

# Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition Program Handbook



March 2020



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Section 1  
General Information



## Introduction

The Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition (DCN) Program at Fairfield University Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies provides a unique program in dietetic education. The program is a three-year full-time, or four year part time program which integrates graduate courses along with supervised experiential learning.

This manual is designed to provide an overview of the program as well as the policies and procedures specific to the DCN program. This handbook is in addition to the Fairfield University student handbook and policies and procedures.

[https://www.fairfield.edu/media/studenthandbook/16120\\_student-handbook-2019-2020\\_09162019.pdf](https://www.fairfield.edu/media/studenthandbook/16120_student-handbook-2019-2020_09162019.pdf)

This [Future Education Model](#) Graduate-level program is accredited by the [Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics \(ACEND\)](#). Upon completion of the program, graduates are eligible to sit for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Examination.

## Accreditation

The Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics,

120 Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190

Chicago, IL 60606-6995 (315) 899-0040 ext. 5400

[Http://www.eatright.org/ACEND](http://www.eatright.org/ACEND)

**Accreditation Council  
for Education in  
Nutrition and Dietetics**

 the accrediting agency for the  
Academy of Nutrition  
and Dietetics

## Mission Statement

<p><i>Fairfield University Mission Statement (Key Elements)</i></p>	<p><i>Egan School Mission Statement</i></p>	<p><i>DCN Mission Statement</i></p>
<p>Fairfield recognizes that learning is a life-long process and sees the education, which it provides, as the foundation upon which its students may continue to build within their chosen areas of scholarly study or professional development. As a community of scholars, Fairfield gladly joins in the broader task of expanding human knowledge and deepening human understanding, and to this end, it encourages and supports the scholarly research and artistic production of its faculty and students. However, most of all, Fairfield serves the wider community by educating its students to be socially aware and morally responsible persons.</p>	<p>Consistent with the mission of Fairfield University to develop men and women for others, the Marion Peckham Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies inspires students to become leaders across social and healthcare environments. These students are actively engaged with faculty in practice, policy, scholarship and service. As a modern Jesuit institution, a central focus of our care is to improve health outcomes with particular attention to the needs of underserved or vulnerable populations.</p>	<p>The mission of the Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition (DCN) degree program is to prepare graduates to become Registered Dietitian Nutritionists who are leaders in the profession. Graduates expand the knowledge of clinical nutrition to improve health outcomes with particular attention to the needs of underserved or vulnerable populations.</p>

## **Program Goals and Objectives**

### ***Goal #1***

Graduates are competent registered dietitian nutritionists, who are prepared for leadership roles in healthcare settings.

- 1.1 At least 80% of program graduates complete program requirements within 4.5 years for full time and 6 years for part time(150% of program length).
- 1.2 Of graduates who seek employment, 90% are employed in nutrition and dietetics or related fields within 12 months of graduation.
- 1.3 100% of program graduates take the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists within 12 months of program completion.
- 1.4 The program's one-year pass rate (graduates who pass the registration exam within one year of first attempt) on the CDR credentialing exam for dietitian nutritionists is at least 80%.
- 1.5 80% of returned employer surveys rank graduates working in the field of dietetics as "adequately prepared".
- 1.6 50% of graduates are employed in and/or hold a volunteer position in a leadership position one year after graduation.

### ***Goal #2***

Graduates improve the health outcomes of the community especially in underserved populations.

- 2.1: 50% of graduates agree they are serving an underserved, or vulnerable population.
- 2.2: 50% of graduates are working in a medically underserved area per HRSA designation.
- 2.3: 80% of graduates agree that their position contributes positively to the health outcomes of the community for which they serve.
- 2.4: At a five year survey, 50% of graduates report they have at least one scholarly publication, or have made two scholarly presentations at either a regional or national level.



## **Section 2**

# **Policies and Procedures**



## **Admission Requirements**

Applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree from a four–year college or university, or its equivalent with a 3.0 GPA or better in any subject. Students who have earned a degree in nutrition/dietetics and received a verification statement are eligible to apply, as are students who have earned a degree in any other subject as long as they have completed the required pre-requisite courses prior to admission.

### **Pre-requisite Courses**

- 1 semester of general chemistry and lab
- 1 semester of organic chemistry and lab
- 1 semester of biochemistry
  - Or a combined course containing all required chemistry content
- 1 semester of microbiology
- 2 semesters of anatomy and physiology

Although an Introduction to Nutrition course is not required, it is strongly recommended.

Fairfield University offers BI 0073 Contemporary Nutrition

Students who have not completed pre-requisite courses prior to submitting their application will still be considered for the program as long as no more than 2 pre-requisite courses are outstanding prior to the application deadline, and the student can demonstrate proof of enrollment in the remaining pre-requisite courses in their application. Upon completion of the course the student must have earned a C or better and provided proof of completions in order to start the program.

## **Monitoring Student Performance**

Students will be evaluated throughout each of the courses through both formative and summative assessments. The didactic portion of courses will outline the assessment processes in the course syllabi. During the supervised experiential learning, preceptors will evaluate student performance in conjunction with course faculty, periodically throughout the practicum and a final summative assessment will occur at the end of each practicum. Evaluations will include ACEND competencies, performance indicators as well as professional, ethical behavior and integrity.

## **Student Retention**

A student whose overall grade point average falls below 3.0 in any semester is placed on probation for the following semester. If the overall grade point average is again below 3.0 at the end of that semester, the student may be dismissed. Any student who receives two course grades below 2.67 or B- will be dismissed from the program. A student who earns a B- for any individual course will be placed on academic probation. If a student earns two grades of B- in one semester or a second grade of B- in any semester thereafter, they will be dismissed from the program. A student who earns a grade lower than a B- for any course will be dismissed from the program.

Students with minimum chance of success in the program will be counseled into other graduate programs in the Eagan School of Nursing and Health Studies or across the University.

## **Supervised Experiential Learning Documentation**

Tracking of supervised experiential learning (SEL) hours will be tracked using the Meditrax software system.

## **Insurance Requirements**

All Fairfield University graduate students are required to have, will be enrolled in, and billed for, the University-sponsored health insurance policy, unless the student is already enrolled in a comparable health insurance plan. If the student already has health insurance, a waiver must be completed in order for a credit to appear on the student's bill.

## **Malpractice Insurance**

All Egan students are covered by the Fairfield University general liability policy for activities performed in their experiential supervised practice sites. This requirement serves to protect the University, the Egan School, the clinical faculty member, and the individual student. The University shall maintain for its Students and assigned Clinical Instructors a policy of professional and general liability insurance, with a single limit of not less than two million dollars (\$2,000,000) per occurrence and three million dollars (\$3,000,000) in the aggregate throughout his/her participation in the clinical education program. The University will provide the Facility upon request a certificate of insurance confirming the foregoing professional and general liability coverage prior to participation in the clinical education program and shall promptly notify the Facility of any and all changes in insurance coverage.

## **Liability for safety in travel to and from assigned areas**

Students are responsible for their own car insurance and transportation to and from the experiential supervised practice sites. Fairfield University is not liable for injury to and from assigned experiential supervised practice sites.

## **Injury or illness while in a facility for supervised experiential learning**

Students will obtain prompt medical care to treat any accident, injury or illness that occurs during the supervised experiential learning experience. Students are responsible for all costs incurred for emergency care and follow-up care. Students are required to notify the program director about the accident, incident, injury or illness as soon as possible.

## **Drug Testing and Criminal Background Checks for Supervised Experiential Learning Sites**

It is the policy of the Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies that all admitted students must satisfactorily complete a criminal background check and drug screens prior to participating in the supervised experiential learning component of the curriculum. These will be completed at the student's expense at a location designated by the University, and may be required more than once depending on the clinical agency requirements. Fairfield University and the Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies have no obligation to refund tuition or otherwise accommodate students in the event that a criminal background check or drug screening renders the student ineligible to complete required courses or clinical placement(s).

## **Experiential Learning Sites and job duties**

Experiential learning sites are for educational purposes only and are not intended to replace facility employees, except as planned to acquire experience and demonstrate competence through learning experiences. All supervised practice experiences should be planned for competency attainment. Replacement of employees is defined as students being placed on the regular work schedule in lieu of paid employees.

## Process for Filing or Handling Complaints about the Program

1. The student attempts to resolve any academic grievance with the faculty member. If, following this initial attempt at resolution, the student remains convinced that a grievance exists, she or he advances to step two.
2. The student consults with the program director, bringing written documentation of the process to this point. If the student continues to assert that a grievance exists after attempted reconciliation, she or he advances to step three.
3. The student presents the grievance to the dean of the school in which the course was offered, bringing to this meeting documentation of steps one and two. After conversation with the instructor of record and the department chair/program director, the dean will inform the student whether or not the grade shall be changed by the instructor of record. If the student is dissatisfied with the outcome, the dean will inform the student of the right to initiate formal review procedures.

### *Formal Procedure*

1. If the student still believes that the grievance remains unresolved following the informal procedures above, she or he initiates the formal review procedure by making a written request for a formal hearing through the dean to the Provost. Such a request should define the grievance and be accompanied by documentation of completion of the informal process. It should also be accompanied by the dean's opinion of the grievance.
2. The Provost determines whether the grievance merits further attention. If not, the student is so informed. If, however, the grievance does merit further attention, the Provost determines whether it is a procedural appeal, an academic dishonesty appeal, or a quality of work appeal.  
For procedural appeals and academic dishonesty appeals, the Provost will convene a Grievance Committee according to the process described below, providing the committee with the written documentation resulting from the previous steps in the appeal process.  
For quality of work appeals, the Provost will request that the chair of the department through which the course is taught, or if the chair is the subject of the grievance a senior member of the department, assemble an ad hoc committee of three department/program members to review the appeal, providing the committee with the written documentation resulting from the previous steps in the appeal process.
3. For procedural appeals and academic dishonesty appeals, the Grievance Committee takes whatever steps are deemed appropriate to render a recommendation for resolving the grievance. The committee adheres to due process procedures analogous to those in the Faculty Handbook.  
For quality of work appeals, the department committee shall make itself available to meet and discuss the appeal with the student, and shall discuss the appeal with the instructor of record for the course. If the final consensus of the department committee is that the academic evaluation that led to the course grade was neither prejudiced nor capricious, the appeals process ends here.
4. For procedural appeals and academic dishonesty appeals, the recommendation from the Grievance Committee is forwarded to the Provost in written form, accompanied, if necessary, by any supporting data that formed the basis of the recommendation. Should the Grievance Committee conclude that a change of grade is warranted, the two faculty members on the Grievance Committee will recommend an appropriate grade. In case of disagreement between the two faculty members, the dean chairing the Grievance Committee will decide which of the two recommended grades to accept. The recommended grade change shall be included in the report.

For quality of work appeals, if the final consensus of the department committee is that the academic evaluation that led to the course grade was prejudiced or capricious, the department committee will recommend an alternative course grade. If the instructor of record agrees to change the grade to that recommended by the committee, the appeals process ends here. If the instructor of record declines to change the grade, the department committee shall prepare a written report, including the department committee's recommended grade. The report will be forwarded to the Provost and the instructor of record, who may send the Provost a written response to the report.

5. For procedural appeals and academic dishonesty appeals, the Provost renders a final and binding judgment, notifying all involved parties. If such an appeal involves a dispute over a course grade given by a faculty member, the Provost is the only university official empowered to change that grade, and then only to the grade recommended by the Grievance Committee.

For quality of work appeals, if the Provost agrees with the department committee that the academic evaluation that led to the course grade was prejudiced or capricious, she or he is authorized to change the course grade to the grade recommended in the department committee's report.

### ***Structure of the Grievance Committee***

The structure of the Grievance Committee will be as follows:

- Two faculty members to be selected from the Student Academic Grievance Board. The faculty member against whom the grievance has been directed will propose four names from that panel, the student will strike two of those names, and the two remaining faculty members will serve.
- Two students to be selected from a standing pool of eight students elected by the student government. The student filing the grievance will propose four names from that panel, the faculty member will strike two of those names, and the two remaining students will serve.

In the event that any faculty member or student selected through the foregoing process is unable to meet, another elected member of the panel will serve as an alternate.

The Grievance Committee will be chaired by a dean (other than the dean of the school in which the course was offered) to be selected by the Provost. The dean so selected will have no vote except in the event of a tie, and will be responsible for overseeing the selection of the Grievance Committee, convening and conducting the committee meetings, and preparing the committee's report(s) and other appropriate documentation.

### ***Due Process Procedure***

1. Both the student and the faculty member have the right to be present and to be accompanied by a personal advisor or counsel throughout the hearing.
2. Both the student and the faculty member have the right to present and to examine and cross-examine witnesses.
3. The administration makes available to the student and the faculty member such authority as it may possess to require the presence of witnesses.
4. The grievance committee promptly and forthrightly adjudicates the issues.
5. The full text of the findings and conclusions of the grievance committee are made available in identical form and at the same time to the student and the faculty member. The cost is met by the

6. In the absence of a defect in procedure, recommendations shall be made to the Provost by the grievance committee as to possible action in the case.
7. At anytime should the basis for an informal hearing appear, the procedure may become informal in nature.

### ***Grievance Process Complaints***

Fairfield University endeavors to resolve all grievances, complaints and disputes in a timely and fair manner. In the event a student believes a complaint remains unresolved after the conclusion of Fairfield University's grievance and/or dispute resolution processes (including all appeals), the student may request that the complaint be reviewed by the State of Connecticut Office of Higher Education. The Office of Higher Education is responsible for quality review of independent colleges and will investigate complaints concerning matters within its statutory authority. For more information or to file a complaint, contact:

[Office of Higher Education](#)

61 Woodland Street  
Hartford, CT 06105-2326  
Phone: 800-842-0229

Fairfield University is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE).  
Students may contact:

[NECHE](#)

3 Burlington Woods Drive  
Suite 100  
Burlington, MA 01803  
Phone: 855-886-3272

All files regarding complaints and resolutions will be kept on file for seven years.

### **Submission of written complaints to ACEND**

If a student believes the program is not within compliance to the ACEND accreditation standards

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/-/media/eatrightpro-files/acend/futureeducationmodel/fem-graduatefinal.pdf?la=en&hash=2FB752C3D44E0D91E060EBCCEA5FE5851B5F2D42>

the student will submit in writing the concern to the program director. The student should document in detail the concern and indicate which standard is not within compliance along with the rationale. The program director will have five work days to respond in writing to the concern. If the response is not acceptable to the student the student and program director will meet in person to discuss. If this is not resolved the program director will set up a meeting with the student and the dean within 5 business days. If after consultation with the dean, this is still not resolved, the student will be instructed to contact the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics,

120 Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190

Chicago, IL 60606-6995

(315) 899-0040 ext. 5400

[Http://www.eatright.org/ACEND](http://www.eatright.org/ACEND)

## **Credit for Prior Learning**

Students entering the program will come with various experiences and educational backgrounds. Credits granted for prior learning for didactic courses, must be at the graduate level and will be evaluated on an individual basis. Assessment of prior learning can include but is not limited to: review of previous course syllabi and assignments, grades made in any previous graduate courses, and quality of assignments through submission of a portfolio. Students who have the RDN credential may be granted credit for the practicum courses.

## **Assessment of Student Learning**

Students will be assessed for ACEND competencies and performance indicators throughout the program using various learning assessment tools. This will include, but not limited to, case studies, group projects, role playing, quizzes, exams, and final papers. Both formative and summative assessments will be measured. In the practicum courses, the students will be provided feedback from the preceptors on an ongoing basis through evaluation and case based scenarios. A final evaluation of competencies and performance indicators will be assessed at the end of each supervised experiential learning rotation. The program director will review and analyze assessment data annually and provide feedback to the faculty and advisory board for input.

## **Program Retention and Remediation**

Student performance is continuously monitored by faculty and preceptors throughout the program. If issues arise with a student's performance, every effort will be made to resolve the problem and promote student success. The Office of Academic Support and Retention provides individual and group services aimed at facilitating student transition and increasing student engagement and academic success. The Office offers tutorial programs and learning support resources, and coordinates with faculty advisors, deans' offices, and campus resources to assist students in achieving academic success. The nutrition faculty will also provide individualized assistance, if requested by the student during office hours and other times by appointment.

## **Disciplinary/Termination Procedures**

Fairfield University holds high expectations of how we live and interact with one another, as the successes and failures of each member of our community shape our institution. Respect for self and respect for others, both within and outside the University community, lie at the heart of our standards of conduct. Students are held accountable for their behavior both on and off campus as a necessary part of our community life. The Student Code of Conduct process seeks first and foremost to serve its students in an educative role. The process asks students to reflect upon their behaviors and how it impacts the larger university community. Should a student violate the expected code of conduct, the student conduct process, as documented in the student handbook, will be followed. (Page 142 Student Handbook)

[https://www.fairfield.edu/media/studenthandbook/16120\\_student-handbook-2019-2020\\_09162019.pdf](https://www.fairfield.edu/media/studenthandbook/16120_student-handbook-2019-2020_09162019.pdf)

## **Graduation Completion Requirements**

The following requirements must be met before the student is eligible to receive his/her degree from Fairfield University

- Verification of successful completion of all practicum and academic course requirements
- Demonstrated competence in all ACEND required competencies and performance indicators
- Resolution of all financial responsibilities
- Return of all loaned items including library books, ID badge, etc.

Students must complete all course requirements in 150% of program length. This equates to 4.5 years for the full time track and 6 years for the part time track.

A verification statement will be provided to each student via mail, once all graduation requirements have been met. This verification statement will allow the student to sit for the CDR credentialing Examination for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists.

### **Withdrawal and Refund of Tuition and Fees**

Candidates who wish to withdraw from a course must do so in writing or in person at the Registrar's Office on or before the published last day to withdraw (see academic calendar). Written withdrawals are effective as of the date received or postmarked. In-person withdrawals are made in the Registrar's Office by completing and submitting a Change of Registration form. Those who need to withdraw from a course after the posted last day to withdraw must submit a written statement justifying their need to withdraw to the dean for approval to withdraw without academic penalty. Failure to attend class or merely giving notice to an instructor does not constitute an official withdrawal and may result in a penalty grade being recorded for the course. In general, course withdrawals are not approved after the posted last day to withdraw.

When there are extenuating circumstances (e.g., medical condition requiring withdrawal) exceptions may be approved by the dean. Withdrawal after the posted deadline will not be permitted simply to prevent receipt of a grade that might not meet the student's satisfaction.

All requests for tuition refunds must be submitted to the appropriate dean's office immediately after withdrawal from class. Fees are not refundable. The request must be in writing and all refunds will be made based on the date notice is received or, if mailed, on the postmarked date according to the following schedule. Refunds of tuition charged on a MasterCard, Visa, or American Express card must be applied as a credit to your charge card account.

*Note:* Online course refunds are calculated such that each calendar day, beginning with the first day of class, is considered a scheduled class meeting.

### **Program schedules**

The DCN program will follow the graduate program academic calendar located on the Fairfield University website. <https://wiki.fairfield.edu/display/OUR/Calendars> Students who are in the supervised experiential learning practicums will follow the vacation and holiday schedule of the University.

### **Protection of Privacy / Access to Files**

DCN program files are kept in a locked file in the office of the Program Director. All information in the file is private and confidential. Students have the right to review their personal program file upon request.

### **Student Support Services**

All students must meet with their academic advisor every semester to review academic progress, goals and course selection. Fairfield University has a vested interest in students' success and provides all the resources students need to excel academically. All faculty hold office hours through which students can meet with their professors.

## Leave of Absence

A student may request and be considered for a leave of absence when extraordinary circumstances prevent that student from continuing with classes. request for a leave of absence must be made in writing or in person to the Office of the Dean of the Egan School. This office will review the request along with the opinion of the Health Center or Counseling and Psychological Services, and the Dean shall make a decision based on such endorsement or opinion. Where necessary in order to fully consider a request, the student may be required to provide the Office of the Dean with a release of information. The institutional refund policy applies. Additional information is located in the University policies in the Graduate Academic Catalog. <http://catalog.fairfield.edu/graduate/>

## Academic Support Resources

Students have access to the following University resources:

Academic Support and Retention  
Counseling and Psychological Services  
Academic Skills Development and Tutoring  
Early Learning Center  
Student Health Services

The Writing Center  
Information Technology Services  
The DiMenna-Nyselius Library  
The Career Center

## Affiliation Agreements

Supervised experiential learning sites are chosen based on the following criteria:

- The preceptors possess the expertise in the area for which they are teaching
- The preceptors have a desire and willingness to work with the students
- The preceptors are willing to evaluate all students on ACEND competencies/Performance Indicators
- The site is in a safe location and conducive to a positive learning experience

All supervised practicum sites will have a signed Affiliation Agreement with Fairfield University. Fairfield University uses a standard affiliation agreement for all practicum sites within the University. The form is located on the University Dropbox folder. All signed agreements will be managed by the clinical placement office. Affiliation agreements will remain active until either party wishes to terminate the agreement, which requires a 30 day notice.

Experiential learning sites are evaluated by the students at the end of each clinical rotation. Site evaluations are reviewed and compiled by the faculty teaching the course and shared with the program director. The program director will review these each semester and discuss findings with faculty. If deemed necessary, changes are instituted the following semester to improve program effectiveness. These changes will be discussed at the annual Advisory Board meeting.

## Professional Membership

All students are required to become student members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics at the expense of the student and choose Connecticut as the state affiliation.

## Attire and Appearance

Students are to maintain a professional image at all times by being appropriately dressed and well-groomed, and by following the dress code of each practicum facility. Students must determine the appropriate dress code per rotations from the preceptor. While serving in clinical hospital rotations interns will wear business attire, closed toed shoes and a white lab coat. No jeans, revealing clothing, form-fitting leggings, short skirts, bare midriffs, or athletic wear is allowed.

Male students are to wear a necktie during the hospital clinical rotation. Slip-resistant shoes (i.e. Wal-Mart brand or Shoes for Crews) are required for all foodservice rotations. Students who are not appropriately dressed may be denied permission to remain on duty and must make up missed time.

Hairstyles should be neat and require minimal management while on duty. During foodservice rotations, slip resistant shoes are required, hairnets will be worn and nail polish is strictly forbidden. A small amount of jewelry and makeup may be worn. Fragrances (perfume, etc.) should be minimized for the comfort of patients. Gum chewing is not allowed while on duty. Preceptors have the right to determine if the attire worn is consistent with the image desired.

## Professional Conduct

### Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics

Students are held accountable for adhering to the code of ethics for the Dietetics Profession of Dietetics

<http://www.eatright.org/codeofethics>



## Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics

Effective Date: June 1, 2018



### Preamble:

When providing services the nutrition and dietetics practitioner adheres to the core values of customer focus, integrity, innovation, social responsibility, and diversity. Science-based decisions, derived from the best available research and evidence, are the underpinnings of ethical conduct and practice.

This Code applies to nutrition and dietetics practitioners who act in a wide variety of capacities, provides general principles and specific ethical standards for situations frequently encountered in daily practice. The primary goal is the protection of the individuals, groups, organizations, communities, or populations with whom the practitioner works and interacts.

The nutrition and dietetics practitioner supports and promotes high standards of professional practice, accepting the obligation to protect clients, the public and the profession; upholds the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (Academy) and its credentialing agency the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession; and shall report perceived violations of the Code through established processes.

The Academy/CDR Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession establishes the principles and ethical standards that underlie the nutrition and dietetics practitioner's roles and conduct. All individuals to whom the Code applies are referred to as "nutrition and dietetics practitioners". By accepting membership in the Academy and/or accepting and maintaining CDR credentials, all nutrition and dietetics practitioners agree to abide by the Code.

### Principles and Standards:

#### 1. Competence and professional development in practice (Non-maleficence)

Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:

- a. Practice using an evidence-based approach within areas of competence, continuously develop and enhance expertise, and recognize limitations.
- b. Demonstrate in depth scientific knowledge of food, human nutrition and behavior.
- c. Assess the validity and applicability of scientific evidence without personal bias.
- d. Interpret, apply, participate in and/or generate research to enhance practice, innovation, and discovery.
- e. Make evidence-based practice decisions, taking into account the unique values and circumstances of the patient/client and community, in combination with the practitioner's expertise and judgment.
- f. Recognize and exercise professional judgment within the limits of individual qualifications and collaborate with others, seek counsel, and make referrals as appropriate.
- g. Act in a caring and respectful manner, mindful of individual differences, cultural, and ethnic diversity.
- h. Practice within the limits of their scope and collaborate with the inter-professional team.

## **2. Integrity in personal and organizational behaviors and practices (Autonomy)**

Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:

- a. Disclose any conflicts of interest, including any financial interests in products or services that are recommended. Refrain from accepting gifts or services which potentially influence or which may give the appearance of influencing professional judgment.
- b. Comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including obtaining/maintaining a state license or certification if engaged in practice governed by nutrition and dietetics statutes.
- c. Maintain and appropriately use credentials.
- d. Respect intellectual property rights, including citation and recognition of the ideas and work of others, regardless of the medium (e.g. written, oral, electronic).
- e. Provide accurate and truthful information in all communications.
- f. Report inappropriate behavior or treatment of a patient/client by another nutrition and dietetics practitioner or other professionals.
- g. Document, code and bill to most accurately reflect the character and extent of delivered services.
- h. Respect patient/client's autonomy. Safeguard patient/client confidentiality according to current regulations and laws.
- i. Implement appropriate measures to protect personal health information using appropriate techniques (e.g., encryption).

## **3. Professionalism(Beneficence)**

Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:

- a. Participate in and contribute to decisions that affect the well-being of patients/clients.
- b. Respect the values, rights, knowledge, and skills of colleagues and other professionals.
- c. Demonstrate respect, constructive dialogue, civility and professionalism in all communications, including social media.
- d. Refrain from communicating false, fraudulent, deceptive, misleading, disparaging or unfair statements or claims.
- e. Uphold professional boundaries and refrain from romantic relationships with any patients/clients, surrogates, supervisees, or students.
- f. Refrain from verbal/physical/emotional/sexual harassment.
- g. Provide objective evaluations of performance for employees, coworkers, and students and candidates for employment, professional association memberships, awards, or scholarships, making all reasonable efforts to avoid bias in the professional evaluation of others.
- h. Communicate at an appropriate level to promote health literacy.
- i. Contribute to the advancement and competence of others, including colleagues, students, and the public.

## **4. Social responsibility for local, regional, national, global nutrition and well-being (Justice)**

Nutrition and dietetics practitioners shall:

- a. Collaborate with others to reduce health disparities and protect human rights.
- b. Promote fairness and objectivity with fair and equitable treatment.
- c. Contribute time and expertise to activities that promote respect, integrity, and competence of the profession.
- d. Promote the unique role of nutrition and dietetics practitioners.
- e. Engage in service that benefits the community and to enhance the public's trust in the profession.
- f. Seek leadership opportunities in professional, community, and service organizations to enhance health and nutritional status while protecting the public.

## Glossary of Terms:

**Autonomy:** ensures a patient, client, or professional has the capacity and self-determination to engage in individual decision-making specific to personal health or practice.<sup>1</sup>

**Beneficence:** encompasses taking positive steps to benefit others, which includes balancing benefit and risk.<sup>1</sup>

**Competence:** a principle of professional practice, identifying the ability of the provider to administer safe and reliable services on a consistent basis.<sup>2</sup>

**Conflict(s) of Interest(s):** defined as a personal or financial interest or a duty to another party which may prevent a person from acting in the best interests of the intended beneficiary, including simultaneous membership on boards with potentially conflicting interests related to the profession, members or the public.<sup>2</sup>

**Customer:** any client, patient, resident, participant, student, consumer, individual/person, group, population, or organization to which the nutrition and dietetics practitioner provides service.<sup>3</sup>

**Diversity:** “The Academy values and respects the diverse viewpoints and individual differences of all people. The Academy’s mission and vision are most effectively realized through the promotion of a diverse membership that reflects cultural, ethnic, gender, racial, religious, sexual orientation, socioeconomic, geographical, political, educational, experiential and philosophical characteristics of the public it services. The Academy actively identifies and offers opportunities to individuals with varied skills, talents, abilities, ideas, disabilities, backgrounds and practice expertise.”<sup>4</sup>

**Evidence-based Practice:** Evidence-based practice is an approach to health care wherein health practitioners use the best evidence possible, i.e., the most appropriate information available, to make decisions for individuals, groups and populations. Evidence-based practice values, enhances and builds on clinical expertise, knowledge of disease mechanisms, and pathophysiology. It involves complex and conscientious decision-making based not only on the available evidence but also on client characteristics, situations, and preferences. It recognizes that health care is individualized and ever changing and involves uncertainties and probabilities. Evidence-based practice incorporates successful strategies that improve client outcomes and are derived from various sources of evidence including research, national guidelines, policies, consensus statements, systematic analysis of clinical experience, quality improvement data, specialized knowledge and skills of experts.<sup>2</sup>

**Justice (social justice):** supports fair, equitable, and appropriate treatment for individuals<sup>1</sup> and fair allocation of resources.

**Non-Maleficence:** is the intent to not inflict harm.<sup>1</sup>

## References:

1. Fornari A. Approaches to ethical decision-making. *J Acad Nutr Diet.* 2015;115(1):119-121.
2. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Definition of Terms List. June, 2017 (Approved by Definition of Terms Workgroup Quality Management Committee May 16, 2017). Accessed October 11, 2017. [http://www.eatrightpro.org/~media/eatrightpro%20files/practice/scope%20standards%20of%20practice/academydefinitionof\\_termslist.ashx](http://www.eatrightpro.org/~media/eatrightpro%20files/practice/scope%20standards%20of%20practice/academydefinitionof_termslist.ashx)
3. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: Revised 2017 Standards of Practice in Nutrition Care and Standards of Professional Performance for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists. *J Acad Nutr Diet.* 2018; 118: 132-140.
4. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics “Diversity Philosophy Statement” (adopted by the House of Delegates and Board of Directors in 1995).