
PURPOSE

This Leadership Pathway Profile defines the expectations, competencies, responsibilities, and succession pathway for the President-elect, President, and Past President of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. For purposes of this profile, “Past President” means the immediate Past President role identified in the Academy bylaws. The profile reflects contemporary governance practices used by leading professional membership associations and incorporates Academy-specific responsibilities established in governing documents, Board-approved policies, committee charters, and organizational practice.

ROLE OF THE POSITION IN A PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATION

In a professional membership association, the President serves as the elected volunteer leader. The President provides governance leadership, advances the Academy’s strategic direction and values, leads the Board in fulfilling its governance responsibilities, engages stakeholders, and represents the profession in partnership with the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer manages Academy headquarters and staff operations, subject to direction by the Board of Directors.

LEADERSHIP PATHWAY PHILOSOPHY

The President Leadership Pathway promotes continuity of leadership, governance experience, succession planning, and institutional knowledge across a three-year leadership commitment.

POSITION OVERVIEW

The President Leadership Pathway includes three consecutive roles—President-elect, President, and Past President—that support leadership continuity, governance effectiveness, and strategic direction for the Academy. The President serves as the Academy’s elected volunteer leader; chairs the Board of Directors and Executive Committee; presides at meetings of the full membership; appoints Board committee and commission chairs and members as provided in the bylaws; appoints official Academy representatives; and advances the Academy’s strategic direction and values in partnership with the Chief Executive Officer and Board of Directors. The Chief Executive Officer manages Academy headquarters and staff operations, subject to direction by the Board of Directors.

TERM

President-elect – 1 year

President – 1 year

Past President – 1 year

Total leadership commitment: 3 years.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Academy member in the credentialed Active or Retired classification.
- Demonstrated involvement in the Academy's governance structure, organizational units, and key programs through leadership and volunteer service.
- Leadership experience at the national, affiliate, district, or comparable level.
- Experience in governance, strategic leadership, organizational stewardship, consensus building, volunteer leadership, and financial oversight.
- Registration with the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) preferred.

PATHWAY LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES

Leadership & Governance

- Commitment to servant leadership and stewardship of the Academy's mission and resources.
- Experience serving on boards, committees, task forces, or other leadership bodies.
- Understanding of fiduciary responsibilities and nonprofit governance.
- Ability to facilitate productive discussions and support effective governance.

Strategic Vision

- Ability to think strategically and guide long-term organizational priorities.
- Knowledge of trends affecting nutrition, healthcare, association leadership, and the profession.
- Ability to identify and evaluate opportunities and risks affecting the Academy and its members and to provide oversight of Academy compliance with laws, rules and regulations applicable to its business.
- Ability to align volunteer leadership with strategic priorities.

Board & Volunteer Leadership

- Ability to inspire confidence and engage volunteer leaders.
- Ability to build consensus among diverse stakeholders.
- Ability to support effective Board performance and governance practices.
- Ability to facilitate collaborative decision-making.

Communication, Influence & Advocacy

- Strong communication and presentation skills.
- Ability to serve as a credible spokesperson and advocate for the profession.
- Ability to engage effectively with members, policymakers, partners, media, and the public.
- Ability to consider diverse member perspectives while advancing the Academy's strategic priorities.

Professional Knowledge & Stewardship

- Knowledge of the Academy's governance structure, strategic priorities, organizational units, and key programs.
- Knowledge of issues affecting the profession and membership.
- Demonstrated integrity, sound judgment, and commitment to ethical leadership.
- Commitment to transparency and stewardship of Academy resources.

EMPLOYER SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT

Successful service in this role requires meaningful time, preparation, travel, meeting attendance, and active participation throughout the term of office. Candidates should confirm that they have the personal, professional, and employer support needed to fulfill Academy governance and leadership responsibilities.

EXPECTATIONS OF SERVICE

- Act in the best interests of the Academy and its members.
- Maintain confidentiality as required by Academy policies, procedures, and fiduciary obligations.
- Prepare for and actively participate in meetings and discussions.
- Fulfill responsibilities in accordance with Academy governing documents and policies.
- Support effective governance and ethical leadership practices.
- Commit the time, energy, and expertise necessary to advance the Academy's strategic priorities.

PRESIDENT-ELECT PROFILE

- Serves as a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee.
- Supports the President in advancing the Academy's strategic direction and values.
- Performs the functions of the President when the President is absent or unable to serve.
- Prepares to assume the presidency through leadership development, governance experience, committee service, and succession planning activities.
- Works with the Speaker-elect on future committee and task force appointments.
- Carries out additional committee, Foundation, policy, finance, or other leadership assignments established by Board-approved policy, committee charters, or current organizational practice.

TIME COMMITMENT

The President-elect commitment includes Board and Executive Committee responsibilities, leadership development, succession planning activities, and additional meetings, events, and assignments established by Board-approved policy, committee charters, or current organizational practice, including FNCE® as applicable.

PRESIDENT PROFILE

Governance Leadership

- Serves as the Academy's elected volunteer leader and leads the Board of Directors in fulfilling its governance, fiduciary, and strategic responsibilities.
- Chairs the Board of Directors and Executive Committee.
- Appoints Board committee and commission chairs and members as provided in the bylaws and applicable Board policy.
- Appoints official Academy representatives as provided in the bylaws and applicable Board policy.
- Presides at meetings of the full membership.
- Promotes Board effectiveness, accountability, and continuous improvement.

Strategic Leadership

- Carries the Academy's strategic direction and values into effect, except where those responsibilities are specifically assigned to another office or body.
- Guides the Board in identifying emerging opportunities, risks, and trends affecting the profession and organization.
- Partners with the Chief Executive Officer and Board of Directors to support the Academy's strategic plan and values while respecting the Chief Executive Officer's responsibility for fiscal and operational management of Academy headquarters and staff.

External Leadership & Representation

- Serves as a principal spokesperson and ambassador for the Academy and profession.
- Engages with members, policymakers, professional organizations, media, industry partners, and the public on behalf of the Academy.
- Promotes the value and impact of the nutrition and dietetics profession.
- Considers diverse member perspectives while advancing the Academy's strategic priorities.

Governance Partnership

- Maintains a collaborative governance partnership with the Chief Executive Officer and preserves the distinction between Board governance and organizational management.

TIME COMMITMENT

The presidential year requires a significant year-round commitment, including Board meetings, Executive Committee meetings, committee meetings, strategic planning activities, Academy events, FNCE®, travel, speaking engagements, public policy activities, and Academy representation with internal and external stakeholders.

PAST PRESIDENT PROFILE

- Serves as the immediate Past President following completion of the presidential term, consistent with the bylaws-defined Past President role.
- Provides continuity, historical perspective, mentorship, and leadership counsel to support Board effectiveness, leadership development, organizational stability, and leadership succession.
- Carries out roles on the policy, nominating, and governance committees, as well as other leadership assignments established by Board-approved policy, committee charters, or current organizational practice.

TIME COMMITMENT

The Past President time commitment includes Board responsibilities, continuity and mentorship responsibilities, FNCE® as applicable, and additional committee or leadership assignments established by Board-approved policy, committee charters, or current organizational practice.