**Student Advisory Committee**

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics student members are represented by the Student Advisory Committee (SAC), which is elected by Student members and governed by the Academy’s Board or Directors. The committee is comprised of at least eight members, including a Chair, Vice Chair, student representative for the House of Delegates, ACEND student representative and ANDPAC student representative. SAC members gain leadership skills that they can use throughout their career and potentially in the Academy’s district, affiliate and national levels. The Academy’s student membership efforts will:

* Strengthen the Academy through increased Student membership and diversity
* Educate and foster communication among Academy Active members and leaders and Academy Student members and non-members
* Enhance leadership opportunities for Student members
* Support the Academy’s strategic initiatives that promote optimal nutrition, health and well being of the public

**SAC Outcomes**

* **Student Liaisons (SLs)**

Student members can volunteer to serve as their ACEND-accredited dietetics program’s Academy liaison. SLs provide two-way communication between the SAC and Academy Student members. They are responsible for sharing Academy Student member initiatives and messages with their student dietetics association/club, as well as providing information back to the SAC on their local activities.

* **Communications**The SAC has worked to develop a framework for monthly communication via the online Student Community, Eat Right Pro Facebook Page and their regional SLs. In support of this, the Academy has developed a calendar of monthly themes and events which include hot topics and talking points to be used when communicating. SAC communications are intended to drive online student conversations while defining the value of Academy Student membership, promoting Academy events and programs, and soliciting feedback and information from regional SLs as needed.
* ***Student Scoop***

This online newsletter is published five times each program year – September, November, January, March and May – and contains information of interest to students. Every SAC member submits an article for the newsletter to promote Academy programs, such as applying for Foundation scholarships and participating in Kids Eat Right, National Nutrition Month, etc. SLs also contribute to *Student Scoop* by sending in information and pictures about their student dietetic association/club activities.This gives them an opportunity to be recognized by the entire Student membership base.

* **Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo (FNCE)**The SAC is charged with developing and participating in the 2014 FNCE Student and New Professionals Track. This includes moderating sessions and attending special events, such as the Opening Session, Kick-off party, Foundation Gala, Student Reception and the Center for Career Opportunities. The approved 2014 track will feature educational sessions titled:
	+ Branding: Creating Your Professional Image
	+ Nontraditional Career Paths in Dietetics
	+ Set Yourself Up to Earn the Internship

The committee also developed a toolkit intended to enhance student participation at FNCE. The entire SAC was in attendance at the 2013 FNCE in Houston and participated in various special events, including the Student Reception, the Center for Career Opportunities and educational sessions as available.

* **2014/15 SAC**Using the eNominations platform, the SAC Nominating Committee scored 39 applications for the 2014/2015 SAC, interviewed 17 final candidates, and selected a proposed slate of seven committee members to be approved by the student body (ACEND selects the eighth member of the SAC). In July 2014, the incoming SAC will meet for the first time at an Academy orientation in Chicago.
* **Challenges and Opportunities**

In FY15 and beyond, there are several challenging areas that SAC will be asked to assist the Academy in addressing, as well as opportunities for growth and advancement, such as:

* + Increasing the number of SLs
	+ Improving interaction and participation in the Student Community web portal
	+ Increasing applicants for the SAC
	+ Creating consistency between the incoming and outgoing SAC members
	+ Effectives harnessing the influence and knowledge of SLs to increase Student membership and students’ awareness of the Academy