

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.

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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](#).

Share Your Noteworthy Practices with Other Educators

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 that are requested include: 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: **April 18, 2025 and October 17, 2025**

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

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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