

January 2021

Helpful Features for Program Directors on New ACEND Portal

Now that program directors have all used the new ACEND® Portal to complete the 2020 Annual Report, ACEND® recommends that program directors explore the other features of the Portal. These can be found under "Actions" and "Download Templates" and include:

- **Access DocuWare to upload reports:** Click "Upload Reports to DocuWare" to access the DocuWare upload form. DocuWare is ACEND®'s report upload system used by programs to submit substantive changes, interim reports, self-study reports, site visit report responses and other documents.
- **Change names and contact information for institution administrators:** The "Manage Administrator Contacts" section allows program directors to update administrator names and contact information when there is a personnel change within their institution.
- **Access to open invoices due to ACEND®:** Click "Pay Open Invoices" to check for invoices from ACEND® on our payment system. The payment system will list open invoices or note that there are no open invoices for the program.
- **Download Summary Data from the Annual Report:** The "Download an Annual Report Submission Summary" allows program directors to access annual report data starting with the 2020 annual report. Please note that some fields will not automatically populate. ACEND® recommends downloading this summary prior to completing your annual report to input this data.
- **Auto-populated report templates:** On the main tile, under the heading "Download Templates", program directors can download the required Substantive Change Cover Page template and the optional Interim and Progress Report Cover Page Template. Program information, like program name and type, will auto-populate into these templates when downloaded from the portal.

[Log in to the portal](#) to try out these features. Contact your ACEND® manager if you have any questions.

February 2021

Invitation from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Board of Directors

The *Bridging the Boardroom and Classroom* program is open to all nutrition and dietetics education programs. Members of the Academy Board of Directors are available to virtually join nutrition and dietetics education program classrooms or student group meetings, such as student dietetic association meetings, to present an update on Academy activities and initiatives relevant to students. The presentation will inform students of the benefits of Academy membership and activities within the Academy and the Foundation, featuring scholarship and grant opportunities and programs for students. Please Contact Dante Turner at dturner@eatright.org if you have any questions.

March 2021

ACEND® Board Freezes the 2021-2022 Program Annual Accreditation Fee

To assist programs and their institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic, at its February 8, 2021 meeting, the ACEND® Board voted to retain the 2020-2021 fee amount and not increase the 2021-2022 annual accreditation fee for all ACEND®-accredited programs. The annual accreditation fee will remain at \$2,125.00, the same amount charged in 2020-2021. To review the annual accreditation fees, access the [Fee Schedule \(Effective June 1, 2021 - May 31, 2024\)](#).

ACEND® Board Discontinues the Future Bachelor (FB) Demonstration Program

ACEND® launched its Future Education Model (FEM) demonstration program pilot in 2017 and since has been collecting data to evaluate and monitor the success of the FEM Standards. Current data suggest the great benefit of competency-based education in preparing Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs), indicated by the number of programs that have applied to become a Future Education Model Graduate (FG) demonstration program, the pass rate on the registration exam for these programs, and the many benefits reported by faculty and students. This underlines the value of elevating the education of the RDN to the graduate level. Over the past four years, there have been few applications for the Future Bachelor's (FB) Demonstration Program (<10% of total FEM applications) with less than 2% of total FEM students enrolled, suggesting limited support for a Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered program at the bachelor's level;

therefore, on March 8, 2021, the ACEND Board voted to discontinue the FB demonstration program. Discontinuation of the FB demonstration program was not a desired outcome; however, ACEND is committed to a thorough and honest evaluation of its FEM Standards and programs. ACEND will continue to accredit Didactic Programs in Dietetics (DPDs) as the undergraduate nutrition and dietetics degree and will assist all FB programs (accredited and in process) that want to transition to the DPD Standards. Furthermore, ACEND will continue to accept applications for FG programs in future cohorts of FEM demonstration program.

April 2021

ACEND® Creates Guidance for Determining a Quality Master's degree

ACEND® has created a [guidance document](#) for programs wishing to assess the quality of their Master's degree. The document includes several different topic areas where Master's degree programs should provide elevated academic experiences compared to Bachelor's degree programs. Please note that these topics discussed in this document are guidance for programs. Please access the ACEND® Standards for ACEND® requirements.

ACEND Proposed 2022 Accreditation Standards: Call for Comments

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics has released the revised proposed *2022 Accreditation Standards for Nutrition and Dietetics Coordinated Programs , Didactic Programs, Internship Programs, Technician Programs and Foreign Dietitian Programs* for a second round of comments. This draft of the 2022 Standards is the result of a planned five-year review cycle of the 2017 Accreditation Standards followed by one round of public comments completed in Fall 2020 to ensure compliance with USDE regulation. Copies of the draft standards documents can be found on the [ACEND® website](#). Also posted on the website is a webinar that describes the recommended revised changes based on public comments and the rationale for these proposed changes.

- [Provide Feedback](#)

This survey allows you to share any feedback you have about this second round of revisions of the 2022 Standards. The survey will take 5 – 10 minutes to complete. Please share this information with your constituents and colleagues.

We value your input! **The survey will remain open until June 18, 2021.**

Spring 2021 Dietetic Internship Match Data

Each spring, graduates of didactic programs in nutrition and dietetics participate in a computerized match process run by D&D Digital for placement in a nutrition and dietetic internship program. The results of the first round of the April 2021 computer match and a comparison with the previous five years are shown below:

	April 2016	April 2017	April 2018	April 2019	April 2020	April 2021	% Change '20--'21
Students Matched	2500(48%)	2622(54%)	2712(57%)	2565(61%)	2485(65%)	2414(66%)	-71(3%)
Students Preselected	176(3%)	91(2%)	228(5%)	199(5%)	228(6%)	261(7%)	33(14%)
Students Not Matched	2524(49%)	2126(44%)	1784(38%)	1437(34%)	1135(29%)	1001(27%)	-134(12%)
Total Participants	5200(100%)	4839(100%)	4724(100%)	4201(100%)	3848(100%)	3676(100%)	-172(4%)
Positions Filled through the Match	2500(84%)	2622(82%)	2712(75%)	2565(70%)	2485(68%)	2414(65%)	-71(3%)
Preselect Positions	176(6%)	91(3%)	228(6%)	199(5%)	228(6%)	261(7%)	33(14%)
Positions Not Filled	316(10%)	468(15%)	669(19%)	905(25%)	954(26%)	1048(28%)	94(10%)
Total Positions Available	2992(100%)	3181(100%)	3609(100%)	3669(100%)	3667(100%)	3723(100%)	56(2%)
Positions Needed for a 100% Match	2208(100%)	1658(100%)	1115(100%)	532(100%)	181(100%)	214(100%)	33(18%)
Actual Match Rate (Preselect & Matches)	2676(51%)	2713(56%)	2940 (62%)	2764(66%)	2713 (71%)	2675(73%)	-38(2%)
Match Potential (Positions/Participants)	2992(58%)	3181 (66%)	3609 (76%)	3669 (87%)	3667(95%)	3462 (94%)	-205(5%)

Key Points

- There were 4% fewer participants in the Spring 2021 match compared to Spring 2020.
- Of the 3462 dietetic internship openings available to be filled through the match (doesn't include pre-select openings) only 2414 (70%) were filled through the match with 1048 (30%) positions still available after the match.
- The spring match rate has steadily improved. 73% of applicants matched to a dietetic internship in Spring 2021.

May 2021

ACEND® Policy and Procedure Manual and Substantive Change Guidelines

The ACEND's Policy and Procedure Manual and Substantive Change Guidelines have been revised and updated on [ACEND's website](#). These revisions provide additional clarification to better align with the revised U.S. Department of Education (USDE) recognition criteria which went into effect on July 1, 2020. The policy changes do not impact programs at this time. Program directors are encouraged to contact ACEND® staff with any questions.

June 2021

New International Student Section on ACEND Website

ACEND® has created a new page on our website that contains [resources for international students](#), in the Students and Advancing Education section. These resources include:

- **International Students Checklist:** A step-by-step guide for international students to become eligible to sit for the CDR credentialing exams through ACEND-accredited educational programs.
- **Requirements for Those with Foreign Degrees:** a general description of ACEND®'s education requirements for individuals with a foreign degree.
- **Obtaining Dietetic Credentials with a Foreign Degree:** General information about CDR's requirements for obtaining a credential with a foreign degree.
- **Foreign Degree Evaluation Agencies:** This is a list of non-profit agencies that can be used by international students to assess their degree for U.S. degree equivalency.

Program directors who receive inquiries from international students about applying to their program can reference this page as well. **Once an international student provides a foreign degree equivalency report, programs should follow their policies for evaluating international students' transcripts, just as they would from a student educated in the United States.** The ACEND® board has created a video training on [how evaluate international students' transcripts](#) to assist programs who may need additional guidance.

Please contact ACEND® if there are additional resources that would be helpful for guiding international students.

July 2021

ACEND® Board Freezes the 2021-2022 Program Annual Accreditation Fee

To assist programs and their institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic, at its February 8, 2021 meeting, the ACEND® Board voted to retain the 2020-2021 fee amount and not increase the 2021-2022 annual accreditation fee for all ACEND®-accredited programs. The annual accreditation fee will remain at \$2,125.00, the same amount charged in 2020-2021. To review the annual accreditation fees, access the [Fee Schedule \(Effective June 1, 2021 - May 31, 2024\)](#).

ACEND® Updates the Future Education Model (FEM) Partnership Requirements

Based on recommendations and guidance from ACEND®'s legal counsel, programs ending in a credential, such as a Master's degree must be sponsored and housed in the educational institution that grants the degree to meet United States Department of Education (USDE) requirements. FEM partnership requirements for demonstration programs have been revised to clarify the location of the primary sponsor of an FEM partnership program. The program director in a partnership may still be housed outside of the college or university but will need to be either a full-time employee of the college or university or contracted by that institution. ACEND® will work with programs interested in proceeding as an FEM partnership demonstration program to ensure they meet partnership agreement requirements. Programs considering forming a partnership following the FEM Accreditation Standards, contact your ACEND® Manager®.

- [View the list of ACEND managers and their state assignments](#)

If you are interested in a developing a partnership program under the Future Education Model Standards and have questions about this update or about partnerships in general, contact ACEND at futuremodel@eatright.org.

USDE Requirements for Disclosing Licensure Information to Students

The ACEND Accreditation Standards require programs to publish "Information about the requirements and process to become a registered dietitian nutritionist, including education, supervised practice, passage on the CDR credentialing exam, and state certification/licensure, if applicable; and how the program fits into the process." It is recommended that programs add the statement that it is ACEND's considered opinion that the program is designed to and does meet all state dietetics licensure and certification laws as some states may interpret their statutes differently. More information about state licensure and certification is available at this link: [State Licensure](#)

August 2021

ACEND® Fee Schedule Updated

The ACEND® fee schedule for June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2024 has been updated to clarify the annual fee structure for programs in partnerships or consortiums.

- [View Fee Schedule](#)
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September 2021

Bridging the Board Room and Classroom Program

The Board of Directors of The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recognizes the value of our students, as they are the future of The Academy and our profession. We invite nutrition and dietetics education programs to participate in the *Bridging the Boardroom and Classroom* program. This successful virtual outreach program "brings" a member of the Board into the classroom or student group meeting, such as student dietetic association meetings, to present an update on Academy activities and initiatives relevant to students. The presentation will inform students of the benefits of Academy membership and activities within the Academy and the Foundation, featuring scholarship and grant opportunities and programs for students.

The expected outcomes of the program are enhanced retention of Student category members to the Active member category, recruitment of new Student members, engagement of the Board directly with current students and interns, and building of personal relationships, enthusiasm, and awareness of the Academy and Student member benefits and services.

The *Bridging the Boardroom and Classroom* program is free of cost and open to all nutrition and dietetics education programs fall 2021 through spring 2022. If you are interested in having the students in your program participate, contact Dante Turner, Coordinator of Executive Office Operations, at dturner@eatright.org.

Revisions to ACEND FEM Accreditation Standards

The ACEND Board® voted to revise the FEM Accreditation® Standards to include changes required by the United States Department of Education, strengthen Diversity, Equity and

Inclusion and add clinical skills recently voted into the 2022 Accreditation Standards. The changes made to the FEM standards are the same as changes applied to the 2022 Accreditation Standards that went through two rounds of public comment.

The revised FEM Accreditation Standards will be released on November 1, 2021 for voluntary adoption with mandatory adoption on June 1, 2022 by programs that are following the demonstration program standards. ACEND® will be hosting a webinar on the revisions to the FEM Accreditation Standards on Friday, November 5, 2021 from noon -1 pm Central time.

November 2021

Revisions to ACEND's FEM Website Pages

ACEND® recently updated Future Education Model (FEM) website pages to make the information easier to access. You will now find the original and [reformatted](#) FEM Standards and Templates directly from the ACEND® homepage under "Accreditation Standards, Fees and Policies." The [FEM application and rationale document](#) webpage is also available directly from the ACEND® homepage located under the heading "Accreditation Process."

April and November 2021 Computer Match Results

Every spring and fall, graduates of didactic programs in nutrition and dietetics (DPD) participate in a computerized match process run by D&D Digital for placement in a nutrition and dietetic internship (DI) program. The combined results of the first round of the April and November 2021 computer match and a comparison with the previous years are shown below. These numbers do not include applicants who matched during the second round. For the first time, the number of dietetic internship openings exceeded the number of applicants. Even though there were an adequate number of internship positions available to applicants, 1,181 applicants did not match and 1275 internship positions were not filled during the first round of the match in 2021.

	April/ Nov 2017	April/Nov 2018	April/Nov 2019	April/Nov 2020	April/Nov 2021	% Change April-Nov 2021
Students Matched	2933 (53%)	3016 (57%)	2844 (60%)	2716 (64%)	2634 (65%)	-82 (-3.02%)
Students Preselected	93 (2%)	232 (4%)	200 (4%)	244 (6%)	267 (6%)	23 (9.43%)
Students Not Matched	2468 (45%)	2044 (39%)	1662 (35%)	1279 (30%)	1181 (29%)	-98 (-7.66%)

Total Applicants	5494(100%)	5292 (100%)	4706 (100%)	4239 (100%)	4082 (100%)	-157 (-3.7%)
Positions Filled through the Match	2933(82%)	3016 (75%)	2844 (69%)	2716 (65%)	2634 (63%)	-82 (-3.02%)
Preselect Positions	93(3%)	232 (5%)	200 (5%)	244 (6%)	267 (6%)	23 (9.43%)
Positions Not Filled	542(15%)	795 (20%)	1064 (26%)	1195 (29%)	1275 (31%)	80 (6.69%)
Total Positions Available	3568(100%)	4043 (100%)	4108 (100%)	4155 (100%)	4176 (100%)	21 (.51%)
Positions Needed for a 100% Match	1926	1249	598	84	*0 (94 more than needed)	178 (14%)
Actual Match Rate (Preselect & Matches)	3026(55%)	3248 (61%)	3044 (65%)	2960 (70%)	2901 (71%)	84 (-1.99%)
Match Potential (Positions/Applicants)	3568(65%)	4043 (76%)	4108 (87%)	4155 (98%)	4176 (102%)	21 (.51%)

****there were 94 more openings than the number that applied.**

December 2021

Board Votes to Accept FEM Demonstration Program Eligibility Applications on a Rolling Basis

Previously, ACEND® accepted applications from organizations interested in sponsoring a nutrition and dietetics program that would be accredited under the ACEND® Future Education Model (FEM) Accreditation Standards in cohorts only, with a set deadline in the month of December every year. At its October 2021 meeting, the ACEND Board voted to accept FEM eligibility applications from programs for review on a rolling basis instead of in cohorts. Programs are invited to submit Eligibility Applications for Future Education Model Demonstration Programs at any time throughout the year. This decision is intended to provide programs with added flexibility.
