Future Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

Lauren Bozich, MS, RDN, LD

Objectives

- Give an overview of ACEND
- Describe ACEND's standards development work
- Provide background on ACEND's recommended future model for education in nutrition and dietetics
- Answer questions raised about the future education model recommendations

Academy Organizational Structure

Organizational Structure

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

BOD

ACEND

CDR

CFP
Future Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

Academy

- Legally incorporated not-for-profit corporation
- Professional membership organization
- Provides products and services for members

Mission: empower members to be food and nutrition leaders

BOD & CFP

- BOD – Governs the Academy
- CFP – BOD Committee
- CFP - Publishes a future vision for nutrition and dietetics report every three years

Mission: project future practice needs for the profession of nutrition and dietetics

Acend

- Administrative autonomy
- Sets national standards for education accreditation
- Evaluates education programs against standards

Mission: Ensure the quality of nutrition and dietetics education

Cdr

- Administrative autonomy
- Sets national criteria for registration and credentialing
- Develops/administers credentialing examinations
- Monitors ongoing continuing education

Mission: Administer rigorous, valid and reliable credentialing processes

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Organizational Structure

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

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ACEND

CFP

CDR

Rationale Document

www.eatright.org/acend

Master for RDN Exam

www.cdrnet.org

Visioning Report

www.eatrightpro.org

Academia of Nutrition and Dietetics

ACEND Board

West Virginia University

ACEND

- Recognition/Accreditation
- US Department of Education

- Mission:
  - Ensure the quality of nutrition and dietetics education to advance the practice of the profession

- Responsibilities:
  - Set national standards for education accreditation
  - Evaluate education programs

Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)

www.eatright.org/acend

www.cdrnet.org

Rationale Document

www.eatrightpro.org

Visioning Report
Future Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

ACEND Board

- **Chairs:**
  - Maxine McElligott, NE (Chair)
  - Sharon Schwartz, NC (Vice)
  - Merievelyn Stuber, IN (Past)
- **Practitioner Representatives:**
  - Michelle Clinton-Hahn, CA
  - Ashley Vargas, MD
- **Public Members:**
  - Janet Bezner, TX
  - Joan Straumanis, CA
- **Student Members:**
  - Alexis Fissinger, NJ
  - Regin Gallagher, ND (elect)

- **Program Representatives:**
  - Kathleen Creedon, MA
  - Wanda Eastman, NM
  - Jamie Erskine, CO
  - Chris Hartney, IL
  - Suzanne Leson, OH
  - Doris Wang, ND
  - Jennifer Bueche, NY (elect)
  - Barbara Hopkins, (GA) (elect)
  - Janet Johnson, IA (elect)

Standards/Expanded Stds Group

- **Standards Committee:**
  - Suzanne Leson, Chair
  - Kathleen Creedon, Co-chair
  - Michelle Clinton-Hahn
  - Wanda Eastman
  - Alexis Fissinger
  - Maxine McElligott
  - Joan Straumanis

- **Expanded Workgroup:**
  - Elaine Molaison, Chair
  - Pascale Jean, Co-chair
  - Maxine McElligott, Co-chair
  - Sue Abbe
  - Jamie Erskine
  - Amelia Larkin

Future Education Model Standards

- **Visioning**
- **Empirical Evidence Collection**
  - **Background Report**
  - Environmental scan
  - Interviews, focus groups, and stakeholder surveys on expected future skills
  - Competency gap analysis
- **Rationale Document** *(www.eatright.org/acend)*
  - Report of all findings
  - Recommendations for future education
Key Findings

- Emergence of non-traditional practice settings
- Expanding scope and complexity of nutrition & dietetics practice
- Increased focus on disease prevention and integrative healthcare
- Need for inclusion of interprofessional core competencies
- Ability to read, interpret, apply, and translate for the public scientific nutrition knowledge
- Need to enhance patient-assessment skills
- Ability to understand the patient's health within their community and cultural ecosystem
- Need for strong organizational leadership, project management, communication, and practice skills

Update – Future Education Model

Recommendations:

- Associate’s Degree
  - Supports NDTRs and RDNs in community settings
  - Focuses on nutrition and health promotion
  - Assists in monitoring plans of care
  - Demonstrates food preparation skills
  - Provides support for the elderly, older adult, child and maternal health groups
  - Assists with diabetes education programs and school-based education
  - Helps build relationships in the community
  - Collects basic assessment data

- Bachelor’s Degree
  - Prepared for emerging roles in community nutrition and health, wellness, business and industry and management
  - Works under the supervision of the RDN when providing direct patient/client nutrition
  - Works independently providing general nutrition education to healthy populations, managing foodservice operations, and working with foodservice business and industry
  - Credentialed as a Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered (NDTR)

- Master’s Degree
  - Prescribes medical nutrition therapy, nutrition-related drug therapies, nutrition supplements, and nutrition integrative and functional therapies
  - Addresses public and global health issues
  - Integrates evidence-based practice, research, and critical thinking into practice
  - Provides medical nutrition therapy counseling resulting in behavior modification
  - Demonstrates leadership to guide practice
  - Credentialed as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)
Next Steps

• Develop standards and competencies for associate, bachelor, and master degree levels
  – Work to be completed by fall 2016

• Collect stakeholder feedback on recommended competencies and standards

Next Steps

• Release recommended standards for voluntary adoption by pilot programs
  – Planned release in 2017

• Collect data from programs and graduates

2017 Standards

Draft 2017 Standards
Additional Information

- ACEND Standards Committee website: [www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/Standards](http://www.eatrightacend.org/ACEND/Standards)
  - Draft 2017 Standards
  - February Standards Update newsletter detailing revision process and changes made
  - Crosswalks showing links between 2017 and 2012 Standards
  - Link to this webinar
  - Link to the stakeholder survey to provide input [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017Std2](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017Std2)

Implementation

- All programs will need to come into compliance with the 2017 Standards
- Date for compliance not yet determined
- Will be determined when 2017 Standards finalized, likely in summer, 2016
- Programs will be given at least 6 months to come into compliance

Communication

- ACEND Standards Update Newsletter (monthly)
  - Back issues posted on ACEND Website
- Virtual Town Hall (monthly)
  - 2nd Thursday at 11:30 CT
  - Directions for joining on the ACEND website
- ACEND Staff
  - 800-877-1600 x5400
  - acend@eatright.org

Summary

- ACEND
  - Set national standards for education accreditation
  - Evaluate education programs
- Future Education Model Standards
  - Will be released for comment in fall 2016
  - Pilot programs will voluntarily adopt
  - Data will be collected before final decision on future standards
- Draft 2017 Standards
  - Released for public comment in February 2016
  - All programs will need to come into compliance
Preceptors

• Great Opportunity!
• Positive role models
• April is National Preceptor Month
• Find-a-Preceptor Database: www.eatright.org/preceptors

Thank you!

Questions?