

In April of 2017, the American Mental Health Counselor Association (AMHCA), the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC), the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB), and the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) released a joint statement proposing a National Counselor Licensure Endorsement Process. This statement was developed through the work of a Portability Task Force created by these organizations to work towards a, “safe, clear, reasonable portability process for all current and future counselors” (www.amhca.org/portability2017).

In its July 2017 Board of Directors meeting, the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) board voted to publicly endorse this statement. CACREP has supported previous efforts undertaken by different professional associations and has participated in efforts to help create an agreed-upon standard of education and experience leading to a national standard for professional counselor licensure. In 2013, the CACREP Board adopted a position statement on licensure portability for professional counselors, and in 2015, the board endorsed the portability standards proposed by ACES, AMHCA, and NBCC.

The CACREP board continues to be encouraged by these efforts to promote licensure portability, and is further encouraged by the involvement of AASCB in these efforts. For these reasons, the CACREP Board of Directors endorses the portability statement below, and is committed to helping all professional association partners continue to create pathways towards parity in licensure based on demonstrated quality in training and experience.

National Counselor Licensure Endorsement Process

Any counselor licensed at the highest level of licensure for independent practice available in his or her state may obtain licensure in any other state or territory of the United States if all of the following criteria are met:

1. The licensee has engaged in ethical practice, with no disciplinary sanctions, for at least 5 years from the date of application for licensure endorsement.
2. The licensee has possessed the highest level of counselor licensure for independent practice for at least 3 years from the date of application for licensure endorsement.
3. The licensee has completed a jurisprudence or equivalent exam if required by the state regulatory body.
4. The licensee complies with ONE of the following:
 - Meets all academic, exam, and post-graduate supervised experience standards as adopted by the state counseling licensure board.
 - Holds the National Certified Counselor (NCC) credential, in good standing, as issued by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).
 - Holds a graduate-level degree from a program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP).