

# Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)

CACREP is the leading national accrediting body for Professional Counselor preparation programs. Its scope includes master's degree programs in the Specialized Practice Areas of Addiction Counseling, Career Counseling, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling, College Counseling and Student Affairs, Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling, Rehabilitation Counseling, and School Counseling. CACREP also accredits doctoral programs in Counselor Education and Supervision for the preparation of Counselor Educators and advanced practitioners.

## CACREP Accreditation Provides Benefits to Various Publics

- It advances/enhances the profession of counseling.

CACREP accreditation contributes to the unity of the Counseling profession by bringing together practitioners, educators, and students and by continually improving professional preparation, educational research and scholarship, and practice. CACREP accreditation provides assurance of a quality educational program that prepares Professional Counselors.

- It supports national and state credentialing processes for Professional Counselors.

CACREP accreditation provides assurance that accredited programs "measure up" to standards developed by a national consensus of those in the field of Professional Counseling. Thus, federal agencies, state licensing boards and national certification agencies are assured that programs accredited by CACREP provide a consistent, quality education in preparation for counselor credentialing.

- It provides student and consumer protection.

CACREP accreditation provides recognition that the education offered by an accredited program has completed an extensive peer-evaluation process and meets standards established by and for the Counseling profession. Students can be assured that all requisite knowledge and skills areas will be included in the course of study necessary for entry into the field of Professional Counseling.

Additionally, clients and consumers of counseling services benefit from the rigorous preparation of the Professional Counselor who has graduated from a CACREP program.

## The CACREP Standards

CACREP Standards are structured around a foundational counseling curriculum that unifies Professional Counselors. These areas include:

- Professional Counseling Orientation and Ethical Practice
- Social and Cultural Diversity
- Lifespan Development
- Career Development
- Counseling Practice and Relationships
- Group Counseling and Group Work
- Assessment and Diagnostic Processes
- Research and Program Evaluation

Additionally, CACREP specifies standards related to:

- Curriculum unique to each Specialized Practice Area
- Supervised Clinical Field Work Experiences
- Student Assessment and Program Evaluation

Institutions with CACREP-accredited degree programs in one or more specialization are monitored for quality assurance and reviewed in full every eight years.



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