

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 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.



120 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995
(800) 877-1600

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