

Actions to take if I have a non ACEND-accredited foreign degree and I want to be an RDN.

1) Submit your transcripts to be evaluated by one of the independent foreign degree evaluation agencies approved by CDR. To move forward, the evaluation must show that your degree is equivalent to a degree granted by a U.S. regionally accredited college or university. You can find a list of these agencies here:

[Foreign Degree Evaluation Agencies](#)**

2) Find the program that is right for you:

Coordinated Program in Dietetics (CP):

The CP combines the required coursework and a minimum of 1000 hours of supervised practice; upon the successful completion of a CP, the student is eligible to sit for the RDN/RD exam. This program is offered at the Bachelor's*, Masters, and Doctorate level.

Graduate Program in Nutrition and Dietetics (GP):

The GP combines the required nutrition and dietetics coursework and minimum 1000 hours of supervised experiential learning; upon the successful completion of a GP the student is eligible to sit for the RDN/RD exam. This program is only offered at the Master's and Doctorate level.

Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD):

A DPD encompasses the coursework required for a Bachelor's* or Master's degree that includes ACEND-required core knowledge. Upon the successful completion of a DPD, a DPD Verification Statement is issued. With this Verification Statement the student is eligible to apply to an ACEND-accredited Dietetic Internship (DI) to obtain the required minimum number of 1000 supervised practice hours. NOTE: upon the successful completion of a DPD, graduates may also apply to a CP or a GP program to acquire the supervised practice or experiential learning hours.

Dietetic Internship (DI):

Only students with a DPD or FDE verification statement** are eligible for a DI. The DI is not a part of the DPD; it is a separate program and application process. Upon the successful completion of a DI, the student is eligible to sit for the RDN/RD exam.

Important to note:

*Effective January 1, 2024, the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) will require a minimum of a graduate degree to be eligible to sit for the RDN/RD exam.

Graduates with a **Foreign Dietetic Education Program (FDE) verification statement are also eligible to apply to DI programs, as well as CPs or GPs, **without needing a foreign degree evaluation.**

Lists of ACEND-accredited DPD, DI, CP, and GP programs are available by state and degree(s) offered at <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs/about-accredited-programs>. Contact information and a link to the program's website can be found for each program listed. Be sure to look at the bottom of the page for additional search tips.

For more information about the requirements to become a RDN visit: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/students-and-advancing-education/international-students>

3) Contact the program director of an ACEND accredited program that you are interested in to discuss options for prerequisite requirements and possible course credit transfer or credit for prior experience.

4) Apply, Enroll, and Successfully complete your chosen program(s).

5) Sit for the RDN/RD Exam.