



# ACBN

## American Clinical Board of Nutrition



A certification agency in Nutrition Accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA)

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August 16, 2010

Dear Michigan Board of Dietetics and Rae Ramsdell, Licensing Director,

The purpose of this letter is to reiterate the professional training of **doctors** who have diligently pursued post graduate training in the field of Clinical Nutrition at federally accredited institutions of higher learning and to support the newly founded Michigan Nutrition Association in formulating rules that also acknowledges the clinical nutritionist and the public's freedom of choice.

The American Clinical Board of Nutrition (ACBN) credentials are as follows:

- ❖ Is **nationally recognized** and certified by the National Commission for the Certifying Agencies (NCCA).
- ❖ NCCA is **federally accredited** by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- ❖ Is a **member of the National Organization for Certifying Agencies (NOCA, now known as ICE, Institute for Credentialing Excellence).**
- ❖ All certificants of the ACBN are **physicians and doctorates**, who have completed 3000 or more hours to sit for their degree and who have also completed 300 hours of postgraduate nutrition training through an accredited college. These include Doctors of Chiropractic, Naturopathic Doctors, Osteopathic Doctors, Medical Doctors, Doctors of Dental Surgery, PhD's, etc., who are licensed to diagnose and treat human ailments.
- ❖ **In order to sit for the ACBN, all certificants must have acquired 300 clock hours of nutrition courses from schools holding status with the US Department of Education, been in practice for 2 years, and have written a paper/article with 10 references for publication.**

NCCA Certification is the same federally recognized certification that Registered Dietitians have; however, our education requirements are much more stringent. ACBN certificants are doctors from different disciplines and the RD's are typically not. If the Michigan Dietetic Board recognizes the American Dietetic Association for their accreditation and the ACBN has the same federal credentials, then the Michigan Dietetic Board should recognize the ACBN as equal.

*The mission of the American Clinical Board of Nutrition is to ensure for the health, safety, and welfare of the public  
Through an examination process that assesses professional and clinical competence of health care providers in nutrition*

The Michigan Board of Dietetics, under the guidance of the State of Michigan's Department of Licensing and Regulations, needs to acknowledge and recognize other professionals, their nutritional education and certification programs, especially when the training is through a state or federally accredited institution of higher learning.

In the interest of public safety, there is need for established guidelines and standards of education, so that all healthcare providers, in whatever discipline, can demonstrate proficiency in their field.

We believe that in our country, where freedom of choice is a given, that no group should monopolize the field of nutrition when there are many health care professionals who have advanced training. Allow the public the freedom of choice, knowing that many who practice nutritional counseling, coaching, etc. have met the criteria established to protect the masses.

Our position is that Public Act 333 of 2006 serves only the Dietitian and excludes the professional diversity of highly trained individuals. We favor that the Michigan Nutrition Association propose rules that are inclusive of these individuals in the interest of public safety and freedom of choice.

Respectfully,  
Board of the American Clinical Board of Nutrition