

April 13th 2020

CACREP appreciates and applauds the work faculty are doing with: the transfer of classes to fully online delivery, their clinical and internship partners, and their students to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic in ways that will help their students advance toward completion of their degrees, secure licensure, and not compromise the integrity of their programs. We are well-aware of the daunting obstacles to students especially in completing their direct service and internship hours.

The CACREP Standards, the minimum preparation standards for entry into the Counseling profession, serves not only as a benchmark for quality and excellence in counselor education but also as one of the means for protecting the public. They are used as measure of meeting academic requirements for licensure to practice as counselors in many states. While some states require graduation from a CACREP-accredited program, others use the CACREP curricular standards as the measure of meeting requisite academic preparation. CACREP is being mindful that a short-term solution does not create a long-term problem with regard to future licensure, employability, and portability.

CACREP's over 870 accredited programs are housed in 421 institutions across the country each with unique circumstances. CACREP has provided flexibility on several standards and policies, and programs have been requested to submit (as a matter of record) how they are applying these flexibilities. It has always been CACREP's position that programs have the freedom to demonstrate how they meet the Standards. We reiterate our respect for the autonomy and prerogative of programs to provide accommodations for their students in extenuating circumstances. We recognize that every situation is unique and institutions have access to varying resources and have different capacities for specific types of accommodation. Additionally, while some governors have temporarily suspended laws or relaxed licensed practice requirements across all specialty areas, these accommodations greatly vary by state.

CACREP recognizes that given the variability of state government response and the accommodations made by CACREP-accredited programs within those state declarations, there may be a strong possibility that full compliance with the CACREP standards may be compromised. In an effort to provide support and a reprieve for those programs, CACREP is offering a time-limited solution. CACREP will work with any program that may find itself temporarily out of compliance with Standards. CACREP is providing guidance below on how Policy 1.k *When CACREP Standards Conflict with State/Local Laws* will be applied.

Covid-19 Internship Accommodations Report

Option expires July 15, 2020

In accordance with CACREP's policy 1.k *When CACREP Standards Conflict with State/Local Laws*, programs that implement Internship accommodations for Master's and Doctoral programs, consistent with declarations/proclamations of their state's governor, need to attend to the impact it may have on their compliance with CACREP standards and their accreditation status.

In the event that the Internship accommodations under these extenuating circumstances results in a program being temporarily out of compliance with the CACREP standards, the program needs to submit a [report](#) which addresses and documents:

- a. extent to which it is out of compliance with the CACREP standards and policies,
- b. student informed consent for the Internship accommodations, and
- c. the steps and planned timeline for restoring compliance with the CACREP standards and being in good standing.

The report will not be evaluated or acted upon when it is submitted now and will become part of the program's record with CACREP. This report will be of significance in the future when the program submits its Interim or Mid-cycle report or when applying for re-accreditation.

This option is available immediately to students currently enrolled and completing Internship or will be enrolled and completing Internship on the date this option expires.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the CACREP staff.