

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

2026 Annual Report and 2027 Annual Fee Released in Early September

During the week of September 7th, 2026, program directors received two separate emails from ACEND regarding Fall accreditation maintenance activities:

- **Tuesday, September 8th:** 2026 Annual Report release email
- **Thursday, September 10th:** 2027 Annual Fee release email

Throughout the fall, periodic reminder emails will be sent regarding the Annual Report and Annual Fee. Program directors can expect separate reminders for the annual report and annual fee during the following periods:

- **October 12th** – 1st Annual Fee reminder email
- **October 14th** – 1st Annual Report reminder email
- **November 2nd** – 2nd Annual Fee reminder email
- **November 11th** – 2nd Annual Report reminder email
- **November 16th** – Last Annual Fee reminder Email

Please note that only programs who have an outstanding Annual Report or Annual Fee will receive a reminder email. Once ACEND has received your Annual Report or Annual Fee, you will not receive any further correspondence about these items unless there is a concern regarding your submission.

As a reminder, here are the due dates for these Fall accreditation maintenance activities:

- Annual Report: Due **Friday, November 20th, 2026**
- Annual Fee: Due **Monday, November 23rd, 2026**

If you have any questions about the Annual Report, please email annualreport@eatright.org. If you have any questions about the Annual Fee, please email acend@eatright.org.

2026 Annual Report Updates

To enhance the accuracy of data reported by our programs, several updates have been incorporated into this year's annual report. Below is a summary of the key updates based on program type:

- **Prior Assessed Learning (PAL) for All Program Types:** New questions have been added regarding the program's acceptance of PAL which will continue to inform the development of ACEND's PAL service.

- **Maximum Enrollment for Graduate Programs (GPs) and Coordinated Programs (CPs):** Within the 2027 accreditation standards, the program director FTE allocation is based on the program's total annual approved maximum enrollment (per cohort), which goes into effect August 1, 2028. As a result, CPs and GPs should review their maximum annual enrollment number this year to determine if changes are needed. The Dietetic Internship (DI) programs can review their approved maximum enrollment related to program director FTE allocation in future annual reports.

- **Student Application Counts for GPs, CPs, and DIs:** The admissions section now separates questions related to total number of applications received vs. applications accepted to ensure that accurate data are reported for those programs that provide supervised practice.

If you have any questions regarding these updates, please email annualreport@eatright.org.

ACEND Noteworthy Practices

Congratulations to the Rutgers University Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) and Dietetic Internship (DI) Program! We are pleased to recognize the programs for being selected as one of ACEND's Noteworthy Curriculum Practices among ACEND-accredited programs. Their innovative practice is currently featured on the [ACEND website](#).

ACEND highlights exemplary and innovative approaches in nutrition and dietetics education to help programs learn from their peers, identify best practices, improve efficiency, and explore proven strategies that enhance program quality and student success.

Programs selected for this recognition receive professional acknowledgment for their innovation and contributions to the field. In addition to being featured on the ACEND website, selected programs receive an official letter from ACEND addressed to their institutional administrators.

Programs interested in having a Noteworthy Practice considered by ACEND's Review Committee for selection in an upcoming quarter are encouraged to visit the ACEND Noteworthy Practice [webpage](#) and download the [submission form](#). The submission process is simpler than many expect and consists of only three brief, two-part questions.

Completed submission forms and any supporting documentation should be submitted to ACEND@eatright.org by **October 16, 2026**.

