

Innovative Approaches to Elevate Professional Training: Continuing Education, Master's and Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition

Introduction:

The objective of this session is to describe innovative post baccalaureate continuing education, master's and doctoral clinical nutrition programs.

Methods:

The session addresses innovative approaches to continuing education, master's level, and doctoral clinical nutrition training. Variations of certificate and study abroad programs and other creative options for providing continued professional development will be presented. Examples will be used to highlight the development process and inspire new and different ideas in various settings. Next, approaches for delivering master's level education, including face-to-face, hybrid and distance learning methods, generalized and specialized didactic instruction, and supervised practice opportunities will be presented.

Tips for developing market competitive programs and integrating both innovation and flexibility into curricula that address trainer needs will be addressed. To meet the need for advanced nutrition practitioners, the basic elements of a Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition (DCN) will be described. Curricula, residencies, doctoral, and other student projects will be highlighted. One existing doctorate in clinical nutrition includes training and implementing the nutrition focused physical exam with malnutrition guidelines in Africa and developing and evaluating outcomes of a food recovery-meal delivery program for home bound seniors.

Results:

Post baccalaureate training provides advanced skills that enable practitioners to address opportunities and challenges that come from consumer access to conflicting information, new technologies, marketplace competition and infringement on scope of practice. Advances in nutrition science demand knowledge on how to access and analyze data and communicate effectively. These graduates will be expected to be proficient in advanced-level practice, leadership, and the conduct of evidenced-based and practice-based research.

Conclusion:

At the end of the session, attendees will discuss opportunities, variations, and challenges to implementing innovative post baccalaureate education.