

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

DECLINING ENROLLMENT IN DIETETICS & MORE GENERALLY AT (SOME) UNIVERSITIES NATIONWIDE

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

INTERNSHIP AND COORDINATED PROGRAMS

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

SPRING DIETETIC INTERNSHIP MATCH DATA

	April 2016	April 2017	April 2018	April 2019	% Change '18-'19
Students Matched	2500(48%)	2622(54%)	2712(57%)	2565(61%)	-147(5%)
Students Preselected	176(3%)	91(2%)	228(5%)	199(5%)	-29(13%)
Students Not Matched	2524(49%)	2126(44%)	1784(38%)	1437(34%)	-347(19%)
Total Participants	5200(100%)	4839(100%)	4724(100%)	4201(100%)	-523(11%)
First Time Applicants	4264(82%)	4016(83%)	4015(85%)	3655(87%)	+2%
Positions Filled through the Match	2500(84%)	2622(82%)	2712(75%)	2565(70%)	-147(5%)
Preselect Positions	176(6%)	91(3%)	228(6%)	199(5%)	-29(13%)
Positions Not Filled	316(10%)	468(15%)	669(19%)	905(25%)	+236(35%)
Total Positions Available	2992(100%)	3181(100%)	3609(100%)	3669(100%)	+60(2%)
Positions Needed for a 100% Match	2208(100%)	1658(100%)	1115(100%)	532(100%)	-583(52%)
Actual Match Rate (Preselect & Matches)	2676(51%)	2713(56%)	2940 (62%)	2764(66%)	+4%
Match Potential (Positions/Participants)	2992(58%)	3181 (66%)	3609 (76%)	3669 (87%)	+11%

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