



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

August 22, 2018

Mary Gregoire, Executive Director
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics
120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995

Dear Dr. Gregoire:

I am writing to inform you of my decision on the renewal of recognition of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Diabetics (ACEND). U.S. Department of Education (Department) staff and the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) have each made recommendations to me. These recommendations were made under Sections 114 and 496 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and pursuant to relevant statutory and regulatory provisions.

Both the Department staff and the NACIQI recommended that I grant ACEND renewed federal recognition for a period of five years. I concur with the recommendations of the Department staff and of the NACIQI. Accordingly, I grant renewed recognition to ACEND for a period of five years.

Scope of Recognition: The accreditation and pre-accreditation, within the United States, of Didactic and Coordinated Programs in Dietetics at both the undergraduate and graduate level, postbaccalaureate Dietetic Internships, and Dietetic Technician Programs at the associate degree level and for its accreditation of such programs offered via distance education.

While I am granting ACEND renewed recognition for the full five years, I feel compelled to share my concerns also expressed by members of NACIQI about ACEND's role in exacerbating the growing problem of credential inflation. This practice has serious injurious consequences for students by further reducing opportunities for low income students to obtain the necessary credentials to work in this field.

Please convey my best wishes to the members of the ACEND. We appreciate their work to improve the quality and success of U.S. postsecondary education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane Auer Jones".

Diane Auer Jones
Principal Deputy Under Secretary
Delegated to Perform the Duties of Under Secretary
U.S. Department of Education

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