DIETETICS PROGRAMS – TRENDS AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

IMPLICATIONS FOR NUTRITION DEPARTMENTS

ANDP Meeting
Tuesday October 22, 2019
NUTRITION & DIETETICS PROGRAMS – DEPARTMENT CHAIR CONCERNS

• Department planning
  • Programmatic and curricular planning
  • Fiscal implications, enrollment, financial models
  • Faculty implications, numbers, expertise
  • Student career pathways
  • Upper administration

• ACEND & CDR are seeking input from ANDP

Invited Speaker next year @ ANDP meeting 2020:
• Rayane AbuSabha, PhD, RD | Executive Director, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics | rabusabha@eatright.org | www.eatright.org/acend
DIETETICS PROGRAMS

DPD  CP  DI

FB  FG  DI
ACEND reports declining enrollments in DPD

- DPD Enrollments: 27% decrease in past 4 years (17,719 to 12,972 students)
  - Not all programs experiencing significant changes
  - This follows a 45% increase in the previous 8 years (13,640 to 17,719 students)
- DPD graduates in 2018 (6,281) was 9% less than the number of graduates in 2016 (6,887)
- Reasons?? - national demographic trends vs change perception of career vs MS RD education requirements ??

National trends

- Overall post-secondary enrollment decreased by 1.7% (nearly 300,000 students) in spring 2019 compared to spring 2018 [National Student Clearinghouse data] *Birthrate decline*
- Trend of declining enrollment expected to continue; estimated drop of up to 15% by 2030
  - Impact will differ by region and type of school
    - States in Northeast likely to be hardest hit, with little impact in South and West
    - Selective colleges & universities may see demand rise, while lower tier local colleges & universities project 11-15% decline
- In contrast, Student applications continue to rise (Freshmen: 7% in 2016 and 4% in 2017) – due to common applications making easier to apply to multiple schools at once
**Numbers of internship & CP students** have grown over past 10 years

- DI students increased 63% in past 12 years (2,526 to 4,142 students) and had a 3.9% increase in 2018.
- CP students increased 51% in past 12 years (1,280 to 1,941 students) but had a 1.6% decline in 2018 compared to 2017.

**Increased number of supervised practice options:** ACEND® has encouraged growth

- Between 2010 and 2018, 10 new CPs and 17 new DIs have opened and 2018 enrollment (compared to 2010 enrollment) increased by 47% in DI (n=1,330) and 22% in CP (n=347) programs.
- In addition, more than 800 individuals completed an Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway (ISPP) during that time.
- In 2019, 12 newly accredited future education model graduate programs began admitting students.
DIETETIC INTERNSHIP APPLICANTS AND APPLICATIONS

- **Number of applicants participating in the computer match:**
  - The overall number of applicants participating in the computer match in April 2019 was nearly 1,000 (19%) less than the number of applicants in April 2016.
  - The number of applicants who had not matched in a previous cycle and were reapplying, also decreased from 936 in 2016 to 546 in 2019, a 42% decrease.

- **DI program applications**
  - Total number of applications increased by 17% from 2014-2016 when it peaked, (13,109 applications to 15,382 applications)
  - But has since decreased 14% in 2017 (back to 13,282) and another 9% decrease in 2018 (to 11,820)....An overall 23% decrease from peak in 2016
  - Likely due to students applying to fewer programs per application cycle (i.e. from 6-8 down to 4-5 program applications) in addition to decrease in total applicants
  - Programs report variable changes in applications in 2018: 56% reported a decrease, 40% reported an increase, 4% reported no change
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>April 2016</th>
<th>April 2017</th>
<th>April 2018</th>
<th>April 2019</th>
<th>% Change '18--'19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students Matched</td>
<td>2500(48%)</td>
<td>2622(54%)</td>
<td>2712(57%)</td>
<td>2565(61%)</td>
<td>-147(5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students Presellected</td>
<td>176(3%)</td>
<td>91(2%)</td>
<td>228(5%)</td>
<td>199(5%)</td>
<td>-29(13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students Not Matched</td>
<td>2524(49%)</td>
<td>2126(44%)</td>
<td>1784(38%)</td>
<td>1437(34%)</td>
<td>-347(19%)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Participants</strong></td>
<td>5200(100%)</td>
<td>4839(100%)</td>
<td>4724(100%)</td>
<td>4201(100%)</td>
<td>-523(11%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Time Applicants</td>
<td>4264(82%)</td>
<td>4016(83%)</td>
<td>4015(85%)</td>
<td>3655(87%)</td>
<td>+2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positions Filled through the Match</td>
<td>2500(84%)</td>
<td>2622(82%)</td>
<td>2712(75%)</td>
<td>2565(70%)</td>
<td>-147(5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preselect Positions</td>
<td>176(6%)</td>
<td>91(3%)</td>
<td>228(6%)</td>
<td>199(5%)</td>
<td>-29(13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positions Not Filled</td>
<td>316(10%)</td>
<td>468(15%)</td>
<td>669(19%)</td>
<td>905(25%)</td>
<td>+236(35%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Positions Available</strong></td>
<td>2992(100%)</td>
<td>3181(100%)</td>
<td>3609(100%)</td>
<td>3660(100%)</td>
<td>+60(2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positions Needed for a 100% Match</td>
<td>2208(100%)</td>
<td>1658(100%)</td>
<td>1115(100%)</td>
<td>532(100%)</td>
<td>-583(52%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual Match Rate (Preselect &amp; Matches)</td>
<td>2676(51%)</td>
<td>2713(56%)</td>
<td>2940(62%)</td>
<td>2764(66%)</td>
<td>+4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Match Potential (Positions/Participants)</td>
<td>2992(58%)</td>
<td>3181(66%)</td>
<td>3609(76%)</td>
<td>3669(S7%)</td>
<td>+11%</td>
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ACEND IS SEEKING INPUT ABOUT THE MISSION OF FB DEGREE PROGRAMS –
FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF NUTRITION DEPARTMENT CHAIRS, ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & ANDP

• Discussion regarding issues, concerns, key points, etc…

• What is best educational preparation for the students at the Bachelors level that will prepare them for various career options and ultimately support development of the advanced MS RDN practitioner?
  • DPD and/or FB models?
  • Additional credential?
  • Other?

• How to best convey the message to ACEND and Academy Agencies meeting at FNCE?

• This information will be taken to the ACEND Board meeting in January
FUTURE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Demonstration programs – 50 FG (Graduate) programs, 7 FB (Bachelors) programs
- FG programs – some new, but many are reorganized CP or DI
  - Entrance not requiring DPD, but in reality majority of students entering with Verification?
- FB programs – most are candidacy programs… existing DPD’s not changing
  - Uncertainty at University level about FB standards and experiential learning requirements
  - Concern on part of universities, students, parents for 4-yr degree terminating in Technician credential

- Other issues
  - Need for education ladder for students; Community College – 4 yr University – Graduate level?
  - Need for strong science basis for DI, FG, other graduate programs
**DPD VS FUTURE EDUCATION MODEL - FUTURE BACHELORS (FB)**

- Current – BS DPD graduates (& AA) can apply for NDTR credential
  - DPD graduates eligible for DI programs & entry to FG model programs
  - DPD programs continue with accreditation (moratorium on new programs)
  - Anticipate no decision on DPD programs in concept until ~2030
    - Standards presently are 2017, will have new DPD standards in 2022 & 2027
- Future – FB graduates could apply for NDTR credential as currently designed
  - Eligible for other potential credential??
  - Would also be eligible for FG model programs
  - FB is not = DPD
  - FB model is competency-based (similar to FG models of education) and emphasizes experiential education approaches

- ACEND wants to explore if the mission of the FB programs should be changed from a ‘Diet Technician credential’ to something else TBD… options open, but could be a wellness or community focus
  - Input is being sought from ANDP and university educators…..
CURRENT DESCRIPTIONS OF JOB SETTINGS FOR FB GRADUATES WITH NDTR

• FSM roles & CDM (hospitals, schools, universities, LTC)
• DTR patient care including basic clinical & food education (hospital, LTC)
• WIC (degreed nutritionist)
• Food banks & pantry
• Food & Nutrition programs (School nutrition education, child care, Head Start, SNAP, adult day care, Elderly congregate or delivery meal programs)
• Wellness programs (community, health club, youth center, corporate)
• Grocery store, retail food and culinary
**FB OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**
RESTRUCTURING, NEW STANDARDS, NEW CREDENTIAL, OTHER....

- **Context:** The focus of future societal and governmental efforts on wellness and health promotion/disease prevention yet the DTR and the RD are still heavily clinically focused.

- The 2012 Council on Future Practice CFP Visioning Report made the following recommendations about the bachelor program: (this recommendation was not acted on)
  - Support the development and implementation of a new credential and examination for bachelor's degree graduates who have met DPD requirements. Note that no recommendation was specifically made as to the new credential... for now it is continuing to be the NDTR.

- The CDR committee that examined the results of the DTR/DPD 2013 Dietetics Practice Audit recommended exploring a Bachelor's credential in wellness and health promotion/disease prevention. (This recommendation has not been considered yet).

- CDR may wish to consider establishing a new credential for the DPD graduate (perhaps in wellness or prevention). This will depend on the 2020 practice audit findings.

- Potential outcomes for current DPD programs:
  - The DPD may morph into the FB with some changes to accommodate experiential learning.
  - The DPD standards may remain more or less as is, and are separate from the FB program.
  - The DPD standards may change them with a strong focus on health promotion, disease prevention and MNT. (perhaps remove much of the foodservice to allow for more prevention and community).

- ACEND may continue to develop new sets of standards that compliment the FEM standards: an Associate (an AA or AS in nutrition science) and a Bachelor’s standards (BA or BS in nutrition science or possibly this could be the DPD).
DISCUSSION & CLOSING THOUGHTS