



PDEP - PFPN

Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice
Partenariat pour la formation et la pratique en nutrition

Official Release – Revised Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice

November 18, 2020

The Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP) has released revised Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice (ICDEP) to guide dietetic education, continuous quality improvement and registration with a regulatory body in Canada. The revised [ICDEP version 3.0 \(July 2020\)](#) represent the most comprehensive description of the entry-level knowledge, skills and judgment needed to practice dietetics safely, ethically and effectively in Canada.

The ICDEP serve three main purposes. First, they define the minimum set of practice knowledge, skills and judgment that dietitians are expected to demonstrate at the point of initial registration, enabling their entry-to-practice. This set of practice knowledge, skills and judgement is referred to as the *Practice Competencies* (PCs).

Second, they delineate the manner in which successful completion of the PCs is assessed prior to registration through a candidate's demonstration of *Performance Indicators* (PIs). The assessment of PIs takes place in three distinct assessment vehicles:

1. The academic component of education programs
2. The practicum component of education programs
3. The Canadian Dietetic Registration Examination (CDRE)

Third, ICDEP is the basis of Standard 3 – Program Administration: Curriculum of the [PDEP Accreditation Standards for Dietetic Education Programs in Canada](#) as curriculum is designed to support the achievement of the ICDEP and to align with current Canadian standards.

PCs within the ICDEP may also be useful to the public, employers and other health professionals to enable common understanding of entry-level dietetic practice.

The ICDEP defines seven interrelated *Domains of Competence* in which the PCs are embedded. The *Domains of Competence* are:

1. Food and Nutrition Expertise
2. Professionalism and Ethics
3. Communication and Collaboration
4. Management and Leadership
5. Nutrition Care
6. Population Health Promotion
7. Food Provision.

Each Domain is described by a context statement and is defined by the PCs listed within it. The ICDEP contains 209 PIs derived from the 50 PCs contained within the 7 Domains of Competence.

The ICDEP is a minimum requirement, designed to ensure safe, effective and ethical entry-level practice. Dietetic education programs are encouraged to exceed the content required by the ICDEP, and dietitians, even at entry-level, are encouraged to higher-level of competency achievement. Once dietitians achieve registration and enter the workplace, their competencies will evolve, consistent with their practice experience and continuing education.

Each provincial dietetic regulatory body holds legislative responsibility and authority of establishing conditions and requirements for registration which includes the approval of the competencies necessary for entry-to-practice. To date, nine provincial dietetic regulatory bodies have approved the ICDEP version 3.0. The Ordre professionnel des diététistes du Québec is presently completing the steps necessary to present the revised ICDEP to their Board of Directors.

The revised competencies are required to be fully incorporated into education programs by August 31, 2023, and the CDRE will be based on them beginning at the May 2024 exam sitting. Dietetic education program accreditation will be based on the ICDEP version 3.0 beginning September 1, 2023.

PDEP appreciates the efforts and contributions of thousands of dietitians, dietetic educators and organizations in Canada in updating this important underpinning document for dietetic education and practice in Canada.

PDEP invites you to disseminate the ICDEP version 3.0 within your organization and with other key stakeholders to ensure they are aware of the revised dietetic competencies for learners and dietitians in Canada.

About PDEP

The Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP) is an unincorporated, collaborative inter-organizational network that brings together The Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies, Dietitians of Canada and dietetic educators from academic and practicum programs across Canada to advance excellence in dietetic education and practice. PDEP works in those areas where the goals and achievements of the professional association, regulatory bodies, and educators depend on each other's work.

For more information:

- Contact the PDEP Secretariat at secretariat@pdep.ca
- Website: <https://www.pdep.ca/>
- Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice (version 3.0): <https://www.pdep.ca/library/PDEP-Policies/Integrated-Competencies-For-Dietetic-Education-And.aspx>