October 12, 2018

Deborah A. Hutcheson, DCN, RDN, LDN
Director, Coordinated Program in Dietetics
University of Pittsburgh
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
Nutrition and Dietetics
4033 Forbes Tower
Pittsburgh, PA 15260-1802

Dear Dr. Hutcheson:

This letter is to advise you of the action of the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND®) Board regarding the proposed program change submitted by the University of Pittsburgh to reorganize the Coordinated Program in Dietetics into a Future Education Model Graduate Degree (FG) Program. During its October 12, 2018 meeting, the ACEND Board voted to approve the request to reorganize to a demonstration program accredited under the Future Education Model Accreditation Standards and indicated that the FG program must admit its first class no later than fall 2020. The Board also determined that the FG program must have a comprehensive accreditation site visit between September and December 2023 as the program’s accreditation term ends December 31, 2024.

This decision was based on the program’s final application materials and Teach-out Plan. According to the Teach-out Plan submitted, there are 33 students enrolled in the Coordinated Program in Dietetics. Based on the plan, the Coordinated Program in Dietetics will remain accredited until April 30, 2020, at which time ACEND accreditation will end. Until the accreditation period ends, the Program must comply with all requirements for maintaining accreditation. Please refer to the ACEND Policy & Procedure Manual, Section 4.3 for ACEND’s program closure policy. The Manual can be found on the ACEND Web page at www.eatrightpro.org/ACEND.

The Board also discussed the program’s name change from Coordinated MS in Nutrition and Dietetics to Coordinated Program in Nutrition and Dietetics. Because a Coordinated Program is associated with the 2017 Accreditation Standards, the program may wish to consider renaming its Future Graduate Program to avoid confusion among prospective students and the public.
Your prorated 2018 annual accreditation fee for November through December, 2018 is $329.00. To obtain the fee invoice, click Link. Payment is due no later than January 7, 2019. As a benefit of being a demonstration program the full-year annual fee for 2019 will be waived.

Thank you for your continued support of nutrition and dietetics education and your leadership in becoming a demonstration program under the Future Education Model Accreditation Standards. If you have any questions, please call Elise Cowie, ACEND staff at 800-877-1600 ext. 4770 or ecowie@eatright.org.

Sincerely,

Christine A. Hartney, MS, RD, LON, Chair,
Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

cc: Patrick Gallagher, PhD, Chancellor
Anthony Delitto, PhD, Interim Dean
Kevin Conley, PhD, ATC, Department Chair
Elise Cowie, MEd, RD, LD, FAND, ACEND Manager