

FAQs - PhD Rehabilitation Counselor Education and CACREP Accreditation

1) What are the CACREP provisions for doctoral programs in Rehabilitation Counselor Education (RCE) with the CACREP-CORE merger?

On or before the July 1, 2017, CACREP will extend accreditation to all Ph.D. RCE programs, if the programs can demonstrate substantial compliance with specified criteria from CACREP's 2016 accreditation standards for doctoral programs.

CACREP will continue to honor the 2013 Affiliation Agreement grandfathering clause that all current RCE faculty, in CORE-accredited Master's programs, are grandfathered in as core faculty in *all* CACREP-accredited programs and this grandfathering is extended to new PhD RCE graduates until January 1, 2018.

2) Must every PhD in Rehabilitation Counselor Education program apply to become accredited by CACREP?

No. CACREP is providing an opportunity for doctoral programs in rehabilitation counselor education to apply for accreditation. Applying for accreditation is optional.

3) Will Doctoral Programs in Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation Psychology be eligible to apply for CACREP accreditation?

PhD RCE program degree titles must reflect "Counseling" not Psychology. CACREP does not have the authority to accredit outside the Counseling profession. CACREP recognizes, however, that not all PhD RCE programs may currently hold a title in an area for which CACREP has authority to accredit; therefore, if a doctoral level program has psychology in its title, its application for accreditation must also document: a) that its identity is clearly Rehabilitation Counselor Education; b) that the program description materials published by the institution clearly describe the program as a Rehabilitation Counselor Education program, and c) that the program has begun the process of a title change within the institution and state, if required, for a change in the program and the degree to more clearly represent its identity as a Counseling program.

4) Are there a minimum number of credit hours for doctoral programs?

All doctoral programs must be at least 48 hours beyond the Master's as per the Doctoral Standards

5) Can my doctoral program apply for CACREP Accreditation if our entry level Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling is not a Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling program or is a traditional rehabilitation counseling program?

Entry-level pre-requisite requirements can be met by either the CACREP Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling Standards or the CORE traditional rehabilitation counseling Standards. The Policy Document entitled *Extending CACREP accreditation to Doctoral Rehabilitation Counselor Education programs under the CACREP 2016 accreditation standards for doctoral programs* outlines the Standards that must be met.

6) Will faculty who have taught in CORE accredited programs meet CACREP's core faculty requirements in terms of professional identity?

Faculty in currently CORE-accredited Rehabilitation Counseling programs are eligible under CACREP's grandparenting provision to be considered core faculty in *all* 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 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. 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 *all* CACREP-accredited programs for life, including programs dually accredited by CORE and CACREP.

7) What is the minimum number of faculty members required to apply for accreditation?

Doctoral programs require two core counselor education program faculty in addition to the minimum three core counselor education program faculty members required for entry-level programs.

8) What are the fees for seeking CACREP accreditation of doctoral-level programs?

The application fee for the initial accreditation is \$2,500. The fee is due at the time of application. On-site visit fees are based on a flat rate charge of \$2,000 per visitor. When adding a doctoral program, a minimum of two site team members will be assigned. When additional visitors or alternative visit structures are required in order to review distance learning programs or programs offered at multiple sites (CACREP Policy Document, Programs offered at multiple sites policy #1.o), additional fees will be assessed at a rate set by CACREP. Institutions will be billed for all site visit fees at the time the visit is scheduled. These fees must be paid prior to the team's arrival on campus. For budget planning purposes, institutions should contact the CACREP office for current information about the number of team members that will be required and the fees that will be charged for the visit.

9) I have decided to submit my doctoral program for CACREP accreditation. What are the next steps?

On or before December 1, 2015 you must submit to CORE a letter of intent to indicating your intention to apply for CACREP accreditation of the doctoral RCE program along with documentation demonstrating your program meets the eligibility criteria. You will be notified if your program meets the eligibility criteria in writing. If eligible, you must then submit an abbreviated self-study along with an application to CACREP by February 28, 2016. An abbreviated self-study document must be submitted in accordance with CACREP's policy guidelines for "Electronic Submission of Accreditation Documents." The abbreviated self-study will include an application form with signatures of key decision-making administrators at the institution and documentation of compliance with the Eligibility Conditions cited above.

In addition, the program must address with both narrative and supporting documents how it meets the following 2016 CACREP Standards:

- Section 1 Standards B, S, W-BB
- Section 2 Standard D, F.1.c, F.1.l, F.3.d, F.3.g, F.3.h, F.5.l, F.5.m, F.6.h, F.7.a, F.8.a
- Section 3 Standards F-M, O, P, R
- Section 4 F-H
- Section 6 Doctoral Standards Counselor Education and Supervision

10) What happens after I submit my application to CACREP?

Once the application fee and abbreviated self-study documents are received in the CACREP office, an Initial Review of the self-study and supporting documentation will be conducted to determine if the program is in compliance with the requisite abbreviated standards. If necessary an Addendum may be required prior to scheduling the on-site visit which must be scheduled no more than 6 months after receipt of the Initial Review Letter.

The following decisions may be made by CACREP:

Decision 1 - Accredited

This status is granted to counseling programs that, in the professional judgment of the CACREP Board of Directors, meet all applicable standards in a satisfactory manner. Accredited status is conferred for the remainder of the current CORE or CACREP-accreditation cycle.

Decision 2 - Accredited for a Two-Year Period

This status is granted to counseling programs that, in the professional judgment of the CACREP Board of Directors, substantially meet the requirements for accredited status, but for which the Board requests an Interim Report addressing identified standards-related issues where a slight modification or change in practice will strengthen the program. The CACREP Board of Directors confers this accreditation status when there is a belief that the counseling program can address the identified issues within the two-year period. (CACREP Policy #3c entitled *Doctoral Program Accreditation* may apply.)

Decision 3 - Denial of Accreditation

Accreditation is denied when, in the professional judgment of the CACREP Board of Directors, the counseling program has been unable to establish clear evidence that it is in substantial compliance with the standards.

NOTE: All CORE-accredited Master's degree programs will be adopted as CACREP-accredited programs effective July 1, 2017.