

# 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

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### Annual Overview of Accreditation Activities and Communications

With the new year starting, we'd like to remind programs about accreditation activities and ACEND communications that take place every year:

#### Accreditation Activities

Annual Report—annually, due mid-November

**Annual Accreditation Fee**—annually, due mid-December

Interim Report or Progress Report—as needed, find due dates, if applicable on the [ACEND portal](#)

**Substantive Changes**—as needed, see [decision calendar](#) for ACEND board decision-making timelines

ACEND Policies Changes—keep up-to-date with ACEND announcements in the ACEND UPdate Newsletter

#### Communications

**ACEND UPdate Newsletter**—new articles typically sent the 3rd Tuesday of the month

**ACEND Townhall**—Quarterly

### Upcoming Workshop covering the 2022 and Future Education Model (FEM) Accreditation Standards

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND®) will offer a virtual Accreditation Workshop on May 19 and 20, 2026. The workshop is designed to help dietetic education program directors and others learn the latest

2022 and FEM accreditation standards and details on preparing self-study reports and site visits. Individuals with a site visit scheduled in the fall 2026 or spring 2027, individuals interested in applying to start a new ACEND-accredited program, and newly appointed program directors are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please visit the ACEND website under [\*\*Program Director Workshops\*\*](#) for more information and to register for the upcoming virtual workshop in May.

## ACEND Welcomes Leanne

Leanne Worsfold, MEd, RPN, has recently joined ACEND as Senior Strategic Partner, Innovation and Strategic Planning. Many in the ACEND community are already familiar with Leanne through her work as a consultant, where she supported the Expanded Standards Committee in competency development and delivered competency-based education training to ACEND-accredited Graduate Programs (GPs). Leanne brings more than 15 years of senior leadership experience in higher education, including developing innovative academic initiatives, technology-enabled programs, and competency-based frameworks for accrediting, certification, and licensure organizations in the United States and Canada.

Leanne holds a Master of Education in Open, Digital, and Distance Education and has a strong clinical foundation. In her new role, Leanne will support the implementation of the 2027 Accreditation Standards and lead innovative, mission-aligned initiatives that advance nutrition and dietetics education and contribute to the evolving education landscape.

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