



Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs

1001 North Fairfax Street, Suite 510 • Alexandria, VA 22314 • (703) 535-5990 • fax (703) 739-6209 • www.cacrep.org

July 31, 2017

Dr. Joseph Castro
Office of the President
California State University, Fresno
5200 N. Barton Ave., M/S ML48
Fresno, California 93740

Dear Dr. Castro:

The Board of Directors of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) met July 13-15, 2017, for the purpose of making accreditation decisions. At this meeting, the Board reviewed the application submitted by the Department of Counselor Education and Rehabilitation at California State University, Fresno, to convert its formerly Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) accredited Rehabilitation Counseling program to a program holding dual accreditation under CACREP's Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling Standards. Following a review of the application for Clinical Mental Health Counseling accreditation as outlined in the Phase 2 policy for *Converting a CORE-Accredited Rehabilitation Counseling Program to a Dually Accredited Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program*, the CACREP Board approved the conversion. The CACREP Board's decision was made subsequent to the CORE Board's recommendation regarding the Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling Standards prior to CORE's dissolution and subsequent merger with CACREP on July 1, 2017. As agreed upon by the boards of both organizations, the program is now accredited as follows:

Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling (M.S. degree)

Accredited: Two-Year Period through October 31, 2019

While noting that there are two minor standards-related deficiencies that the boards indicated needed to be addressed more thoroughly by the program, as outlined on p. 3 of this letter, along with some recommendations, the faculty deserve to be congratulated for the time, energy, and commitment they have given throughout this accreditation process. CACREP recognizes that this has been a cooperative endeavor and believes that the specified requirements can be addressed within the allotted time period.

Prior to the date specified above, the program must submit an Interim Report. This report should provide documentation that the standards-related requirements have been addressed. Four (4) electronic copies of the report, in read-only format on CDs or USB drives, should be submitted to the CACREP office no later than April 1, 2019. This deadline allows for the CACREP Board's review of the Interim Report at its July 2019 meeting. Upon a favorable review by the Board, this program would then be permitted to continue

its dual accreditation status until October 31, 2023. Please note that an application for re-accreditation will require the program faculty to choose to have the program reviewed under either the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Standards or the Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling Standards, as continuation of the dual accreditation will no longer be an option for the program. .

As noted previously, through the joint review process, both the CACREP and CORE boards reviewed the application for dual accreditation conversion. While approving the conversion, the boards offered recommendations, included on p. 3 of this letter, for consideration by the program faculty. While the boards view these recommendations as important considerations for the program, please note that there is no requirement for a formal response to the recommendations at this time.

Prior to this decision, the program held sole accreditation through CORE as a Rehabilitation Counseling program. This program now joins a handful of other higher education programs across the United States in successfully completing the joint review process offered as part of the 2013 affiliation agreement between CACREP and CORE. Congratulations! This is indeed a worthy accomplishment.

The approval for conversion and dual accreditation is notable for an additional reason. Through holding this dual accreditation, program graduates, including those who graduated up to 18 months prior to this decision date and who completed the curricular and clinical requirements included in this review, will be eligible for hiring in key federal programs, including the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and TRICARE, which have stipulated graduation from a CACREP-accredited program as an employment criterion.

A certificate of accreditation is enclosed with Dr. Beare's copy of this letter. On behalf of the CACREP Board, I would like to extend my thanks to you and your administration for the support provided to the counseling program throughout the accreditation process. Administrative support is considered vital to the process of continuous improvement of higher education programs. Once again, congratulations are extended to all of those involved in making this a successful accreditation review process.

Sincerely,



Charles F. Gressard, Ph.D.
Interim President and CEO

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Paul Beare, Dean, Kremen School of Education and Human Development
Dr. Song Lee, Chair, Department of Counselor Education and Rehabilitation
Dr. Steve Koobatian, Coordinator, Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Program

Standards to Be Addressed in the Interim Report

Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling Standards

Standard I.3

Provide evidence that assessment of student learning occurs pertaining to the understanding of basic classifications, indications, and contraindications of commonly prescribed medications so that appropriate referrals can be made for medication evaluations and so that the side effects of such medications can be identified.

Standard K.2

Provide evidence that assessment of student learning occurs pertaining to models of program evaluation.

Recommendations

While the boards view these as important considerations for the program, please note there is no requirement for a formal response to the recommendations at this time.

1. It is recommended that the program faculty continue the documented efforts in relation to the core and non-core faculty credit hour delivery ratio and that the program faculty contact the CACREP staff for consultation on the determination of this ratio.
2. It is recommended that the program faculty further develop mechanisms to draw upon the assessment of student learning results for the Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling program area standards to inform the overall evaluation of the program, as well as to comprehensively report the program evaluation results to the program's constituents.

Publicizing Your CACREP Accreditation Decisions

Institutions with programs accredited by CACREP must display integrity and responsibility when publicizing their accredited status in publications such as promotional literature, brochures, web pages, student catalogs and handbooks. The following guidelines are offered for the public presentation of accredited status:

1. Institutions which publicize the accreditation decisions rendered for their specific counseling programs in catalogs or other official publications should include the following:

- A. the name of the accrediting body and the scope of accreditation (i.e., institutional or specialized);
- B. the decisions as program specific (e.g., school counseling or clinical mental health counseling).

For example, "The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), has granted accreditation to the following programs in the Department of Counselor Education at State University: Clinical Mental Health Counseling (M.S.), School Counseling (M.Ed.), and the doctoral program in Counselor Education and Supervision (Ed.D.)."

2. Avoid phrases such as "Full Accreditation" or "Full Approval" since programs cannot be partially accredited.

3. All statements mentioning accreditation status must be clear, accurate, and current.

4. Any listing of accreditation in official publications or on university stationery should list only those programs conferred accreditation by CACREP. Programs not reviewed by CACREP - even within the same department - should not be represented as accredited.

For example, it would be inaccurate to state that programs in the Department of Human Services were CACREP accredited if CACREP had granted accreditation to only two out of three programs in the department. It would also be inaccurate to state that specific programs or degrees within a department are accredited based on institutional accreditation of a university or college as a whole unit.

5. Statements suggesting future accreditation of programs when decisions have not been rendered by CACREP are not permissible.

For example, it is NOT permissible to say "The School Counseling program at State University is currently involved in an evaluation process with the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) and anticipates receiving accreditation in the near future."