

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

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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