

Q: How will competencies be met/evaluated if there is an option for any masters degree?

ACEND—We can only assess the competencies that we have within our standards. Those programs that have a graduate degree will need to assure that they can meet all of the competencies, regardless of the content area. The requirement that a masters degree in any subject is needed to be eligible to take the registration exam is a requirement of CDR, not ACEND.

Q:How does the MS elevate the RDN if it isn't accredited?

ACEND—When the new graduate level standards are developed, graduate programs can choose to adopt those standards and if they are in compliance with the standards they will be accredited programs. A master's degree that is not part of an accredited program does not guarantee the same level of assessment and scrutiny as an accredited program.

Q:We are behind in our health professional in graduate degree requirement. Is there any consideration to advancing RD credential requirement to DCN (Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition).

ACEND—Since the beginning of the standards development process, the committee members have used the term “graduate level standards.” This term is used because we do not currently know the level that will be recommended by the market place and the communities of interest. Once the data are collected, the degree level will be recommended.

Q:Could you please clarify the requirements? Grad degree must be ACEND accredited? What is role of DPD? Must supervised practice be part of coursework?

ACEND—At this time, the CDR requirement for a MS degree for eligibility to take the registration exam does not state that the graduate degree must be from an accredited program, as these do not currently exist. However, ACEND is hoping that programs will choose to adopt the graduate level standards as part of the mandate for a graduate degree. Decisions about when/where supervised practice will take place will be a part of the discussion about the design of the education system.

Q:What research has been done with employers that shows a demand for graduate skills or new undergrad designator?

ACEND—At this time we do not have this evidence. It is part of our process, which starts with data collection and the writing of a rationale document.

Q:Why was the market place not asked before about the needs as opposed to after deciding to do grad level entry?

ACEND—Going to the market place has always been considered a first step in this process. That is why we are currently collecting background information on what is wanted by employers and other communities of interest regarding the skills of and need for a graduate level practitioner.

Q: It makes sense that an advanced practice credential might have a relevant graduate degree requirement. However, we are expected, and need, to be evidence-based practitioners. What evidence exists that supports the need for the RD to obtain the need for an RD to obtain a graduate degree in order to practice effectively, either now or in the future? Everyone that I have spoken

with disagrees that the RD credential requires a graduate level education – and I have discussed this with hundreds of RDs and RD educators and preceptors.

ACEND—Going to the market place has always been considered a first step in this process. That is why we are currently collecting background information on what is wanted by employers and other communities of interest regarding the skills of and need for a graduate level practitioner.

Q:What evidence do we have that a graduate degree is needed to protect the public?

ACEND—At this time we do not have this evidence. It is part of our process, which starts with data collection and the writing of a rationale documents.