
ACEND Virtual Town Hall Meeting
September 16, 2025, 11:00 a.m. Central Time

Host: Rayane AbuSabha, PhD, RD
ACEND Executive Director
Presenter(s): Kendra Kattelman, PhD, RDN, LN, FAND



Webinar Recording Link:
<https://vimeo.com/1119793459>

Rayane and Kendra thanked all attendees (239 participants). The meeting ended at 12:30 PM CT.

The following topics/questions were answered live during the town hall:

- Timeline for the 2027 Standards
- Proposed budget requirements
- Program director workload, training, and terminal degree requirements
- Eligibility for NDTR credential
- DPD removal of pass rate requirement and access to data
- Foodservice within the curriculum
- Confirmation of site prior to starting rotations for student selected experiences
- Potential preceptor training
- Program completion spreadsheet
 - <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/program-directors/acend-portal>

Please attend our next town hall on September 24th, which will discuss the DIs under the 2027 standards with information that will also be applicable to DPDs and CPs.

General Questions

When will the draft 2027 standards be published to the ACEND website?

ACEND Response: The proposed draft 2027 Accreditation Standards are slated to be released for public comment between December 2025 and January 2026. Constituents will have 60 days to provide comments.

I want to say thank you to the standards committee for giving their time developing the 2027 standards. It's clear that they did want to promote the profession and I appreciate their "gutsy" standards. With that said- I think it would relieve a lot of confusion if we could read the draft standards now.

ACEND Response: Thank you for your support. The standards are still in draft form and the standards committee continues to refine their content. Once the drafts are finalized and approved by the ACEND Board the standards will be released for public comments soon thereafter.

Are the draft standards "set" at this time or is there still opportunity for continued discussion and debate?

ACEND Response: Standards cannot be finalized until after the public comment period has concluded. The proposed drafts of the 2027 Accreditation Standards are scheduled to be released for public comment between December 2025 and January 2026. All feedback received during the 60-day public comment period will be carefully reviewed and used to revise and refine the standards. We strongly encourage all constituents to participate by submitting their comments during the designated timeframe.

Once the standards are out in December, how much time will DPD have to implement, is there a time frame?

ACEND Response: The draft standards will be released for public comment between December 2025-January 2026. The final standards will be released summer 2026, and implementation is not expected until summer 2027. The implementation plan in summer 2027 will follow a waterfall approach, prioritizing the rollout of simpler requirements first, while deferring the more complex requirements (such as competency-based education curriculum and clinical skills) to later phases.

Will students continue to be eligible for the NDTR credential with a Bach. DPD VS like they are now?

ACEND Response: The standards will not impact CDR's decision on Pathway 3 for DPD graduates to sit for the NDTR exam.

What will be the cost of the ongoing training for directors? Would this be attending the annual program director training, CEs, or something different?

ACEND Response: Program directors will have their choice of trainings provided by ACEND, including free virtual modules, virtual workshops, and/or in-person workshops.

How can the information about research areas be found?

ACEND Response: As soon as the Academy provides us with information, ACEND will share it with our program directors.

Request for ease of transition to new standards: can any new standards be designed to be at the end of a section (so as not to require renumbering of pre-existing ones) to reduce the burden of program directors to make the administrative changes required with these types of changes? So similar to TJC - if they remove something, that number just gets deleted and anything new gets added.

ACEND Response: Thank you for the suggestions. ACEND staff will review the recommendation for feasibility.

MS/DI Requirement

Several postings asked what the new classification for MS/DIs will be and if they will be combined as CPs in the new standards

ACEND Response: MS/DIs will not be expected to combine and form a CP. The DI standards allow those programs to form an affiliation with a master's program that is able to meet the Designated Academic Competencies and Performance Indicators under the 2027 Accreditation Standards.

DPD Pass Rate

Will DPD Directors still have access to Pearson Vue exam reports, even though the objective is being removed?

ACEND Response: Thank you for your suggestion. DPD Directors will continue to have access to Pearson Vue exam reports. ACEND staff reached out to CDR and requested that this information continues to be shared with DPD Directors.

Some requested clarification on the removal of the RDN pass rate objective for DPDs

ACEND Response: In response to many requests from DPD programs, the draft 2027 Accreditation Standards propose removing the RDN pass rate objective. As a result, DPD programs will no longer be required to report RDN pass rate data, and ACEND will no longer evaluate DPD programs based on this objective.

Will there continue to be a post-baccalaureate option for the DPD?

ACEND Response: Yes. The post-baccalaureate option remains an option for DPD programs.

Doctorate Degree Requirement for CP and GP Program Directors

The majority of the questions revolved around the doctoral degree requirement for CP and GP program directors.

ACEND Response: Following is a summary. The doctoral degree requirement is only for CP and GP program directors.

- As of August 2025, it only impacts 55 program directors of CPs and GPs who currently hold a master's degree.
- It does **NOT** apply to Associate, DT, DPD, DI, or DI program directors where the DI is affiliated with a graduate degree. Currently, ACEND has no plans to require the program director of the supervised practice DI programs to hold a terminal degree. Note, however, that graduate programs affiliated with DI programs to meet the Designated Academic Competencies and Performance Indicators will be required to have one faculty with a doctoral degree.
- The doctorate may be a professional doctorate or a PhD, and in any field- PhD, DCN, EdD, Dr.PH, and others.
- The Standards Committee discussed at length grandfathering existing program directors. The final decision was to extend the date for those existing CP and GP program directors until June 1, 2037, to ensure that those who will be in the position for longer than a decade obtain the doctoral degree.
- The requirement is only for the program director position and not for other faculty within the program. At this time, no specific percentage of faculty with terminal degrees has been specified. Note, however, that graduate programs affiliated with DI programs to meet the Designated Academic Competencies and Performance Indicators will be required to have one faculty with a doctoral degree.
- ACEND is exploring with the Academy and with the Academy Foundation grants and scholarships to support program directors in obtaining their doctoral degree.

Is there a concern that programs who are already reducing funding per your earlier point, may have organizations decide not to continue the dietetics program?

ACEND Response: ACEND encourages educational administrators to continue recognizing the value that dietetics programs bring to their institutions and to society at large. Students deserve access to strong, well-supported programs that are equipped with the resources necessary to foster academic and professional success.

Release Time Requirement for Program Management

Several posts asked about the release time for program management.

ACEND Response: Following is a summary.

- The release time requirement applies to the CP/GP, DI and DPD programs. It does not apply to the Associate program nor the DT option
- The release time has a set required time that is scaled and based on enrollment. In addition, it differs according to program type
- **A designated percentage of time is allocated specifically for program management (release time). The remaining portion of their workload is determined by the institution and may include responsibilities such as teaching, research, and service**
- Release time for program management may be shared among other faculty, coordinators, or instructors who have been delegated specific responsibilities to manage the program
- The release time applies regardless of the type of faculty contract (12-month or 9-month)
- ACEND has not specified a specific additional release time during the self-study/site-visit year as the proposed designated release time should incorporate all time associated with program management.

It would be wonderful if conducting your Self Study Report would lead to CPEUs!

ACEND Response: Thank you for your excellent suggestion. ACEND reached out to CDR regarding this request. CDR confirmed that **Activity Type 191 - Expert Work** was developed and approved by the Commission Board and became effective June 1, 2024. Under Activity Type 191, the program director decides on the number of CPEUs they believe their individual expert work should equate to. The maximum number to claim per 5-year recertification cycle as part of the 75 total hours is 15 CPEUs for RD and 10 CPEUs for DTRs. For more information, please access the June 2024 --- ‘*The CDR Connection*’ or access the [CDR Activity Type Webpage](#).

Student-Identified Supervised Practice

Concerns were expressed about the suggested requirements for programs where students identify their own supervised practice sites and/or preceptors.

ACEND Response: Following is a summary.

The following proposed requirements are **limited to programs where students/interns identify their own supervised practice site**

- The program is expected to support students during the process of locating their sites and/or preceptors.
- These requirements are based on strong recommendations from ACEND’s legal counsel to ensure that the standards are aligned with current legal expectations and best practices, helping to safeguard both programs and students.

- All supervised practice sites must be secured before the student/intern begins their supervised practice component of the program (or before their first rotation).
 - This requirement does not apply to programs that identify sites and preceptors for their students.
- When a student loses a previously secured site and struggles to find a replacement, the program is ultimately responsible for finding the new site to ensure the student completes the program on time.

The following proposed requirements **applies to all supervised practice sites** including programs where students/interns identify their own supervised practice site.

- The program must be responsible for establishing the affiliation agreement. The student may support the program in a few minor steps. This requirement is for all supervised practice programs (DT, DI, and CP).

Curriculum and Clinical Skills

How will I expect my preceptors to be able to teach interns how to order and interpret imaging? Or administer injections? How will facilities like hospitals be expected to oversee this learning safely?

ACEND Response: ACEND expects that students receive a strong academic foundation before entering their supervised practice experiences. The competencies are set to take place first in the classroom or through simulations to ensure students are adequately prepared to apply their learning in real-world settings. At this early stage, we encourage programs to collaborate with other disciplines to provide students with practical experiences.

Should Directors expect the total supervised practice hours be increased to accommodate for these new standards? Our program is 37-weeks, but I feel as if there would not be enough time to address the additional skills/competencies.

ACEND Response: Increasing supervised practice hours may not benefit dietetics students, especially given that dietitian training already exceeds that of many other health professions. Under the Future Education Model, ACEND's Graduate Programs successfully integrated over 200 required competencies and performance indicators within the existing 1,000 hours of supervised practice. With the 2027 Accreditation Standards reducing the number of competencies and performance indicators by half, ACEND anticipates that the current 1,000-hour requirement will be more than sufficient to support student competency attainment.

Can you confirm that competencies regarding imaging and injections will be at the "knows" level as opposed to "shows/does"?

ACEND Response: Thank you for your comment. ACEND will share it with the Standards Committee for consideration. Nevertheless, we do expect that most of the competencies and performance indicators for the newly introduced clinical skills (e.g., swallow assessment, injections, nutrition imaging) will be set in the academic setting and at the knows or shows levels.

Hopefully there is a reduction in competencies in other areas to accommodate these new areas.

ACEND Response: The 2027 Accreditation Standards reduced the number of competencies and performance indicators in the current FEM GP standards by almost half.

"Imaging" does not seem like an entry level RDN skill. Is there consideration that this competency is better tied to the advanced practice RD credential?

ACEND Response: Several newly credentialed RDN practitioners serving on the Expanded Standards Committee have indicated that they are already engaged in these activities. Dietitians can read and interpret images for several nutrition-related activities, including confirming tube placement (X-rays or fluoroscopy), body composition analysis (e.g., DEXA), monitoring wound healing (e.g., infrared), and other activities. The expectation is that most of these performance indicators will be at the knows and shows levels and can be achieved in an academic setting.

Resources and Trainings on New Skills

Several comments requested support from ACEND for training faculty on the clinical skills

ACEND Response: Thank you for your comments. ACEND will explore providing virtual training and resources for our programs. These will be excellent opportunities to support faculty and preceptors in their upskilling.

NDEP should put forward resources to help preceptors transition to these new standards so that programs do not have all of the burden.

ACEND Response: Thank you for your comment. ACEND will reach out to NDEP with this request.

Please consider giving free CBE training to faculty too, like at least 1 faculty a year.

ACEND Response: ACEND's immediate priority is training its program directors on CBE. As such, the ACEND Board has approved year-long trainings on CBE offered to program directors **free of charge**. These trainings will be virtual but synchronous. The seats for these trainings will be limited to promote engagement. However, anytime seats are available, ACEND can offer them to other faculty. Furthermore, ACEND is planning an asynchronous virtual training for faculty and preceptors.

Naming of Standards

PLEASE remove "Graduate" as part of the name of programs since it's VERY confusing for anyone outside of dietetics as a university since graduate is such a general term that is used consistently in academia.

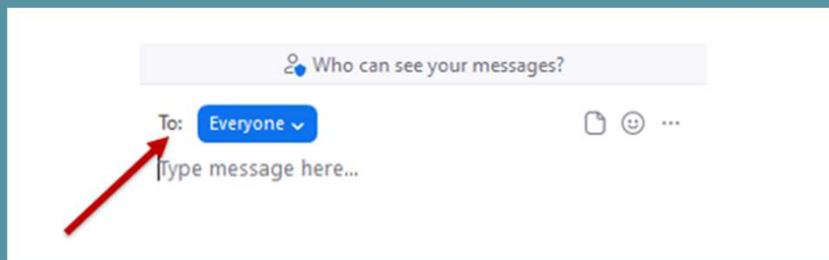
How about RDN school for the "CP/GP" and RDN Residency for DIs.

Just a flag for "PP", if we start saying that we have MS/PP programs it may get confused with MPP or MS in Public Policy programs.

ACEND Response: Thank you for your comments. ACEND will share the comments with the ACEND Standards Committee and the ACEND Board.

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.



ACÉND

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



This webinar is being
recorded



The slides and recording
will be shared on the
ACEND webpage



ACEND Announcements and Updates

Janet Stuhrcke, DCN, RD, FAND
ACEND Board Chair

Competency Software: Programs Using Trajecsys and Google Classroom (Education License)



- ACEND is seeking volunteers to work with EMS for establishing integration with:
 - Google Classroom with educational license
 - Trajecsys
- Please contact education@eatright.org if you wish to support ACEND in this process.



ACEND Standards DEI Revisions

- In line with federal regulations
- Ensure consistency in decision making
- Give programs flexibility

Comment period until September 29

NEW Resource for Program Completion Objective

- Optional spreadsheet template
- Video tutorials:
 - How to use the template
 - How to use data from template for PEP and annual report

If you have questions, contact your ACEND manager

ACEND Portal

Welcome to the ACEND® Portal! This portal is intended for:

- Program directors from ACEND-accredited programs, and
- Active ACEND program reviewers who have been appointed and trained by ACEND

To log in, please click the red button below and follow the prompts to enter your eatrightPRO credentials. This will give you access to the ACEND portal.

If your credentials do not work, please contact the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics [Member Services Center](#) or 800/877-1600 x 5000 for assistance resetting your username or password.

Download the portal instructions for:

- [Program Directors](#)
- [Program Reviewers](#)

[Access ACEND Portal](#)

Annual Report Resources and Videos

Student Loan Section for DI Programs

The video below provides directions for completing the student loan section for DI programs.

- [How to Fill Out the Student Loans Section](#)

Program Completion Calculation Statistics Section

The spreadsheet below is recommended for the Program Completion Statistics Section. Additionally, several videos are available to provide guidance when using the spreadsheet.

- [Program Completion Calculation Spreadsheet](#)

How-to Videos for Program Completion Calculation Spreadsheet

- [How to Complete the Program Completion Calculation Spreadsheet for Single Cohort \(All Program Types Except APDs\)](#)
- [How to Complete the Program Completion Calculation Spreadsheet for Multi-Cohorts \(All Program Types Except APDs\)](#)
- [How to Use the Program Completion Calculation Spreadsheet to complete the Annual Report \(All Program Types Except APDs\)](#)
- [How to Use the Program Completion Calculation Spreadsheet to Complete the PEP \(All Program Types Except APDs\)](#)



ACEND Fall 2025 Updates



Annual Report

Initial reminder email sent on September 9th

Due date: November 21st



Annual Fee

Initial reminder email sent on September 11th

Due date: December 8th

[Home](#) > [ACEND](#) > [ACEND Public Notices and Announcements](#) >

ACEND Updates

The ACEND UPdate is ACEND's monthly newsletter aimed at providing programs with deadline reminders, training opportunities and updates to standard interpretation and policies. The newsletters for 2025 are available below.

November 12-13, 2025 Virtual Program Director Workshop

**Program Directors:
Additional Training
Opportunities**

[Home](#) > [ACEND](#) > [Program Directors](#) >

Program Directors

This section provides resources for program directors to help maintain ACEND accreditation, including navigation to access the ACEND Portal, Application Process and more.

Additional [training opportunities for program directors](#) are available.

Popular Resources for ACEND Program Directors

To assist programs on the accreditation process, ACEND offers the following resources:

ACEND Upcoming Town Hall

Dietetic Internships and the 2027 Standards

September 24, 2025

11:00 am CT – 12:30 pm CT



© istock.com

Guiding Principles for the Revisions of the 2022 Standards: 2027 Standards Development

Kendra Kattelman - Presenter

Members of the Expanded Standards Committee for the 2027 Standards



Members of the Expanded Standards Committee (ESC)

ESC

- DPD faculty (n=2)
- DI faculty (n=3)
- CP faculty (n=1)
- GP faculty (n=2)
- NDTR faculty (n=1)
- Student member (n=1)
- RDN practitioners (n=3)
- Public members (n=2)

NDTR Subgroup

- NDTR faculty (n=3)
- NDTR practitioner (n=1)
- RDN faculty (n=2)
- RDN practitioner (n=1)
- Public member (n=1)

Guiding Principles:
2027 Standards

Federal Regulations



Federal Regulations

The 2027 Standards Types

Grad
CP

CP

GP

PP

DI

Bach
DPD

DPD

Assoc

General
Associate
Degree

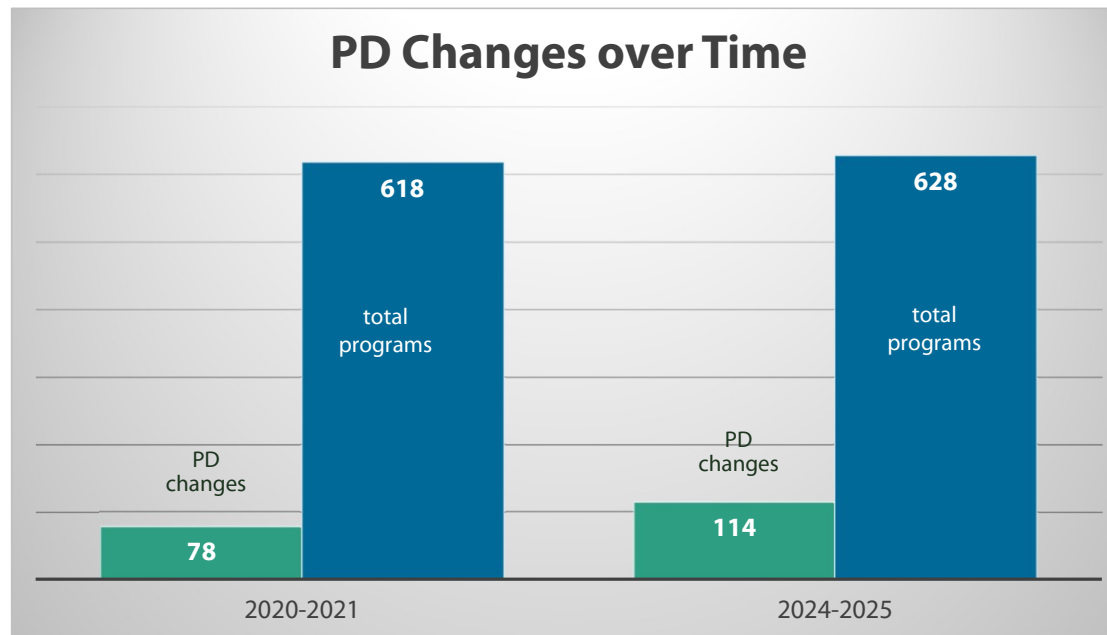
DT
Optional



Protecting our Program Directors

Burnout Among ACEND Program Directors

- >20% turnover every year:
- In 2020-2021: 12.6% turnover In 2024-2025: 18.2%

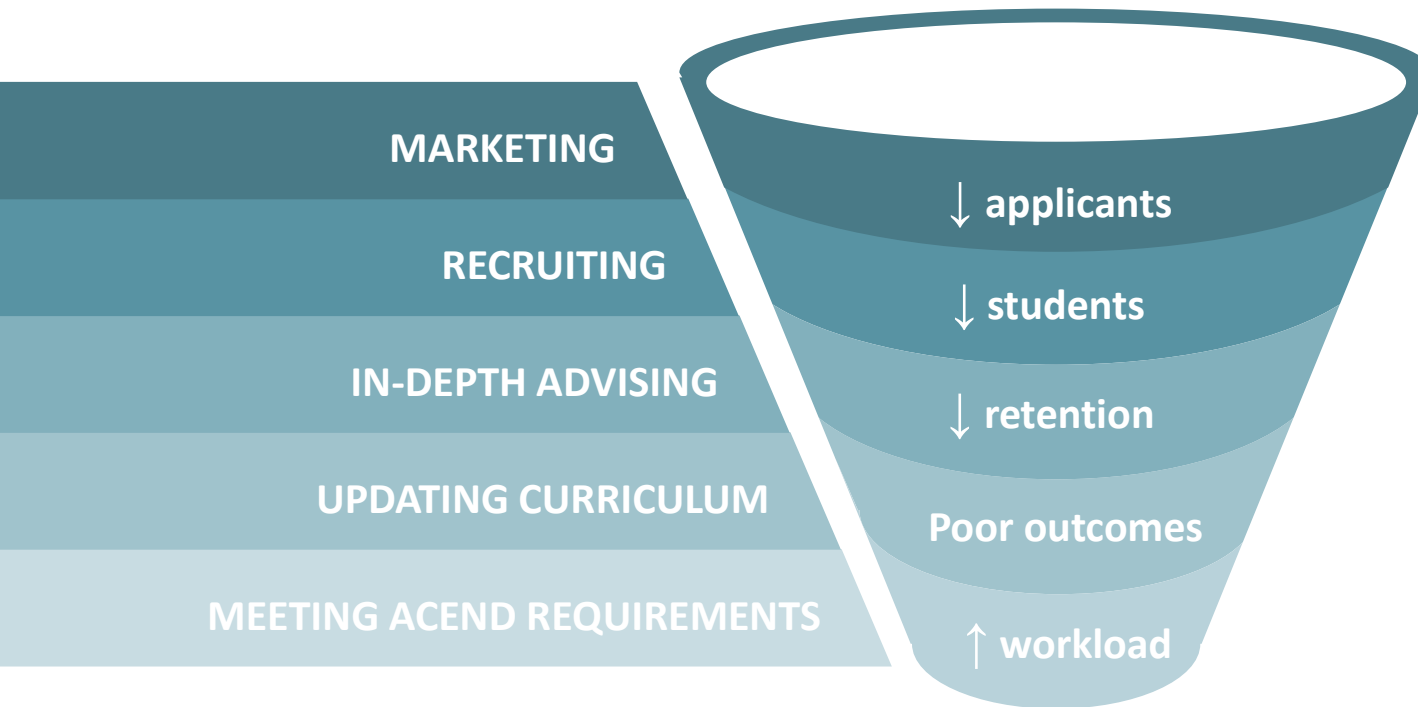


Protecting PDs (it starts with the PD)



- Release time taken away
- Increase in other responsibilities

Decreased Capacity to Manage the Program



Less time to
manage the
program

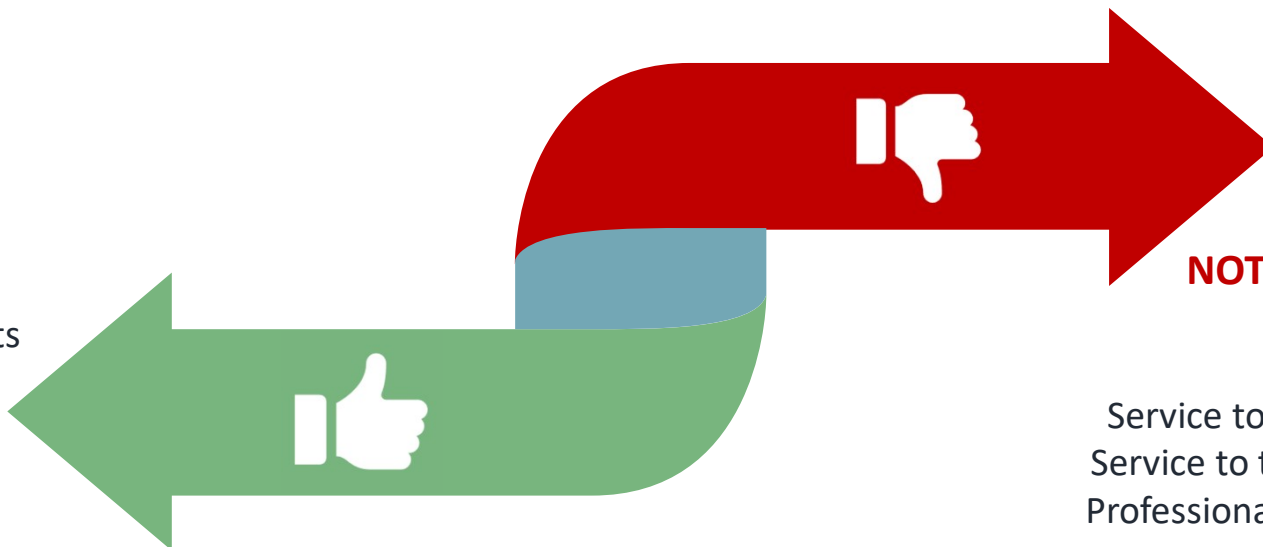
Specify Release Time for Program Management (Does not apply to Associate)



Acceptable Program Management Activities

ACCEPTABLE

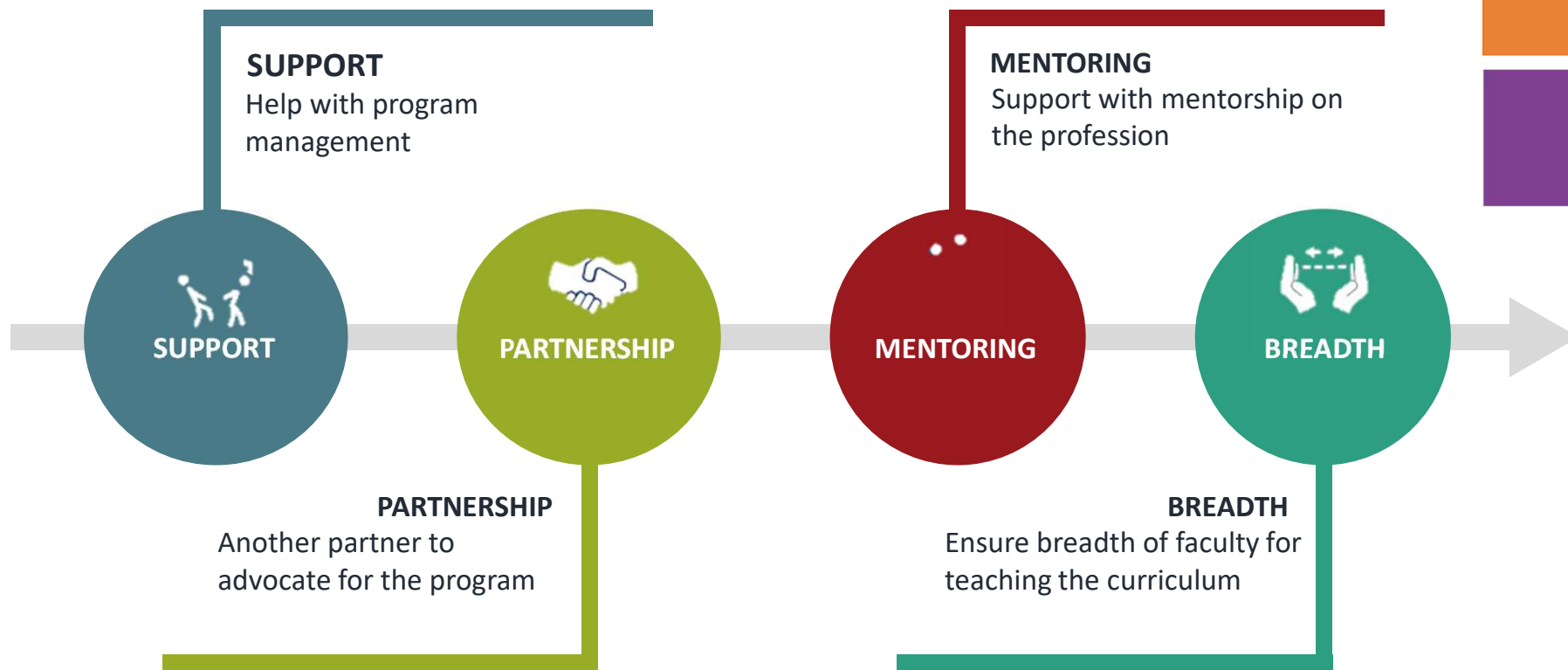
Marketing
Recruiting
Advising
Placing students
ACEND reports



NOT ACCEPTABLE

Research
Teaching
Service to the institution
Service to the community
Professional development

Additional RDN Faculty for CPs and DPDs



PROTECTING
OUR PROGRAM
DIRECTORS

PROTECTING
STUDENTS

PROTECTING
OUR
PROGRAMS

Ensuring Program Director Authority



Participates in budgeting process



Authority for oversight over program's budget



Authority for oversight over all activities related to program management



PROTECTING
OUR PROGRAM
DIRECTORS



PROTECTING
OUR
PROGRAMS

| Proposals to Remove

Employer satisfaction
objective (all programs)

Pass rate on CDR exam
objective
(DPD programs only)





Completing ACEND training

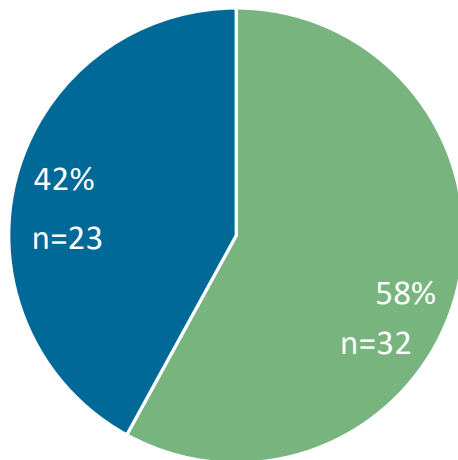


Doctoral Degree for CPs and GPs Program Directors

- ~40% of PDs have a master's degree: total of 55 faculty

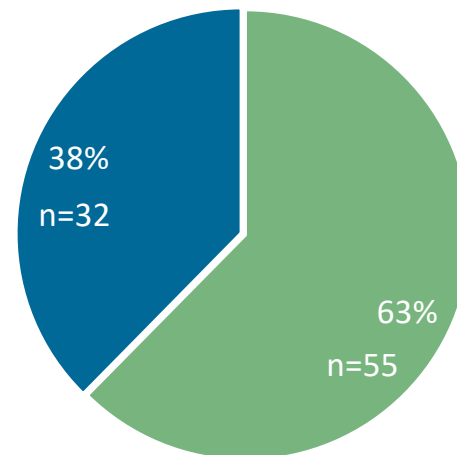


Coordinated Programs (CP)



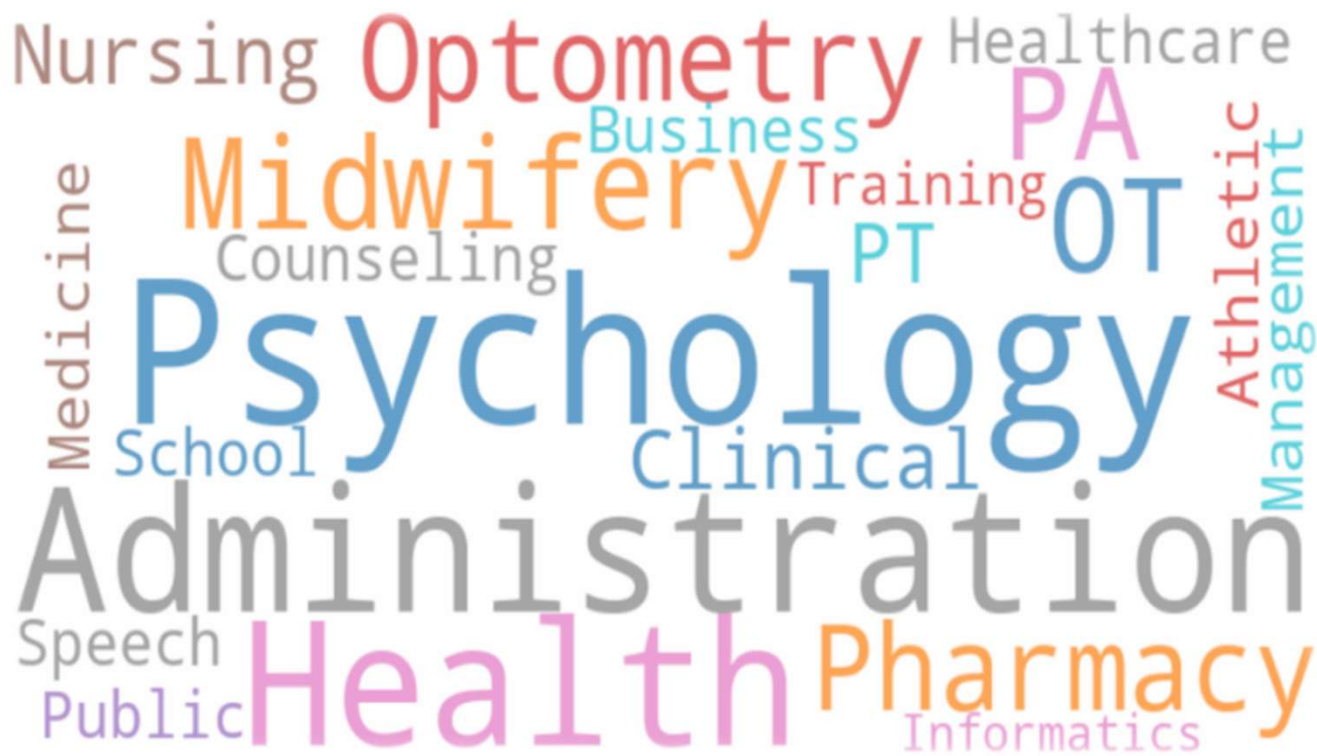
■ PhD ■ MS

Graduate Programs (GP)



■ PhD ■ MS

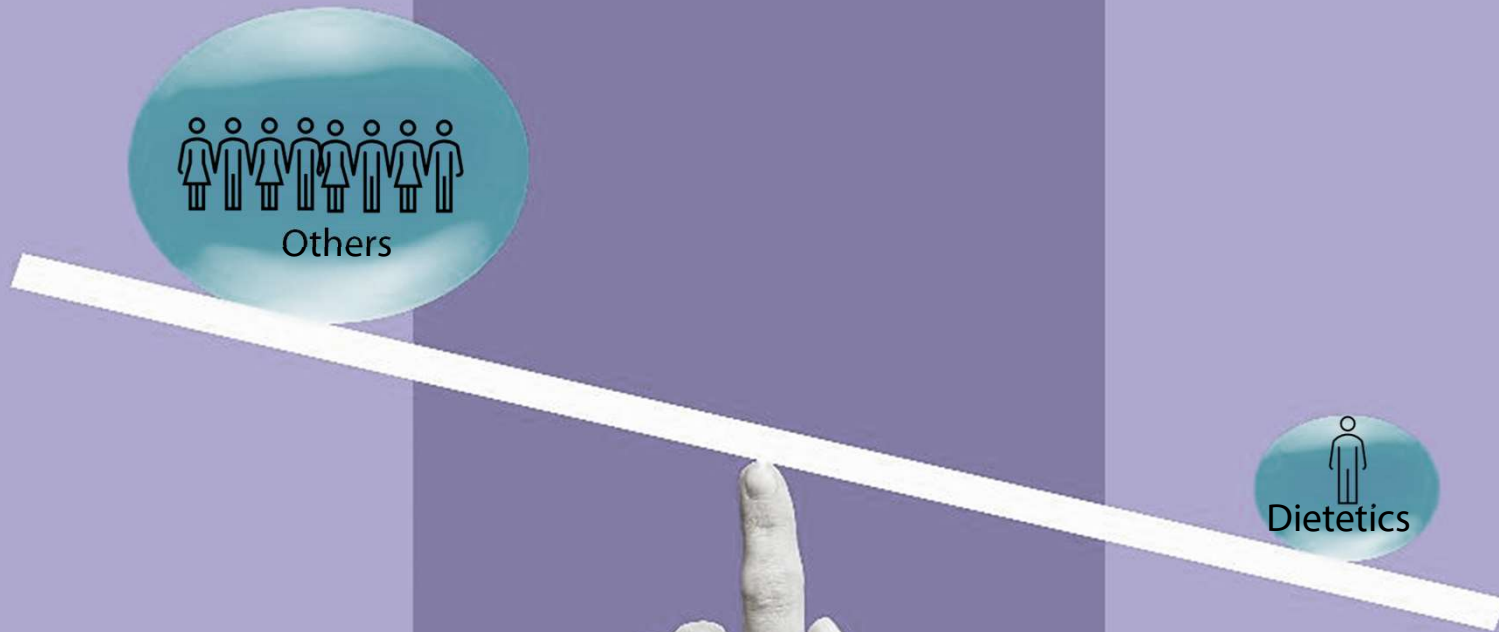
Majority of Accreditors Require Doctoral Degrees



PROTECTING
STUDENTS

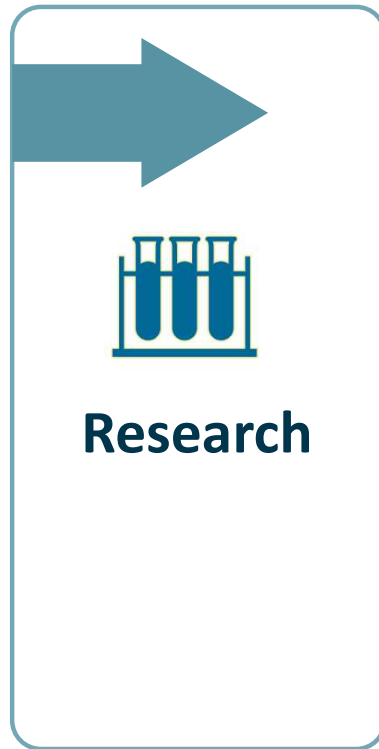


PROTECTING
THE
PROFESSION



Dietetics must remain credible

Dietetics Need Faculty with Doctoral Degrees!





Protecting Students



Moving to a Hybrid Competency-Based Education



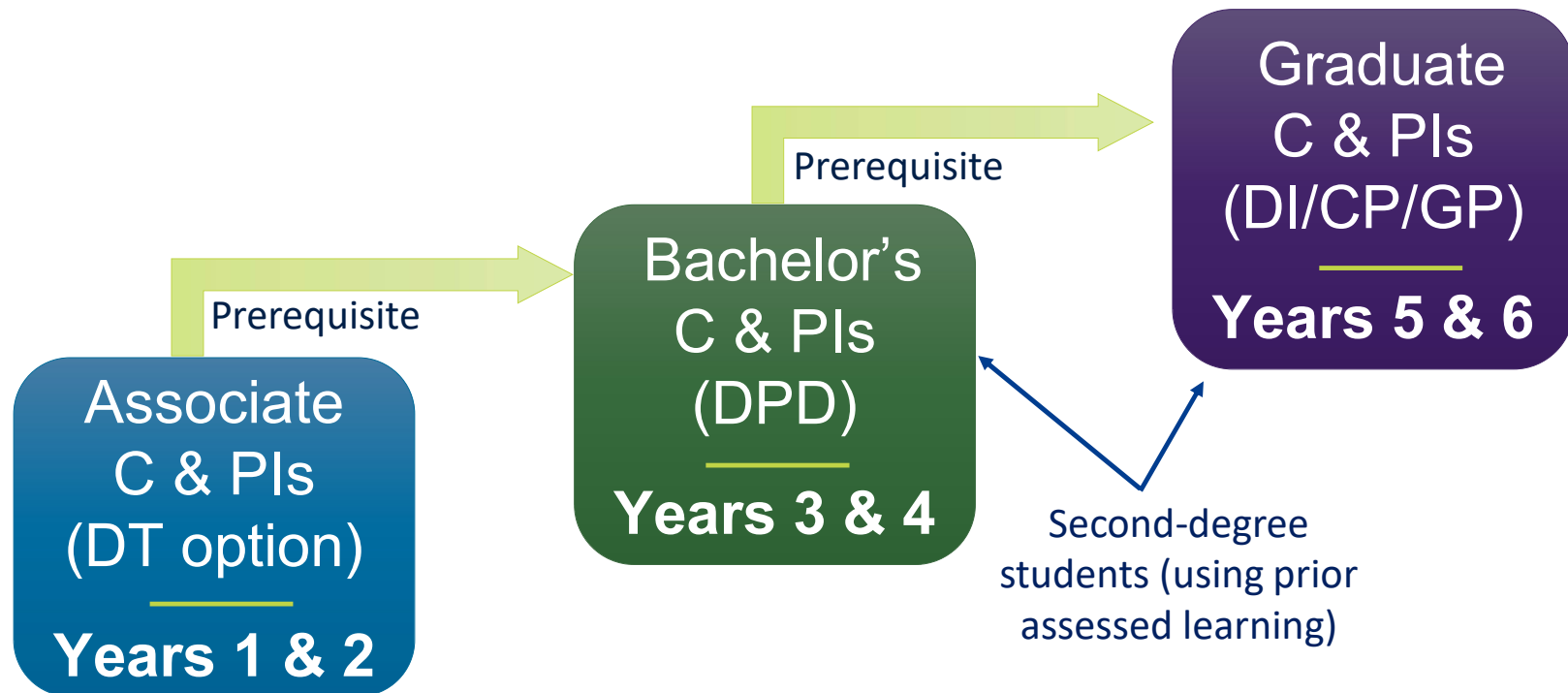
Many benefits of CBE:

- Improved exam pass rates save graduates money, stress, and time

	Coordinated Programs (CP)	Dietetic Internship (DI)	Graduate Programs (GP)	Significance (P Value)
Most Recent Annual Data - 2022-2023				
Pass Rate on the RD Exam – (1 year of first attempt)	88%	88%	94%	P<.05
First Time Pass Rate on the RD Exam	60%	63%	70%	P<.05

- Performance Indicators (PIs)
 - Articulate the skills for better communication with employers and legislators
 - Clarify the requirements to meet the competency for program directors
- Global recognition to support practitioner mobility

Stackable Credentials Using Prior Assessed Learning



DPDs Are Essential in the Pathway to Dietetics

REQUIRED STEP

DPD still required for DIs

Meet essential foodservice
competencies

Do Even More!

PREREQUISITES

Foundation for CPs

Part of Stackable
Credentials

STEPPING-STONE

Student Identified Supervised Practice (DIs and CPs)

Initial Set-Up

Student finds the site/preceptor.
Program supports student through the process

Affiliation Agreement

Program responsible for setting up the agreement.
Student may support in minor steps

Sites Secured

Program responsible for ensuring all sites are secured before students begin their supervised practice component

Sites/ Preceptors Changes

Program responsible for finding the site when students struggle or lose a site

Supporting Dietetics Globally

International Standards

- Incorporated within CP, DPD, Associate degree
- ACEND will facilitate prior assessed learning for international students



ADVANCING THE
PROFESSION



PROTECTING
STUDENTS



PROTECTING
OUR
PROGRAMS

The central graphic is a white rectangular box containing the text "Advancing the Profession" and a series of seven wooden blocks arranged in a staircase pattern. A black curved arrow starts at the bottom left block and points upwards and to the right, connecting each block to the next. The background of the entire slide is a blue-toned image with a network of glowing white lines and various medical icons, including a heart with an ECG line, a person, and a Wi-Fi symbol.

Advancing the Profession

SNAP to LOG

meals by one photo

Onion: 15 g / 8 kcal

Arugula: 15 g / 4 kcal

Spinach: 30 g / 9 kcal

Avocado: 40 g / 64 kcal



Pomegranate: 15 g / 15 kcal

Radicchio: 15 g / 5 kcal

Lentils: 50 g / 47 kcal

ACEND

TRACK

calories with ease

Breakfast 353 kcal 01.02.24



Protein: g
17

Fats: g
12

Carbs: g
20

Calories: kcal
270

Meal composition:

- avocado 40 g - 64 kcal
- spinach 30 g - 9 kcal
- arugula 15 g - 4 kcal
- pomegranate 15 g - 15 kcal
- tofu 70 g - 88 kcal
- onion 15 g - 8 kcal
- radicchio 15 g - 5 kcal
- lentils 50 g - 47 kcal

Meal composition:

- supercousine 40 g - 64 kcal

Log meal

Asc AI

meal nutrition

AI Feed

Stats

Profile

REACH

ideal weight faster

Daily intake

1714 kcal 94 left 1808



Losing weight

4,5 kg

50 kg 0.5 kg left 75 kg



Meals Ratio

24% 41% 23% 12%

AI Feed

Stats

BUILD

goods habits

Intake Ratio

Day Week Month

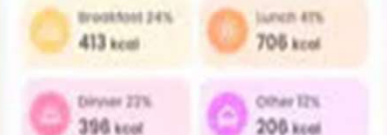
01.02.2024 - 07.02.2024

Meals Macros

Ratio diagram



Week average



Total 1721 kcal / 1808 goal

Dietetics can no longer be mostly a profession of words!

©Trend Hunter: AI Nutrition Apps
<https://www.trendhunter.com/trends/broccoli-ais>



The Age of AI

- Chat GPT rated higher than human therapists
- Friend chatbot more accessible in crisis

(PLOS Mental Health, 2025; BMC Psychology, 2025)

AI “Transforming” Nutrition Counselling



©JM Magazine image, 2025



Produced high-quality nutrition counseling

Anthology, 2024



Praised for speed and accessibility, especially in underserved areas

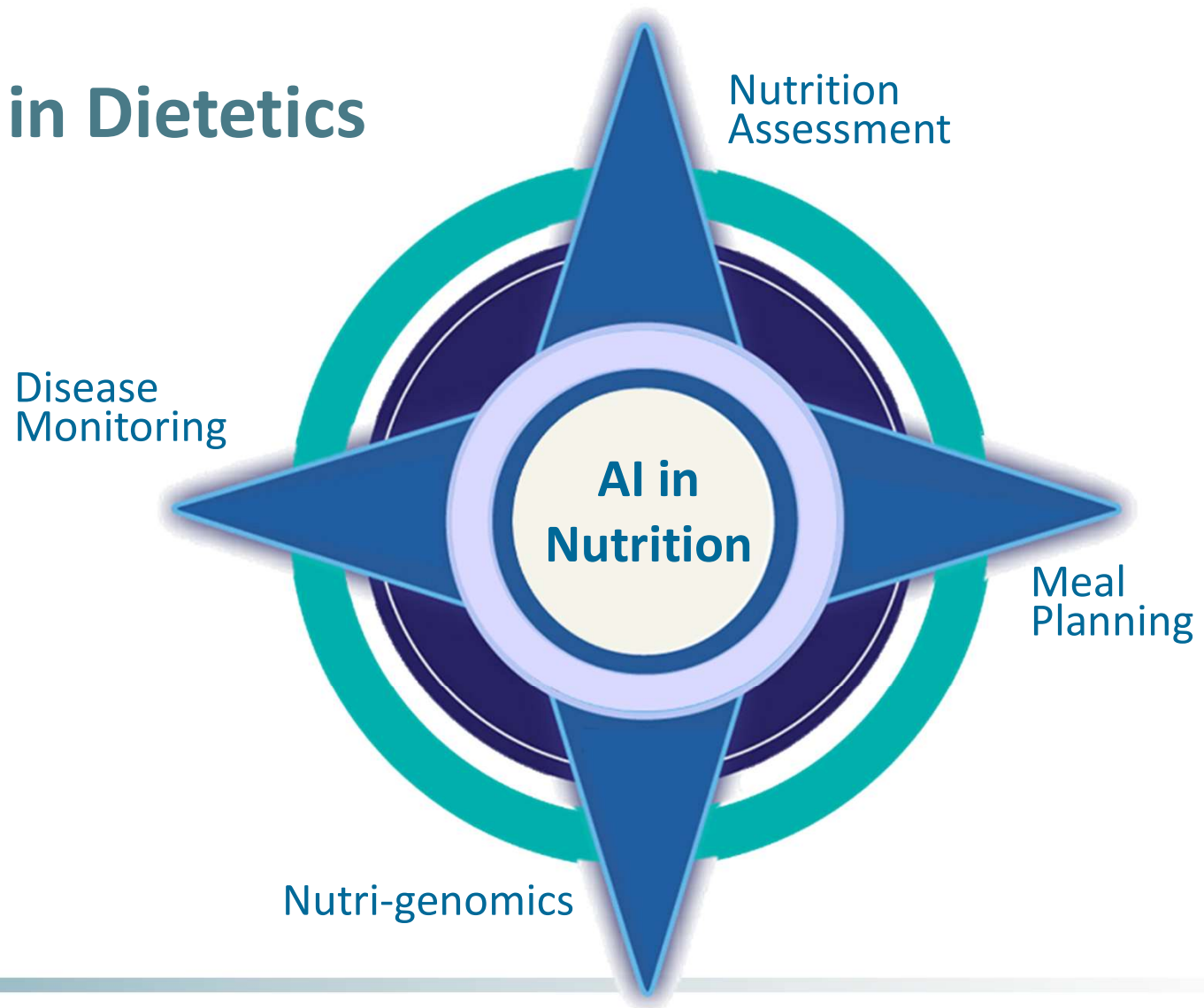
JAMA Network, 2025



Makes nutrition counseling more scalable, data-driven, and accessible

Review in Springer Nature, 2025

Power of AI in Dietetics



Dietetics Future is at risk!

RISK

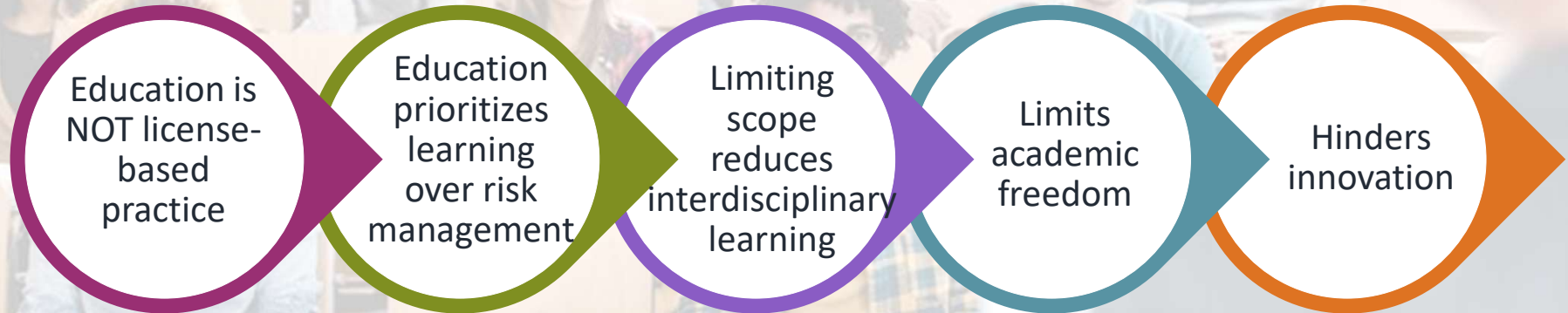
A man in a dark suit is walking away from the viewer down a road that leads to a large 'RISK' sign. The road is paved and has a white line down the center. The sign is painted on the road surface and is very large. The background is a blue sky with some clouds.

The background image shows medical supplies on a light blue surface. There are several syringes, some with green and white labels that say "For Enteral Use Only". There are also clear plastic tubes and a white container. A person wearing purple nitrile gloves is holding a syringe in the foreground. The syringe has a label that says "Enteral commenced:" and "Enteral Date Time".

Scopes of practice are blurring

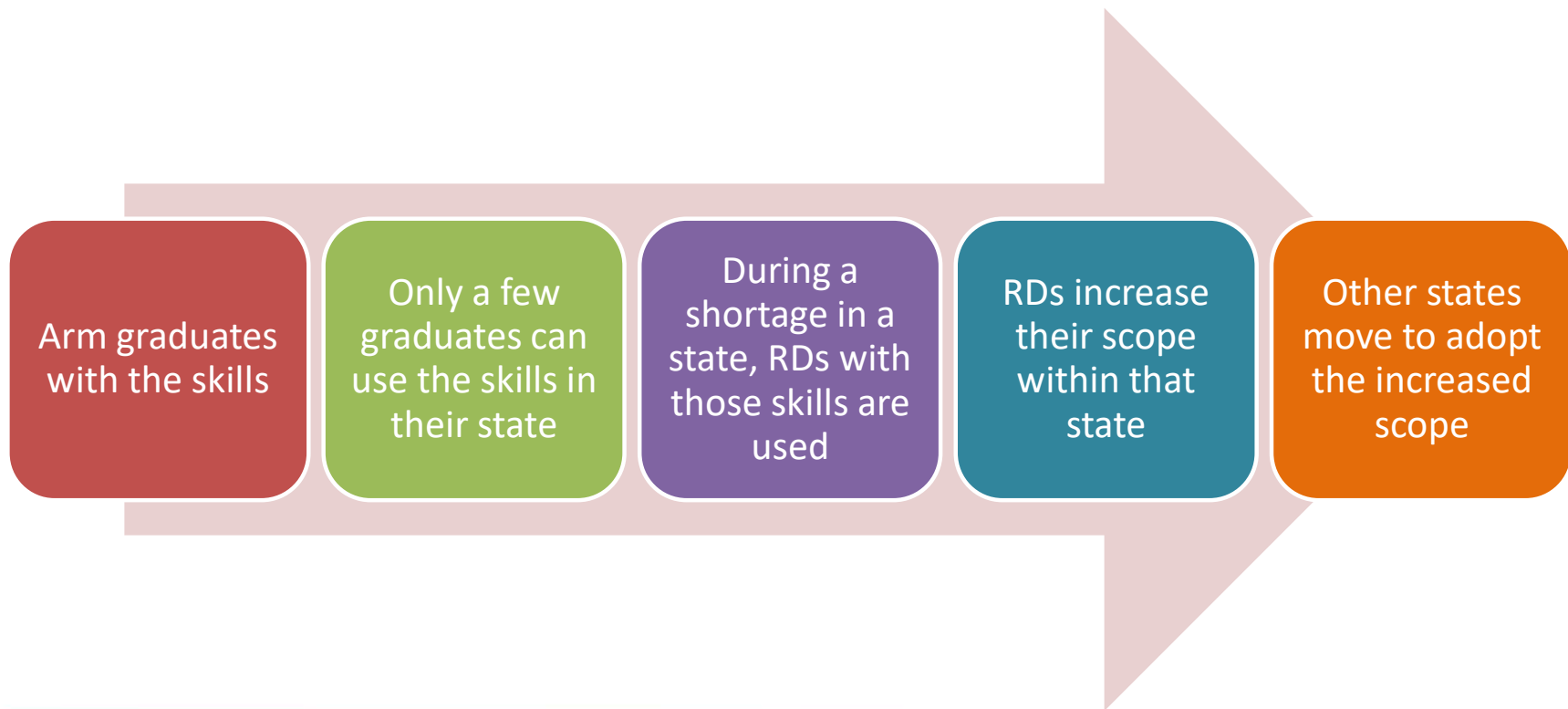
There is no such thing as limited scope in education

Scope of Practice Does Not Belong in Education



Education is the Key to Expanding Scope of Practice

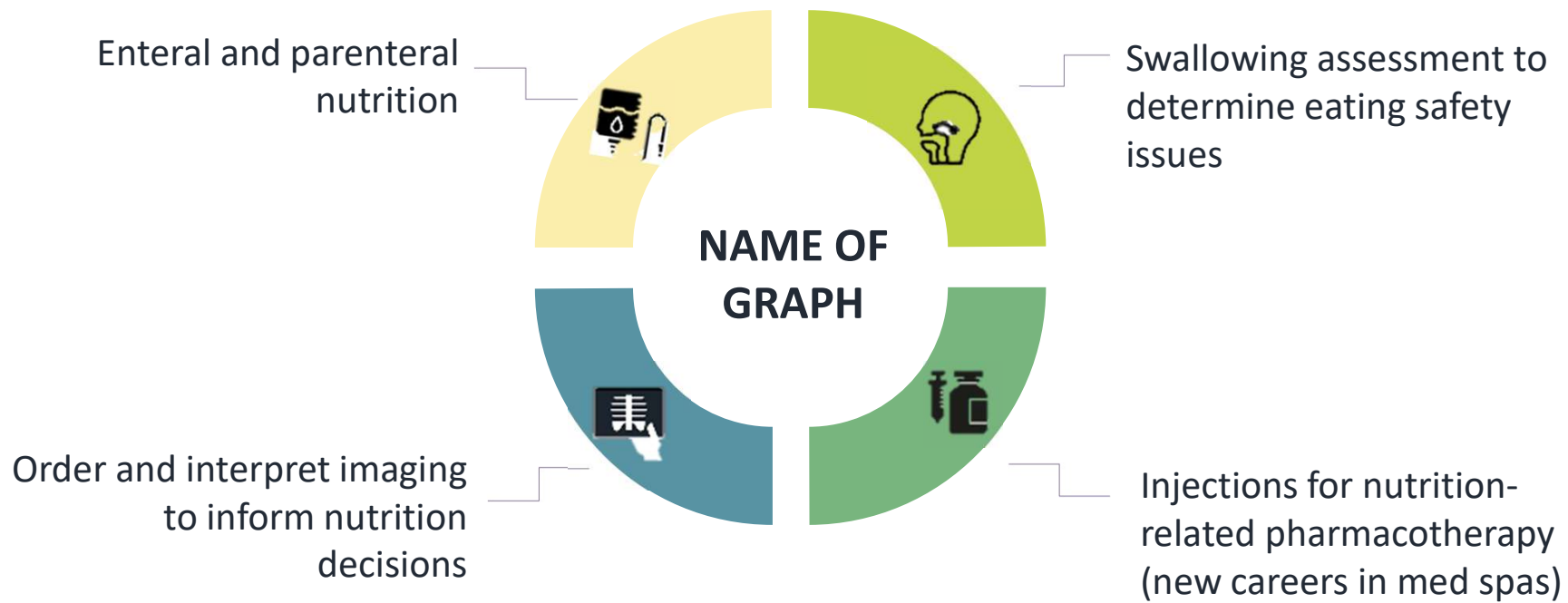
Skills in the curriculum must come first, before licensure and scope



Expanding Clinical Skills

ADVANCING THE
PROFESSION

PROTECTING
STUDENTS



Roles for Dietitians in MEDSPAS



Claim our space now or...
REGRET



OPPORTUNITY



GUTSY!



**THANK
YOU**

Any Questions?



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