

# Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) is the accrediting agency for education programs preparing students for careers as registered dietitian nutritionists or nutrition and dietetics technicians, registered.

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## News and Updates

### ACEND Programs Enrollments and Trends

ACEND releases aggregated program enrollment data for ACEND-accredited programs on an annual basis. This information is self-reported by all ACEND-accredited programs via the annual report. The results of program enrollments for FY 2025 have been posted on the ACEND website under About ACEND - [ACEND Data](#). Updated tables include the Program Enrollment Trends from 2000-2025 and Diversity Enrollment Trends from 2000-2025.

#### Key Points

- There were 0.7% fewer enrolled students/interns reported in 2025 compared to 2024. Enrollment in all ACEND-accredited programs was 14,336 in 2025 compared to 14,436 in 2024.
- Dietetic Technician (DT) and Dietetic Internship (DI) program enrollments declined in 2025 compared to 2024 (15.8% and 3.3%, respectively), while enrollment in Didactic Programs in Dietetics (DPD) was stable (0.2% increase in 2025 compared to 2024). Notably, enrollment in DI programs has declined mainly because many DIs located in colleges and universities were reorganized into Graduate Programs under the Future Education Model ACEND Accreditation Standards.
- Enrollment in Coordinated Programs (CP) and Future Education Model Graduate Programs (GP) was higher in 2025 compared to 2024 (3.1% and 12.3%, respectively).
- **Interest in becoming a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) remains strong.** Total enrollment in RDN supervised practice programs (including CPs, GPs, and DIs) was 3% higher in 2025 compared to 2024, increasing from 6,166 in 2024 to 6,359 in 2025. Enrollment in the RDN supervised practice programs (CPs, GPs, and DIs) in 2025 is also 22% higher than in 2014, when 5,216 students were enrolled in

supervised practice RDN programs (CPs and DIs). Notably, 2014 represents the highest enrollment year recorded on the ACEND chart.

- **The master's degree requirement continues to impact graduation rates.**

Following the implementation of the master's degree requirement, the observed decline in the graduation rate reflects the additional year needed for students to complete their graduate studies. The extended length of the dietetics programs has contributed to lower reported graduation rates in 2024 (3,419 of 6,166 or 55%) and 2025 (3,533 of 6,359 or 55%)\* compared to prior years (73% in 2023). Additional time is needed to fully assess the long-term impact of this transition.

- **Data on enrollment by various races and ethnic groups** cannot be reliably reported or interpreted because it is no longer representative of the student population. Many universities are unable to report race and ethnicity due to state legislation or institutional requirements, restricting the collection or disclosure of this information to ACEND. As a result, the category "Not able to report race/ethnic origin" increased substantially from 912 students in 2024 to 1,938 students in 2025. Given this significant shift and the resulting data limitations, meaningful analysis cannot be conducted, and no valid conclusions can be drawn from the reported diversity data.

\*Note: Graduating students in a given year may not be the same cohort as those currently enrolled. Calculating a graduation percentage using same-year enrollment and graduate counts is inaccurate for multi-year programs where many enrolled students have not yet completed the program.

## Share Your Noteworthy Practices with Other Educators

Did you know that ACEND has been publishing Noteworthy Practices since 2016?

ACEND highlights innovative approaches in nutrition and dietetics education, offering these practices to help programs learn from peers, identify best practices, improve efficiency, and explore proven strategies.

Programs whose Noteworthy Practices are selected by ACEND receive professional recognition for their innovation and contributions to the field. Selected programs receive an official letter from ACEND addressed to institutional administrators, and the practice is featured on the [ACEND website](#).

Programs interested in having their Noteworthy Practice reviewed by ACEND's Review Committee for potential selection in an upcoming quarter are encouraged to visit the [ACEND Noteworthy Practice webpage](#) to download the submission form. The submission process is more straightforward than many expect, consisting of just three two-part questions.

ACEND particularly welcomes submissions in the following areas:

- Preceptor Recruitment and Recognition

- Interprofessional Education
- Curriculum (e.g., AI, simulation, review processes, integrated experiences)
- Program Improvement (e.g., data collection, technology, pass rates)

Completed submission forms and any supporting documentation should be submitted to [ACEND@eatright.org](mailto:ACEND@eatright.org) by one of the upcoming deadlines: **July 17, 2026, or October 16, 2026.**

120 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995, (800) 877-1600

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