



**Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs
National Council on Rehabilitation Education**

February 24, 2022

Re: CACREP 2016 Standards Faculty Requirements

Dear Liaison/Department Chair/Dean:

On behalf of CACREP, we want to thank you for your support of the CACREP-accredited counseling programs under your leadership. Your support of these programs at your institution is a support of quality counselor preparation, accreditation, and the mental health of the citizens of your state and of our country. CACREP and the National Council of Rehabilitation Education (NCRE) have prepared this joint letter to remind Department Chairs and Deans and others with hiring responsibilities of our faculty-related standards, and the impact of the 2017 CACREP-CORE merger on rehabilitation counselor educators specifically. ***Our goal is to clarify a prevailing misconception about the eligibility of rehabilitation counselor educators in meeting CACREP's faculty-related standards.***

In 2017 the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) and the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) merged, and all rehabilitation counseling programs were adopted and recognized as CACREP-accredited programs. With the merger, the cadre of experienced counselor educators with professional experience in the specialty practice area of rehabilitation counseling expanded, and those with rehabilitation counseling preparation and identity became eligible to be core faculty under our CACREP standards. A brief explanation of our organizations and the details of the merger agreement follows.

As part of the CACREP-CORE merger agreement, faculty who were employed in CORE-accredited rehabilitation counseling programs on and before June 30, 2017 are eligible under CACREP's grandparenting provision to be considered core faculty in CACREP-accredited programs for life if they (1) hold a doctoral degree from a counselor education program or a closely related profession (e.g., rehabilitation psychology, rehabilitation); (2) are employed full-time within the program; (3) can demonstrate relevant preparation and experience in rehabilitation counseling; and (4) engage in activities relevant to the counseling profession, including holding appropriate memberships and certifications pertinent to rehabilitation counseling. CACREP will continue to honor this grandparenting clause.

In addition, graduates of doctoral-level rehabilitation counselor education programs who graduated prior to January 1, 2018 are eligible to serve as core faculty in CACREP-accredited programs for life. CACREP now accredits doctoral-level programs that have a rehabilitation counseling emphasis.

CACREP, established in 1981, is the CHEA-recognized specialized accrediting body for the counseling profession and is the gold-standard for counselor preparation. The mission of CACREP is to promote the professional competence of counseling and related practitioners through: the development of preparation standards; the encouragement of excellence in program development; and the accreditation of professional preparation programs. CACREP accredits master's programs in eight specialty areas of practice and at the doctoral level, and as of December 31, 2021 accredits 901 specialties housed at 414 institutions.

The National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE), formed in 1955, is the premier professional organization of educators dedicated to quality services for persons with disabilities through education and research. This organization represents institutional academic rehabilitation programs, rehabilitation counselor educators, practicing rehabilitation counselors, researchers, rehabilitation counseling students, and other professionals primarily concerned with the preparation and maintenance of professional standards for individual who provide service to persons with disabilities. Prior to the 2017 merger, our membership was primarily comprised of faculty and students from CORE-accredited programs.

Both CACREP and NCRE are hopeful that, with this information in hand, you and your counseling programs do not miss the opportunity to hire highly qualified faculty who meet the CACREP standards on faculty requirements.

For more information, please contact the CACREP office at (703) 535-5990 or visit the CACREP website at www.cacrep.org. If CACREP can be of assistance, please contact us and we will be happy to furnish any support necessary to make an informed decision in the crucial area of CACREP accreditation.

Sincerely,

Amy Milsom
CACREP Chair

Allison Fleming
NCRE President

Sylvia Fernandez
CACREP CEO

Satinder Atwal
NCRE Executive Director