

FNCE® 2027

Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo®

Washington, DC | October 23-26

Call for Sessions & Workshops Submission Guide

We're seeking advanced-level, evidence-based presentations that address the real challenges and opportunities facing nutrition and dietetics professionals today. Both new and experienced speakers are encouraged to apply. We especially value diversity of background, perspective, and thought.

Proposals not accepted as an FNCE® session or workshop may be considered for the Academy Webinar Series. This gives you another opportunity to share your expertise with colleagues and another reason to apply.

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A Strong Proposal Will Include

- **S**ubject matter experts and thought leaders, practitioners with real-world experience, researchers presenting new findings, and educators with innovative teaching strategies
- **T**opics that are advanced, evidence-based, practice-focused
- **R**ead-time and emerging issues in nutrition and dietetics
- **O**riginal, practical, and innovative approaches
- **N**etworking perspectives that promote collaboration, equity, diversity, and applicability across settings
- **G**roup engagement strategies that encourage audience interaction

In summary, a strong proposal tells us not only what you'll present, but also why it matters and how you'll engage the audience.

Proposal Timeline, Key Submission Elements, and Speaker Requirements

Timeline of Events

Submissions Accepted Sep 1 to Nov 16, 2026	Speaker Agreements and Conflicts of Interest Due April 2027	Session Slides, Handouts and CPEU Questions Due September 2027
Acceptance Emails Received March 2027	Speaker Office Hours June to September	FNCE® in Washington D.C. October 2027

Key Elements of a Submission

Title	Concise, creative (<10 words); capture essence, draw interest, reflect content
Format	Choose a format to match the style and audience needs
Description	2-3 sentences highlighting content, value & rationale; why is this essential now
Track	Select a track that best aligns with your topic
Learning Objective	Provide 3 measurable objectives with active verbs; define outcomes and impact.
CDR Performance Indicators	Identify 3 competencies your session supports
Workshop Specific	State max attendees; align with style/format; note AV/equipment needs

Speaker and Moderator Requirements

All speakers will be asked to submit bios, CVs, and experiences that showcase their link to the topic.

Speaker & Moderator Bios	Spotlight expertise and topic relevance
Speaker Experience	Highlight relevant expertise by including references to research or professional work related to the topic. Links to videos demonstrating presentation style are also strongly encouraged.
Speaker Objectives	Clear objectives, teaching methods, and audience engagement strategies linking content to outcomes.
Student Speakers	Submissions should be submitted with an experienced co-lecturer.

Roles, Responsibilities, and Benefits by Participant

FNCE® proposals must identify key roles for session delivery. Below is an overview of what each role entails, who's eligible, and what benefits they receive. Roles vary slightly depending on the delivery format. Workshop-specific roles are noted accordingly.

Role	Key Responsibilities	Eligibility	Benefits
Program Planner	Coordinates planning calls, submits proposals, and ensures deadlines are met. May also serve as Speaker or Moderator (but not both). <i>*May serve as a speaker or moderator.</i>	Academy membership not required.	Volunteer role; no compensation
Moderator	Keep the session on time, introduce speakers, and facilitate Q&A. <i>*Cannot be a speaker.</i>	Must be an RDN or NDTR and Academy member by June 1, 2027.	Volunteer role; no compensation
Speaker	Delivers session content, aligns with objectives, reviews slides, and participates in planning call(s). <i>*Cannot be a moderator.</i>	Must be an Academy member by June 1, 2027 (if an RDN or NDTR).	\$500 honorarium + complimentary FNCE® registration and session recordings <i>*Travel and lodging are the responsibility of all speakers, moderators and facilitators. The costs are not covered by the Academy.</i>
Workshop Lead Facilitator	Leads interactive workshop session. Guides hands-on learning and facilitates discussions. <i>*Max two leads per workshop.</i>	Must be an Academy member by June 1, 2027 (if an RDN or NDTR).	\$700 honorarium + complimentary FNCE® registration and session recordings <i>*Travel and lodging are the responsibility of all speakers, moderators, and facilitators. The costs are not covered by the Academy.</i>
Workshop Co-Facilitator	Supports Lead Facilitator with breakouts, demonstrations, or specific activities.	Membership is not required if non-RDN/NDTR.	Complimentary FNCE® registration and session recordings

*At least one participant on the proposal must be an RDN or NDTR. This individual, whether a presenter or the moderator, should help connect the content to practical applications for the profession.

Insights Into the Proposal Review Process

Every FNCE® session proposal goes through a rigorous review process using a scoring rubric. Each proposal is rated on a 1–5 scale, with 5 = outstanding.

To make your proposal shine, ensure that it's relevant, evidence-based, forward-thinking, and clearly tied to measurable outcomes. Reviewers are looking for content that elevates the profession and delivers real value to attendees. [Here is an example of an approved proposal.](#)

What Reviewers Are Looking For

Practice Relevance & Impact (20%)	Session content should be directly relevant to current nutrition and dietetics practice and demonstrate the potential to improve professional performance, patient/client outcomes, or practice effectiveness. Strong proposals clearly explain why the topic is timely and important for the intended audience.
Supporting Evidence & Content Integrity (20%)	Proposals should be supported by high-quality, evidence-based information. Include 1–3 references that support the session content. When appropriate, references should be recent, while emerging topics may include newer evidence, expert consensus, or innovative practice examples. Content should be balanced, accurate, and free from commercial bias.
Educational Design & Learner Engagement (15%)	Proposals should demonstrate a well-designed educational experience that actively engages learners. Describe instructional methods that promote participation, interaction, discussion, reflection, or practical application, rather than relying solely on lecture.
Learning Objectives & Learner Outcomes (15%)	Include measurable learning objectives using action verbs that describe what learners will be able to do after the session. Objectives should align with the proposed content and support meaningful, practice-focused learning outcomes. Strong proposals also explain how participants will apply what they learn in practice.
Innovation & Originality (10%)	Proposals should offer innovative topics, fresh perspectives, creative educational approaches, or original ideas. Sessions should provide new insights, address emerging issues, or present information in ways that advance professional knowledge and practice.
Systems Thinking & Diverse Perspectives (10%)	Demonstrate how the session incorporates collaboration, interdisciplinary thinking, diverse perspectives, or systems-based approaches, as appropriate to the topic. Strong proposals consider the broader context in which nutrition professionals practice and encourage holistic problem solving.
Speaker Expertise & Readiness (10%)	Presenters should demonstrate relevant expertise and experience related to the proposed topic. Speaker qualifications should support their ability to effectively deliver the session, communicate complex information clearly, and achieve the stated learning objectives.

Session Format Examples

Workshop

- **1–2 lead facilitators | 2–3 hours**
- Interactive, skill-building session designed for practical applications.
- Emphasizes doing over listening; participants actively engage through hands-on exercises, guided practice, or small-group work.
- Example: Facilitators guide attendees through an exploration of global spices—tasting, blending, and experimenting with them in simple dishes—while discussing cultural significance, flavor profiles, and strategies for reducing sodium without sacrificing taste.

Panel Discussion

- **2 to 3 speakers | 90 minutes**
- Moderated dialogue highlights diverse perspectives; minimal slides, active facilitation.
- Example: An RDN, endocrinologist, and/or patient share different approaches to managing hypoglycemia.

Interview / Fireside Chat

- **1 interviewer + 1–2 experts | 60–90 minutes**
- Conversational and informal in tone; explores experiences, research, or perspectives.
- Example: A sports RDN interviews an elite athlete and their physician on the role of wearable tech, adaptive fueling, nutrition periodization, and mental resilience in extending peak performance careers.

Debate

- **2 speakers | 90 minutes**
- Structured exchange of opposing viewpoints, sparking critical dialogue and reflection.
- Example: Should nutrition assistance programs (like SNAP/WIC) include restrictions on food choices, or should they prioritize autonomy and access?

Case Study

- **1–2 speakers | 60–90 minutes**
- Real-world applications with audience discussion on challenges, solutions, and outcomes.
- Example: An RDN and health system leader present how a hospital integrated food-as-medicine initiatives into electronic health records, sharing implementation barriers, data outcomes, and ROI.

Lecture

- **1–3 speakers | 60–90 minutes**
- Formal presentation with advanced-level content (e.g., late-breaking research, case studies, program reviews).
- Encourage storytelling and/or case study in the presentation.

- Uses slides/handouts; stronger when paired with interactive activities or case-based discussion.
- Example: An RDN, a public health advocate, and a food tech entrepreneur discuss the promise and pitfalls of lab-grown meat, plant-forward diets, and food system innovation in addressing both climate change and nutrition security.

Research Review

- **2–3 speakers | 60–90 minutes**
- Each researcher presents related, but separate presentations and core findings (15 minutes each, 30–45 minutes for extended live Q&A).
- This session can include a mix of full manuscripts and extended abstract submissions. Use of slides to demonstrate study findings.

Round Table

- **Facilitator + small group | 60–90 minutes**
- Interactive discussions on niche or emerging topics; encourage peer-to-peer learning.
- Example: A facilitator leads small groups in exploring telehealth best practices across different care settings.

Storytelling Session

- **1–2 speakers | 60 minutes**
- Personal or professional narratives that connect emotionally and spark reflection.
- Example: NDTRs share powerful patient narratives from food insecurity screenings in clinics showing how uncovering hidden hunger reshaped their practice, advocacy, and personal connection to the profession.

DPG/MIG “Spotlight” Sessions

A Spotlight Session is an exciting opportunity for each DPG or MIG (referred to as Group) to showcase its expertise at FNCE®. Each Group may submit *one* official Spotlight proposal that reflects advanced-level content and highlights the unique strengths of your practice area. DPGs and MIGs may also collaborate on a joint Spotlight proposal. A collaboration will count as one session for both groups.

All Spotlight proposals must be approved by the Group’s Chair-Elect before submission. While acceptance is competitive, this is a valuable platform to elevate your Group’s thought leadership and contribute to the FNCE® program. If accepted, session planning and delivery follow the same roles and expectations as other sessions.

Audience Engagement for All Sessions

Audience engagement is a strategy to increase energy, participation, and learning retention. Proposals are encouraged to incorporate audience engagement strategies when appropriate for the session format, content and learning objectives. Examples of audience engagement can be, but are not limited to, the following:

Strategy	Description
Group Breakouts	After short presentations, let audience members break into groups to discuss panel takeaways.
Movement-Based Engagement	Ask participants to stand, vote with their hands or technology, or move into groups by opinion/experience level.
Think-Pair-Share	Give attendees a prompt, let them reflect individually, discuss with a partner, then share with the group.
Quick Quizzes or Audience Polls	Use show of hands or quick audience checks for understanding, e.g. Poll Everywhere.
Gamification	Add competition, points, or rewards to increase energy and participation.
Reverse Q&A	Have the speaker ask the audience questions instead of the other way around.

Participant Policies

To ensure FNCE® maintains the highest standards of **quality, integrity, and inclusivity**, all speakers must adhere to the following:

Commercialism, Copyright & Conflict of Interest

FNCE® sessions must be educational, evidence-based, and unbiased. Product promotion, branding, or commercial influence is prohibited. Speakers are responsible for securing **permissions for copyrighted material** (photos, graphs, articles, etc.) and providing credit per license requirements, as well as covering any related costs.

CDR CPE Policies

Content must be informational, not promotional—based on peer-reviewed evidence. All sessions are recorded and made available 3–4 weeks post-event; per CDR policy, recordings (enduring activities) must include informal or formal assessment. This will consist of a four-option multiple-choice test developed by session speakers. [See [Provider Policy Manual, Section 7.0](#)]

Ethics & Inclusion

Speakers must follow the [Academy’s Code of Ethics](#) and uphold [scientific integrity](#). Sessions should include diverse perspectives and participants. Each speaker may present in only one session, **and all RDN/NDTR speakers and moderators must hold Academy membership by June 1, 2027.**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

If your proposal is accepted, speaker changes must be reviewed and approved by the Committee for Lifelong Learning (CLL). Substitutions are only considered for unavoidable circumstances (e.g., illness, schedule conflict).

1. Who can submit a proposal?

Any Academy member, group, or qualified professional may submit. We strongly encourage interdisciplinary collaboration (e.g., dietitians partnering with physicians, researchers, chefs, or community leaders) and proposals that highlight diverse perspectives, backgrounds, and practice settings.

2. Can I submit more than one proposal?

Yes. Each proposal is evaluated independently, so make sure each submission reflects a unique idea or focus area. If a speaker is listed on more than one accepted proposal, they will be asked to choose which session to participate in, and an alternate speaker must be identified for the other. This ensures fair representation across the program.

3. Are commercial interests allowed?

No. Proposals must comply with the Academy’s Conflict of Interest and Commercialism Policy. Education sessions must be free of product or service promotion. Speakers with industry affiliations must fully disclose relationships, which will be reviewed to ensure transparency.

4. Do I need to have all speakers confirmed before submitting?

Yes. All proposed speakers should be contacted and confirmed prior to submission.

5. What is the submission deadline?

All proposals must be submitted by Monday, November 16 at 5:00 pm CT. Late submissions cannot be accepted.

6. What information is required in the submission?

This Word document mirrors the submission portal. See an example of a strong proposal [here](#). We suggest drafting your content [here](#) first, then copy it into the system to help prevent delays or technical issues.

7. When will I be notified if my proposal is accepted or declined?

Notifications will be sent in March 2027. All submitters, accepted and not accepted, will receive communication at that time. FNCE® Speaker Agreement will be sent April 2027 and should be returned by the stated deadline.

8. If accepted, do speakers receive complimentary registration?

Speaker benefits are outlined on page 4 of this guide and in the FNCE® Speaker Agreement provided upon acceptance. These may include complimentary or discounted registration depending on the role. Travel and lodging are the responsibility of speakers.

9. Will my session be recorded?

Yes. All FNCE® sessions are recorded and made available for purchase post-FNCE®

10. What happens if my proposal is not accepted?

Due to the volume of submissions, not all proposals can be accepted. However, your idea may be referred for:

- FNCE® ancillary programming
- Webinars, Certificates of Training, or other Academy education opportunities
- Future consideration if the topic aligns with emerging practice priorities

11. How are tracks determined?

FNCE® tracks are shaped by attendee feedback, industry trends, and proposal patterns. We analyze surveys and evaluations, monitor emerging issues, and review the volume and quality of submissions to ensure tracks reflect current demand while balancing the full breadth of nutrition and dietetics practice.

12. Can students or early-career professionals submit?

Yes! We encourage proposals from professionals at all career stages. Submissions that include student or early-career voices alongside experienced practitioners are highly valued.

13. Who reviews conflict of interest disclosures?

All disclosures are reviewed by the Academy staff and the CLL. If a potential conflict is identified, the committee will determine whether it can be managed or if the proposal must be declined.

14. Do I need to be an Academy member to speak at FNCE®?

If a speaker or moderator is eligible (if they are a RDN or NDTR), membership is required by June 1, 2027.

15. Can I be the Program Planner, Moderator and Speaker?

A program planner can also be a speaker OR moderator. For logistical reasons, speakers cannot also serve as moderators.

16. How many speakers can be included in the session proposal?

Up to three speakers may be included in the proposal. This proposal must be submitted as a 90-minute session to allow enough time for each speaker.

17. What A/V technology is standard for a FNCE® session or workshop?

- Confidence Monitor
- Speaker Timer
- Laptop
- Wireless Slide Advancer
- Podium with microphone
- 2-Wireless lavalier microphones

18. Will I be reimbursed for supplies needed to facilitate my workshop?

Yes. Upon acceptance, the Academy will work with facilitators to ensure that materials needed for the workshop are ordered.

19. What makes a workshop different from other session formats?

Workshops (2–3 hours) are designed for active participation, not passive listening. Unlike lectures or panels, which focus on speaker-driven content delivery, workshops emphasize engagement and skill-building. Attendees should be involved through interactive activities, small-group work, guided practice, or hands-on application. A workshop is not a two-hour lecture; it must include meaningful opportunities for participants to practice, apply, and take away practical tools or experiences.

20. Where can I get technical help with the submission system?

If you encounter issues submitting your proposal, please contact Caitlin Griffin at cgriffin@eatright.org.