



**Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs**

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September 7, 2017

Dr. Paul Peluso  
Department of Counselor Education  
Florida Atlantic University  
777 Glades Road  
Bldg. 40, Room 270  
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Dear Dr. Peluso:

This letter is being sent to you as the designated CACREP Program Liaison at Florida Atlantic University, at which the previously dually CORE-accredited, now CACREP-accredited, Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling/Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CLRC/CMHC) program is housed in the same academic unit with other CACREP-accredited counseling specialties. Please ensure that the information in this letter is provided to all counseling faculty members.

The CACREP and CORE merger officially went into effect on July 1, 2017. At its July 2017 meeting, the CACREP Board of Directors (BOD) finalized the merger and made a number of decisions with implications for programs as CACREP moves forward in operationalizing the merger. I have summarized the relevant information below. More information on some of these topics will be forthcoming in CACREP email blasts, newsletters, and on the CACREP website. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions you have about this information or any other CACREP accreditation-related matter. I can be reached at 703-535-5990 or [ypena@cacrep.org](mailto:ypena@cacrep.org).

- The BOD formally adopted all previous sets of CORE accreditation standards and the newly revised Rehabilitation Counseling Standards, which will constitute the 8<sup>th</sup> specialty area in the CACREP 2016 Standards.
- The BOD approved a 5-year implementation period for Rehabilitation Counseling programs to meet the 60 credit hour program requirement; thus students entering an accredited Rehabilitation Counseling program after July 1, 2022 must complete a 60 credit hour degree program.
- The BOD approved the formal transfer of accredited status from CORE to CACREP of all master's degree level CORE-accredited program that were in good standing on the date of CORE's dissolution. These programs are formally recognized as CACREP-accredited programs

with a specialty in Rehabilitation Counseling, effective beginning July 1, 2017. Recognition of program graduates as graduates of a CACREP-accredited program is applicable to students who graduate after July 1, 2017.

- For CORE-accredited programs that have reports due addressing accreditation conditions, the BOD will use the CORE Standards under which a program last applied for accreditation or re-accreditation to review the reports.

In addition to the decisions above, the Board made decisions applicable for RC programs housed in the same academic unit with existing specialties that CACREP accredited prior to the merger, and about accreditation cycle end dates for the counseling programs.

The following are the factors that determine whether or not a RC program is housed in the same academic unit with other counseling specialties, both for billing and accreditation review purposes:

- The counseling specialties operate under a single unit budget and report to a single academic unit leader who oversees all of the counseling specializations;
- The core faculty share in the overall program curricular development;
- All counseling students are admitted and advised under the same general procedures and processes;
- The program's comprehensive program evaluation plan is applicable across all counseling specialties and the same general assessment procedures are used for each specialty and are aggregated for academic unit evaluation; and
- There is a single CACREP Liaison for all counseling specialties.

The CACREP Staff made preliminary determinations earlier this year, for billing purposes, on whether or not the RC programs were housed in the same academic unit with other accredited counseling specialties. The staff based these determinations on the criteria above, the information available from CORE, the information available on the institution's website, and, in some instances, through additional dialogue with program representatives. Please let me know if you have any questions about the determinations made to date or with any questions you may have about related organizational considerations.

As there are multiple accredited counseling specialties at Florida Atlantic University in the same academic unit, the accreditation cycle end date for all of the counseling specialties is now **October 31, 2023**. This date represents an alignment of the CACREP and CORE accreditation cycles, with primary consideration given to when the most recent site visits occurred. A formal accreditation letter will be forthcoming. . A standard review of application materials for accreditation/re-accreditation generally takes 12-18 months to complete from the time of the self-study submission to the CACREP Board making an accreditation decision. Your program should plan to submit its application for re-accreditation, including a signed application and a complete self-study document, at *minimum* by **July 2022**. This is one year prior to the Board meeting immediately preceding the expiration date. Again the accreditation review process takes 12-18 months; therefore it is best to allow additional time for the review process and submit earlier, perhaps 15 months prior to the Board meeting (i.e., adding at least an

additional 3 months to the minimum 'due by' date indicated above). Please feel free to reach out to me to discuss timeline considerations.

In addition, please note that there are a number of resources and guiding documents on the CACREP website in the "For Programs" section. Lastly, if any of the counseling specialties are offered at multiple campus locations or via different or multiple delivery formats (e.g., online), please be sure to consult *CACREP Policy 1.o Programs Offered at Multiple Sites*.

In closing, I look forward to continuing working with you and, again, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Yvette Peña Walkinshaw", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Yvette Peña Walkinshaw  
Assistant Director of Accreditation