

Board Approval of Education Programs

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Category: Board

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Authority: CDBC bylaws, sub-sections 41(1)(a), (b), and 41(2).

Background:

In accordance with the CDBC bylaws section 41(1), the requirements for full registration are:

- (a) graduation from a program in dietetics listed in Schedule “E”;
- (b) successful completion of a program of practical training approved by the Board;

In accordance with sub-section 41(2), an applicant who does not meet the requirements in sub-section 41(1) may acquire academic and/or practical training upgrading which, combined with previously obtained knowledge, skills, abilities and judgement, is considered by the Registration Committee to be substantially equivalent to the requirements in sub-section 41(1)(a) and (b).

Approval of academic and practical training programs:

Since 2013, the CDBC Board has approved the Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP) to assess and accredit Canadian dietetic programs against the *Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice (entry to practice)*. In the context of dietetic education and regulation, the purpose of accreditation is to assess program compliance with national standards and demonstrate the quality and effectiveness of programs needed to meet registration requirements in order to protect the public and support safe, ethical and competent services.

Currently, accredited Canadian programs are listed in Schedule “E” of the CDBC bylaws.

As per section 41 (3) of the bylaws, if an applicant doesn’t meet the requirements described in 41 (1), he/she will undergo an assessment of substantial equivalent academic education and practical training and may be required to obtain upgrading to satisfy the Registration Committee that registration requirements are met. Upgrading is individualized and may include:

- academic coursework to “bridge” identified gaps in dietetic knowledge, skills, abilities and/or judgement, and/or
- practical training to “bridge” identified gaps in dietetic skills and abilities.

Processes for substantial equivalence assessment are described in the registration policies.

Note: The accreditation system does not review Bridging or Attestation Programs. Acceptable programs must meet the Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice or meet specific “gap” competencies as recommended by the Registration Committee. Current Board approved bridging programs are listed in Schedule “E” of the CDBC bylaws.