

IMPLEMENTATION OF ACCREDITATION STANDARDS IN A DIETETIC INTERNSHIP

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Dietetic Internship Program

- Program director conducts all program activities w/ support from Nutrition Science and Dietetics program faculty/staff
- Maximum enrollment: 12 interns/year
- Program completion rate: 100%
- Accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education of Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)

Introduction

- ACEND-accredited programs educate and train future registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs)
- Accredited programs are required to maintain compliance of comprehensive standards
- ACEND releases updated standards every 5 years
- 2022 Standards include 9 new competencies
- This is program director's first implementation of new standards
- NDEP is a practice group of dietetics educators, who have an active list serv with resources and advice

Student Learning Outcomes

- 1 • 100% of interns will score $\geq 80\%$ literature review paper
- 2 • 100% of interns will score $\geq 80\%$ on diabetes self-monitoring video submission
- 3 • 100% of interns will score $\geq 80\%$ on NG tube simulation skills validation
- 4 • 100% of interns will score $\geq 80\%$ on swallow screening competency assessment

Assessment Methods

Development of 3 new competency assessment rubrics by program director
Revised literature review assignment

Competency Success

100% of interns have successfully met target measure to demonstrate minimum competency

Reflection

Developing lesson plans and creating assessment tools is time-consuming
Outside resources and collaboration are essential to success
Do not expect everything to be perfect. Tools and lessons will need revision
Elicit feedback from students, such as course feedback evaluations
Be patient and gracious with yourself
Keep the bar high. Interns will rise to the expectation

New competency requirements included the following:

- Recommend nutrition-related pharmacotherapy plans (Ex: vitamins or medications that treat medical conditions)
- Provide instruction to clients for self-monitoring of blood glucose, taking into consideration diabetes medications and medical nutrition therapy plan
- Explain the steps and observe the placement of nasogastric feeding tubes; if possible, assist in the process of placing a feeding tube
- Conduct a swallow screen and refer to the appropriate health care professional for full swallow evaluation when needed.

Implementation Challenges and Resources

Competency	Resources	Barriers/Challenges
Recommend nutrition-related pharmacotherapy plans	Clinical preceptors (credentialed professionals providing oversight during internship rotations) Nutrition and Dietetics Educators and Preceptors professional group (NDEP)	No existing lesson plan No existing tool for evaluating competency
Provide instruction to clients for self-monitoring of blood glucose...	Dietitians in community who practice in outpatient or diabetes management clinics Center for Disease Control Glucometer manufacturers	No existing lesson plan No existing tool for evaluating competency No glucometers available Director lacked proper training
Explain the steps and observe the placement of nasogastric feeding tubes; if possible, assist in the process of placing a feeding tube	LeMoyne PA school willing to provide training Proposal to purchase simulator IEA Team	No existing lesson plan No existing tool for evaluating competency No simulator available Director lacked proper training
Conduct a swallow screen and refer to the appropriate health care professional....	Speech Language Pathology colleagues Presentation at national nutrition conference	No existing lesson plan No existing tool for evaluating competency

Action Plans/Next Steps

- 1) Collect intern feedback in exit interview and anonymous survey
- 2) Revise lesson plans and evaluation tools

Motivation... Why bother?

- Maintain accreditation compliance
- To advance the profession of dietetics through internship experience