

National Council on Rehabilitation Education

*“A Professional Organization Dedicated to Quality Services for
Persons with Disabilities through Education and Research”*

April 8, 2016

TO: NCRE Membership

RE: Traditional Rehabilitation Counseling Programs and the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) and Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) Merger

Dear NCRE Member,

As we approach our Spring 2016 conference in Newport Beach, CA, April 20-22, 2016, I want to provide you with information on a topic that I know is of importance and relevance to all, the CORE/CACREP merger and our Traditional Rehabilitation Counseling Programs.

Considering the many questions and requests for information that I and the NCRE Administrative Office has received, I had a meeting with Patricia Nunez, CORE President, on April 6, 2016 and wanted to share the results of our conversation with you.

1. CORE and CACREP continue to operate as separate accreditors, and will through June 2017. In fact, CORE is conducting a Standards Revision Process. CORE's current standards are being reviewed by the Standards Revision Committee (SRC). The SRC is reviewing research funded by CORE as part of the preliminary work on the Standards Revision Process. This group is composed of practicing rehabilitation professionals and educators alike. These individuals do not represent the interests of a particular professional organization.

On or around July of 2016, a draft copy of the revised standards will be made available for public commentary, as is CORE's practice and the foundation of any standards revision process: input from the profession on the standards for the professional preparation of rehabilitation counselors is necessary to ensure rehabilitation counselor education programs are preparing graduates for contemporary practices.

2. In addition to widely soliciting for comments electronically, CORE also plans to hold Town Hall meetings at the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 NCRE conferences (among other professional conferences to be identified) to directly solicit feedback from NCRE members.



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Professionals will have ample time to provide input into the standards revision process for Traditional Rehabilitation Counseling standards. This standards revision process will be concluded prior to merger with CACREP, will be the result of feedback from stakeholders, and will be approved by the CORE Board. These revised standards are the standards that will be adopted by CACREP at time of merger.

3. As of July 1, 2017, ALL CORE - accredited programs will be accredited by CACREP, via CACREP’s adoption of accreditation terms of all CORE accredited programs. Reapplication for accreditation post-merger will be done through CACREP. At that point in time, the 2017 CORE standards (which CORE is working on developing now) will be in effect until the point in time when CACREP conducts their next standards revision. As a reminder, standards revision process best practice calls for review of educational standards every 5 years.
4. As stated in the 2013 Affiliation Agreement between CORE and CACREP, faculty in currently accredited Rehabilitation Counseling programs will be eligible under CACREP’s grandparenting provision to be considered core faculty in CACREP accredited programs if they 1) hold a doctoral degree from a counselor education program or a closely related profession, 2) are employed full-time within a rehabilitation counseling program, 3) can demonstrate relevant preparation and experience in rehabilitation counseling, and 4) engage in sustained activities relevant to the counseling profession, including holding appropriate memberships and certifications pertinent to rehabilitation counseling.
5. In addition, graduates of doctoral level rehabilitation counselor education programs who graduate prior to January 1, 2018 will be eligible to serve as core faculty in CACREP accredited programs for life, including programs dually accredited by CORE and CACREP.

On Wednesday April 20, 2016 during our Legislative Updates meeting, we will have the opportunity to hear from CORE and CACREP as the merger activities continue. Although CACREP does not accredit undergraduate programs, they have recognized the great visibility the creation of a registry for undergraduate programs in rehabilitation services will have.

CORE also continues to explore the opportunity to work with another CHEA recognized accreditor that might be interested in assuming the accreditation of CORE’s undergraduate programs. I am positive that we will have more information as these discussions progress. Last, but not least, I am including links to all the documents that have been made available regarding the 2015 merger announcement, the 2013 affiliation agreement and the impact on our graduate programs.

I applaud your questions and inquiries and moreover your commitment. Please know that NCRE is firmly representing rehabilitation counselor educators and advocating for the interests of all Traditional Rehabilitation Counseling, Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling, and Rehabilitation Counselor Education Programs.

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I hope that we all keep this passion going and make our contributions to the unification of counseling and the maintenance of the traditions, knowledge, and research that have defined rehabilitation counseling.

Respectfully;

Noel
Noel Estrada-Hernandez, PhD, CRC
President
National Council on Rehabilitation Education

CORE/CACREP Merger Communications

1. [FAQ on 2014 affiliation agreement](#)
2. [Merger announcement](#)
3. [FAQ on merger 1](#)
4. [Policy on conversion of MA programs](#)
5. [Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling Standards](#)
6. [Policy on accreditation of PhD programs](#)
7. [FAQ on PhD accreditation](#)