In this recording I will address Evaluating International Students Applying to ACEND Programs
I am James Swain, Associate Professor, Director, Didactic Program, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio and he is a member of the ACEND Board and the co-chair of the standards committee.
Overview

- Review 2017 Standards for non-US Based programs
- Explain how to evaluate international students’ transcripts
- Provide good practices for communicating with international students

ACEND often gets questions about international programs as well as how to handle requests from international students who do not have a verification statement from an ACEND-accredited international program. In this brief video I will explain the routes for international students in US Nutrition and Dietetics programs.

First, I will review the 2017 Standards for non-US Based programs. Then I will explain how to evaluate transcripts of international students with some examples. Finally, I will provide some good practices for how to communicate with students who have an degree from an non-accredited international university who wishes to apply to your ACEND accredited program.
ACEND has two types of standards from non-US Based programs: IDE which stands for International Dietitian Education and FDE which stands for Foreign Dietitian Education.
Both FDE and IDE are coordinated programs with supervised practice incorporated with the didactic coursework into one program.

Again, IDE stands for International Dietitian Education and IDE students are eligible to sit for the RDN exam. Students complete a minimum of 1200 of supervised hours, some of which is in the host country, but at least 900 hours must be in the United States.

FDE, stands for Foreign Dietitian Education. In addition to dietetic coursework, FDE students must complete a minimum of 1200 hours in the host country. FDE graduates are not eligible to site for the CDR credentialing exam until they perform supervised practice in the United States. Therefore, if you receive an application from an FDE graduate, they should be treated like DPD graduates. They are eligible to get accepted into U.S.-based ACEND-accredited dietetic internship programs or Future Graduate programs. It is up to the DI or FG program director to establish policy for giving prior assessed learning for this supervised experience for FDE graduates.
There are 5 international programs accredited by ACEND; 1 IDE and 5 FDE. The FDE programs are in Mexico, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and South Korea. The program at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon has two tracks an IDE and an FDE track.

You can find a list of the Universities and programs on the ACEND website under the Accredited Programs section.
Here is a list from the ACEND website of the 5 international programs: The Universities are:

- United Arab Emirates University
- American University of Beirut
- Qatar University
- Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico
- And Kyung Hee University in South Korea.

Note that ACEND currently has two other international programs that have applied for candidacy as FDE programs. In addition, ACEND is regularly working with non-US based universities as we respond to their interest in securing accreditation from ACEND. Always be sure to check the list of international programs on the ACEND website to be sure you have the latest list of accredited programs.

Again, as a dietetic internship director or Future Graduate program director, if you get any students who studied under these FDE programs, the FDE graduates should be treated like any other DPD student.
Programs also often receive applications from international students who come from programs that are not accredited by ACEND. These could be from countries where ACEND has no accredited programs (for example China, France, or India) but also they could be from countries where ACEND has an accredited program but the student graduated from a different university or a program that is not accredited by ACEND.
Most often, international students will email program directors of DPD or CP programs requesting that their transcripts be evaluated to see if they are eligible to apply to their program and potentially get credit for their previous education. Some students have already had their international transcripts evaluated by a Foreign Degree Evaluation Agency and will provide this information to you. If the student has not had their transcript evaluated, please direct them to do so prior to moving forward. We will include a link to a list of Foreign Degree Evaluation Agencies later in this recording.

The second step after receiving the request from an international student is to check with your university policies to ensure that your program can accept an evaluated foreign transcript.

Finally, if the university allows these transcripts to be accepted and the student submits their evaluated transcript materials, the program director can then assess the translated transcript for equivalency of courses and/or degrees according to the program’s assessment of prior learning policies of evaluating coursework.

Note that the evaluation must say the degree is equivalent to a bachelor's (or
master's) degree from a US regionally accredited university. If the degree is not equivalent a student will need to complete the degree in the US
How to Evaluate Transcripts of International Students

Programs often ask us how to evaluate international students who come from programs that are not accredited by ACEND.
On the ACEND website under Information for Students, select Foreign Degree Evaluation Agencies. This will open the file you see on the screen with a list of several of these agencies. This list has been approved by CDR. You may only accept transcripts evaluated by these agencies approved by CDR.
Here is an example of a transcript evaluated by The World Education Services (WES), one of the CDR approved foreign degree evaluation agencies. You will see in the first column the list of the courses, the second column lists the credits for each course and the last column the grade the student received on that course.

Faculty should treat this translated transcript as a regular transcript, as if received from a US college or university. Then it is up to the program to determine the equivalency and which courses to accept and what the student has left to complete according to the program’s assessment of prior learning policies.
Here is another example showing the degree equivalency. As you see on the authentication report, this degree was determined to be equivalent to a Bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution.
### Students in a DPD or FB Programs

- Develop a course equivalency table as a record

**EXAMPLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WES Course</th>
<th>Cr.</th>
<th>Ceres University DPD Course</th>
<th>Cr.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry with Lab</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>CHM 105 – Gen Chem</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition with Lab</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>NUT 102 – Intro to Nutr</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>STAT 104 – Intro to Stats</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Psychology with Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>PSY 101- Intro to Psych</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For international students entering a DPD program or a Future Bachelor program, if the university does not provide a course by course equivalency, ACEND highly recommends the program director develop a course equivalency table to help keep a record and provide the students with this record as they are applying to a dietetic internship or an FG program.
There are a few good practices that ACEND feels are helpful to program directors communicating with international students.

First, it is helpful to be up front about your program’s prior learning assessment policy. International students may be expecting that some of their credits would apply to a program to help them complete the program more quickly. If your program’s policy states that you will not accept prior learning, or your university requires that the student completes a minimum number of credit hours to receive a verification statement, it is helpful to provide this information early in the communication with the student.

Second, international students may be restricted in relocated in the US, depending on their resources here. If your program is local, you would want to ensure that the student is able to relocate to your institution and meet requirements for traveling to supervised practice, if this is part of your program.

Finally, if you have a distance program, there may be restrictions around how many hours an international student may participate in distance learning to keep their visa. Contact your university’s international student department to find out what

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<th>Good Practices</th>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Set expectations about prior learning assessment and receiving credit</td>
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<td>▪ Discuss relocation</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Potential difficulties around distance education with an international visa</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
restrictions are in place and what options you may have to accommodate the student.
To learn more about the process for international students to becoming credentialed, please visit ACEND’s FAQ page for these individuals. If you would like to access the list of Foreign Degree Evaluation Agencies for yourself or to provide to a potential international applicant, please visit the second link on the slide. Finally, you are always welcome to reach out to ACEND staff if you have any questions about the process of accepting international students into your program.
Thank You

If you have questions or comments:
Email: ACEND@eatright.org

Thank you