

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Dietetic Internship

Future Education Model Frequently Asked Questions

1. The Iowa State University Dietetic Internship (ISU DI) is transitioning to the Future Education Model program. What does this mean?

The Future Education Model (FEM) is a pilot program under the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND; the accrediting body for dietetics programs) that is evaluating new graduate competencies and training for individuals interested in becoming Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). FEM graduate program provides the required coursework and supervised experiential learning in one program, to meet all the eligibility requirements to become a RDN. The ISU DI applied to ACEND to reorganize as a graduate degree program. Phase I of the application was approved, allowing the program to move forward with the reorganization to combine the Master of Professional Practice in Dietetics (MPP; online graduate program) with the distance DI. Upon final approval from ACEND, the new integrated MPP program will begin in August 2021. The new program will be approximately one and a half years in length (consecutive fall, spring, summer, and fall terms).

Graduate training for future RDNs is aligned with the Commission on Dietetic Registration's requirements for first time applicants to take the RDN credentialing exam to also have a graduate degree (requirement starting in January 2024). Additional details on the ACEND Future Education Model can be found at: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accredited-programs/future-education-model-graduate-program>.

2. What is the timeline for this reorganization?

The last graduate certificate DI class will start in January 2021 and interns will graduate by June 2021. The last group of MPP students will graduate at the end of summer 2021.

Applications for the new integrated MPP program will be accepted starting in Spring 2021, and the new program will begin in Fall 2021.

3. Does the ISU DI's transition to a FEM program affect other accredited ISU dietetics program?

The only ISU programs that are being impacted by this reorganization are the DI and the current MPP program. There will be no changes to the undergraduate didactic program in dietetics (DPD) or the concurrent BS/MS Diet and Exercise program.

4. Does the ISU DI's transition to a FEM program affect the ISU DPD students?

No. The undergraduate DPD students, who have received their verification statements, will continue to have the option to apply to the new integrated MPP program.

5. What does this mean for non-ISU students?

Non-ISU students with at least an undergraduate degree and a DPD verification statement will be eligible to apply to the new integrated MPP program, which will remain a distance program for training future RDNs. If you live anywhere in the US, you will continue to have the option of staying in your geographic area and finding preceptors to complete your supervised experiential learning. The coursework for the MPP will be completed online.

6. Will international students be able to enroll in the new MPP program?

International students who will require an I-20 for F-1 status are not eligible to apply to the MPP. International applicants residing in the US in other statuses (such as J-2, H-1B, H-4 or green card holders) that allow them to pursue higher education, are eligible to apply. For additional information, please contact the International Students and Scholars office at <https://isso.dso.iastate.edu/>

7. Will I be eligible for financial aid?

Qualified students may apply for financial aid. Please contact the Office of Student Financial aid (<https://www.financialaid.iastate.edu/>) to discuss eligibility criteria and for other questions related to financial aid.

8. If I already have a master's degree, would I be able to complete the supervised practice part only, in order to be eligible for the RDN exam?

If you have received a DPD verification statement, you may qualify for our Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway Program. Please contact the program for additional information.

9. If I have already completed a dietetic internship, can I still get a Master's degree and not complete the supervised practice portion?

In order to receive a Master's degree you will need to complete the entire program, since the supervised practice is an integral part of the program.