

ACADEMY'S DEFINITION AND CRITERIA FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE

Advanced Practice

Definition: The practitioner demonstrates a high level of skills, knowledge and behaviors. The individual exhibits a set of characteristics that include leadership and vision and demonstrates effectiveness in planning, evaluating and communicating targeted outcomes.

Rationale: The term *advanced practice* is used after a careful review of the Academy's Standards of Practice (SOP) and Standards of Professional Performance (SOPP) in the various focus areas of dietetics practice and the literature for other professions.

Criteria for Advanced Practice

1) **Education** (minimum)

- Masters or higher degree from a US regionally accredited institution or an equivalent degree.

2) **Experience** (minimum)

- Has more than 8 years as a registered dietitian nutritionist (based on the Bradley article from 1993).
- Documents the continuation of advanced practice and/or management in a focus area of practice.
- CDR PDP learning plan has focus on advanced practice education.
- Ethics guides the practitioner's decision-making process.

3) **Credentials**

- Possesses an advanced practice credential, if available. For instances, the following credential is currently available to the RDN: Board Certified in Advanced Diabetes Management (BC-ADM)-jointly sponsored by the American Association of Diabetes Educators and the American Nurse Credentialing Center.

4) **Characteristics** include the skills, knowledge and/or behaviors exhibited and demonstrated by the advance practice RDN within the last five years and evidence of an ongoing development and willingness to explore/experience new opportunities or situations as listed below. Characteristics with the asterisks must be demonstrated. These characteristics might be measured by examination, portfolio, etc.

- Prioritizes order, rank and mode of required communications (e.g., physician rounds, legislative decision-makers) *
- Approaches new opportunities/situations with flexibility and adaptability*
- Demonstrates personal and organizational leadership *
- Functions with a high degree of autonomy *
- Recognizes sense of self and knows own limitations *
- Recognized by others for expertise *
- Makes decisions using benefit/risk evaluation *
- Exposes self to new situations and ideas to experience, learn and apply to practice *
- Strive to improve skill base by continuously moving out of personal comfort zone *
- Demonstrates effectiveness/efficiency; problem solving; inspires confidence in others *
- Demonstrates emotional intelligence (Goleman, 1996) *
- Influences decision-makers related to policy, resources and services (e.g., elected and appointed government officials, university president, medical center CEO) *
- Leads consensus panels and coalitions *

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- Maintains local/state/national/international role contacts and networks *
- Directs strategic planning efforts *
- Designs innovative programs, services or curricula
- Provides expert opinion or expert testimony; Opinion is sought out for their expertise/skills by other leaders/experts
- Plans and delivers invited presentations for national meetings
- Conducts benchmarks for research or outcomes studies
- Reviews proposal, grants, refereed journal articles, publications, and books
- Creates innovations that impact the profession
- Seeks and implements grants and external funding
- Identifies and manages revenue streams and funding
- Develops IRB proposals
- Publishes in peer reviewed publications
- Develops guides to practice used by other practitioners
- Interprets and translates the literature effectively into practice application
- Uses data effectively to manipulate or garner the resources to address issues affecting the organization as a whole.
- Applies skills in consultation with other professional fields (e.g., lawyer)
- Formulates and communicates clear visions
- Works effectively internally and externally with all levels (e.g., chairs of departments, president of organization, other organizations, peers in other organizations)
- Mentors peers or professionals in complex issues, procedures and practices
- Contributes to evidence analysis process to affect practice
- Identifies and creates new practice opportunities.
- Maintains and creates networks with wider number of disciplines
- Creates and undertakes expanded and new practice roles and responsibilities
- Uses global resources to reach effective outcomes
- Increase revenues by creating new programs, services to benefit the organization
- Teaches advanced practice professionals (e.g., physicians, nurses)
- Demonstrates high level decision-making with a focus on delivering outcomes
- Maintains connection with key research institutions (e.g., NIH, USDA); viewed as a major contributor within the research community
- Uses time for reflection (regarding progress, issues, goals, plans, achievements)
- Identifies new innovative public policy initiatives in the area of food and nutrition
- Identified as a major collaborator with other organizations in order to position RDNs or to facilitate the work of the RDN (e.g., NWA, AADE, USBC).

- 5) **Demonstrated examples** of experiences and learning activities of an advanced practice RDN
- Serves as a member of the Board of Editors for a professional peer-reviewed journal due to the level of knowledge, practice and experience.
 - Directs the operations of multiple departments including fiscal and human resources.
 - Submits applications for grants successfully and manages the grant to completion.
 - Serves as a principle investigator for a research project involving other disciplines.
 - Authors articles in peer-reviewed scientific publications.
 - Authors chapters, book, or textbooks.
 - Presents on topics regarding food, nutrition and health issues at regional, state, national, or international conferences.

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- Mentors and educates for all levels of practice within dietetics including those professional peers outside the field of dietetics.
 - Proactively engages in communication and interactions with the media on issues related to food, nutrition and health.