

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.

In this issue...

- [Learn about Annual Accreditation To-Dos](#)
- [ACEND Policy and Procedure Manual Updated](#)
- [Sign up for February Program Director Workshop](#)
- [Free CPE: DEI Webinar by Tamara Melton-Revised Link](#)
- [Reminders and Deadlines](#)

News and Updates

Annual Overview of Accreditation Activities and Communications

With the new year starting, we'd like to remind programs about accreditation activities and ACEND communications that take place every year:

Accreditation Activities

- Annual Report—annually, due mid-November
- **Annual Accreditation Fee**—annually, due mid-December
- Interim Report or Progress Report—as needed, find due dates, if applicable on the **ACEND portal**
- **Substantive Changes**—as needed, see **decision calendar** for ACEND board decision-making timelines
- ACEND Policies Changes—keep up-to-date with ACEND announcements in the ACEND UPdate Newsletter

Communications

- **ACEND UPdate Newsletter**—new articles typically sent the 3rd Tuesday of the month
- **ACEND Townhall**- Quarterly

ACEND Policy and Procedure Manual Revised December 2023

The **ACEND Policy and Procedure Manual** has been updated and posted to the

ACEND website. The changes to ACEND policies, which take effect immediately, include:

- Updates to the ACEND vision and values (Introduction)
- Revisions to the ACEND functions and responsibilities related to Title IV monitoring (Policy 1.2.A.2.c)
- Revisions to the ACEND complaint policy about programs (Policy 2.10).

Reminder: Upcoming Workshop covering the 2022 and Future Education Model (FEM) Accreditation Standards

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND®) will be offering a virtual Accreditation Workshop on February 22nd and 23rd, 2024. The workshop is designed to help dietetic education program directors and others learn the latest 2022 and FEM accreditation standards and specific details on how to prepare for self-study reports and site visits. Individuals with a site visit scheduled in 2024-2025, individuals interested in applying to start a new ACEND-accredited program, and newly appointed program directors are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please visit the ACEND website under **Program Director Workshops** for more information and to register for the upcoming virtual workshop in February.

March 8, 2024 DEI Webinar: *Empowering Dietetics Students Session 1-Revised Link*

ACEND® will be sponsoring a 2-part DEI webinar series this year presented by Ms. Tamara Melton, MS, RDN, LD, Co-founder and Executive Director of Diversify Dietetics. The first session, Empowering Dietetics Students: Navigating Microaggressions & Advocacy in Academic Settings, will be held on Friday, March 8, 2024 from 11:00 AM-12:30 PM CT. During the webinar, Ms. Melton will present several scenarios and case studies of microaggression and will provide tips and strategies on how to address each of the presented cases. The objective is to empower students, interns, faculty, and preceptors to respond appropriately when they experience or when they witness a difficult situation.

This webinar is intended for students/interns as well as educators, preceptors, and administrators and is currently pending CPE approval for 1.5 hours (Level 2) and will be recorded. Note, only attendees who participate in the live session are eligible to receive CPEs for this event. For additional information and to register for this event, please click **HERE** (Revised Link).

The second session of this two-part series is scheduled for November 19, 2024 as part of the November Town Hall.

Reminders and Deadlines

Compliance Audits are due January 19, 2024

- [2022 Standards Information](#)
- [FEM Standards Information](#)



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In this issue...

- [New Dietetics Application Process](#)
- [Free CPE: DEI Webinar by Tamara Melton](#)
- [ACEND Survey to Programs](#)
- [Updated Webinar on Evaluating International Students](#)
- [Call for ACEND Program Reviewer Applications](#)

News and Updates

New Dietetics Application Process for ACEND® Supervised Practice Programs (DIs, CPs, GPs)

During its January 2024 meeting, the ACEND® Board voted to discontinue the dietetics application match (through D&D Digital) and approved the proposed application process for dietetics. The new process follows the typical university and most other health professions' admissions process. The following are highlights of these decisions:

1. The computer matching process provided by D&D Digital will be discontinued. Spring 2024 marks the last cycle that will use the computer matching process. The revised Dietetics Application Process will launch for the Fall 2024 cycle.
2. With the discontinuation of the match, the ACEND® Board also voted to discontinue the Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway (ISPP) for unmatched DPD-Verification Statement (VS) applicants only. This decision does not impact the ISPP option for those applicants who hold a doctoral degree. The doctoral degree ISPPs can continue. A separate communication was sent on Monday, February 5 to programs with ISPPs, detailing their options and next steps.
3. With the discontinuation of the match, the pre-select option will also be discontinued after the Spring 2024 match. This decision was based on the many comments and feedback ACEND received during the Dietetics Application Process Task Force (DAP-TF) December 2023 Town Hall.
4. To ensure an equitable process and level the playing field, the ACEND Board

voted to **require all supervised practice program types (DIs, CPs and GPs), including those not participating in DICAS, to follow and abide by the applicant notification due date and the applicant decision due date starting Fall 2024.** Note that programs that accept students within their own institution (e.g., a sophomore applying to a dietetics program that starts junior year) do not have to follow or abide by these due dates.

5. Based on feedback received during the December Town Hall, the application process due dates were shifted earlier by two weeks to allow sufficient time for programs with start dates before August.

6. Key dates that must be followed by all supervised practice programs (all DIs, CPs, and GPs):

FALL Due Dates

- December 1, 2024: Applicant notification due date. Programs must notify applicants on or before this date.
- December 15, 2024: Applicant decision due date. Programs may NOT require an applicant's decision to accept an appointment prior to this date.

SPRING Due Dates

- March 1, 2025: Applicant notification due date. Programs must notify applicants on or before this date.
- March 15, 2025: Applicant decision due date. Programs may NOT require an applicant's decision to accept an appointment prior to this date.

7. The 2024-2025 application cycles (fall and spring) will serve as a pilot to revise and improve the process, where needed. As a pilot, participation in the Dietetics Inclusive Centralized Application Service (DICAS) will remain optional for CPs and GPs; however, for the 2025-2026 cycle and moving forward, 100% enrollment in DICAS will be required. This includes DIs, CPs and GPs.

ACEND will be hosting two town halls to present the new dietetics application process and answer program questions:

Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm CT

Friday, March 1, 2024, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm CT

To register for one of these town halls, access the ACEND Town Hall webpage [HERE](#). In addition, a session is being planned for Thursday, April 4, 2024 during the Nutrition and Dietetics Educators and Preceptors (NDEP) annual meeting in Seattle, WA. This topic will also be included as one of the roundtable discussions during the NDEP meeting. I encourage you to attend at least one of these town halls/sessions.

The DAP-TF continues its work this year to finalize the code of ethics and traffic rules for the application process, develop guidance for programs especially free-standing Dietetic Internship programs that do not have the support of a university admission department, and make available needed training materials. Ultimately,

the goal is to incorporate the process into the ACEND policies and/or standards to ensure enforcement. This communication was sent to all programs on Tuesday, February 6, 2024.

March 8, 2024 DEI Webinar: Empowering Dietetics Students Session 1

ACEND® will be sponsoring a 2-session DEI webinar series this year presented by Ms. Tamara Melton, MS, RDN, LD, Co-founder and Executive Director of Diversify Dietetics. The first session, Empowering Dietetics Students: Navigating Microaggressions & Advocacy in Academic Settings, will be held on Friday, March 8, 2024 from 11:00 AM-12:30 PM CT and is intended for students/interns. During the webinar, Ms. Melton will present several scenarios and case studies of microaggression and will provide tips and strategies on how to address each of the presented cases. The objective is to empower students, interns, faculty, and preceptors to respond appropriately when they experience or when they witness a difficult situation. While this webinar is intended for students/interns, we encourage educators, preceptors, and administrators to attend. The webinar has been approved for 1.5 hours (Level 2) and will be recorded. **Note, only attendees who participate in the live session are eligible to receive CPEs for this event. Those who listen to the recording will not receive CPE credit.** For additional information and to register for this event, please click [HERE](#).

The second session of this two-part series is scheduled for November 19, 2024 as part of the November Town Hall.

ACEND® Surveys of Supervised Practice/Experiential Learning Programs Students and Graduates (DIs, CPs)

Part of ACEND's evaluation of the Future Education Model Accreditation Standards is benchmarking the Graduate Program (GP) outcomes against other ACEND accredited programs (graduate DIs and CPs) by collecting data from their students and graduates. In March, ACEND will be sending two (2) email communications to program directors of supervised practice/experiential learning programs. Each communication includes an email script and link for a student exit survey or graduate survey. In the brief student exit survey (2-5 minutes), students are asked to report on their readiness for practice. The graduate survey is also brief (3-5 minutes) and asks graduates to report on their preparation and competence for practice in nutrition and dietetics as well as current employment. Thank you for your continued support and leadership in the training of our future nutrition and dietetics practitioners.

Updated Webinar on Evaluating International Students

The ACEND® Board has updated the video training on **how to evaluate international students applying to U.S.-based ACEND programs** to assist programs that receive inquiries from international students about applying to their program. The following has been updated:

- **2022 Accreditation Standards:** The webinar is aligned with the 2022 Accreditation Standards.
- **International Students Checklist:** The webinar provides an overview of the **International Students Checklist** available for international students and the role program directors play in each step.

Please contact **ACEND®** if there are additional resources that would be helpful for guiding international students.

Call for ACEND Program Reviewer Applications

ACEND is recruiting nutrition and dietetics educators and practitioners to become ACEND Program Reviewers! ACEND Program Reviewers examine nutrition and dietetics educational programs and conduct site visits to universities and other organizations with ACEND-accredited programs. This peer-review accreditation process strengthens nutrition and dietetics education and the profession as a whole.

ACEND Program Reviewers serve for three-year terms, beginning June 2024. **This year, we are especially in need of reviewers with experience managing Coordinated Programs and practitioners actively engaged in nutrition and dietetics practice.** Criteria include the following:

- Membership in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and registration (RDN or NDTR) by the Commission on Dietetic Registration preferred
- Master's or higher degree preferred
- Willing to provide professional leadership
- Employed in education or practice for more than three years
- Have a commitment to quality nutrition and dietetics education programs
- Represent a major area or area of nutrition and dietetics practice
- Meet the time commitment required by the position (prepare for and conduct two site visits per year and review two to four program reports per year, estimated to be 20 days annually)
- Be able to complete program reviewer training following their appointment (visit link below to review training requirements)
- Program Reviewers may not serve simultaneously on other groups within the Academy that may represent a conflict of interest with ACEND® activities or violate U.S. Department of Education regulations (i.e., member of the academy Board of Directors, Academy BOD Executive Committee, HOD Leadership Team, member of the Commission on Dietetic Registration)

In addition to learning about current nutrition and dietetics education and “giving back” to the profession, there are several benefits. You will further develop leadership and communication skills, travel to universities and practice sites across the country (expenses covered by ACEND) and enjoy the camaraderie of peers in the profession. Many ACEND Program Reviewers comment that the experience has helped them to improve their own practice or educational programs. ACEND Program Reviewers are also eligible to receive CEUs for their service. Finally, ACEND Program Reviewers can add to their leadership experience by running for positions on the ACEND Board of Directors after at least three years of experience as a Program Reviewer.

Visit <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/acend-training-and-volunteer-opportunities/program-reviewers/link-to-program-reviewer-applications> to apply. If you know someone who would make a great reviewer, please pass along this opportunity. **Applications are currently being accepted until February 29, 2024. The next application period will take place October 1-31, 2024.**

Please contact acendnominations@eatright.org with any questions.



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In this issue...

- [NEW Fall Due Dates for Application Process](#)
- [2025 Annual Fee for Program Budgets](#)
- [April 16, 2024 Town Hall](#)
- [Updated Guidance Information for the 2022 FEM and Accreditation Standards](#)

News and Updates

Fall Due dates for Dietetics Application Process Moved to November

As announced within the February ACEND Update and two ACEND Town Halls over the past few weeks, ACEND released the revised application process for dietetics. Within this process, the ACEND Board voted that fall and spring key dates must be followed by all supervised practice programs (all DIs, CPs, and GPs). Based on feedback received after the ACEND Town Halls and because the 2024-2025 application cycle will serve as a pilot to revise and improve the process, the DAP Task Force has decided to adjust the Fall Due Dates earlier in the cycle. This decision was made to ensure programs with an early spring start date are able to orient and onboard students as needed before the start of the program. Below are the revised Fall Due Dates:

REVISED FALL Due Dates

- November 1, 2024: Applicant notification due date. Programs must notify applicants on or before this date.
- November 15, 2024: Applicant decision due date. Programs may NOT require an applicant's decision to accept an appointment prior to this date.

Note that the spring due dates remain the same as March 1, 2025- application notification due date and March 15, 2025-application decision due date.

To view the entire message about the new application process and the recent decisions made by the ACEND board, refer to the February ACEND Update posted here: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/public-notices-and-announcements/acend-update>.

2025 Annual Fee for Program Budgets

As many ACEND-accredited programs start planning future budgets, this is a reminder that the 2025 Annual Accreditation Fee can be found on the **Accreditation Fee Schedule**, in the Policies and Procedures section of the **ACEND website**. Annual fee invoices are typically prepared in September and due mid-December of the previous year; therefore, the 2025 Annual Accreditation Fee will be due in December 2024.

Program directors will receive an email from ACEND when annual fee invoices are ready in September 2024. There are two ways to access a program's open invoice:

- Log in into the **ACEND Portal** and click the "Pay Open Invoices" QuickPay link, under "Actions"
- Save the QuickPay Link separately and access it at any time without having to log into the ACEND portal. ACEND recommends sending this link to the person who pays program bills for future reference as the QuickPay Link will not change.

April 16, 2024 Town Hall

During the virtual town hall on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm CT ACEND will be highlighting the Didactic Programs in Dietetics (DPD) and their value in the dietetics education pathway. Dr. James Swain, PhD, RDN, LD, FAND, Associate Professor and Director of Case Western Reserve University DPD and Erin Norman, PhD, RDN, LMNT, Associate Professor and Director of Chadron State College DPD program will review current data supporting the importance of DPD programs for the RDN pathway and for the dietetics profession overall. The webinar will also provide guidance for DPD directors to increase support from their administration and to enhance student recruitment.

Click **HERE** to register.

Updated Guidance Information for the 2022 and Future Education Model Accreditation Standards Released

The Guidance Information Document for the 2022 and Future Education Model Accreditation Standards has been updated to provide clarification for several Required Elements. A list of the updates can be found on pages 3-4 of the document.

To access the updated **2022 Guidance Information Document** and **Future Education Model Guidance Document** along with the associated templates visit the **ACEND website**.



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In this issue...

- [ACEND Programs Enrollments and Trends](#)
- [D&D Digital Matching Data](#)
- [NEW Doctoral Standards for the RDN Practitioner](#)

News And Updates

ACEND Programs Enrollments and Trends

ACEND makes available program enrollment data aggregated for all its accredited programs on an annual basis. This information is self-reported by all ACEND-accredited programs via the annual report. The results of program enrollments for FY 2023 have been posted on the ACEND website under About ACEND - [ACEND Data here](#). Updated tables include the Program Enrollment Trends from 2000-2023 and Diversity Enrollment Trends from 2000-2023.

Key Points

- There were 8.5% fewer enrolled students and interns reported in 2023 compared to 2022. Enrollment in all ACEND-accredited programs was 14,754 in 2023 compared to 16,128 in 2022.
- Dietetic Technician program (DT), Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD), Coordinated Program (CP), and Dietetic Internship (DI) enrollments declined in 2023 compared to 2022 (10.1%, 7.6%, 8.2%, 23.7%, respectively).
- Compared to 2022, enrollment in Future Education Model Graduate Programs (GP) in 2023 was 34.9% higher. This is a 431 increase in students compared to a decline of 1,088 students enrolled in DIs and CPs combined.
- As a result of the 8.5% decline in total enrollment, enrollment in races and ethnic groups declined for the following: White (not Hispanic), Black or African American, Asian, and Hispanic/Latino of any race (12.8%, 12.7%, 12.6%, 10%) and increased for the following: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, American Indian and Alaska Native, Two or More Races, and Not Able to Report Ethnic Origin (17.6%, 86.7%, 18.1%, 35.1%, respectively).

D&D Digital Matching Data Available until June 15th

With the Spring 2024 being the final match through the D&D Digital Matching service, ACEND wanted to remind program directors that the ACEND and D&D Digital contract ends on **June 15, 2024**. This means that after June 15, 2024, data normally obtained from D&D Digital will no longer be available including matching data and match/no match lists.

ACEND encourages program directors to pull any data needed from D&D Digital platform prior to **June 15, 2024** as it will be unavailable after that date. If you need any data related to computer matching after that date, you can reach out directly to D&D Digital at info@dnddigital.com; however, there will be a cost to programs associated with obtaining that data.

ACEND Introduces New Doctoral Standards for the RDN Practitioner

Dietetics is facing a shortage of RDNs with terminal degrees. With only 2.4% of RDNs holding a terminal degree, there is an urgent need for doctoral-prepared RDNs to fill needed positions in academia and meet the increased demand in industry, government, and other sectors (Davis et al., J Am Diet Assoc 2023). This concern, combined with the request from current Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition (DCN) programs to the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) to ensure quality of doctoral programs, led to the ACEND Board's decision to develop the Advanced Practice Doctorate (APD) Standards for the RDN.

The APD is distinct from the entry-level master's degree as well as the research PhD. It incorporates advanced didactic coursework, an advanced practice residency, and applied research to achieve core competencies. Students entering an APD program must already have the RDN credential and must have earned a bachelor's degree with a minimum of four years of full-time post-credentialing work experience or a master's degree with a minimum of two years of full-time post-credentialing work experience. The new ACEND APD Accreditation Standards will be released June 1, 2024 for voluntary adoption by academic institutions.



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In this issue...

- [Spring 2024 Dietetic Internship Match Data](#)
- [NEW Program Director Workshop Announcement](#)
- [Share Your Noteworthy Practices](#)
- [ACEND Competency Software LIVE!](#)

News and Updates

Spring 2024 Dietetic Internship Match Data

Each spring, graduates of didactic programs in nutrition and dietetics (DPD) participate in a computerized match process run by D&D Digital for placement in dietetic internship (DI) programs. The results of the first round of the April 2024 computer match are available on the [ACEND website](#).

Key Points

- These results do not include applicants who matched in the second round or those who were accepted to Future Graduate (GP) programs, Coordinated Programs (CP) or Individualized Supervised Practice Pathways (ISPPS).
- There were 17% fewer participants in the Spring 2024 computer match compared to Spring 2023.
- As a result of a decline in DPD enrollment and several other factors including increased numbers of DPD graduates applying to Coordinated Programs (CP) and Future Education Model Standards Graduate Programs (GP), the spring match rate has steadily improved. 86% of applicants were matched to a dietetic internship in Spring 2024.

Note: With the Spring 2024 being the final match through the D&D Digital Matching service, ACEND wanted to remind program directors that the ACEND and D&D Digital contract ends on **June 15, 2024**. This means that after June 15, 2024, data normally obtained from D&D Digital will no longer be available including matching data and match/no match lists. If you need any data related to computer matching after that date, you can reach out directly to D&D Digital at info@dnddigital.com; however, there will be a cost to programs associated with obtaining that data.

Upcoming Workshop covering the 2022 and Future Education Model (FEM) Accreditation Standards

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND®) will be offering a virtual Accreditation Workshop on September 26 and 27, 2024. The workshop is designed to help dietetic education program directors and others learn the latest 2022 and FEM accreditation standards and specific details on how to prepare for self-study reports and site visits. Individuals with a site visit scheduled in 2025-2026, individuals interested in applying to start a new ACEND-accredited program, and newly appointed program directors, are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please visit the ACEND website under **Program Director Workshops** for more information and to register for the upcoming virtual workshop in September.

Share Your Noteworthy Practices with Other Educators

Congratulations to the University of Saint Joseph Dietetic Internship! The program was selected as one of the noteworthy dietetics practices among the ACEND-accredited programs.

If you would like your noteworthy practice to be reviewed by ACEND's Review Committee and possibly be selected for the next quarter, please visit the ACEND's Noteworthy Practice Page [here](#) to download the submission form.

Noteworthy practices in the following topic areas are requested: Activities, practices, and/or processes that promote DEI, Preceptor Recruitment and Recognition, Interprofessional Education, Curriculum (i.e. simulation, review process, integrated experience) and Program Improvement (i.e. data collection, technology, pass rate).

Please submit the completed submission form and supporting documentation to ACEND@eatright.org by one of the upcoming due dates: **July 19, 2024 and October 18, 2024.**

If your noteworthy practice is chosen next quarter, the practice will be posted to the ACEND website and in the ACEND Update newsletter.

ACEND Competency Software Launching Tuesday, May 28, 2024

ACEND is excited to announce that the *Competency* software (formerly known as *Competency.AI*) will be accessible to all ACEND-accredited programs beginning **Tuesday, May 28, 2024.**

ACEND implemented this software based on requests from program directors for

assistance with streamlining competency tracking. The system is available to all accredited programs free of charge, and it is optional to use.

We understand there may be an initial learning curve with the features and adapting the software to fit your specific program type, as is the case with most competency tracking software. Programs are encouraged to take their time to fully implement the system. To assist programs, ACEND developed several trainings for program directors, preceptors, and students that are posted on the **Competency Software Resources** webpage. Additionally, we are hosting a series of kick-off meetings to introduce the software and answer any of your questions:

- Thursday, May 30th 12 – 1 PM CT | Register [here](#)
- Monday, June 3rd 11 – 12 PM CT | Register [here](#)
- Friday, June 7th 11 – 12 PM CT | Register [here](#)

Be sure to check the **Competency Software Resources** webpage regularly for additional training sessions and registration information. For specific questions about the software, please email Education@eatright.org.



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- [Required Element 7.3.d Recommended Website Update](#)
- [Now Available: Dietetics Application Process Guidelines and Resources](#)
- [GPs and CPs to Upload DPD Verification Statements](#)
- [Register for the July 23, 2024 Town Hall](#)
- [Competency Software Weekly Trainings- sign up now!](#)
- [Doctoral Standards are LIVE!](#)
- [NEW Leadership Training](#)

News and Updates

Required Element 7.3.d Recommended Website Update for DT, DI, CP, GP Programs

The ACEND Accreditation Standards require programs to publish “Information about the requirements and process to become a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN), including education, supervised practice, passage on the CDR credentialing exam, and state certification/licensure, states for which the program meets State requirements for licensure/certification; and how the program fits into the process” (RE 7.3.d). It is recommended that programs add the statement,

- “While state interpretations of statutes may vary, it is ACEND's considered opinion that the program meets the educational requirements for dietetics licensure and certification in all states. However, completing an ACEND-accredited academic program alone does not qualify an individual for licensure or certification as a dietitian in any state. Individuals should review their state's licensing statutes and regulations to understand the specific requirements, including supervised practice and examinations, needed to obtain a dietetics license. More information about state licensure and certification can be found at this link: [State Licensure](#).”

Note at this time, this statement only applies to prospective students for Dietetic Technician Programs, Dietetic Internship Programs, Coordinated Programs and Graduate Programs. ACEND is currently working on a statement for prospective

students in Didactic Programs in Dietetics.

Dietetics Application Process Guidelines and Resources Now Available

Guidelines and resources addressing the new dietetics application process for supervised practice programs (DIs, CPs, GPs) are now available on the ACEND website for program directors [here](#) and for applicants [here](#). Materials include information for program directors, timelines and due dates, traffic rules, and a handout and Q&A for applicants that DPD programs and others can share with their students. The webpage will continue to be updated as additional materials are developed. If you have any questions about the dietetics application process contact education@eatright.org.

DPD Verification Statement Upload to REPs for CPs and GPs

If a graduate has completed a Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) prior to entering into a Graduate Program (GP) or Coordinated Program (CP), the GP or CP program director must upload the student's DPD Verification Statement and include the DPD Program Code into the CDR REPs system. Completing this important step will allow the DPD to receive pass rate reports for the students who have successfully completed a GP or CP. Below is a screenshot of where this information is entered in the CDR REPs system. If you have any questions, please contact CDR@eatright.org.

Edit Candidate

Candidate's name must be entered identically to their government-issued photo identification.

ACAD / CDR ID	<input type="text" value="ACAD / CDR ID"/>	Completion Date	<input type="text" value="12/09/2020"/>
* Last Name	<input type="text" value="Test"/>	* Date of Birth	<input type="text" value="MM/DD/YYYY"/>
Middle Name / Initial	<input type="text" value="Middle Name / Initial"/>	* First Name	<input type="text" value="Test"/>
Prior Name	<input type="text" value="Prior Name"/>	Maiden Name	<input type="text" value="Maiden Name"/>
* Address Line 1	<input type="text" value="Address Line 1"/>	* Mother's Maiden Name	<input type="text" value="Mother's Maiden Name"/>
Address Line 2	<input type="text" value="Address Line 2"/>		
Address Line 3	<input type="text" value="Address Line 3"/>		
* Country	<input type="text" value="UNITED STATES"/>	* State	<input type="text" value="-- Select States --"/>
* City	<input type="text" value="City"/>	* Zip	<input type="text" value="Zip"/>
* Primary Phone Country	<input type="text" value="UNITED STATES (+1)"/>	* Primary Phone / Type	<input type="text" value="Primary Phon"/> <input type="text" value="Ext"/> <input type="text" value="--Sel--"/>
Alternate Phone Country	<input type="text" value="UNITED STATES (+1)"/>	Alternate Phone Type	<input type="text" value="Alternate Pho"/> <input type="text" value="Ext"/> <input type="text" value="--Sel--"/>
* Email Address	<input type="text" value="cdr@eatright.org"/>	* Confirm Email Address	<input type="text" value="cdr@eatright.org"/>
* Highest Degree Earned	<input type="text" value="-- Select Highest Degree Earned --"/>	* Verification Agency	<input type="text" value="-- Select Verification Agency --"/>
* Degree Date	<input type="text" value="MM/DD/YYYY"/>	* DPD Program Code	<input type="text" value="-- Select DPD Program Code --"/>
DPD Completion Date	<input type="text" value="MM/DD/YYYY"/>		

Upload Required Documents

Upload File No file chosen

Note: Please click the appropriate radio button to acknowledge that you have uploaded the required documents.

Document Type

Official/Primary Source Transcripts or Foreign Degree Equivalency Statement

CP Verification Statement

DPD Verification Statement (if your student completed a DPD, you must submit a DPD VS)

July 23, 2024 Town Hall

During the virtual town hall on **Tuesday, July 23, 2024 from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm CT**, ACEND will continue to highlight the Didactic Programs in Dietetics (DPD) and their value in the dietetics education pathway. Didactic Programs in Dietetics have served as the first step in training future RDNs for decades and remain a critical part of the preparation of future dietetics professionals.

As entry to the profession has moved to the graduate level, new opportunities exist to reimagine DPDs to meet current needs of the profession. **Dr. Beth Leonberg, DHSc, RDN, CSP, FAND, LDN**, is Associate Professor and director of the DPD program at Drexel University in Philadelphia and will review alternative models for delivering DPDs, including graduate level DPDs and bridges to other master's programs, as well as opportunities to partner with dietetic internships to prepare RDNs for the future. Click [here](#) to register.

Competency Software Training and Q&A Webinars

ACEND has implemented Competency, a competency tracking software, developed by Education Management Solutions (EMS). It is available to all accredited programs free of charge and is optional to use.

We understand there may be an initial learning curve with the features and adapting the software to fit your specific program type. To assist program directors, ACEND and EMS will be hosting weekly 1 hour training and Q&A webinars on **Tuesdays at 1 pm CT**. The first 30 minutes will be reserved for a specific topic and the last 30 minutes will be reserved for Q&A. The webinars will be recorded and posted to the ACEND website.

[Register here](#) and choose any of the following webinars you would like to attend:

- Building your Program Schedule and Adding Users: June 18th 1 – 2 PM CT
- Creating Items to be Mapped or Measured: June 25th 1 – 2 PM CT
- Rotation Management Part I: July 2nd 1 – 2 PM CT
- Rotation Management Part II: July 9th 1 – 2 PM CT

Be sure to check the Competency Software Resources webpage and ACEND Update newsletters regularly for training sessions and registration information. For specific questions about the software, please email education@eatright.org.

ACEND's New Doctoral Standards for the RDN Practitioner are Live

The new Advanced Practice Doctorate (APD) Standards for the RDN are now live on our [website](#). Please check the [April ACEND Update](#) for more information.

ACEND Introduces New Leadership Training

ACEND now offers leadership training resources on its [Training and Volunteer Opportunities webpage](#). Whether you are a seasoned leader or beginning your leadership journey, the curated free leadership training offerings provide program directors, program reviewers, and preceptors with tools to enhance their leadership skills.

Training offerings include:

- **Leadership Fundamentals:** Dive into the core principles of effective

leadership by identifying your strengths and limitations as a leader. Learn how to communicate as a leader and find joy in leading.

- **Negotiation Proficiency:** Negotiation is a critical skill for leaders. Explore successful negotiation techniques, understand salary negotiation, and review real-world negotiation scenarios.
- **Self-Advocacy Strategies:** As a leader, advocating for yourself is essential. Discover how to assertively communicate your value, set boundaries, and navigate career growth.



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Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

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In this issue...

- [Competency Training](#)
- [July 23, 2024 Town Hall](#)
- [Upcoming Workshop](#)

News and Updates

Competency Software Training and Q&A Webinars

To assist program directors with adopting the Competency software, ACEND and EMS host weekly 1 hour training and Q&A webinars on **Tuesdays at 1 pm CT**. Generally, the first 30 minutes will be reserved for a specific topic and the last 30 minutes will be reserved for Q&A. The webinars will be recorded and posted to the ACEND website.

- Competency for DPD Programs: July 16 | 1 – 2 PM (Central time) [Register](#)
- Building, Assigning, and Completing Rubrics: July 23 | 1 – 2:30 PM (Central time) [Register](#)
- Building, Assigning, and Completing Checklists (all program types except DPDs): July 30 | 1 – 2:30 PM (Central time) [Register](#)
- Building, Assigning, and Completing Patient Encounter Notes (all program types except DPDs): August 6 | 1 – 2 PM (Central time) [Register](#)
- Hours Tracking and the Competency App: August 13 | 1 – 2 PM (Central time) [Register](#)

Be sure to check the Competency Software Resources webpage and ACEND Update newsletters regularly for future training sessions and registration information. For specific questions about the software, please email Education@eatright.org.

July 23, 2024 Town Hall

During the virtual town hall on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm CT ACEND will continue to highlight the Didactic Programs in Dietetics (DPD) and their value in the dietetics education pathway. Didactic Programs in Dietetics have served as the first step in training future RDNs for decades and remain a critical part

of the preparation of future dietetics professionals. As entry to the profession has moved to the graduate level, new opportunities exist to reimagine DPDs to meet current needs of the profession. Dr. Beth Leonberg, DHSc, RDN, CSP, FAND, LDN, is Associate Professor and director of the DPD program at Drexel University in Philadelphia and will review alternative models for delivering DPDs, including graduate level DPDs and bridges to other master's programs, as well as opportunities to partner with dietetic internships to prepare RDNs for the future. Click [Here](#) to register.

Upcoming Workshop covering the 2022 and Future Education Model (FEM) Accreditation Standards

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND®) will be offering a virtual Accreditation Workshop on September 26 and 27, 2024. The workshop is designed to help dietetic education program directors and others learn the latest 2022 and FEM accreditation standards and specific details on how to prepare for self-study reports and site visits. Individuals with a site visit scheduled in 2025-2026, individuals interested in applying to start a new ACEND-accredited program, and newly appointed program directors, are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please visit the ACEND website under [Program Director Workshops](#) for more information and to register for the upcoming virtual workshop in September.



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Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

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In this issue...

- Revised Policy and Procedure Manual
- Updates to the CDR Licensure Page
- Register Now! September 17 Town Hall
- Competency Software Training and Feedback Survey
- Upcoming Accreditation Workshop- 2022 and FEM Standards
- Annual Accreditation To-Do List

News and Updates

ACEND Policy and Procedure Manual Revised August 2024

The **ACEND Policy and Procedure Manual** has been updated and posted to the ACEND website. The changes to ACEND policies, which take effect immediately, include updates to the following:

- Functions and Responsibilities of ACEND Board (Policy 1.2.A.2.q)
- Ethics, Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest (Policy 1.6.M)
- Appeals and Arbitration of Adverse Accreditation Decisions (2.9.M)
- Substantive Changes related to program closures (4.3.B.4 and 4.3.B.8)

Updates to the CDR Licensure Page

CDR has updated the licensure page to include information about requirements for licensure in the US territories. The webpage that programs can link to for disclosing licensure information now has information regarding American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. The link to State Licensure has not changed, so programs do not need to make updates to their statement regarding state licensure and certification. The State Licensure information can be found at this link: [State Licensure](#).

September 17, 2024 Town Hall

During the virtual town hall on **Tuesday, September 17, 2024 from 11:00 am –**

12:00 pm CT, ACEND will provide an update on the new Advanced Practice Doctoral Standards for the RDNs, which were released for voluntary adoption on June 1, 2024. The Advanced Practice Doctorate prepares RDNs as leaders, advanced clinicians, educators, practice-based researchers, administrators, and other advanced professional roles in a variety of setting. Dr. Rayane AbuSabha, ACEND Executive Director, will discuss the need for RDNs with terminal degrees, the development of the standards, and key features of the standards.

Register for September Town Hall

Upcoming Competency Software Training and Q&A Webinars

Software Trainings

ACEND and EMS will be hosting weekly 1 hour training and Q&A webinars on **Tuesdays at 1 pm CT**. The first 30 minutes will be reserved for a specific topic and the last 30 minutes will be reserved for Q&A. The webinars will be recorded and posted to the ACEND website.

Register and choose any of the following webinars you would like to attend:

- Competency Software Open Q&A: August 20th | 1 – 2:00 pm (Central time)
- Interpreting Dashboard Data: August 27th | 1 – 2:00 pm (Central time)
- Competency Software for CPs and GPs: September 3rd | 1 – 2:00 pm (Central time)
- Competency Software for DIs: September 10th | 1 – 2:00 pm (Central time)
- Competency Software for Preceptors and Faculty: September 17th | 1 – 2:00 pm (Central time)
- Competency Software for Students: September 24th | 1 – 2:00 pm (Central time)

Register For Competency Trainings

Competency Software Dashboard Data Survey

Currently, the Competency software collects data by taking the average score of all completed formative and summative assessments for a learner and displays the data as a mean percentage on the dashboard. ACEND is looking for feedback on how data is displayed on the Competency dashboard and the type of data you'd like to obtain from the system. This survey provides ideas for improvement; however, we would love to hear how the data would be most useful to your specific program type.

Access the survey here.

Please email Education@eatright.org to further explain the ideas you may have that are not compatible with this survey format. Please complete the survey by September 6, 2024.

Updates to Competency Software

Competency is continuously evolving to better serve your needs with monthly updates. To stay informed about the latest training sessions, features and improvements, please check the [Competency Software Resources](#) webpage regularly. For specific questions about the software, please email Education@eatright.org.

Recent updates include enhancements for DPD programs when adding rubrics, updates to dashboard data, and the added ability to assign yourself as a preceptor to a rotation.

Upcoming Workshop for the 2022 and Future Education Model (FEM) Accreditation Standards

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND®) will be offering a virtual Accreditation Workshop on **September 26 and 27, 2024**. The workshop is designed to help dietetic education program directors and others learn the latest 2022 and FEM accreditation standards and specific details on how to prepare for self-study reports and site visits. Individuals with a site visit scheduled in 2025-2026, individuals interested in applying to start a new ACEND-accredited program, and newly appointed program directors, are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please visit the ACEND website under [Program Director Workshops](#) for more information and to register for the upcoming virtual workshop in September.

Reminders and Deadlines

Annual Overview of Accreditation Activities and Communications

As many ACEND programs start new cohorts in the fall, we'd like to remind programs about accreditation maintenance activities and ACEND communications that take place every year:

Accreditation Maintenance Activities:

Annual Report— annually, released early September, due mid-November. **2024 due**

date: Friday, November 22, 2024

Annual Accreditation Fee—annually, released early September, due mid-December.
2024 due date: Monday, December 9, 2024

Interim Report or Progress Report—as needed; find due dates, if applicable, on the
ACEND portal

Substantive Changes—as needed; see **decision calendar** for ACEND board
decision-making timelines

ACEND Policy Changes—keep up-to-date with ACEND announcements in the ACEND
Update Newsletter

Communications:

ACEND Update Newsletter— new articles typically sent the 3rd Tuesday of the
month

ACEND Townhall- Quarterly

**Please mark your calendar: the week of September 9, 2024, program directors
will be receiving separate notifications about the ACEND Annual Fee and the
ACEND annual report.**



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In this issue...

- Register Now for Today's Town Hall!
- Last Call! Registration Deadline Tomorrow for Upcoming PD Workshop
- Dietetics Application Resources
- DICAS Vouchers
- ACEND Events at FNCE
- ACEND International Student Guide is Available Now!
- 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Annual Fee Released
- Apply Now: Noteworthy Practices
- Competency Software Training
- October 11th Town Hall

News and Updates

September 17, 2024 Town Hall

During the virtual town hall on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm CT ACEND will provide an update on the new Advanced Practice Doctoral Standards for RDNs, which were released for voluntary adoption on June 1, 2024. The Advanced Practice Doctorate prepares RDNs as leaders, advanced clinicians, educators, practice-based researchers, administrators, and other advanced professional roles in a variety of settings. Dr. Rayane AbuSabha, ACEND Executive Director, will discuss the need for RDNs with terminal degrees, the development of the standards, and key features of the standards. Click [here](#) to register.

Last Call: Registration Deadline September 20 for Workshop covering the 2022 and Future Education Model (FEM) Accreditation Standards

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND®) will be offering a virtual Accreditation Workshop on September 26 and 27, 2024. The workshop is designed to help dietetic education program directors and others learn the latest 2022 and FEM accreditation standards and specific details on how to

prepare for self-study reports and site visits. Individuals with a site visit scheduled in 2025-2026, individuals interested in applying to start a new ACEND-accredited program, and newly appointed program directors, are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please visit the ACEND website under **Program Director Workshops** for more information and to register for the upcoming virtual workshop in September. The registration deadline is September 20, 2024.

Dietetics Application Process Additional Resources and Survey Released

The Dietetics Application Process Task Force has released additional resources and two surveys to collect feedback from both program directors and applicants. On the program director application **webpage**, an additional guidance document was added titled "Admission Communication Samples" which provide programs optional admissions email examples (e.g., request for interview, acceptance, denial, etc.) to support communication with applicants. In addition, two feedback surveys were added to the ACEND website for the task force to collect input and feedback on the dietetics application process. You may access the program director and faculty survey **here** and the applicant survey **here**. Program directors, especially DPD program directors, please share the applicant survey with your students who are applying to supervised practice programs in 2024-2025.

DICAS Vouchers Will Be Implemented 2025-2026 Cycle

DICAS vouchers are coupons that institutions are able to purchase and provide to their applicants to cover some or all of the DICAS fees to apply to their program. In late July, the DICAS Committee sent a survey to our supervised practice programs inquiring about their interest in using DICAS vouchers/coupons. Thank you to those who took the time to complete the survey. Many respondents requested a delay in implementing these vouchers to allow them time to allocate funds in the program's budget. After reviewing the survey results, it was decided that the DICAS vouchers would not be released for the 2024-2025 cycle. The decision not to offer the vouchers at this time was to allow full communication and training for our programs on the use of these vouchers as well as maintain equity and fairness for programs who need time to implement the vouchers. Further communication and resources will be made available in 2025.

ACEND Events at FNCE

ACEND is excited to announce the following ACEND events at FNCE. Locations and details can be found in the FNCE app:

- Sunday, October 6th, 1:30-3 pm: ACEND Forum: Facilitating a Path Forward: Evaluation of the Future Education Model Graduate Program

- Sunday, October 6th, 3:30-4:30 pm: ACEND Consulting Time with Program Directors (Session 1)
- Monday, October 7th, 9-10 am: Future Education Model Demonstration Program Networking Session
- Monday, October 7th, 10:30 am-11:30 am: ACEND Consulting Time with Program Directors (Session 2)

The ACEND booth will be open throughout FNCE if you want to stop by and meet with a program manager or have any questions. ACEND Booth Hours: Sunday: 7:30 am - 5 pm, Monday: 7:30 am - 5 pm, Tuesday: 8 am - 12 pm

We look forward to seeing you in Minneapolis!

ACEND International Student Guide is Available Now!

During the summer ACEND collected program director feedback regarding acceptance of international students. The intent of this survey was to develop a comprehensive resource to support program enrollment and further guide international students applying to ACEND-accredited nutrition and dietetics programs in the U.S. and its territories. The *International Student Guide: ACEND – Accredited Nutrition and Dietetics Programs Accepting International Students* is a result of this collaborative effort and is now available on the ACEND website for student and public use under the **Students and Advancing Education** section. The guide provides a list of ACEND programs that accept international students and has been formatted by program type and organized by state for ease of reference. We hope that this will be another useful resource for international students as they navigate the application process into nutrition and dietetics programs and pursue the RDN and NDTR credentials in the U.S.

Reminders and Deadlines

2024 Annual Report and 2025 Annual Fee Released in Early September

During the week of September 9th, 2024, program directors received two separate emails from ACEND regarding Fall accreditation maintenance activities:

- **Tuesday, September 10th:** 2024 Annual Report release email
- **Thursday, September 12th:** 2025 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:

- **Week of October 14th**
- **Week of November 11th**

- **Week of December 2nd**

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 correspondences 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 22nd, 2024**
- Annual Fee: Due **Monday, December 9th, 2024**

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.

Share Your Noteworthy Practices with Other Educators

Congratulations to the Milwaukee Area Technical College Diet Technician Program! The program was selected as one of the noteworthy dietetics practices among the ACEND-accredited programs.

If you would like your noteworthy practice to be reviewed by ACEND's Review Committee and possibly be selected for the next quarter, please visit the ACEND's Noteworthy Practice Page [here](#) to download the submission form.

Noteworthy practices in the following topic areas are requested: Activities, practices, and/or processes that promote DEI, Preceptor Recruitment and Recognition, Interprofessional Education, Curriculum (i.e. simulation, review process, integrated experience) and Program Improvement (i.e. data collection, technology, pass rate).

Please submit the completed submission form and supporting documentation to acend@eatright.org by **October 18, 2024**.

If your noteworthy practice is chosen next quarter, the practice will be posted to the ACEND website and in the *ACEND Update* newsletter.

Upcoming Competency Software Training and Q&A Webinars

ACEND and EMS will be hosting weekly 1 hour training and Q&A webinars on Tuesdays at 1 pm CT. The first 30 minutes will be reserved for a specific topic and the last 30 minutes will be reserved for Q&A. The webinars will be recorded and posted to the ACEND website.

Register and choose any of the following webinars you would like to attend:

- Cohort Deep Dive: October 1st | 1 – 2:00 pm (Central time)
- Open Q&A: October 8th | 1 – 2:00 pm (Central time)
- Competency Data for ACEND Reports and Templates: October 15th | 1 – 2:00 pm (Central time)
- Canvas Integration with Competency Software: October 22nd | 1 – 2:00 pm (Central time)
- Share Feedback with EMS and ACEND (open discussion): October 29th | 1 – 2:00 pm (Central time)

Be sure to check the **Competency Software Resources** webpage and ACEND Update newsletters regularly for updates on changes to the system as well as training sessions and registration information. For specific questions about the software, please email Education@eatright.org.

October 11, 2024 Town Hall – Meeting ACEND’s DEI Standards

ACEND will be hosting a virtual topic-specific town hall for Program Directors on October 11, 2024 from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm CT titled, Meeting ACEND Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Standards. During this webinar, ACEND consultant Leanne Worsfold, MEd, will provide guidance on how to meet the ACEND Standards and Required Elements that focus on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), including recruitment and admission practices, curriculum, and faculty and preceptor training. Leanne will also share examples of evidence demonstrating how programs can meet the DEI-related Standards, as well as various DEI activities and assignment examples. This webinar does not provide continuing education; the recording will be posted on the ACEND Town Hall webpage. Click [here](#) to register.



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In this issue...

- ACEND Standards-CDR Exam Outline Crosswalk
- DEI Webinar: Navigating Microaggressions Part 2
- Competency Software Training

News and Updates

Crosswalk of ACEND Standards and CDR Registration Examination for Dietitians Study Outline

The Accreditation Council for Education and Dietetics (ACEND®) has created a crosswalk that aligns ACEND's Curriculum and Learning Activities for the **2022 Standards** for DPD, CP, and DI programs and the **FEM GP Standards** to CDR's **Registration Examination for Dietitians Study Outline - 2022-2026**. The purpose of this crosswalk was to support faculty and students by ensuring ACEND-accredited programs are meeting the content provided in the CDR Study Outline to adequately prepare students for the CDR Registration Examination for Dietitians. The overall findings of this exercise confirmed the alignment between the ACEND curriculum and the CDR Study Outline and that the ACEND Standards and competencies go above and beyond the topics/subtopics identified in the CDR Study Outline. This crosswalk can be found [here](#).

November 19, 2024 – DEI Webinar Session 2

ACEND® will be sponsoring part 2 of the 2024 DEI webinar series presented by Ms. Tamara Melton, MS, RDN, LD, Co-founder and Executive Director of Diversify Dietetics. Part I, Empowering Dietetics Students: Navigating Microaggressions & Advocacy in Academic Settings, was held in March and is available for viewing [here](#). ACEND highly recommends you encourage your students/ interns to watch this recording.

Part 2, Empowering Dietetics Educators and Preceptors: Navigating Microaggressions & Advocacy in Academic and Practice Settings, is intended for dietetics educators and preceptors, offering strategies to support students and

interns from diverse backgrounds who may become victims to harmful microaggressions or discriminatory behavior. Educators and preceptors will learn how to address situations where students/interns, other faculty members, or preceptors are the sources of microaggression. Guidance will be provided for preceptors on how to handle microaggressions from other preceptors in practice settings. Through real-life examples, this webinar will equip educators and preceptors with the knowledge and tools to create safer, respectful, and equitable learning spaces for all students/interns. The webinar is pending CPE approval for 1.5 hours (Level 2) and will be recorded. **Note, only attendees who participate in the live session are eligible to receive CPEs for this event. Those who listen to the recording will not be eligible to receive CPE credit.** For additional information and to register for this event, please click [here](#).

[Register Here for the DEI Webinar](#)

Upcoming Competency Software Training and Q&A Webinars

ACEND and EMS will be hosting weekly 1 hour training and Q&A webinars on Tuesdays at 1 pm CT. The first 30 minutes will be reserved for a specific topic and the last 30 minutes will be reserved for Q&A. The webinars will be recorded and posted to the ACEND website.

- Rubric Assessment Report: November 5th | [Register](#)
- Hours Tracking Updates: November 12th | [Register](#)
- Rotation Overviews: November 19th | [Register](#)
- Checklist Assessments: November 26th | [Register](#)

Be sure to check the [Competency Software Resources](#) webpage and ACEND Update newsletters regularly for updates on changes to the system as well as training sessions and registration information. For specific questions about the software, please email Education@eatright.org.



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In this issue...

- ACEND P&P Manual and Substantive Change Guidelines Revised
- Competency Software Training
- Call for Strategies for Increasing Student Enrollment
- Keep up on Licensing Information
- Feedback Needed! Dietetics Application Process
- Updated ACEND Manager State Assignment

News and Updates

ACEND Policy and Procedure Manual and Substantive Change Guidelines Revised November 2024

The **ACEND Policy and Procedure Manual** has been updated and posted to the ACEND website. The changes to ACEND policies, which take effect immediately, include:

- Updates to the Eligibility Application for Precandidate status requirement for free-standing DI programs to provide documentation of state authorization or exemption (Policy 2.1.A.2).
- Change requiring programs that make significant program changes or a combination of changes that may change the nature of the program to undergo a new comprehensive site visit instead of the more limited focused site visit (Policy 4.3.A.5).
- Removed the Program Closure Policy from the Substantive Change Policy section. Program Closure Policy is now its own policy section (Policy 4.4).
- Minor clarifications to ACEND's Communication and Publication of ACEND Board Decisions (Policy 2.5.A and 2.5.B).
- Updates to the list of reasons that may lead ACEND to stop scheduling a volunteer program reviewer for program reviews (Policy 1.5.E.1.e - Program Reviewer Termination).

The ACEND **Substantive Change Guidelines** has been updated and posted to the ACEND website. The substantive change guidelines, which apply to all ACEND-

accredited programs, have been updated to provide clearer instructions on the required narrative and supporting evidence for submission. These revisions include an easy-to-read table format to outline the necessary documentation more effectively. Changes to the Guidelines, which take effect immediately, include:

- Separating the addition of Distance Education and Branch Campus/Additional Locations into individual changes
- Separating the addition/change of a degree and removing a degree option into individual changes
- Addition of a substantive change to notify ACEND if there are changes to the sponsoring institution's accreditor
- Addition of a notification to ACEND for any free-standing program wishing to apply for eligibility, using ACEND as their accreditor of record, for Title IV student financial aid

Additionally, ACEND has created new templates to help programs submit evidence for specific types of substantive changes. ACEND encourages program directors to review the latest version of the substantive change guidelines to ensure their programs submit comprehensive and appropriate evidence that demonstrates compliance with any proposed changes.

Upcoming Competency Software Training and Q&A Webinars

ACEND and EMS will be hosting weekly 1-hour training and Q&A webinars on **Tuesdays at 1 pm CT**. The first 30 minutes will be reserved for a specific topic and the last 30 minutes will be reserved for Q&A. The webinars will be recorded and posted to the ACEND website. Please register for any of the upcoming webinars you would like to attend:

- Rotation Overviews: November 19th | [Register](#)
- Checklist Assessments: November 26th | [Register](#)

We will not be holding any training webinars in December.

ACEND Collecting Strategies to Increase Student Enrollment

ACEND® recognizes that declining student enrollment is a significant concern among our programs. While ACEND cannot directly intervene to impact enrollment, we can highlight the innovative work our programs are doing to successfully increase student numbers. As such, ACEND is seeking to highlight your stories and any strategies you have used that have been effective at increasing your program's enrollment. If you have a story to share, no matter how small, we urge you to complete this three-minute survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EnrollmentStrategies> by **December 15, 2024**.

The responses will be compiled and published on the ACEND website as a resource

to programs. In addition, ACEND will select several programs to share their strategies at a future Town Hall in 2025. We are grateful for all the work you are doing to navigate ongoing enrollment challenges and look forward to offering a venue for programs to share their experiences and methods for successfully increasing student enrollment.

Thank you for completing the survey!

New Resources Related to USDE Requirements for Disclosing Licensure Information to Students in All Programs

The USDE is requiring programs to disclose state licensure information to students. To assist our programs to meet this requirement, ACEND worked with the Academy licensure advocacy team to provide this information.

All programs will find this resource on the **Program Director page** on the ACEND website. On this page, programs will find a **Licensure Statutes and Board Information** section with suggested language for each program type, associated links, and a new document for DPD programs that outlines which states currently require a graduate degree for license or certification. Due to the changing landscape with dietetics licensure around the newly mandated graduate degree for entry-level practice, the information for DPD programs is current as of July 2024. The program must examine the requirements to ensure that they are meeting the USDE disclosure requirement and to stay attuned to dietetics licensure requirements. Programs will be notified if or when the Academy's licensure advocacy team updates this information via the ACEND Update.

Feedback Needed! Dietetics Application Process

The Dietetics Application Process Task Force needs your feedback and that of your students! Two feedback surveys were added to the ACEND website for the task force to collect input and feedback on the dietetics application process. You may access the program director and faculty survey [here](#) and the applicant survey [here](#). Program directors, please complete the survey, and we ask DPD program directors to share the applicant survey with students applying to supervised practice programs in 2024-2025.

Updated ACEND Manager State Assignments

In addition to supporting ACEND accreditation site visits, ACEND accreditation managers have states assigned to them; programs in those states can call their assigned manager at any time of the accreditation cycle to ask questions and get accreditation support.

Some of the ACEND accreditation manager assignments have recently been

updated. To find the ACEND accreditation manager assigned to your state, please visit the [ACEND Staff page](#) of the ACEND website.



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In this issue...

- Season's Greetings from the Board and Staff of ACEND
- January 21, 2025 – DEI Webinar

Season's Greetings from the Board and Staff of ACEND

Warmest wishes to you and your families for a wonderful holiday season filled with joy and peace, and a New Year that brings happiness and good health. We are thankful for the opportunity to work with each of you.

Note that the ACEND office is closed from December 24, 2024 until January 2, 2025.

January 21, 2025 – DEI Webinar

ACEND® will be sponsoring a two-part DEI webinar series this year presented by Suzanne (Suzi) Domel Baxter, PhD, RD, LD, FADA, FAND and Alena Morales, RDN. The first session, *Disability Insight for Accredited Dietetics Programs*, will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 from 11:00 AM-12:00 PM CT. During the webinar, Dr. Baxter and Ms. Morales will define disability, share disability statistics, and present three case studies on disability with faculty and student scenarios to highlight the importance of embracing a positive disability culture for accredited dietetics programs. This webinar is intended for students/interns as well as educators, preceptors, and administrators and is currently pending CPE approval for 1.0 hour (Level 2). The webinar will be recorded and posted on the ACEND website. For additional information and to register for this event, please click [here](#). The second session of this two-part series is scheduled for November 18, 2025 as part of the November Town Hall.



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