



May 23, 2022

Board of Directors  
Council for Accreditation of Counseling and  
Related Educational Programs  
500 Montgomery Street, Suite 350  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear CACREP Board Members:

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities' (CCD) Employment & Training, Social Security and Veterans Task Forces write regarding the CACREP 2023/2024 rehabilitation counselor curricular standards revision. CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for Federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society free from racism, ableism, sexism, and xenophobia, as well as LGBTQ+ based discrimination and religious intolerance.

We are extremely concerned that the proposed diminution of the rehabilitation counseling curriculum in your revised standards will lead to a lack of qualified rehabilitation counselors who can provide competent and appropriate services to all people with disabilities, not just those with a mental health diagnosis. Access to competent and qualified rehabilitation counselors with advanced degrees is essential in order to provide people with disabilities with high quality services that they can utilize to obtain good paid jobs in the greater community. Participation in the economic and social life of a community is vitally important to many people, including people with disabilities.

Individuals with disabilities deserve to have available to them rehabilitation counselors who are well trained and have adequate experience to conduct evaluations and assessments; provide diagnosis and treatment planning; provide counseling based on labor-market knowledge, limitations and adjustment to disability – particularly if it is acquired later in life; and offer competent and unbiased expert testimony for Social Security disability hearings.

As the accrediting body for advance-degree counseling programs, CACREP has a responsibility to assure that these programs equip graduates of the advance-degree programs it accredits with the knowledge and skills needed to meet vocational, personal, and independent living goals of

people with disabilities. We urge CACREP to include curriculum specific to align with empirical evidence-based research in its rehabilitation counseling standards.

Sincerely,

Association of People Supporting EmploymentFirst

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network

Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation

Easterseals

Justice in Aging

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

National Association of Disability Representatives

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

National Down Syndrome Congress

Paralyzed Veterans of American

The Arc of the United States

The Viscardi Center