

# 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.

## January 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

### February 18, 2025 ACEND Town Hall

ACEND® hosts periodic virtual meetings to answer constituent questions. The next virtual town hall will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Central Time). This town hall will provide updates on the Dietetics Application Process pilot and the revisions of the ACEND Accreditation Standards.

All constituents are invited to participate. The webinar will be recorded and there are no CPEUs offered for this event. To learn more and to register for the ACEND Town Hall click below.

## **Dietetics Application Process for ACEND® Supervised Practice Programs Update**

On Monday, January 13th, all ACEND-accredited program directors received an email from Dr. Rayane AbuSabha, ACEND Executive Director, about the Dietetics Application Process (DAP). Please refer to the email from [ACEND@eatright.org](mailto:ACEND@eatright.org) for information about the preliminary data collected on the new process, a reminder about the Spring cycle dates and the information on the 2025-2025 Application Cycle.

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## February News and Updates

### ACEND's Annual Review of Pass Rate

Annually in February, ACEND receives pass rate data from the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). During its April Board meeting, the ACEND Board will review programs with three-year pass rate averages (2022-2024) on the CDR examination that are below the ACEND benchmark. Should your program's pass rate fall below the ACEND benchmark for the three-year pass rate average (2022-2024), as part of ACEND's annual monitoring process, the program may receive pass rate letter after the April ACEND Board meeting. However, keep in mind that ACEND understands the recent national decline in the CDR exam pass rate which has been significant and may be due to factors outside the program's control. As such, the ACEND Board continues to take a holistic approach when reviewing pass rate while monitoring programs to ensure success of our program graduates. If you have any questions, please contact [ACEND@eatright.org](mailto:ACEND@eatright.org).

### Update on Maximum Time to Complete Program Requirements

On Monday, February 10th, all ACEND-accredited program directors received an email from ACEND Executive Director, Rayane AbuSabha, about programs providing their students or interns with sufficient time to complete program requirements. Please refer to the email from [ACEND@eatright.org](mailto:ACEND@eatright.org) for detailed information.

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## March News and Updates

### ACEND Policy and Procedure Manual Revised March 2025

The **ACEND Policy and Procedure Manual** has been updated and posted to the ACEND website. The recent changes to ACEND policies are designed to ensure a fair and student-centered dietetics application process that also supports the needs of programs.

These recent updates include:

- Updates to the Ethics, Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest policy related to complying with the dietetics application process traffic rules, and requirement for participation in the Dietetics Inclusive Centralized Application System (DICAS) (Policy 1.6.M).

### ACEND Manuscript: Development of the Advanced Practice Doctoral (APD) Standards

ACEND published a new manuscript in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics titled: Report on the Development of the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics' Academic "Accreditation Standards for Advanced Practice Doctoral Education in Nutrition and Dietetics".

If you would like to view the article or download a free copy, the following personalized URL provides ACEND with **50 days' free access** to the article. Anyone clicking on this link before **April 11, 2025** will be taken directly to the latest

version of the article on ScienceDirect, which you are welcome to read or download. No sign-up, registration, or fees are required.

ACEND's temporary link to share:

<https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1keSJ7t0kQ62cQ>

## April 15, 2025 ACEND Town Hall – Dietetics Application Process Updates

ACEND® will be hosting a topic-specific town hall on **Tuesday, April 15, 2025 from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Central Time)**. Dietetics Application Process Task Force (DAP-TF) Chair and former ACEND Board Chair, Cheryl Bacon, PhD, RD, LDN, FAND, will be joined by members of the ACEND DAP-TF to present updates on the dietetics application process. All constituents are encouraged and welcome to participate. The webinar will be recorded and there are no CPEUs offered for this event. To learn more and to register for the ACEND Town Hall click [here](#).

## Important Site Visit Policy Changes

The following policies go into effect this fall and are applicable to all programs that have site visits scheduled planned for July-December 2025.

### Hotel Booking:

Program Reviewers will now be responsible for booking their own lodging based on the program's suggestions. ACEND has developed a form that is included with the Site Visit Scheduled Letter sent to programs once the site visit has been scheduled. The program should provide two to three hotel recommendations that meet the requirements provided on the form. If the program would prefer to book the hotel on behalf of the review team, you can indicate this on the form. We are also asking that the program provide affordable restaurant recommendations for both breakfast and dinner. The program will be responsible for submitting this form to the members of the review team and ACEND manager assigned to the site visit as soon as possible and no later than the due date of the self-study report which is 12-weeks prior to the scheduled site visit.

## Food and Beverages During the Site Visit:

Programs must provide a modest lunch as well as small snacks and beverages while on site as a courtesy to the program reviewers. The program director must contact the review team directly for allergies and meal preferences. This information will be noted in the Site Visit Scheduled Letter as well.

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

As part of the annual review process, ACEND updates materials based on feedback to improve interpretation and compliance with the standards. 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 4-5 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.

## 2026 Annual Fee for Program Budgets

As many ACEND-accredited programs start planning future budgets, this is a reminder that the 2026 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 2026 Annual Accreditation Fee will be due in December 2025.

Program directors will receive an email from ACEND when annual fee invoices are ready in September 2025. 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.

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## April News and Updates

### Crosswalk of ACEND Standards and CDR Registration Examination for Dietetic Technicians 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 DT programs** to CDR's **Registration Examination for Dietetic Technicians Study Outline - 2022**. 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 Dietetic Technicians. This crosswalk can be found [here](#).

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

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND®) will offer a virtual Accreditation Workshop on May 20 and 21, 2025. 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 for 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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## May News and Updates

### June 17, 2025 ACEND Town Hall – Program Enrollment Trends

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ACEND® will be hosting a topic-specific town hall on **Tuesday, June 17, 2025 from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Central Time)** to highlight the innovative work program directors are doing to successfully increase student numbers within their program. In this presentation, program directors from various program types will share how they are strategically navigating enrollment challenges and finding ways to increase their enrollment. All constituents are encouraged and welcome to participate. The webinar will be recorded. No CPEUs will be offered for this event. To learn more and to register for the ACEND Town Hall click [here](#).

### Updated Website URL for DICAS Applicants

There is a NEW DICAS URL for applications. In any materials you may have to guide applicants regarding the DICAS Application, please use the URL noted here: <https://dicas.cas.myliaison.com/applicant-ux/#/login>

The previous URL will redirect applicants to the new page automatically through the end of June.

### ACEND Communication Limited to Program Directors and Designated Administrators

Please note that ACEND only communicates directly with program directors and designated administrators noted in the ACEND Portal. ACEND uses the ACEND Update to regularly distribute important updates and information to program directors regarding accreditation-related matters. Program directors are encouraged



to share any ACEND communication with relevant interested parties within their program, including faculty and preceptors, as appropriate.



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## June News and Updates

### Dietetics Application Process 2025-2026 Cycle Resources Now Available

The Dietetics Application Process (DAP) Task Force has updated resources related to the Dietetics Application Process for the 2025-2026 cycle. These documents include minor revisions to the DAP Timeline and Dates document, Traffic Rules, DAP General Guidance Document, Admission Communication Samples and Applicant Information Handout.

Please note that the key dates will remain the same for the 2025-2026 cycle. **As a reminder, starting with the 2025-2026 application cycle, ALL Supervised Practice Programs MUST participate in DICAS.** This requirement does not apply to enrolled students selected within the same institution.

### July 8, 2025 ACEND Town Hall – Putting Competency Software into Practice

ACEND® will be hosting a topic-specific town hall on **Tuesday, July 8, 2025 from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Central Time)** regarding the application of Competency software by an ACEND-accredited program. Darla O'Dwyer, PhD, RD is the Dietetic Internship (DI) Program Director from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. Over the last year, she has been implementing Competency within the DI program and will be sharing the program's experience with the

software, including data organization, examples of rubrics and checklists, and student and preceptor feedback. All ACEND program directors and faculty interested in working with Competency are encouraged and welcome to participate. The webinar will be recorded and there are no CPEUs offered for this event.

## ACEND Accredited Directory and Portal Updates

Based on feedback from our program directors and students, we are excited to share with you some recent changes made to the ACEND Accredited Program Directory and Portal.

Several changes were made to the Accredited Programs directory so that the directory continues to serve as a valuable resource for prospective students and our programs. The following changes were made for prospective students to find programs on our Accredited Program Directory to better fit their needs:

- **Admission Requirements (DI, GP):** Prospective students can now filter whether a supervised practice program requires a DPD Verification Statement. This will be helpful for our programs as many second-career students, international students, and non-DPD students inquire about how to enroll in a supervised practice/experiential learning site.
- **Education Format (All Programs):** We have created a new “Education Format” filter section for prospective students to search for programs based on the education format offered by the program, such as finding a program that offers fully online courses vs. fully in-person coursework.
- **Tuition (All Programs):** We will now provide a link to the program’s tuition information page under the program details. You will be able to provide this link to ACEND in the 2025 Annual Report.

Two changes were made to the ACEND Portal:

- **Site Visit Team Details (All Programs):** Previously, program directors could only view their site visit team details when approving the site visit team and site visit date. Now, program directors can see the site visit review team details any time after the site visit team has been approved.
- **Access to Competency Software Login and Trainings:** We have added a link to the login page for the Competency Software to the program director dashboard, as well as a link to the new Competency Software training page. For more details, see the article below.

## Competency Software Training Resources Now on the ACEND Portal

ACEND has created training materials for program directors using the ACEND-provided Competency Software for competency assessment. This month, ACEND has moved these training videos and user guides for program directors, preceptors/faculty, and students to the ACEND Portal, along with documentation for Learning Management System (LMS) integration for Canvas, Blackboard, D2L, Bright Space, and Typhon.

To access the trainings, log into the **ACEND Portal**, scroll down to the new “Competency Software” section on the dashboard and click on the link “Access Competency Software Trainings and Resources”. In addition to the training links for program directors, ACEND has compiled the student and preceptor/faculty trainings into PDFs to share with individuals using the software. These PDFs may also be integrated within your student or preceptor handbook for ease of access.

For questions, please email [education@eatright.org](mailto:education@eatright.org). Please note that after June 30th, the public links to the Competency Software trainings and user guides will no longer be available on the ACEND website.

## Welcome to ACEND, Devarshi!

Devarshi Patel, RDN, LD recently joined ACEND as an Accreditation Support Manager. Her previous work includes working in the clinical and community nutrition settings, including inpatient, outpatient, and wellness settings. She has empowered clients in different age groups to change lifestyles and improve health outcomes as well as deliver high quality, culturally competent nutrition care to underserved communities. Devarshi is excited to serve ACEND by applying her organizational, communication and customer-oriented skills to this role and hopes to support ACEND with advancing excellence in the field of nutrition and dietetics. She officially began her role with ACEND on June 2nd.

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## August 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 in early September, due mid-November.

**2025 due date: Friday, November 21, 2025**

[Annual Accreditation Fee](#)—annually, released early September, due mid-December. **2025 due date: Monday, December 8, 2025**

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

# August News and Updates

## ACEND Policy and Procedure Manual Revised July 2025

The ACEND Policy and Procedure Manual has been updated and posted to the ACEND website. The latest changes to ACEND policies approved by the ACEND Board include:

- Terminology updates to the Program Reviewer and Ethics, Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest policy (Policy 1.5 and 1.6)
- Clarifications made to Requests for Reconsideration of ACEND Board Decisions policy (Policy 2.8) and Appeals and Arbitration of Adverse Accreditation Decisions (Policy 2.9)
- Updates to Complaints About Programs and Complaints About ACEND policies to clarify the steps a complainant may take should assistance be required
- (Policy 2.10 and 2.11)
- Updates to the Program Closure Policy to note the procedure in the unlikely event a program that ACEND accredits closes without a teach-out
- plan/agreement or refuses to provide a teach-out plan/agreement (Policy 4.4).

## September 16, 2025 ACEND Town Hall

ACEND® hosts periodic virtual meetings to answer constituent questions. The next virtual town hall will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Central Time). This month's town hall will feature members of the ACEND Expanded Standards Committee (ESC) who will share the rationale that guided the development of the proposed draft 2027 Accreditation Standards.

All constituents are invited to participate. The webinar will be recorded and there are no CPEUs offered for this event. To learn more and to register for the ACEND Town Hall click [here](#).

## ACEND Fee Schedule Updated

ACEND's fee schedule for June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2029 has been published on the ACEND website. The current fee schedule remains in effect until May 31, 2026. To view ACEND fee schedules visit our website: [View Fee Schedule](#)

## ACEND on RD2BE Podcast

The RD2BE Podcast host Jenna Warnock interviewed ACEND Executive Director Dr. Rayane AbuSabha on a variety of topics of interest to students in ACEND-accredited programs. The eight-part series can be accessed on the ACEND website in the [Professional Information and Scholarships](#) section.

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## September News and Updates

### 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Annual Fee Released in Early September

During the week of September 8th, 2025, program directors received two separate emails from ACEND regarding Fall accreditation maintenance activities:

- **Tuesday, September 9th:** 2025 Annual Report release email
- **Thursday, September 11th:** 2026 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 13th**
- **Week of November 10th**
- **Week of December 1st**

**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 21st, 2025**
- Annual Fee: Due **Monday, December 8th, 2025**



If you have any questions about the Annual Report, please email [annualreport@eatright.org](mailto:annualreport@eatright.org). If you have any questions about the Annual Fee, please email [acend@eatright.org](mailto:acend@eatright.org).

## September 24, 2025 ACEND Town Hall

ACEND® hosts periodic virtual meetings to answer constituent questions. The next virtual town hall will be held on **Wednesday September 24, 2025** from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Central Time). The town hall will focus on Dietetic Internship (DI) programs under the 2027 Accreditation Standards. Moving to graduate-level competencies presents some DIs with the challenge of meeting the academic curriculum. During this webinar, ACEND will share plans for a proposed solution and will seek feedback and suggestions.

All constituents are invited to participate, especially DI and DPD program directors. The webinar will be recorded and there are no CPEUs offered for this event. To learn more and to register for the ACEND Town Hall click [here](#).

## NEW Resource Available – Program Completion Calculation Spreadsheet and Tutorials

ACEND is happy to share a new resource created to help our programs more accurately collect and calculate data for the ACEND-required program completion objective. During ACEND's review of Program Evaluation Plans (PEP), it was identified that there may be some confusion from programs on how to collect and report this data.

To support programs, ACEND created an optional spreadsheet specific to the program completion objective. This optional template should allow programs to capture their program completion data more accurately.

In this template programs can input the number of students that enter a program and complete it at 100% and at 150% of program length. The spreadsheet will allow programs to keep track of those students who withdraw or are terminated.

Instructions are located on the first tab of the spreadsheet. An additional tab was included for programs that have more than one program length to support their different program options.

At first glance, the spreadsheet may seem complicated; however, completing it will be simple. ACEND created several short video tutorials guiding you on how to complete the spreadsheet and how to incorporate the data from the spreadsheet into the Program Evaluation Plan and the annual report. We believe this will be extremely helpful to you and to your program, so please take the time to review the videos and make use of the template.

Programs can find this resource along with the video tutorials on the [ACEND portal page](#) of the ACEND website.



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## October News and Updates

### Earn Continuing Education Credits for Writing Your Self-Study Report!

~~Did you know that your hard work in writing the self-study report and completing the~~ program review process can count toward your continuing education? Under **Activity Type 191 – Expert Work**, ACEND Program Directors can earn 15 CPEUs for RDNs and 10 CPEUs for NDTRs per five-year cycle for participating in dietetics-related activities that showcase your expertise, including the site visit process. You decide how many CPEUs your self-study and site visit work is worth based on the time and effort you have invested. This is a great opportunity to get recognized for the valuable work you are already doing. Just be sure to complete and retain the Expert Work Attestation Form available on the **CDR website**.

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## November News and Updates

### ACEND Standards Revisions Effective November 1, 2025

In response to recent federal directives related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in higher education, as well as guidance from legal counsel, ACEND revised the DEI-related requirements across all its accreditation standards. The draft revised standards were released for public comment from July 28, 2025-September 29, 2025. ACEND would like to thank those who took the time to share their feedback during this period. Following a review of the public comments, the ACEND Board voted at its October 2025 meeting to approve the revisions. The updated standards are now available on the ACEND webpages below and are effective November 1, 2025.

#### ACEND 2022 Accreditation Standards

#### Future Education Model Standards

#### Doctoral Standards

### December Town Halls

ACEND® will be hosting two town halls in December regarding the release of the 2027 Accreditation Standards for public comment. ACEND will review and share the draft standards, highlight major changes from the current ACEND Accreditation Standards, and provide time for Q&A. The town halls will take place on:

- Tuesday, December 16, 2025 from 11:00 AM-12:30 PM CT
- Thursday, December 18, 2025 from 11:00 AM-12:30 PM CT

The town halls will be recorded and posted on the ACEND website within 1-2 weeks

of the session. For additional information and to register for these town halls, please click [here](#).



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## December News and Updates

### ACEND Proposed 2027 Accreditation Standards – Call for Comments

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics has released the proposed 2027 Accreditation Standards for Nutrition and Dietetics Coordinated Programs (CP), Didactic Programs (DPD), Internship Programs (DI), and Associate Programs with the Dietetic Technician Option (DT). The draft 2027 Standards are the result of a planned five-year review cycle of the 2022 Accreditation Standards to ensure compliance with the Department of Education regulation. Copies of the draft Standards documents and the surveys to provide feedback may be found at [Proposed 2027 Standards](#). Note that there are four surveys to provide feedback: one (1) for the 2027 Standards and Required Elements and three (3) related to the Competencies and Performance Indicators for CPs/DIs, DPDs, and Associate Programs with the DT option. The surveys allow you to share any comments or concerns you have about the proposed 2027 Standards.

ACEND is offering two webinars on December 16 and 18, 2025, at 11:00 AM-12:30 PM CT to describe the recommended and proposed changes and their rationale. The links to register for the webinars and the recording will also be posted on the [Town Hall webpage](#).

Please share this information with your constituents and colleagues. We value your input! The survey will remain open until February 10, 2026.

# Dietetic Application Process – Violations Submission Process

ACEND® has established a process for reviewing violations submitted against ACEND-accredited supervised practice programs (CP, GP, DI) in order to ensure compliance with the [Dietetics Applicant and Program Traffic Rules](#). These traffic rules represent the guidelines under which the nutrition and dietetics supervised practice programs and their institutions will conduct the annual admissions process.

The [violation form and process for submission of violations](#) can be viewed on the ACEND website.

Additional resources related to the Dietetics Application Process are available on the [program director application webpage](#) and the [applicant webpage](#).

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