

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

March ACEND Webinar: MNT and Chronic Disease Evidence Update

ACEND® will be hosting members from the Academy's Research, International and Scientific Affairs team Deepa Handu, PhD, RDN and Lisa Moloney PhD, RDN to present on The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Position Statement on Medical Nutrition Therapy and Chronic Disease: An Evidence Update for Nutrition and Dietetics Educators. The webinar will be held on **Tuesday, March 10, 2026 from 11:00 AM-12:00 PM CT.**

This webinar will summarize the evidence supporting the Academy's position that all individuals with nutrition-related health conditions or risk factors should have access to medical nutrition therapy (MNT) provided by a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN). In addition to reviewing key findings, this session will highlight the role of nutrition and dietetics educators in advocating for patient access to MNT and preparing future professionals to be evidence-informed advocates within healthcare, policy, and community settings.

This webinar is intended for students/interns as well as educators, preceptors, and administrators and has been approved to provide 1.0 CPEU. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the ACEND website. For additional information and to register for this event, please click [here](#).

Call for Participation in PAL Services Working Group

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) invites

program directors and educators to volunteer for the Prior Assessment of Learning (PAL) Services Working Group and related activities.

ACEND's PAL Services will develop and administer a nationally standardized, valid, and reliable prior learning assessment process aligned with ACEND's curriculum competencies for nutrition and dietetics students, including applicants to internship programs, internationally educated professionals, and second-career or non-nutrition and dietetics graduates.

By formally recognizing prior learning and professional experience, this initiative supports ACEND's commitment to quality, innovative, and cost-effective educational pathways for learners entering and progressing through the nutrition and dietetic profession.

The PAL Working Group will consist of leaders who will support the innovative development of the PAL process for assessments, policies, and procedures. The group will meet virtually once a month for 2 hours from March to June 2026, with an additional 2 hours of preparation time required prior to each meeting.

Those who do not wish to participate in the working group but would still like to be involved in this process may indicate their interest in the participation form by selecting related activities, such as receiving surveys, participating in a pilot test, or attending focus groups to provide general comments.

How Can You Help?

Please confirm your interest in participating in the development of ACEND's PAL Services by completing the [Call for Participation Form](#) by **Thursday, February 26, 2026**.

If you have specific questions regarding the working group, please contact Leanne Worsfold, ACEND Senior Strategic Partner - Innovation and Strategic Planning, at lworsfold@eatright.org. Further information about the PAL services will be provided in the coming months.

ACEND's Annual Review of Pass Rate

Annually in February, ACEND receives pass rate data from the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). During its April Board meeting, the ACEND Board will review programs with three-year pass rate averages (2023-2025) on the CDR examinations for RDNs and NDTRs that are below the ACEND benchmark noted in the Standards. As part of ACEND's annual monitoring process, if a program's three-year average pass rate falls below the ACEND benchmark, the program may receive a letter following the April ACEND Board meeting. The ACEND Board remains committed to a holistic review of pass rate data while continuing to monitor programs in support of ongoing improvement and the success of program graduates. If you have any questions, please contact ACEND@eatright.org.

Provide Feedback on the Dietetics Application Process Survey

ACEND continues to collect feedback from programs and applicants regarding the dietetics application process for supervised practice programs. The Dietetics Application Task Force encourages you to provide your feedback based on your experience with the Dietetics Application Process during the 2025-2026 application cycle by completing this [survey](#). The Task Force will review survey data in late spring.

Review Your Program's Tuition Link on ACEND Directory

ACEND would like to thank all program directors who provided links to their program's tuition webpages during the most recent annual report 2025. Those links are now active on the [ACEND Accredited Program Directory](#) as the last item in each program's entry, linked to "Tuition Link".

ACEND encourages each program to test the tuition link in its directory listing to ensure that the link is active and that it directs potential applicants to the correct webpage with tuition information.

If the link is not working, does not direct to a program tuition page, or is missing from the ACEND Accredited Program Directory listing for the program, [please contact your ACEND manager](#) with the updated link.