

# 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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### Last Call: Demonstration Program Applications due June 30, 2026

In 2017, the ACEND Board launched a demonstration program pilot aimed at exploring the effectiveness of competency-based education (CBE) in ACEND-accredited programs. Throughout the duration of this pilot program, ACEND has collected data to evaluate its impact on student outcomes and overall program effectiveness. Current findings show that competency-based education offers significant advantages in preparing Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs), including more meaningful learning experiences and increased student engagement.

With the transition to CBE for all programs under the 2027 Standards, the ACEND Board voted to conclude the demonstration program pilot and established June 30, 2026 as the final deadline for application submissions.

For those interested in launching a program under the FEM demonstration program and receiving the associated benefits, including a waiver of the annual fee for the first full year after accreditation, applications must be submitted by June 30, 2026. For questions, please contact [futuremodel@eatright.org](mailto:futuremodel@eatright.org).

### 2027 Annual Fee for Program Budgets

As many ACEND-accredited programs start planning future budgets, this is a reminder that the 2027 Annual Accreditation Fee can be found on the [Accreditation Fee Schedule](#), in the Policies and Procedures section of the [ACEND website](#).

Annual fee invoices are typically prepared in September and due mid-December of the previous year; therefore, the 2027 Annual Accreditation Fee will be due in December 2026.

Program directors will receive an email from ACEND when annual fee invoices are ready in September 2026. There are two ways to access a program's open invoice:

- Log in into the [ACEND Portal](#) and click the "Pay Open Invoices" QuickPay link, under "Actions"
- Save the QuickPay Link separately and access it at any time without having to log into the ACEND portal. ACEND recommends sending this link to the person who pays program bills for future reference as the QuickPay Link will not change.

## Updated Guidance Information for the 2022 and Future Education Model Accreditation Standards Released

As part of the annual review process, ACEND updates materials based on feedback to improve interpretation and compliance with the standards. The Guidance Information Document and the self-study report templates for the 2022 and Future Education Model Accreditation Standards have been updated to provide additional guidance regarding the submission of the self-study report and the appropriate use of AI tools. To access the [updated 2022 Guidance Information Document](#) and [Future Education Model Guidance Document](#) along with the associated templates visit the [ACEND website](#).

## Disabilities MIG Webinar Information

The Disabilities in Nutrition and Dietetics (Disabilities) Member Interest Group (MIG) has requested that ACEND share information regarding their upcoming webinar with our program directors. We are honoring that request by providing the webinar details below. Please note that this event is independently organized and is not hosted or endorsed by ACEND and all contents and views presented are those of the webinar presenters.

### Webinar Details

**Presentation Title:** From Barriers to Bridges and Accommodations: Advancing Disability Inclusion, Equity, and Accessibility in Dietetics

**Speakers:** Suzanne ("Suzi") Domel Baxter, PhD, RD, LD, FADA, FAND, Justin Batchelder, MS, RDN, Alena Morales, RDN, Ajay Shenoy, BA, MS, RD, Danielle Sykora, BS, MS, RDN, Juliana Tamayo, MS, RD, LDN, CNSC

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, March 31, 2026 from 2 PM – 3 PM CT

**Description:** A panel of award-winning credentialed dietitians with diverse disabilities will share their personal experiences, accommodations, and practical

strategies for creating inclusive, equitable, and accessible dietetics classrooms, internships, and practice settings. This webinar is for dietetics program directors, faculty, preceptors, practitioners, students, and interns. CDR is reviewing the webinar information for 1.25 CPEUs.

**Registration Link:** <https://eatright-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/ex998myVR72Tt3zx2uVbUg>

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