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**SUBJECT:  
DEFINITION OF TERMS POLICY**



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Effective Date: February 2015  
Revised: December 2024

**PURPOSE**

The Definition of Terms List function as a resource for registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs), nutrition and dietetics technicians, registered (NDTRs) and other individuals and groups. The Definition of Terms List is a collection of definitions that are related to the Scope and Standards of Practice for credentialed nutrition and dietetics practitioners. The terms have citations and are cross referenced with other sound resources.

As a reference document, the terms and definitions:

- focus primarily on terminology applicable to the scope and standards of practice for the RDN and for the NDTR;
- serve to standardized language for consistent application in Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) and Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (Academy) resources and publications; and
- serve as a resource for varied uses such as public policy development, regulations related to professional licensure, and as needed by academia, research, professional publications, employers and industry.

**OVERVIEW**

The CDR Practice Competence Committee (PCC) receives, processes, and reviews all requests for revisions and additions to the Definition of Terms list. The PCC convenes the Definition of Terms Task Force (DoT TF), as necessary. The PCC and DoT TF share their recommendations with the sender and applicable CDR and Academy organizational units, committees, or groups prior to final approval by the PCC.

The need for revisions, additions, or deletions to the Definition of Terms is inherent. The PCC and the DoT TF develop new terms and definitions, review and revise terms and definitions as indicated per Scope and Standards of Practice documents and maintain the Definition of Terms List. The full Definition of Terms List is reviewed every 5 years with individual term changes addressed in intervening years.

**COMPOSITION AND FUNCTION**

The TF chair is a current or past member of the PCC or a CDR Commissioner. Members of the TF may also be current and past members of the PCC, past members of DoT TF, or CDR Commissioners, and/or subject matter experts. The DoT TF processes and facilitates review and revision of terms in the Definition of Terms List as indicated or requested by PCC or other CDR/Academy/ACEND organizational unit prior to the PCC review and approval.

## PROCEDURE

1. Requests to add, revise or retire terms in the Definition of Terms document are submitted by completing the applicable form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DefinitionForm>. Requests may be made by:
  - CDR/Academy committees, groups or panels,
  - organizational units (Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics [ACEND], Nutrition and Dietetic Educators and Preceptors [NDEP], Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation),
  - Dietetic Practice Groups, Member Interest Groups,
  - Academy staff, external groups, and other stakeholders.
2. The procedure for adding, revising, and retiring definitions is outlined in the Process Flow Diagram below.
3. The DoT TF conducts a comprehensive review of the DoT List every five years or as needed. The TF collaborates with CDR/Academy organizational units and committees/panels as needed for reviewing, updating, or retiring terms with final approval by the PCC. Individual terms are added, revised, or retired as needed in the intervening years.

