

**Combined Masters/DI Programs**  
NDEP Roundtable Discussions at FNCE  
October 22, 2018

**Pre-FNCE Questions/Comments/Issues**

- If ACEND will continue to accredit undergraduate programs there should be some added incentive for students to complete an accredited DPD at the undergraduate level. What form does this incentive take? Can students receive graduate credit for specific upper division courses and reduce the amount of time (and tuition) it takes to earn a master's in dietetics? Will some programs require a DPD verification statement for admission?
- If all must have a graduate degree to pursue the credential, how is the integrity of undergraduate programs maintained in a way to ensure a minimum standard of competence if a graduate degree not related to dietetics is earned?
- Will all graduate program be generalist or will specialization be allowed? If specialization is allowed, how is representation of dietetics ensured across multiple areas of practice (for example, food service management)?
- How are programs addressing the challenges related to the graduate degree. Specifically - our program has been an undergrad program for decades which has allowed the dietetics faculty to handle selection independently. In the upcoming years the graduate faculty and graduate school will have a greater input in our selection criteria. Are other programs facing this same kind of change and how is that going? (One concern I have is that students with strong experience but not great grades will not get a chance with us - and I know that some of the students that fit that description in the past are now excellent RDs.)
- We have a graduate program in nutrition that includes a dietetic internship. We only accept applicants with a DPD verification statement from an accredited undergrad institution. Currently our MS curriculum is not accredited by ACEND, just our internship component (we completed our 10 yr site visit in May). I just took over as the Program Director and have questions about the impact of the upcoming 2024 MS degree level program transition on our program.
- How are people doing a masters program combined with internship?
  1. Do you do offer a thesis or a project? Or both?
  2. How do you handle "oral coursework" exams? Do you conduct them or not? Do you do written coursework exams?
  3. For students with a project do they present a written project proposal, a oral project proposal, both? What about project completion reports – written, oral, both?
  4. How do you distinguish a project masters form a thesis?
  5. Do you do supervised practice at the start of the masters program at the end? Why?
  6. How do you selected students who will be successful in both the supervised practice portion and the master (writing, etc.) portion?
  7. How do you distribute grad students among faculty? Does each faculty have a max number? How does the internship director fit in?

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8. Do you fund your MS/DI students? Are there different funding guides for a project vs. thesis? Does your department have different funding guides/structures based on the student's field of study ie. Dietetics vs. nutrition vs. food science?

**On-Site Table Questions/Issues/Concerns**

1. How to grow masters with no additional faculty

**Discussion Notes**

1. A few intros:
  - University of New Hampshire: 5<sup>th</sup> year Masters
  - West Chester University: distance DI starting in Fall with Master's
2. Combined program = complete master degree before Verification Statement issued
3. Coordinated program - ? definition
4. Certificate of Advanced Study - ? definition
5. Questions about financial aid:
  - SARA: State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement
6. Regarding distance DI programs – should list states that will not accept distance interns