**Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)**

**About ACEND**The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) serves the public by establishing and enforcing standards for the educational preparation of nutrition and dietetics practitioners and by recognizing nutrition and dietetics education programs that meet these standards. ACEND operates independently of the governing bodies of the Academy. ACEND Board members make autonomous decisions about accreditation standards, the accreditation status of individual nutrition and dietetics education programs and policies and procedures to be followed for accreditation.

**ACEND Mission**
ACEND ensures the quality of nutrition and dietetics education to advance the practice of the profession.

**External Recognition**
ACEND is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) as the specialized accrediting body for nutrition and dietetics education programs. Recognition provides an opportunity for interaction with other accrediting bodies, review of ACEND accrediting procedures and affirmation that ACEND is a reliable authority on the quality of nutrition and dietetics education. ACEND is a member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA) and abides by its *Member Code of Good Practice* <http://www.aspa-usa.org/principles>.

**ACEND Accreditation Decisions**
ACEND continues to review applications and make accreditation decisions based on the ability of each education program to meet the ACEND Accreditation Standards. There were more than 500 accredited programs as of March 1, 2016.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Total Number of Active US-Based ACEND Programs** | **570** |
| US Dietetic Technician Programs | 42 |
| US Coordinated Programs | 56 |
| US Didactic Programs | 223 |
| US Dietetic Internships | 249 |
| **US Programs Seeking Candidate Status** | 14 |
| **International Programs Seeking Candidate Status** | 0 |
| **International Coordinated Programs** | 5 |

**ACEND Standards Update***2017 Standards:* ACEND has released the draft 2017 standards. All currently accredited programs will need to come into compliance with these standards.

*Future Education Model Standards:* ACEND is continuing ~~its~~ development of standards and competencies for new practitioners at the associate, baccalaureate and master’s degree level. These draft standards are expected to be released in Fall 2017. To learn more visit the ACEND Standards Committee webpage at www.eatrightacend.org/acend/standards.

**Additional Information**

More detailed information about ACEND and its activities is available on the ACEND Website at www.eatright.org/acend. For additional information, please contact acend@eatright.org or 800/877-1600 ext. 5400.