

ACEND Virtual Town Hall Meetings
Jul 23, 2024, 11:00 a.m. Central Time

Host: Rayane AbuSabha, PhD, RD
ACEND Executive Director
Presenters: Beth Leonberg, DHSc, RDN, CSP, FAND, LDN
Stephanie Stockslager, MS, RD



Webinar Recording Link:
<https://vimeo.com/989611044>

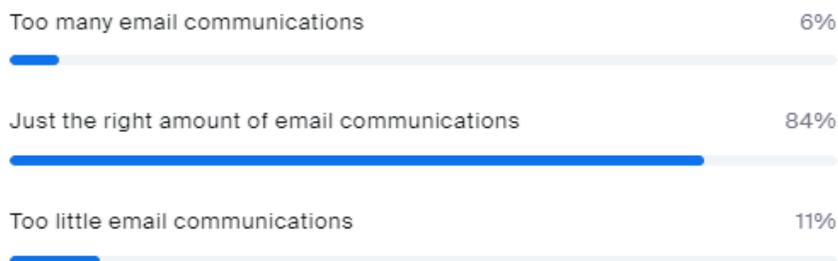
Rayane, Beth, and Stephanie thanked all attendees (180 participants). The meeting ended at 12:01 pm CT.

ACEND gathered Program Director feedback regarding communication strategies. Below are the shared results:

ACEND Communication Poll

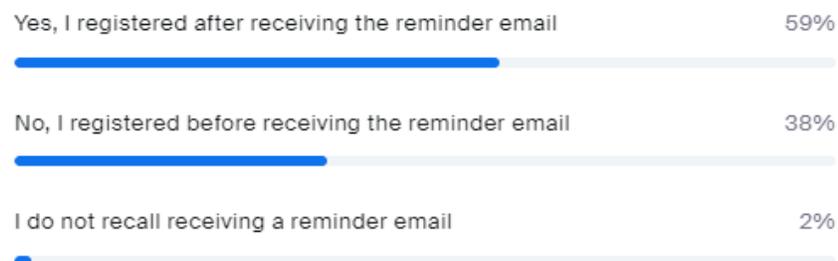
1. How do you feel about the current frequency of email communications (including email blasts, direct emails, and ACEND Update) you receive from ACEND? (single_choice)

answered



2. Did you register for the webinar after receiving the reminder email sent out last Thursday (7/18)? (single_choice)

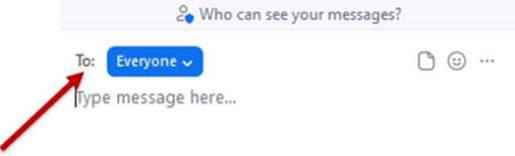
answered



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Welcome!

- Lines have been muted.
- If you have questions or comments, use the chat feature and post to EVERYONE.
- To enable closed captioning, select **Show Captions** icon **CC** from the meeting controls toolbar.



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Using Chats During ACEND Town Hall

-  ACEND encourages attendees to use the chat feature to ask questions and express their opinions respectfully
-  At any point, ACEND reserves the right to remove an attendee from the Town Hall for inappropriate or harassing comments

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This webinar is being recorded

The slides and recording will be shared on the ACEND Townhall webpage

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**Communication Poll
(Program Directors Only)**

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ACEND Updates and Announcements

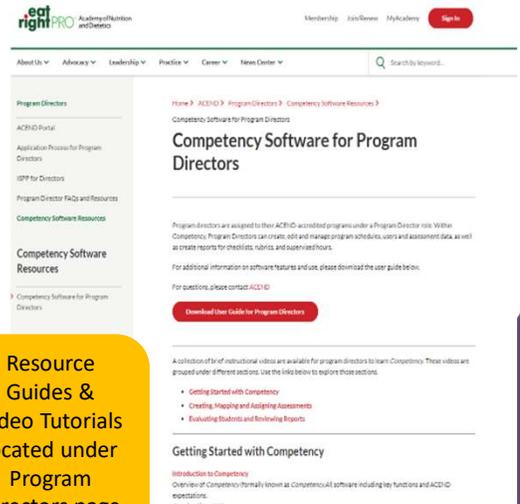
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Competency Software Resources for Program Directors

- Weekly Training and Q&A webinars:
 - Webinars held every Tuesday from 1 – 2 PM CT
 - Recordings posted on the Competency Software Resources webpage
- Competency software questions? Please send an email to Education@eatight.org

Resource Guides & Video Tutorials located under Program Directors page



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Advanced Practice Doctoral (APD) Standards

APD Standards are Live!

- Released June 1, 2024
- Not entry-level: Intended to prepare RDNs for advanced practice

Posted on the ACEND Website under Accreditation Standards, Fees, and Policies

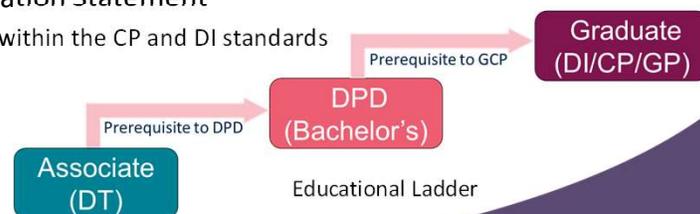


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Board Discussions and Decisions: Future of ACEND Standards By 2027:

- Move CP and GP to one set of standards: Graduate CP standards
- Keep DPD + DI + graduate degree as a separate pathway to ensure availability of sites
 - Protect interns in intern-identified SP programs
- Move all programs to competency-based education (CBE) curriculum
- Ensure education laddering: Associate to Bachelor's to Master's
- Move to a general associate-level standards: incorporate DT as a pathway
- Discontinue ISPP-DPD-Verification Statement
 - Keep ISPP-PhD and incorporate within the CP and DI standards



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Upcoming Program Director Workshop

2022 Standards and FEM Program Director Workshop

- Virtual: September 26 – 27, 2024



ACEND Training and Volunteer Opportunities

- Preceptors and Mentors
- Program Reviewers
- Training and Resources
- Dietetics Preceptor Training Program

[Learn About >](#)

Registration information posted on the ACEND website!

Program Director Workshops

The Program Director workshops are designed to help dietetic education program directors learn the latest accreditation standards and specific details on how to prepare for self-study reports and site visits. Individuals interested in applying to start a new ACEND program, as well as newly appointed program directors, are welcome and encouraged to attend and may be eligible for a registration discount. If you meet the discount requirements as outlined in the ACEND fee schedule, contact ACEND for a discount code before you register. Note After October 2023, ACEND no longer offers the Clinical Skills Workshop. For inquiries about Academy-provided workshops, including future clinical skills workshops, please contact the Academy's Center for Lifelong Learning team.

Workshops Covering the 2022 and Future Education Model Accreditation Standards

Dates and Times

- Thursday, September 26: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Central time)
- Friday, September 27: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Central time)

Location: Virtual

Description:

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics will be offering a virtual Accreditation Workshop. The workshop is designed to help dietetic education program directors and others interested in ACEND accreditation learn the latest accreditation standards and specific details on how to prepare for self-study reports and site visits. This workshop will focus on preparing a self-study report based on the 2022 and FEM standards. During the workshop, interactive sessions cover plans for how to conduct a self-study process and how to work with ACEND staff and reviewers. Individuals with a site visit scheduled in 2025 or 2026. Individuals interested in applying to start a new ACEND accredited program, as well as newly appointed program directors, are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Topics:

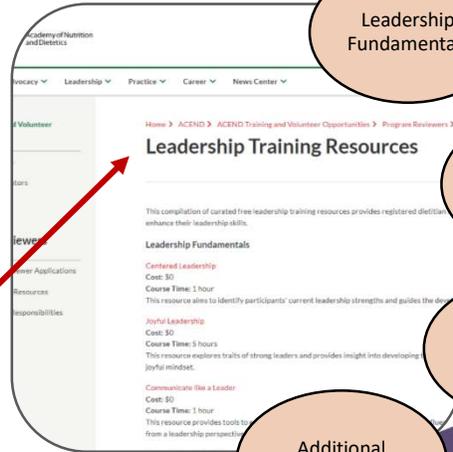
- Overview of ACEND accreditation
- Review of the 2022 and FEM Standards
- ACEND Accreditation Review Process
- Preparing Your Self-Study Report and On-site Evaluation

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ACEND Leadership Training Resource Webpage

- ACEND now offers free leadership training resources designed to enhance leadership skills and confidence!
- Resources located in the ACEND Training and Volunteer Opportunities section of the ACEND website.



Leadership Fundamentals

Negotiation Proficiency

Self-Advocacy Strategies

Additional Resources

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2022 Accreditation Standards Template Reminder

Nutrition and Dietetics Standard-Specific Templates

- Required Element 1.5 Program Director Job Description (all program types) (Optional) (doc download)
- Required Element 1.6 Planned Supervised Practice Hours (FDE) (doc download)
- Required Element 1.1-2.2 Program Evaluation Plan (CP) (doc download)
- Required Element 2.1-2.2 Program Evaluation Plan (DI) (doc download)
- Required Element 2.1-2.2 Program Evaluation Plan (DT) (doc download)
- Required Element 2.1-2.2 Program Evaluation Plan (FDE) (doc download)
- Required Element 2.3 Continuous Program Improvement Plan (doc download)
- Required Element 3.1 NDR Required Components Checklist (DT) (doc download)
- Required Element 3.1 RDN Required Components Checklist (CR, DP, FDE) (doc download)
- Required Element 3.2 CRDN Curriculum Map (DI) (doc download)
- Required Element 3.2 KRDN- CRDN Curriculum Map (CR, FDE) (doc download)
- Required Element 3.2 KRDN Curriculum Map (DP) (doc download)
- Required Element 3.2 KRDN- CRND Curriculum Map (DT) (doc download)
- Required Element 3.3 NDR Summary of Learning Activities (DT) (doc download)
- Required Element 3.3 RDN Summary of Learning Activities (CR, DI, DP, FDE, ISPP) (doc download)
- Required Element 4.1-4.2 RDN Core Competency Assessment Table (CR, DI, FDE, ISPP) (doc download)
- Required Element 4.1-4.2 Core Knowledge Assessment Table (DP) (doc download)
- Required Element 4.1-4.2 NDR Core Competency Assessment Table (DT) (doc download)
- Required Element 5.1 Faculty Roster (doc download)
- Required Element 5.1-6.1 Preceptor and Faculty Roster (CR, DI, FDE, DT, ISPP) (doc download)
- Required Element 5.2 Preceptor Qualifications Form (Optional) (doc download)
- Required Element 7.3 Information to the Public Checklist (All programs) (doc download)
- Required Element 8.1-8.2 CP and FDE Policies and Procedures Checklist (CR, FDE) (doc download)
- Required Element 8.1-8.2 DI and ISPP Policies and Procedures Checklist (DI, ISPP) (doc download)
- Required Element 8.1-8.2 DP Policies and Procedures Checklist (DP) (doc download)

Templates are found in the Accreditation Section of the ACEND website.

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Opportunities to Reimagine the DPD

Beth Leonberg, DHSc, RDN, CSP, FAND, LDN
Program Director & Associate Professor
Drexel University, Philadelphia

Stephanie Stockslager, MS, RD
Program Director
Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, Virginia

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Recap – Importance of DPD Programs

- DPDs have successfully been providing the foundation of dietetics education for decades
 - Knowledge requirements (KRDNs) ensure a uniform knowledge base before entering supervised practice
- Currently, most supervised practice programs require a DPD verification statement
 - 407 DIs, MS/DIs or GPs require a DPD verification (vs. 87 which do not)
- DPDs represent the majority of our capacity to meet future demand for dietetics professionals
 - ~5,600 new jobs for dietetics professionals are projected over the next 10 years (US Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- ACEND plans to continue the DPD as an essential pathway in dietetics training



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Classroom-Based Programs Towards RDN Pathway

	2000-2004 (mean)	2005-2009 (mean)	2010-2014 (mean)	2015-2019 (mean)	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Didactic programs (DPD)	231	226	225	218	211	214	213	210
Number of Coordinated Programs	50	53	53	59	61	61	58	53
Number of Graduate Programs (GP)	NA	NA	NA	NA	36	49	71	83
Total Program Number	281	279	278	277	308	324	342	346

61% of RDN programs are DPDs

Source: ACEND Data

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Distribution of Students in Current Pathways to the RDN

	2000-2004 (mean)	2005-2009 (mean)	2010-2014 (mean)	2015-2019 (mean)	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Students enrolled in DPD (will go on to DI or GP)	9,785	14,367	17,005	14,151	11,422	10,381	8,976	8,297
Number of students enrolled in CP	1,171	1341	1,800	2,019	1,914	1,810	1,456	1,337
Number of Students enrolled in Graduate Programs (GP)	NA	NA	NA	NA	521	892	1,235	1,666
Total DPD+CP+GP	10,956	15,708	18,805	16,170	13,857	13,083	11,667	11,300

**73% of students in RDN
pathways are in DPDs**

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Enrollment in all Programs has Declined (2023 Enrollment Data)

- 2023 enrollment (11,300) represents
 - 40% decline since peak years of 2010-2014
 - 18% decline since 2020
 - 3.1% decline since 2022
- Students per DPD program has declined as well
 - 68 per program in 2010-2014
 - 58 per program in 2015-2019
 - 45 per program in 2020
 - 40 per program in 2021
 - 34 per program in 2022
 - 33 per program in 2023

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Time to Reimagine the DPD

- Let's consider some options
 - Master's-level DPD
 - Academic Bridges
 - DPD + DI Partnerships



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Drexel Dietetics – Brief History



- Celebrated our 100th anniversary as a nutrition/dietetics program in 2018
- 1976– 2023 BS-level Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD)
- 2009 – present Introduced MS-level DPD
- 2011 – 2019 Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway (ISPP)
- 2019 – present Introduced BS to MS bridge program
- 2019 – present Launched Future Education Model Graduate Program (GP)
- 2021 – present Introduced MS-level DPD Plus Partner DI
- 2023 Sunset BS-level DPD

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Option 1: Master's Level DPD

- Built to parallel undergraduate DPD at a higher academic level
- Open to students from all academic undergraduate degrees
- Drexel admission requirements:
 - Minimum GPA of 3.0
 - GRE – previously required, but discontinued during pandemic
 - Prerequisite coursework:
 - 2 semesters English lit or comp
 - 2 semesters chemistry with lab (must include at least an intro to organic chem)
 - 1 semester biology with lab (must include cells and genetics)
 - 2 semesters anatomy and physiology OR 1 semester human physiology
 - 1 semester biochemistry (300 level or higher)
 - 1 semester statistics
 - 1 semester general psychology
 - 1 semester introductory nutrition

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Background of MS-DPD students

- Greatest number come with degrees in nutrition (with or without a DPD), biology, exercise science, or psychology
- Other common degree backgrounds include accounting, business, and marketing
- Over the years, students have come with every conceivable arts, science or engineering backgrounds
- To date, have trained approximately 200 RDNs in this program



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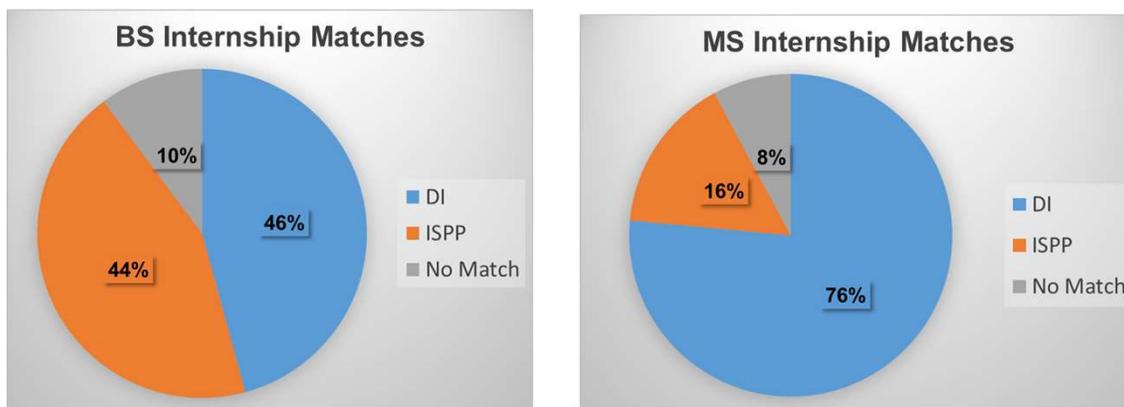
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Success of Drexel MS-DPD Students: Internship Match

J Acad Nutr Diet. 2017; 117(supplement);A-12.

–Between January 2011 and December 2016, 59 BS and 102 MS students applied for DI



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Success of Drexel MS-DPD Students: Entry Level Exam

- Students who complete the DPD at the master's degree have higher exam scores

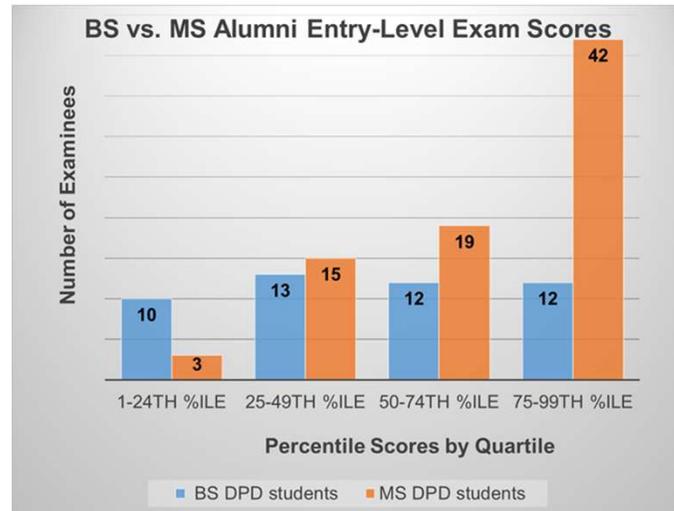
Entry-Level Exam Performance 2011 to 2016		
	BS Alumni	MS Alumni
# passing on first attempt	38	77
# first time test takers	47	79
Pass rate percentage	81%	98%
Mean scaled score	27	30.6
Mean percentile score	49 th	71 st

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Drexel BS-DPD vs. MS-DPD Exam Scores by Quartile

- BS-DPD scores were evenly distributed across percentiles
- 77% of MS-DPD graduates scored above the 50th percentile
- 53% of MS-DPD graduates scored in the 75th-99th percentile



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Option 2: Academic Bridge Programs

- “Accelerated, combined, and bridge degree programs enable academically qualified students to pursue a more direct pathway to earning a bachelor's and advanced degree at Drexel.”
- 3+2 vs. 4+1 structure – university/program specific
- Student advantage:
 - Shortens path to career
 - May reduce total cost
 - Eliminates need to apply to another program
- University advantage:
 - Provides seamless path to profession
 - Helps retain high-achieving students for graduate degree

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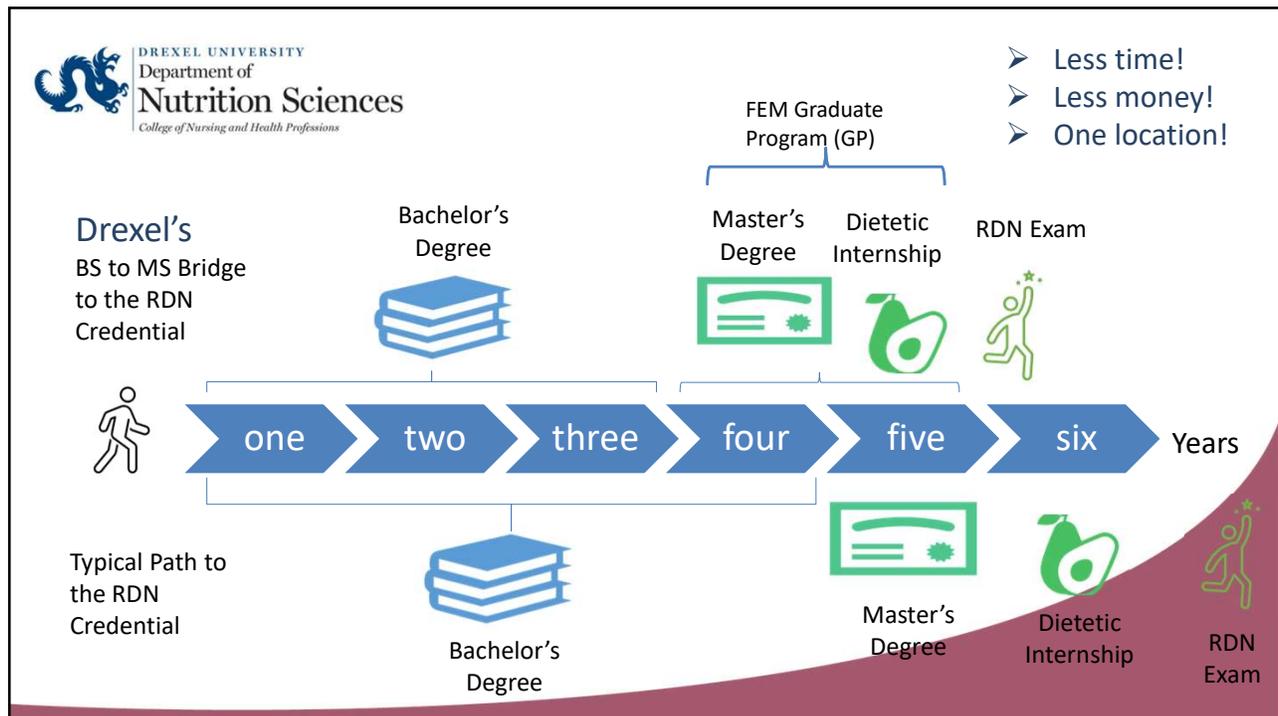
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Academic Bridge Program Possibilities

1. BS-DPD bridged to existing/new master's degree e.g., nutrition, business, public health, etc.
2. Bachelor's-level nutrition degree bridged to Graduate Program (GP)
 - Undergraduate degree could be +/- DPD
3. Bachelor's-level non-nutrition degree program (e.g., health sciences) bridged to MS-DPD or GP

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Option 3: DPD + DI Partnerships

- Opportunity to offer the best of both worlds, based on experience, success and relationships built over many years
- Allows universities to partner with free-standing DIs to create a more streamlined process for their students
- Partnership can be initiated by either DPD or DI
 - Potential partners were identified by DPD and approached to explore interest in 2020
- Five partner DIs chosen based on reputation and shared history:
 - Yale New Haven Hospital
 - University of Maryland Medical Center
 - Virginia Commonwealth University Health System
 - Emory University
 - Tulane University
- Partnership documented in Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Drexel and each internship
 - Mutual respect, communication, trust, and flexibility
 - Meet as a group virtually each year

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Drexel MS-DPD Plus Partner DI

- Process initiated as a pre-select in 2021, now transitioning to fit within the new DICAS guidelines and timelines
- In the past, students compiled application materials and DPD director submitted to DI programs as single pdf
- Students are required to apply to at least 2 programs and send their first/second choice ranking to DPD director
- Going forward, students will apply on DICAS via “Drexel” application created by Partner DIs
- Proposed timeline to trial in coming year
 - a. Application submission deadline (student) – January 15
 - b. Application decision deadline (dietetic internship programs) – February 15
 - c. Applicant notification deadline (Drexel) – February 22
 - d. Match acceptance deadline (student) – March 15

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Partner Perspective- Virginia Commonwealth University Health System DI

- Why partner?
 - Not affiliated with an academic program to meet master’s degree standard
 - Options:
 - Create a new MS in Nutrition program on the University side of our organization
 - Do nothing- only accept master’s prepared applicants
 - *Partner with a graduate degree program to supplement our DI
 - Viability
 - Maintain autonomy of program/curriculum
 - Becoming a “site” for other programs not supported by Admin
 - Appealing to students- guaranteed placement
 - Strong degree program with a history of high academic standards to match the rigor of our program

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Partner Perspective- Virginia Commonwealth University Health System DI

- Benefits
 - Collaborating with like-minded program for the vision of the future RDN
 - Having a pipeline of strong, well-prepared applicants
 - Four of our 16 spots are reserved for Drexel MS-DPD students
 - Students less stressed and appreciative of the partnership
 - Opened the potential for applicants from their undergraduate DPD
 - Networking potential with other AMC-based DIs
 - Less than 2 years, start to finish, for MS-DPD + DI experience
 - Great for career changers!
- Considerations
 - How many positions are you willing to hold open for not guaranteed placements...yet!

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MS-DPD Plus Partner DI Success

- Began in 2021 and have completed 3 cycles of admission and matching
 - 2021 – 4 matched
 - 2022 – 2 matched
 - 2023 – 3 matched
- Offering online degree beginning in September 2024
 - Enrolled 6 online, 2 in person



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Conclusion

- Advancing the profession to entry at the master's level offers opportunities to consider changes in how we prepare RDNs
- The DPD remains a core part of educating dietitians, but there are many possible ways to reimagine them to help us move forward
- Graduate-level DPDs, academic bridges, and partnerships with DIs are just some possibilities – there are likely many more options that have been or will be developed
- Let's get creative and reshape the DPD to fit the future needs of the profession

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Questions?

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Communication from ACEND

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- **ACEND Update**
 - Monthly update from ACEND posted on the website
- **Virtual Town Hall**
 - Town Hall registration links posted on the website.
- **ACEND Staff**
 - 800-877-1600 x5400
 - acend@eatright.org

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