

Outstanding Preceptor Nomination Procedures

1. Introduction

Purpose:

The purpose of the Outstanding Preceptor Award (OPA) is to recognize the exceptional teaching, mentoring, and leadership activities of preceptors in ACEND-accredited dietetics education programs. Note: Program directors and faculty are not eligible for this award as there is a separate award given to Outstanding Dietetic Educators. Active NDEP Council members, members of the NDEP preceptor committee and previous OPA winners are not eligible for this award.

In addition to publishing the list of outstanding, each awardee will receive \$1,000 award (supported by the Academy's Foundation), one (1) year membership in NDEP (June 1, 2026-May 31, 2027), and a certificate and congratulatory letter from the Academy President. Awards will be presented during an NDEP-sponsored event at FNCE 2026.

Criteria:

- Member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- Preceptor in an ACEND-accredited supervised practice program (Coordinated Program (CP), Dietetic Internship (DI), Dietetic Technician (DT), Graduate Program (GP) or Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway (ISPP).

Submission and Selection Procedure:

1. A single nomination, that includes both peers/program directors/program faculty AND students/interns, will be collected using an online entry system (Survey Monkey), which will **close at 11:59 pm CST on January 31, 2026**. Self-nominations will not be accepted. **Nomination Form** (*select the Region the Preceptor resides in*):

West Coast: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Alaska, Hawaii, International

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6KXQ258>

West Central: Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/68QM5FN>

North Central: Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XJDMTHM>

South Central: Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/68WPGRB>

North East: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XCZY557>

South East: Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Puerto Rico, Washington DC

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XCYGBQ>

2. Nomination applications should be submitted by the Program Director, acknowledging the preceptor's affiliation with the program; and MUST include a completed online entry, which includes two separate focused statements of support (one from peers/program directors/faculty AND one from students/interns). **Additional materials beyond the online entry will not be reviewed.**
 - a. Nominations MUST highlight the exemplary accomplishments of the preceptor "above and beyond" what would be considered core preceptor responsibilities based upon the following key areas:
 - i. **Teaching-** showcase innovative teaching skills and techniques by the nominee that facilitates student/intern learning. Does the preceptor: Use any unique ways to help program directors meet required ACEND® competencies? Incorporate any projects that require collecting data, measuring outcomes to summarize the impact or potential impact of nutrition intervention? Demonstrate a desire to expand these skills/techniques and share with other preceptors?
 - ii. **Mentoring and Leadership-** how does the nominee demonstrate leadership in the field of dietetics and elevate student learning and level of practice. Does the preceptor: Function as a mentor to entry-level and/or experienced RDs and/or NDTRs? Hold leadership positions in professional organizations, and/or committees at work? Volunteers for additional responsibilities to support student learning and competency achievement? Engage in other activities demonstrating contributions that have implications for the field of dietetics?
 - iii. **Student prospective-** a student's letter that describes their experience with the nominee from an INNOVATIVE TEACHING or MENTORING and LEADERSHIP perspective. Please ask the student to be specific and provide examples.
3. The NDEP Preceptor Director and Preceptor Committee will receive, review, and select the winners from the eligible nominations after the survey has been closed. The committee will select no more than one preceptor from each of the six geographical regions. There is a maximum of six awards per year.
4. Questions about the selection procedure and submission process should be directed to ndep@eatright.org