, is there some guideline on the number of supervised experiential learning hours desired? I'm surprised that this number is asked since competencies and not number of hours is emphasized in the FEM. Why isn't a priority placed on a minimum number of supervised practice hours? I think it's a terrible mistake to jeopardize this aspect of training for future dietitians. So the minimum number of supervised practice hours in the FEM is actually at least 900 hours?

Response: The standards specifically state the program must determine supervised experiential learning needed by students to demonstrate the required competencies and mandates from the program's administration or state legislation. This includes programs ensuring that their hours are, at a minimum, meeting the 900 hours specified in many state licensure/certification requirements. The number of hours was not specified in the FEM Standards to inform the programs and the Board of an ideal number or range for sufficient experiential learning hours to produce competent entry-level practitioners. This number will have to be above 900 hours.

3. Has a decision been made about whether or not a Cohort 5 will be added?

Response: The board will be voting on Cohort 5 during the January Board meeting; however, the Board appears to be quite interested in continuing the momentum of the FEM programs.

4. What role can international rotations play in FEM FG programs?

Response: Programs may establish a policy for prior assessed learning and follow this policy when evaluating a student's international rotations. Such experiences may be determined to be equivalent to experiences provided by the program.

5. Is the ACEND or the Academy offering competency based education training for those programs not accredited under the FEM Standards?

Response: The Competency-Based training is currently offered as a benefit to demonstration programs.

6. I would like to change some of the learning activities in the Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan prior to the next site visit. Can I do so?

Response: Programs are able to revise their SLOs as long as they maintain a record of such revisions in the SLO Assessment template and provide an explanation in the self-study report.

7. What are ACEND's plans for encouraging 4-year programs to work with 2-year programs to develop a seamless transition for students?

Response: Articulation agreements between programs are decisions made by university administrators; however, ACEND encourages such collaborations.

8. When do you expect to begin assessing the data from the FEM demonstration programs and move toward implementation?

Response: Data is being collected and assessed on a continuous basis. Since FEM programs have not graduated students yet, program data from FEM graduates and their employers have not been collected yet.

9. Is there going to be a restriction on new DPD/MS programs? It seems counter intuitive to FEM but potentially in line to meet the CDR 2024 mandate.

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Response: The board has voted on a moratorium for new DPD programs; however, already accredited programs are able to submit a substantive change to move to the graduate level or reorganize to become a Future Graduate program under the FEM standards.

10. For Cohorts 1-3, how many programs were/are CP-BS only? In other words, how many of the demonstration programs reorganized from a CP?

Response: Currently, three BS-CP programs have reorganized into demonstration programs. One of those programs also had a MS track.

11. At a site visit, how is it best to depict SLOs over time... by class (7 sets of SLOs) or as closely aligned by CRDN as they changed over 2012 to 2017 and within our own program?

Response: Programs are encouraged to provide the latest revisions of their SLO plan in the self-study report. The data, however, should be provided for all 7 years even if the SLO has changed.

12. You said that you've just started to collect data for the FEM - what specific data is being collected, and how many individuals' data will be required in order for ACEND to make a decision about imposing the FEM standards on everyone?

Response: FEM data to be collected are detailed in the research logic model posted on the ACEND FEM webpage. Data being collected include but are not limited to: surveys from faculty and preceptors, program directors, students, graduates and employers. The goal is for a minimum of a 100 complete surveys per program type to be collected before any decisions are made; however, based on the number of students in the FG and FB programs ACEND expects to have data collected in numbers greatly exceeding the minimum expectation.

13. Is there also a moratorium on new CPs?

Response: ACEND has placed no moratorium on CP programs and the Board has no intention to do so in the near future. CP programs follow closely the FEM model where the didactic and supervised practice are in one single program. By realigning the curriculum to meet the FEM competencies and ensuring integration of didactic coursework with the experiential learning, a CP program with a graduate degree can switch to become an FG program.

14. Despite the 2024 CDR mandate, no program is required to make any changes at all, correct?

Response: Correct. ACEND continues to support programs under both sets of standards.

15. With no new DPD programs, how will stand alone internship programs not become extinct?

Response: Currently, ACEND has 214 DPD programs ensuring that stand alone dietetic internship programs have enough time to plan for the future. Program directors are encouraged to view the recorded presentation geared specifically to dietetic internship programs in order to explore possible future options (recording link posted under virtual town hall webpage). Among the options is reorganizing into an FG program by collaborating with a college or university program that offers an onsite or online graduate program (graduate degree, graduate CP, graduate DPD, etc.) (Guidelines for partnership are posted on the ACEND website).

16. Why would DPD programs go through the huge amount of work to become a CP program if there's no evidence to support the FEM and the FEM pilot could change everything all over again?

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Response: The outcome of the FEM pilot project will result in the Board's decision to adopt the FEM standards or continue with the 2017 Standards. In both situations, the ACEND Board is committed to providing all programs sufficient time to come into compliance with the final adopted standards. Considering that an integrated model has been successfully implemented by many other health professions including nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, etc. it is likely that this model will also be successful for nutrition and dietetics.

17. Could we discuss simulation hours allowed and best practices you've seen so far with that?

I was curious about simulation hours in regards to the current 2017 standards not the FEM model. I am also curious about simulation hours for DI programs that may have difficulty obtaining contracts/agreements with rotation sites and may need to utilize simulation hours versus supervised practice hours. Does ACEND provide simulations or case studies to be used to complete competencies or help supplement supervised practice such as experience with TPN?

Response: ACEND does not provide programs with simulations or case studies; however, programs are encouraged to reach out to NDEP and explore the educational resources offered by the group.

18. Many DPD programs appear to simply convert to a Master's program. This will leave very few students available to apply to independent DIs. Is ACEND investigating this possible occurrence, which will most certainly make these DI's obsolete or force them to connect with a university in some manner?

Response: See response to question 15 above.

19. How many of the applications for FEM Cohorts have been Associate Degree level programs?

Response: Currently ACEND does not have any FA programs. The expected growth of positions that a graduate of an FA program, the Nutrition Health Associate (NHA) can hold is estimated to be as high as 38% by 2025 (e.g., home health, community health, etc.). The slow adoption of this new type of practitioner is not unexpected; however, the Board is committed to supporting Future Associate programs and is currently considering a number of additional incentives to promote them.

20. The potential demo program whose university decided not to go through with it had gone through the whole ACEND accreditation for an FEM demo.

Response: See response to question 1 above. Again, the entire process includes three major phases: initial application, CBE training, and report submission and approval by the Board. All demonstration programs that have completed all the phases of the process are posted on the ACEND website as FG or FB programs. None have pulled out.

21. The outcomes of only 100 people in each program type will determine the fate of the entire profession's education seems outrageous - not nearly enough data to make such a huge decision.

Response: See answer to question 12 above.

22. It sounds like ACEND is now leaning towards rushing to a conclusion. Just a few weeks ago at FNCE we were being told that it would be 15-20 years before we have a reliable conclusion regarding the FEM. I think the universities would be skeptical of making changes when this whole FEM pilot outcomes aren't known.

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Response: The ACEND Board heard the initial concerns voiced by educators during the conception of the FEM Accreditation Standards; as a result, the Board is committed to conducting a thorough evaluation of these Standards before making a decision of adopting them or continuing with the current 2017 Standards. The Research Logic Model was developed and revised based on feedback from educators and other stakeholders. Those concerned about the process are urged to closely review the Research Logic Model posted on the ACEND website and to provide input for consideration to the mailbox: [futuremodel@eatright.org](mailto:futuremodel@eatright.org). In addition, faculty and preceptors are all welcome to apply to become ACEND reviewers. ACEND reviewers are invited to serve on the ACEND Board. As such, you are able to participate in Board discussions and decisions.

The next town hall is on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 11 am Central Time.

James thanked everyone for their discussion on the town hall. The call ended at 11:52 am CT.

Attendees:

<p><u>81 Participants</u>                  Call in users # 8, 13, 14, 16, 18, 23                  Acamero1                  Alandy                  Amanda Conrad                  Amanda Maucere                  Andrea Gorman                  Andrea Lobene                  Ashley Simper                  Barbara Lohse                  Becky Wojcik                  Bielca Soza                  Brendamb                  Carolyn Bailey                  Cassie Vanderwal                  Christine Mary Haar                  cthomas                  Courtney Baker                  D Kasper                  Dona Anderson                  Erin                  Erin Murray                  Gena Seraita                  Gloria Pecina                  GPA0F9                  Hughesra                  Jbier                  Jen Zucercher                  Jessica Weissman                  Jill Johnston                  JoAnna Cupp</p>	<p>Kristi Chipman                  Laura McGinn                  Laurie                  Leslee Funderbunk                  Lisa Finn                  Marilou Wieder                  MaasurPS                  Megan Whalen                  Michelle Harris                  Michelle MacKenzie                  Nicole Klein                  Patricia Engel                  Patricia Grace-Farfaglia                  Rachael Drake                  Raedekem                  RD                  Rosa Hand                  Roxana                  Sara Wagner                  Sfillipp                  soropeza                  Susan Gills                  Suzanne Logan                  Suzi                  Tara Harman                  Tara Wind                  Terry Brown                  Theresa                  Tiam19                  URI Nutrition URI</p>	<p><u>ACEND Board</u>                  James Swain</p> <p><u>ACEND Staff</u>                  Rayane AbuSabha                  Jodi Wright                  Amy Anichini                  Elise Cowie                  Jamie Pak                  Lauren Bozich                  Stephanie Parry</p>
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