



## **AARP eligibility criteria for Nutrition degrees for the purpose of admission to Practitioner membership of The Australasian Association and Register of Practicing Nutritionists (AARP) and AARP Certified Practicing Nutritionist**

*To be eligible to apply for AARP Practitioner membership and/or AARP accreditation as an AARP Certified Practicing Nutritionist, an individual must hold:*

1. An AARP recognised Australian undergraduate degree (AQF level 7) or postgraduate degree qualification (AQF level 9 or above) in Nutrition, or an AARP recognised comparable international qualification, as per 'The Australian Qualifications Framework',

in conjunction with,

(2a) holding formal clinical practicum certification in Nutrition Practice or its AARP deemed equivalent as part of their degree qualification, which affords them prescribing rights for dietary supplements (minimum 300 hours); or

(2b) successful completion of an AARP recognised Professional Year in Nutrition Practice; or

(2c) for Australian based practitioners only, provision of evidence of equivalent hours in clinical practice with concurrent holding of a 'Schedule 1 Therapeutic Goods Administration Exemption Certificate' and professional insurances for the practice of Nutrition for the duration of the 300 hours, combined with successful completion of a case-based interview with AARP's Education Board or their designated representatives.

In accordance and in conjunction with the AARP definition of a Practicing Nutritionist, the minimum level qualification recognised by AARP is a degree (AQF level 7). This can be an undergraduate bachelor's degree in an AARP recognised program or an AARP recognised master's degree (AQF Level 9).

***Recognition criteria for Australian bachelor's degree programs in Nutrition, including Clinical Nutrition and Nutritional Medicine are as follows.***

1. The program must be taught and assessed in its entirety at Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Level 7 which is a bachelor's degree level. Level 7 is the first professional level within the Australian Qualifications Framework. At this level Graduates have broad and coherent knowledge and skills for professional work and/or further learning with a broad and coherent theoretical and technical knowledge with depth in nutrition science and its professional clinical application in private practice, education, research and public health. These Graduates have well-developed cognitive, technical and communication skills to select and apply methods and technologies to analyse and evaluate information to complete a range of activities relevant to nutrition professionals; analyse, generate and transmit solutions to unpredictable and sometimes complex problems in the nutrition field; and transmit nutrition knowledge, skills and ideas to others. They apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, well-developed judgement and responsibility in contexts that require self-directed work and learning within broad parameters, to provide specialist advice and functions in the nutrition and nutrition related fields, in the areas of private practice, education, research and public health.

A degree which has been obtained through a graded program which allows an early exit point for a certificate that is then used to articulate into a diploma exit point, that is then used to articulate into the

second year of the degree is acceptable, providing all subjects are taught and assessed at the bachelor's degree level. Note that only completion of the full degree program will be accepted by AARPN for membership purposes.

2. The curriculum content and delivery model of the program must in the opinion of AARPN enable its graduates to meet at the bachelor's degree level all the AARPN designated competencies and underlying knowledge and skills of Practicing Nutritionists. These competencies are available on the AARPN website and although based for continuity around the former Advanced Diploma Health Training Package for Nutritional Medicine, all training delivered and assessments made, must be at the bachelor's degree level or higher (see point 1 above).
3. The higher education provider (College, Institute or University) must be compliant with all relevant TEQSA requirements and regulations.
4. Consistent with University teaching standards:
  - a) the minimum qualification for any person engaged in the coordination, facilitation, teaching and/or assessment (including marking) of the bachelor's degree program or subjects contained in the bachelor's degree program, is AQF level 9 which is a master's degree (or in special circumstances for teaching and marking only, a relevant bachelor's degree with equivalent professional experience and a minimum of Certificate IV in Training and Assessment - TAE40116 or its predecessors), and
  - b) the qualification held must be relevant to the subject matter being taught, and
  - c) exception may be made to the above minimum requirements for first year subjects where the tutor (who is not the main provider of instruction) can be an Honours level student in the relevant discipline for the subject matter.
5. To ensure that Clinical Nutritionists are trained to act within their scope of practice, persons engaged in the coordination, facilitation, teaching, supervision and/or assessment (including marking) of Clinical Practicum must:
  - a) hold full membership as an accredited Clinical Nutritionist/Nutritional Medicine practitioner member of a Clinical Nutrition/Nutritional Medicine recognising Schedule 1 exemption facilitating association,  
  
and
  - b) hold a minimum of a master's degree in 'Nutrition' and have exclusive Clinical Nutritionist/Nutritional Medicine' private practice experience of at least 2 years (excluding the practice of Naturopathy or Dietetics),  
  
or
  - c) hold an undergraduate degree in Clinical Nutrition/Nutritional Medicine (not being a qualification in Naturopathy or Dietetics) and possess exclusive 'Clinical Nutritionist/Nutritional Medicine' private practice experience of at least 5 years (excluding the practice of Naturopathy or Dietetics).

No person who does not hold full membership as an accredited Clinical Nutritionist/ Nutritional Medicine practitioner member a Clinical Nutrition/Nutritional Medicine recognising Schedule 1 exemption facilitating association shall be engaged in the coordination, facilitation, teaching, supervision and/or assessment (including marking) of Clinical Practicum.

6. Clinical practicum training must be in Nutrition Practice in accordance with AARPN definitions and consistent with the competencies and knowledge and skills, required of Practicing Nutritionists by AARPN, and set out in the Practicing Nutritionist Competencies. AARPN requirements are 300 hours of clinical practicum training but programs with slightly less hours but a comparable number of minimum face-to-face consultations, will also be eligible for consideration by AARPN. To comply with original Schedule 1 Practitioner criteria, the minimum number of clinical practicum hours are 233 hours of clinical practicum training, and therefore programs with less clinical practicum hours than this, will not be considered by AARPN for membership purposes. Of the 300 minimum hours of clinical practicum training, at least 200 hours must be face-to-face supervised clinical training, and this excludes clinical theory and clinical examination skills training. Clinical Practicum training must be delivered on-campus and face-to-face. Clinical Practicum training may be delivered on a semester basis or via intensive blocks.
7. Clinical examination skills must be taught face-to-face on-campus, and not more than 75 percent of the degree can have been completed online (live streaming, pre-recorded lectures/tutorials) and this calculation excludes the compulsory face-to-face on-campus requirement for clinical practicum training. Additional sub caps on online learning are applied by some Nutrition rebating private health insurance funds and educational providers need to be aware that this cap sits at 50 percent and carefully consider the impact of this on graduate outcomes. Degree programs containing more than 75 percent online content (and this includes fully online subjects and online content derived from mixed mode delivery), will render graduate's ineligible to register for professional membership with AARPN and/or accreditation as an AARPN Certified Practicing Nutritionist.
8. Graduates of bachelor's degree qualification programs for which 100 percent of the theory component has been completed online are ineligible for AARPN membership and/or Certified Practicing Nutritionist accreditation.