

## November 2023 Critical Issue Submission Summary

The House of Delegates (HOD) considers possible Critical Issues on a quarterly basis for the HOD to address based on submissions from the Academy's [environmental scanning form](#). The following is the collection of all the issues members submitted through this form from August 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023 that the House reviewed during their November 2023 meeting. The House Leadership team along with delegates consider current Academy activities and initiatives when considering whether it is the right time to address a Critical Issue. If an issue is not prioritized now, it can be considered in the future. Decisions are made based on current Academy initiatives to minimize duplication of efforts and allow for the greatest impact by the work of all Academy volunteers.

Even though none of these submissions were chosen during the November 2023 HOD meeting, all of these topics are still taken into consideration during future meetings to determine priorities.

Submissions Discussed by HLT and Potential Critical Issues		
Issues Submitted by Members*	Current Academy Initiatives	Next Steps as of November 2023
Academy at the Forefront: "Food as Medicine" initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Food as Medicine RDN Survey</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Press Release: Consumer Interest for Food as Medicine in Grocery Stores</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">FNCE Sessions on Food as Medicine topics</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">JAND articles on Food as Medicine</a></li> <li>• Council on Future Practice current work on nutrition education within medical education (brief in progress)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Dietitians in Integrative and Functional Medicine DPG</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Foundation's Food as Medicine Information</a></li> </ul>	HLT will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- refer this submission to Lifelong Learning and Publications teams for consideration in future resource development</li> <li>- include as a topic for Board of Directors consideration when deciding Academy's strategic direction</li> </ul>
Educational Standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Critical thinking</li> <li>- Masters' requirement</li> <li>- AI training</li> <li>- Vastly different pathways to RDN</li> <li>- Integrative and Functional Medicine content</li> <li>- Structure of internships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current and continued work of <a href="#">ACEND</a> in evaluating standards and requirements</li> <li>• <a href="#">ACEND's Standards, Fees, and Policies</a></li> </ul>	HLT will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- compile qualitative analysis of the student enrollment survey answers and share relevant data on educational standards with ACEND</li> <li>- Initiate a discussion with ACEND on if/how they feel the HOD could support them in these efforts</li> </ul>

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<p>Incongruent Views on Weight Inclusiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Non-diet approaches</li> <li>- Academy's reluctance to take sides</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">IDEA Hub - article about limitations on use of BMI</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ACEND: 2022 DEI Noteworthy Practice Honorees</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">EAL articles about BMI</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Emphasizing Health vs. Weight for Body-Positive Thinking</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">JAND articles on Health at Every Size</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">FNCE 2021 Session: Mindful Eating and Healthy Weight-Loss</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Metrics for Assessing Abdominal Obesity</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Joint Statement on Access to Obesity Care</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Obesity Care Organizations Develop Consensus Statement</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Resources to Assess Body Weight in Older Adults</a></li> </ul>	<p>HLT will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- include as a topic to the Board of Directors as an important issue to members, with conflicting messaging coming from the Academy as science works to catch up to support Healthy at Every Size</li> </ul>
<p>IDEA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outcomes from mini grants so that they can be published</li> <li>- Need for more accessible digital technology for those with disabilities</li> <li>- Need for more black dietitians</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">IDEA Resources</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Disabilities MIG</a></li> <li>• The Council on Research kicked off its new task force on research mentoring for dietitians and students from diverse backgrounds.</li> <li>• The Council on Future Practice is working with the IDEA Committee to create supplement to the upcoming Population Health Change Driver Brief to address how the topic connects to IDEA.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Diversity Awards and Grants</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ANDF IDEA Fellow</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">IDEA Committee</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">IDEA Modules: Understanding Unconscious Bias, Cultural Competency, and Cultural Humility</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">FNCE 2022 Session on Diversity</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">FNCE 2022 Session on Cultural Sensitivity</a></li> </ul>	<p>HLT will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- wait for results from the Council on Research and Council on Future Practice to further guide how the HOD could help elevate this topic</li> </ul>
<p>RDN Shortage:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">ACEND's Standards, Fees, and Policies</a></li> </ul>	<p>HLT will:</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Salary issues</li> <li>- Rural areas</li> <li>- Masters Requirement</li> <li>- Doctorate prepared</li> <li>- Oncology clinics</li> <li>- Public awareness of profession</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Future Education Model Standards and Templates</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">CDR's Information about the Graduate Degree Requirement</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Compensation and Benefits Survey of the Dietetics Profession</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Academy's Salary Calculators</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The Shortage of Registered Dietitians or Nutritionists with a Terminal Degree: A Call to Action for the Profession</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">CDR's Registry Statistics</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Four Futures for Dietetics Workforce Supply and Demand: 2012-2022 Scenarios</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Previous FNCE sessions on workforce issues</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ACEND's Career Information: Dietitian Job Outlook</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- compile qualitative analysis of the student enrollment survey answers and share relevant data on RDN shortages with ACEND and Policy Initiatives and Advocacy teams to support their efforts</li> <li>- Revisit this topic once student enrollment issue has been completed by subject matter experts</li> </ul>
<p>Sustainability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plant-based diets</li> <li>- Need for more education on food and water sustainability for RDNs</li> <li>- Carcinogenic chemical use in agriculture</li> <li>- Climate change</li> </ul>	<p>Critical Issue within the HOD in 2018-2019: SMEs worked with Foundation Fellow on Food Systems and Sustainability to develop JAND articles, website content, CPE modules, and other presentations/webinars.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Hunger and Environmental Nutrition DPG</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Public Policy Priority: Farm Bill</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Waste Deep: The State of Food Loss and Waste - and Ways to Fix It</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Foundation's Future of Food Initiative</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Food and Culinary Professionals DPG</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Food Security and Sustainability Resources</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Public Policy Priorities: Nutrition and Food Safety</a></li> </ul>	<p>HLT will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- wait for the Council on Future Practice to complete their work on a similar topic, which will be a brief published in 2024</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Academy Press Release: Safe Consumption of Wild Game</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Public-Facing Website: Food Security and Sustainability</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Previous FNCE Sessions on Sustainability</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">JAND articles on sustainability</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">JAND articles on climate change</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">FNCE 2023 Sessions within Food Systems and Sustainability track</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Vegetarian Nutrition DPG</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Submissions Referred to other Organizational Units/Teams</b>		
<b>Issues Submitted by Members*</b>	<b>Current Academy Initiatives</b>	<b>Next Steps as of November 2023</b>
Ethics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need for more monitoring of RDNs on social media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Professional Civility resources</a></li> </ul>	The Ethics Committee is better suited to review this concern - submission forwarded to them
Licensure: mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Academy's website section about licensure</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Consumer Protection and Licensure Subcommittee</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Licensure Initiatives Affinity Group</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Dietitian Licensure Compact Website</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Licensure Compact Exploration Update</a></li> </ul>	The Policy, Initiatives, and Advocacy team is better suited to review this concern - submission forwarded to them as they continue work on the licensure compact
Master's Requirement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cost of the degree</li> <li>- Lack of interest in joining Academy because of this decision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See CDR Webpage with Published Reports and historical timeline Graphic: <a href="https://www.cdrnet.org/gradegreewhy">https://www.cdrnet.org/gradegreewhy</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Joint Meeting Report March 2013</a></li> </ul>	A joint decision was made by the ACEND, CDR, CFP, Academy BOD Education Committee, and NDEP DPG on a Consensus Agreement for the Graduate Level RD or RDN as recorded in the March 25, 2013 Final Report of the Joint Meeting of ACEND, CDR, CFP, Academy Education Committee, and NDEP DPG.

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<p>Population Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need for more education on socioeconomic determinants of health</li> <li>- Balancing consumer perception with science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council on Future Practice's change driver brief on population health, coming soon</li> <li>• <a href="#">Public Health and Community</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Public Health and Community Nutrition DPG</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">JAND articles on population health</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">JAND articles on social determinants of health</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities and Chronic Disease</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Academy Highlights Key Policy Priorities in Recommendations for White House Conference</a></li> </ul>	<p>The Council on Future Practice is better suited to review these submissions because their updated population health change driver brief will be available for Academy members soon - submissions forwarded to them. HOD plans to engage with the brief during a future meeting and share with their constituents</p>
<p>Professional Development Needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Autoimmune diseases</li> <li>- Employers looking for board certifications</li> <li>- Eating disorders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Board Certified Specialties</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">JAND articles on autoimmune diseases</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">JAND articles on eating disorders</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Pocket Guide to Eating Disorders, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">FNCE 2021 session on binge eating and diabetes</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Academy's Leadership Institute</a></li> </ul>	<p>The Lifelong Learning and Publications teams are better suited to review these submissions since they manage the professional development offerings from the Academy - submissions forwarded to them</p>
<p>RDN Exam: non-native English speakers struggling to pass</p>	<p>No current initiatives from the Academy— Academy cannot influence the exam.</p> <p><a href="#">CDR</a>'s continuous evaluation of exam content/bias</p>	<p>CDR and ACEND are better suited to review this concern - submission forwarded to them</p>
<p>Sponsorship/Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Academy sponsored ad for infant formula</li> <li>- Membership to Academy as result of sponsorship and communications</li> <li>- Perception of RDNs working with food industry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Advertising and Sponsorship</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Guiding Principles of Our Corporate Sponsorship Program</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Meet Our Sponsors</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Inaccuracies in US Right to Know Article</a></li> </ul>	<p>The Corporate Relations and Strategic Communications teams are better suited to review these concerns - these concerns will also be brought to the Board of Directors as a member concern for potential strategic implications</p>

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Telehealth: need for virtual visits to be covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Affinity Groups representing MNT Expansion, Licensure, and Reimbursement/Payment</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Nutrition Services Payment Committee</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Telehealth Quick Guide</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Academy Unveils Telehealth Stance</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Telehealth Advocacy Information</a></li> </ul>	The Policy, Initiatives, and Advocacy team is better suited to review this concern in their ongoing work with telehealth - submission forwarded to them
<b>Submissions on Current or Recent Critical Issues</b>		
<b>Issues Submitted by Members*</b>	<b>Current Academy Initiatives</b>	<b>Next Steps as of November 2023</b>
AI/Technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Educators need to know how to instruct students to use it properly</li> <li>- Consumers using AI for meal planning and nutrition</li> </ul>	Current HOD Topic – survey to members open through December 15 <sup>th</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Council on Future Practice Change Driver Brief</a></li> </ul>	Current Critical Issue for 23-24 - will be taken into account with current HOD work
Marketing the RDN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Logo for National Nutrition Month should be more focused on the profession</li> <li>- Public awareness</li> <li>- Influencers with large audiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Academy website section on RDNs/NDTRs (pro)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Academy website section on RDNs/NDTRs (consumer)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Academy Awareness Campaigns</a></li> </ul>	This is a trend that emerged from all three Critical Issues SME groups in the 2022-2023 program year. HLT is submitting a trends analysis and recommendations from the SME groups for the March 2024 Board meeting
Membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Networking vs. professional categories</li> <li>- Different rates for part-time vs. full-time</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Academy membership information</a>	This is a trend that emerged from all three Critical Issues SME groups in the 2022-2023 program year. HLT is submitting a trends analysis and recommendations from the SME groups for the March 2024 Board meeting
NDTR Visibility and Utilization:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Academy's information on how to become an NDTR (consumer)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">CDR's information on registry statistics</a></li> </ul>	This is a trend that emerged from all three Critical Issues SME groups in the 2022-2023 program year. HLT is submitting a trends analysis and

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With Master's requirement NDTR allows stepping stone into working sooner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Dietetics Dream Team: How the NDTR Can Support the RDN</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">NDTR Salary Calculator</a></li> </ul>	recommendations from the SME groups for the March 2024 Board meeting
Student Enrollment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of ROI with current salaries</li> <li>- Cost of education</li> <li>- Decreasing workforce with increasing demand – other professions taking over</li> <li>- DI programs closing</li> <li>- Dietetics students leaving for other professions</li> <li>- Lack of preceptors</li> </ul>	HLT currently working on qualitative analysis of open-ended survey questions to narrow the scope of the issue.	Current Critical Issue for 23-24 - will be taken into account with current HOD work

\*Verbiage is taken directly from submissions by Academy members