

Tips to Enhance the Success of Your Academy Foundation Scholarship Application Script for Webinar Offered on 2-17-21

SLIDE 1

SHARON: Hello everyone—thank you for joining us today. My name is **Sharon Sweat** and I am pleased to serve as Moderator for this webinar. I am a distance dietetics intern at the University of Northern Colorado where I am also working on a Master of Science.

This webinar is being recorded. During the live and recorded webinar, closed captions will be shown below the slides. Microphones for all attendees are muted. To ask a question or make a comment for only me as moderator or the speaker, please type it in the “Q & A” box. Questions typed in Q&A only come to me and the speaker; also, you can make your questions anonymous to the two of us by checking “anonymous” in the Q & A box. To share a comment, please type it in the “Chat” box and select the recipient or recipients of the message – either panelist and/or attendees. If you select all attendees, then everyone on the webinar will see your comment in the Chat box. Additional tips to enhance the success of Academy Foundation Scholarship applications are welcome and will be used in future webinars! We plan to have a post-webinar survey to evaluate this webinar, so please be looking for the link in your email.

SLIDE 2

You may be aware that the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics has a Diversity and Inclusion Statement which reads, “*The Academy encourages diversity and inclusion by striving to recognize, respect and include differences in ability, age, creed, culture, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, size, and socioeconomic characteristics in the nutrition and dietetics profession.*” The South Carolina Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, or SCAND, has its first ever Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan. This webinar is part of the Strategic Plan. SCAND welcomes all nutrition and dietetics interns and students because **you and I** are the future of our profession! SCAND is a resource for students and interns and is working to help students interns even more. This webinar is an example.

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The SCAND website is found at www.eatrightsc.org. There is a **Diversity and Inclusion page** on the SCAND website. You can access it by typing “diversity-and-inclusion” at the end of the url as shown in green towards the top of the slide. Or, on the home page, you can click the tab for “*Professional Development*” to access the pull-down menu and from it select “*Diversity and Inclusion.*” The Diversity and Inclusion page currently highlights assorted information including the recent webinar titled “Come on Baby Light My Fire: Tips for Matching a Dietetic Internship” that I gave and Dr. Baxter moderated on January 28, 2021; the 11 winners of the Diversity Mini-Grant (I was one of these winners); the 5 key points of the SCAND Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan; brief descriptions with links to web articles by the Academy; a link to SCAND’s statement on diversity on June 4, 2020; links to 3 webinars on dietitians with disabilities; and information about Diversity and Inclusion awards by the Academy. Links to download the slides, script, and recording of this webinar about tips for Foundation scholarship applications will be posted on the Diversity page on the SCAND website within 3 to 4 business days.

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This webinar has 3 learning objectives. After attending this webinar, each attendee will be able to:

- 1:** Name **2 ways** to strengthen **academic achievement** – other than a high GPA – for your **application**,
- 2:** List 3 ways to strength **professionalism** for your **application**, and
- 3:** Identify 2 ways to help describe **financial need** on your application.

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Now I want to introduce you to our webinar speaker, Dr. Suzi Baxter, Diversity and Inclusion Liaison for SCAND. Dr. Baxter received her bachelor’s degree and completed a Coordinated Undergraduate Program at Texas Christian University. She received her master’s and PhD from Texas Woman’s University in Denton and completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Pediatric Nutrition Research at the Medical College of Georgia. She is a Registered and Licensed Dietitian, and Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Dr. Baxter is an (unpaid) Affiliate Research Professor at the University of South Carolina. As Principal Investigator on numerous research grants funded mainly by the National Institutes of Health, her primary research has

concerned the accuracy of dietary recalls by children. She has authored 90 peer-reviewed articles, 5 chapters, 179 poster or podium presentations, and 84 invited presentations. Dr. Baxter had to resign her Research Professor position in late 2016 due to an acquired disability which impacts her mobility, so she uses a scooter or wheelchair.

As an active Academy member, Dr. Baxter's service includes the South Carolina affiliate (as past President, past Foundation Liaison, and current Diversity and Inclusion Liaison), the Academy's Cultures of Gender and Age Member Interest Group (as current Membership Chair), the Academy's Research Dietetic Practice Group (as past Treasurer, past Diversity Liaison, and current Mentor), the Academy (as a current member of the Evidence Analysis Library Adult Weight Management Workgroup; current member of the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Group; member since 2007 of the Board of Editors for the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and past member of the 2017–2019 Diversity Leaders Program), and the Academy Foundation (as a recent member of the Philanthropy Council, past multi-year member and chair of the Scholarship Committee, and past Chair of the Task Force to create the Amy Joye Memorial Research Award).

Dr. Baxter's honors include the 2012 South Carolina Outstanding Dietitian of the Year, 2016 Research Dietetic Practice Group First Author Publication Award, and 2017 Monsen Award for Outstanding Research Literature. Dr. Baxter, I am handing the microphone and controls over to you!

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SUZI: Thank you, Sharon! Good afternoon everyone, and welcome to our webinar! I am an enthusiastic donor and supporter of the Academy Foundation because it does so very much for students, members, our profession, and the public. The **Academy Foundation** is the **world's largest provider** of dietetic scholarships at all levels of study. The **Academy Foundation** invests in the current and future generation of food and nutrition practitioners and awarded **more than half a million dollars to 239 deserving students** at all levels of study for the 2019-2020 academic year! Scholarships range in value from \$500 to \$10,000. The total amount and number of Foundation scholarships awarded each year is determined by fundraising efforts and investment returns on scholarship funds. The good news is that each year, the overall amount awarded in scholarships grows, and the total number of students who receive scholarships increases. The bad news is that there is never enough money to award a scholarship to every applicant.

SLIDE 7

The Foundation uses a singular, centralized, online application. By completing this application, applicants are automatically considered for every scholarship that the Foundation offers that year for which applicants are eligible. For this webinar, I will review guidelines and requirements as stated on the application. I will add steps you can take to enhance the success of your application. Some steps may be easily achieved whereas others will require more time and effort. The steps that require more time and effort will also help you match for a dietetic internship and later land a job position.

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You may ask, *"Do I need to be a member of the Academy to apply for a Foundation scholarship?"* **No.** However, Academy membership is **highly encouraged** because all, but a few scholarships require Academy membership. So, being an Academy member enhances the success of you winning a Foundation scholarship.

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You may ask, *"To apply, do I need to be enrolled in some type of dietetic program?"* **Yes,** you must be enrolled in an ACEND-accredited program (Diet Tech, Didactic, Diet Internship); in a master's program, Doctoral program, Coordinated or Future Education Model; in both a graduate or doctoral program and ACEND Diet Internship; or something else such as medical school.

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You may ask, *"Do I have to be enrolled for the entire academic year to apply?"* **No,** students must be enrolled for a minimum of **4 months** of the academic year (August through July).

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You may ask, *"Can I apply if I am an **intern** who is not also enrolled in a degree-granting program?"* **Yes.** Interns who participated in the **Fall 2020 match** and are currently enrolled in a dietetic internship

program must be minimally enrolled through the **end of July 2021** to apply.

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Interns participating in the **Spring 2021** match must be **accepted** to a dietetic internship with **enrollment for a minimum of 4 months during the 2021-2022** academic year to apply. You must wait to submit your scholarship application until you receive match confirmation in early April. However, the Foundation advises that you fill out your scholarship application ahead of receiving your match results, so you are ready to apply for a scholarship.

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You may ask, *“Do I need to have US citizenship or permanent residence to apply?”* **No**, you do not.

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You may ask, *“Can I apply if I am an employee or Board member of the Academy, Foundation, ACEND, or CDR?”* **No**, employees and Board members of the following are not eligible to apply: Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Academy Foundation, Academy Political Action Committee, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (or ACEND), and Commission on Dietetic Registration.

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You may ask, *“Do I need to provide transcripts?”* **Yes**, you must either upload transcripts for each college in which you were enrolled for any courses OR provide a faculty member’s verification of GPAs. Unofficial transcripts are okay if they clearly state your full name and university’s name.

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You may be thinking, *“I’m a doctoral student; do I need to provide information on my GRE if my university or college required it?”* **Yes**, and you must obtain a faculty member’s verification for the information you provide related to the GRE exam.

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You may ask, *“Do I need to include recommendations?”* **Yes**, you must include **2** recommendation **forms**. One form must be by an academic professor or instructor. The other form must be by a professional source such as a work supervisor, volunteer leader, mentor, or leadership colleague.

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The Foundation **prefers** but does not require that your two academic and professional recommendation forms be completed by current **RD/RDNs**. Also, letters of recommendation are **not** accepted in place of the recommendation **forms**!

SLIDE 19

You may ask, *“What else should I consider when asking someone to complete a recommendation form?”* **Several things!** Give the individual your current resume or copy of your completed scholarship application so they know all about you. Ask well in advance of the April 19th deadline so the person has ample time to complete the form. If the person hesitates in any way before agreeing to complete a form for you, politely back out of the request by saying something like, *“I can only imagine how very busy you are; it’s okay; I will find someone else to complete a form for me instead of you; thank you anyway!”* The person’s hesitation could be because she or he cannot provide you with an outstanding recommendation which is usually what is needed to be awarded a Foundation scholarship. Finally, never ask a friend or relative to complete a recommendation form for you.

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You may ask, *“Where can I find the application to apply for a Foundation scholarship?”* The application became available within the Foundation’s application portal on February 15. The url is shown on the slide. Or you can simply go to the <https://eatrightfoundation.org>, click on “Apply for Funding” and in the drop-down menu select “Scholarships” and then click on the green bar that reads “Online Application Platform.” Scroll to “Open Scholarship Application” and click on the blue text “Apply Now!”

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You may ask, “*What is the deadline to apply?*” **April 19 at 5pm central time** is when all applications and supporting documents (such as recommendation forms) are due.

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You may ask, “*When will I know whether or not I will receive a Foundation scholarship?*” All applicants will be emailed notification in **late July**.

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Specific questions about the scholarship application should be emailed to scholarship@eatright.org to the attention of Elisha Reichling. You do **not** have to complete your application all at once; you can save it and come back and finish it later.

SLIDE 24

When you create your application, there will be several tabs for specific sections of the application. These sections are shown on this slide:

Who We Are	Instructions	Personal Data	Education Information
Extracurricular and Career Information		Financial Information	
Recommendation Forms	Certification		

The slide shows my application open to the section for “**Personal Data.**”

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Towards the bottom of the Personal Data section, there is a section that looks like this screen with an item that reads, “*The Foundation exclusively awards certain scholarships to diverse applicants, which requires disclosure of sensitive data pertaining to race, ethnicity, gender, and disability. If you wish to be considered for these scholarships, check the following:*” And you have the option to check either “*I prefer to disclose this information*” or “*I prefer not to disclose this information and I understand that I, therefore, will not be considered for some scholarships.*” If you check “*I prefer to disclose this information*” then your next screen looks like this.

SLIDE 26

Gender has a drop-down box from which you select from 4 options which are Male, Female, Non-binary, or Not listed (please specify). The subheading **Race/Ethnicity** asks you to indicate your race/ethnicity. The subheading for **Long-Lasting Conditions** asks you to indicate disabilities; this disabilities item is new because there is a new scholarship for individuals with disabilities. I encourage you to respond to the diversity information so that you may be considered for scholarships for which only applicants of specific diverse subgroups are eligible. Note that the number of diversity scholarships has increased in the past year.

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Reviewers for the Foundation **score** scholarship applications on **3 aspects — academic achievement, professional potential, and financial need**. These aspects receive **different weights** in the final score. Let’s look at each of these 3 aspects and learn how to **enhance** the **success** of your scholarship application for **each aspect**.

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We’ll start with academic achievement. How does a strong applicant demonstrate **academic achievement**? Usually through one or more of the following: high grade point average, high standardized test scores (if applicable), demonstrated effort to attain academic success, or other academic achievements.

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You may ask, “*My GPA is **average** instead of high; what can I do to strengthen my academic achievement?*” You have options but you need to get moving! You can volunteer to work on research studies, publications, posters, and/or presentations for faculty and/or other RDs. Some possible tasks for these activities could be to collect data; enter data; make backup copies of data; review the literature; prepare tables or figures; draft slides or posters...basically whatever is needed! You might even be a co-author on an abstract, poster, presentation, or even a publication!

SLIDE 30

You may ask, *“How do I learn about volunteer opportunities to work on research studies and/or publications?”* Ask your professors. Check and/or post your availability/expertise online at preRD.org, Diversify Dietetics, discussion boards/groups for Dietetic Practice Groups (abbreviated DPGs) or Member Interest Groups (abbreviated MIGs) to which you belong. Check with your affiliate such as SCAND and/or your local district.

SLIDE 31

The application includes an item that reads, *“Please discuss your academic achievements and collegiate achievements to date”* and allows you 200 words to do so. **Avoid** saying things like *“getting into college, being accepted into the dietetics program, getting matched for the dietetic internship of my first choice, and/or doing well in college.”* **Everyone says things like that!** Think and say something **unique** that applies to you! Perhaps you changed careers and went back to school to earn a second bachelor’s degree so you could become a dietitian. Perhaps you did a special capstone project on herbal supplements during pregnancy which helped you learn how to conduct research and present results professionally.

SLIDE 32

The application includes an item that reads, *“If any special circumstances have impacted your ability to perform academically, and you would like the review committee to consider these circumstances, please detail them here”* and allows you 200 words to do so. It is helpful to truthfully share such details. For example, one applicant might write, *“I am a single parent raising 2 children; I work full-time and provide the only income to support us. This impacts my time to attend professional and volunteer activities, but I do what I can.”* Another applicant might write, *“I work each summer and weekends during the school year to support myself and pay for college for what is not paid for by scholarships. My parents both work hard at minimum wage jobs but can barely afford to feed and clothe the six children in my family and provide a place to live. Their jobs do not provide insurance, so they must pay medical bills. They cannot help me pay for any college expenses.”*

SLIDE 33

The application includes an item that reads, *“Have you encountered any barriers to pursuing your education in nutrition and dietetics?”* Your response options are yes, no, and prefer not to disclose. If you respond yes, another box opens that reads, *“Please briefly describe the barriers you have experienced with regard to pursuing your education. Identify how you have overcome these barriers or if these barriers persist in your life today.”* You are allowed 200 words to respond. Perhaps you have encountered a personal barrier of depression to pursuing your education in nutrition and dietetics because your mother died of COVID-19 during your sophomore year in college. You missed classes for two weeks and your grades suffered. You dealt with the depression several ways including your faith, a medical doctor, and regular counseling sessions. You also talked with the Department Chair at your University who then spoke with your professors, and they unanimously agreed to allow you to make up the work that you had missed during the two weeks that you were absent from class. I encourage you to share such details on your application.

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The application includes several sub-sections on additional criteria. One sub-section that is shown on this slide asks whether you are currently enrolled in or a graduate of one of 20 colleges or universities listed. Be sure to mark whatever applies to you.

SLIDE 35

Another sub-section that is shown on this slide asks whether you are currently enrolled in or accepted to one of 3 internships, universities, or colleges. Be sure to mark whatever applies to you.

SLIDE 36

The sub-section that is shown on this slide provides a list of things including a diet tech program, dietetic practice groups, WIC program, Chicago Academy, two states, and whether you have a goal to serve as a preceptor to dietetic interns in the future. Be sure to mark whatever applies to you.

SLIDE 37

The application asks you to select your *“First and Second Future Career Interests.”* You select from the

options shown on this slide; if you select “*Other*” then you are asked to specify.

SLIDE 38

At this point I want to promote checks and balances in your application. What do I mean by that? Well, let’s say that an applicant selects “**Community / Public Health**” for their **First Future Career Interest** and “**Food Insecurity**” for their **Second Future Career Interest**. As a reviewer, I would check that application to make sure that applicant was a member of the corresponding dietetic practice groups.

SLIDE 39

This slide shows the 26 current DPGs (which are groups of professional interest) and the annual dues for students for each DPG. With a first future career interest of “Community / Public Health” I would expect the applicant to be a member of the “Public Health / Community Nutrition” DPG in red font. With a second future career interest of “Food Insecurity” I would expect the applicant to be a member of the “Hunger & Environmental Nutrition” DPG in blue font. If the application fails to indicate membership in one or both DPGs, I would deduct points. Now, you may be thinking about the cost of \$35 total per year to be a member of both these DPGs. Instead, I encourage you to think about the **benefits** of membership in these 2 DPGs which include networking and opportunities for leadership, volunteer, learning, and jobs which are all specific to future career interests for this applicant!

SLIDE 40

This slide shows the 7 current Member Interest Groups (which share common interests) and the MIG that is being formed to concern Disabilities. Again, I want to promote checks and balances. If I am reviewing an application that indicates the applicant is Black, then as a reviewer I would expect the application to indicate that the applicant is a member of the MIG “**National Organization of Blacks in Dietetics & Nutrition**” abbreviated NOBIDAN. If the application fails to indicate membership in this MIG, I would deduct points. Now, you may be thinking about the cost of \$15 per year to be a member of this MIG. Again, I instead encourage you to think about the **benefits** of membership in this MIG which include networking and opportunities for leadership, volunteer, learning, and jobs which are all specific to future career interests for this applicant! Also, NOBIDAN has its own scholarships, but a member must belong to NOBIDAN for more than a single year to be eligible!

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Let’s move on now to the second aspect on which applications are scored which is **professionalism**. You may ask, “*How do I demonstrate professionalism?*” You specify **accomplishments to date** as well as **future professional potential**. Let’s focus first on **accomplishments to date** — by this I mean participation, leadership, volunteering and work experience in dietetics, nutrition, food-related, or complementary organizations.

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You may ask, “*How do I best list accomplishments to demonstrate professionalism?*” Specify the organization, your role, details and time span including overall hours. Using “**participation**” as a member in a College Food Club as an example, you attended 9 one-hour monthly meetings (for 9 hours); helped with a Souper bowl food drive (for 8 hours); and organized the food pantry (for 8 hours) for an overall total of 25 hours between September 2019 and May 2020.

SLIDE 43

This example uses “**leadership**” in a University Nutrition Club. As Secretary you kept minutes at 9 one-hour monthly meetings (for 9 hours); formatted monthly minutes and emailed them to leaders to prepare for each next meeting (for 9 hours); and sent reminders to members to attend each of the next meetings (for 2 hours) for an overall total of 20 hours between September 2019 and May 2020.

SLIDE 44

This example uses “**volunteer**” as an Assistant in a School Cafeteria. You helped the dietitian prepare, bag, and distribute meals for 5 days at 8 hours per day in April 2020 during COVID 19 for 40 hours overall. It is important to indicate when your volunteer or work experiences were under the direction of a dietitian.

SLIDE 45

This example uses **“work experience”** as a Nutrition Aide at Golden Age, a long-term care center. “Golden Age” does not indicate much about the type of organization, so you specify that it is a long-term care center. You worked under the dietitian for 40 hours per week for 14 weeks in the summer of 2020. Your duties included checking meal trays and snacks for adherence to each resident’s preferences, allergies and diet plan. You also assessed residents’ preferences of items served and amounts consumed. You worked 560 hours total.

SLIDE 46

You may ask, *“How do I **learn** about professional opportunities for participation, leadership, volunteer, and/or work experiences?”* There are many ways including university clubs or organizations; SCAND (state, district, website, Palmetto Leaf newsletter, eblasts); Academy, Foundation, dietetic practice groups, member interest groups; preRD.org and Diversity Dietetics.

SLIDE 47

You may ask, *“What are other ways to demonstrate professionalism?”* Provide thoughtful responses to the 4 items on the application that ask about **your most significant accomplishment, your professional goals, your vision for the future of nutrition and dietetics, and your plan to accomplish your vision for the future of nutrition and dietetics.** Let’s go over each of these items.

SLIDE 48

The application has an item that reads, *“Describe your most significant accomplishment related to your dietetics education or career”* and allows you 100 words to do so. **Avoid** saying things like **“first in my family to attend college”** or **“getting into college”** or **“being accepted into a coordinated program”** or **“matching with the dietetic internship that was my first choice”** or **“getting 4.0 in college”** because **EVERYONE** says things like that! Instead, be **unique** and write about some project that meant something special to you and explain why.

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For example, an applicant might write, *“To date, my most significant accomplishment was creating a YouTube video for my nutrition communications project. I had to pick a topic and a target audience, and then create an infographic and another type of communication. I decided to create my first YouTube for a teenage audience on the importance of drinking water and ways to improve water intake. I worked very hard on this video as a one-woman camera crew with just a laptop and video editing software. I learned a lot about how to drink more water, teenagers, and making videos!”*

SLIDE 50

The application has an item that reads, *“Based on the two career interests selected above in your application, describe your professional goals”* and allows you 100 words to do so. **Avoid** saying things like **“do well in my classes or internship”** or **“pass the RD exam”**. Those things are expected! Instead, explain the position(s) that **you** hope to hold in say 5, 10 and 15 years and **why**, or your personal goals to return to school for another advanced degree and why.

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For example, an applicant might write, *“My hopes are to pursue a mission-driven career to positively impact my local and broader community. I want to work more closely with pregnant women and help parents learn ways to keep their children happier and healthier through food and nutrition. My 5-year goal is to have a position as an RD in a WIC clinic where I assess mothers and children as well as plan and teach nutrition education. In 10 years, I hope to have earned an MBA and have a supervisory position in a local WIC program. In 15 years, I hope to have a position at the state level in the WIC program.”*

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Before we get to the application’s 2 items about your vision and plan for the future of nutrition and dietetics, let’s review the **Academy’s** Vision, Mission, and Principles for the future of nutrition and dietetics. The Academy’s Vision and Mission are shown on this slide. The **Academy’s Vision** is *“A world where all*

people thrive through the transformative power of food and nutrition.” The **Academy’s Mission** is to *“Accelerate improvements in global health and well-being through food and nutrition.”*

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This slide shows the Academy’s **Principles** for the future of nutrition and dietetics. The 5 principles concern research to stimulate innovation and discovery; collaboration to solve nutrition challenges; focus on system-wide impact across sectors; having a global impact in eliminating malnutrition; and expanding workforce capacity and capability.

SLIDE 54

The application has an item that reads, *“Discuss your **vision** for the future of nutrition and dietetics in 100 words or less.”* You will want to write several **thoughtful** and **well-connected** sentences to explain **your vision, mission, and principles**.

SLIDE 55

The application has an item that reads, *“Discuss how you **plan** to help achieve your vision for the future of nutrition and dietetics in 100 words or less.”* You will want to write a paragraph that **explains your plan** to achieve your vision for the future of nutrition and dietetics. Be creative yet realistic. Be sure to tie your plan back to your vision for the future of nutrition and dietetics.

SLIDE 56

Let’s move on to the third aspect on which applications are scored which is **financial need**. You may ask, *“How do I best explain my financial need?”* You need to clearly explain your financial history, financial needs, and special circumstances (such as dependents, single parent, etc). You need to include details.

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The application asks a total of **8 questions** concerning financial need. You are allowed 100 words to respond to each of the 8 questions. Let’s go over each of the 8 questions.

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The first question is, *“Briefly describe your personal financial situation, including your financial need.”* For this response, provide itemized details concerning costs for each of your “required” expenses including tuition, room and board, transportation, books, fees, insurance, dues, and any other bills for which you are responsible. By “required” I mean things that you must have — the necessities. Also, provide details concerning any debt that you personally have. Finally, provide details concerning savings and income that you have. Show reviewers that you have a budget and are aware of your financial situation.

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The second question is, *“Please provide details on any additional expenses related to your education.”* For this response, provide details concerning costs for additional things related to your education that are **“nice”** to have but not required. Think about this response and show reviewers that you know how to stretch your dollars.

SLIDE 60

The third question is, *“Please provide details related to your ability to work while enrolled in your program.”* Most applicants answer this question with either *“Program directors recommend not working”* or something like *“I will not have time to work because I will be taking a full load of classes.”* Be honest. Each student and intern have 7 days a week and 24 hours a day. By being organized and managing time, many can find a way to work at least 4 hours a week. If not that, there are opportunities to work during school breaks over holidays and during the summer. Be realistic and justify your response especially if you reply that you **cannot work any** during the entire year.

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The fourth question is, *“How have you been financing your education thus far.”* For this response, provide details concerning who has been paying the bills for your education so far. Indicate if it has been you alone. If it has been a joint effort between your parents and you, specify who has paid what. If it has been a

combination of scholarships, your parents, and you, specify who or what has paid what. If you have saved your entire life to finance your education, say so.

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The fifth question is, “*State any special personal or family circumstances affecting your need for financial assistance.*” For this response, indicate circumstances such as being raised in a family on a single income, being completely financially independent with no assistance from parents and/or family members, being financially responsible for family members, serving as caretaker for a family member, or some type of devastating event such as loss of all household belongings due to flood or fire. If you or a family member recently experienced a long-term illness that caused financial loss to you or your family, explain it in this response.

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The sixth question is, “*How will receiving a Foundation scholarship directly impact your ability to continue your planned enrollment for the 2021-2022 academic year.*” Most applicants reply with something like “*a Foundation scholarship will relieve some of my stress about financial debt*” or “*it will decrease some of my debt.*” Financial debt certainly causes stress, but please try to respond with something more unique. Here is an idea: If awarded a \$500 scholarship, that is equivalent being paid \$10/hour for working 50 hours but instead I have been given 50 hours of time; I will use these 50 hours during the 2021-2022 academic year to...and provide details about what you will do to strengthen your skills in a **specific** area such as leadership, volunteer, participation, or learning a certain topic related to one of your future interests. Be sure to provide specific details!

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The seventh question is, “*From a financial standpoint, describe the impact a scholarship will have on your education.*” This question seems to tie into the first question, so its response should probably tie back into your response to the first question which was, “*Briefly describe your personal financial situation, including your financial need.*” In other words, if you estimate that college, an internship, and taking the exam to become a dietitian is going to cost you \$50,000 and you receive a scholarship for \$1,000 then it will have an impact of 2% financially. However, a scholarship for \$1,000 will have a greater impact on you personally because you will know that the Foundation of your professional organization believes in your potential and has awarded you with a scholarship to demonstrate this belief.

SLIDE 65

The eighth question is, “*Please provide any additional details related to your financial circumstances (if applicable).*” This response could be an extension of a response to questions #1 to #7 for which you reached the limit of 100 words. It can certainly be used to thank the reviewers for considering your application and for expressing your appreciation for any scholarship that you might receive.

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My final advice is that for your entire application, be sure to follow standard rules for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization. In other words, write as if you will be graded, not as if you're writing a text or email! Be sure to proofread your entire application and correct any typos. Start early to allow time to prepare a complete and thoughtful application.

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I want to briefly summarize some take-away points from today's webinar.

I highlighted several ways to strengthen **academic achievement** – other than a high GPA – on your scholarship application such as:

- Volunteer to work on research studies, publications, posters, presentations for faculty and/or other RDs
- Learn about volunteer opportunities to work on research studies and/or publications from your professors, preRD.org, Diversify Dietetics, discussion boards/groups for MIGs/DPGs, affiliate SCAND, local district
- Provide unique responses to questions about your academic achievements and collegiate

achievements to date

- Have First and Second Future Career Interests correspond with membership in respective DPGs
- Belong to MIG (if applicable)

I listed several ways to strengthen **professionalism** for your application such as:

- By specifying accomplishments concerning participation, leadership, volunteering, and work experience in dietetics by providing the organization, your role, details, time span, and total hours
- By learning about professional opportunities for participation, leadership, volunteering, and work experience from University clubs or organizations; affiliate SCAND (state, local district, website, Palmetto Leaf newsletter, eblasts); Academy, Foundation, dietetic practice groups, member interest groups, preRD.org, and Diversify Dietetics
- By providing thoughtful and unique responses to 4 items on the application concerning your most significant accomplishment, your professional goals, your vision for the future of nutrition and dietetics, and your plan to accomplish your vision for the future of nutrition and dietetics

I identified several ways to strengthen **financial need** for your application by providing tips for responses for each of the 8 questions about financial need. For example,

- By showing reviewers that you have a budget and are aware of your financial situation.
- If your education thus far has been paid by a joint effort between your parents and you, specify who has paid what.
- Providing a unique response to the item, “*How will a Foundation scholarship directly impact your ability to continue your planned enrollment.*”
- Providing a unique response to the item, “*From a financial standpoint, describe the impact a scholarship will have on your education.*”

SLIDE 68

Now for some **food for thought**. As nutrition and dietetics students or interns, you know that **variety** is *every dietitian's business*. For the future of the nutrition and dietetics profession and for the health of our patients and clients, **diversity and inclusion** must also be *every dietitian's business*.

SLIDE 69

I acknowledge and sincerely thank Elisha and the Foundation for sharing attributes of strong applicants. I also thank Sharon for serving as Moderator and preparing an early draft of the slides for this webinar.

SLIDE 69

Links to the webinar slides and recording will be available on SCAND's diversity page by early next week. Now we have time to answer some of your questions that you have typed in the Q & A box. [ANSWER QUESTIONS.] Thanks again for participating in our webinar! Have a great rest of your day!