

Summer 2020 Status Update

The CACREP Standards Revision Committee (SRC) is continuing its work and progressing with its charge. Like so many organizations, we have run into challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on programs, adherence to accreditation standards, and crisis response.

One of the complicating factors is our third charge: “Feedback is sought on drafts from a broadly defined constituency that includes programs, faculty, students, practitioners, counseling consumers, state counseling boards, and higher education administrators.” Our sense from the professional discourse is that the counselor education community is not in a position to consider revisions to the CACREP standards at this time while they are attempting to interpret and work with the current standards relative to the many changes they are experiencing as a result of the pandemic. The cancellation of spring and summer conferences and our early indications of cancellation or virtual formats for fall conferences eliminate the face-to-face discourse with professional colleagues, an integral part of the standards revision process.

With the current issues and challenges that befall accreditation work, the SRC proposed and the CACREP board approved an extension of the timeline to prepare the revised standards. The SRC will continue its work in earnest and will solicit feedback from the professional counseling community as planned but through virtual venues. The new timeframe is for implementation of the new standards in July 2024. The SRC will continue its work to deliver the standards for CACREP board adoption in spring 2023 and publicly release them in July 2023.

The SRC will include in its work considerations of issues in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on programs and the counseling profession. None of us could have anticipated the global pandemic; the safety and well-being of our students, colleagues, and communities we serve remains central to the work we are all doing. Indeed, none of us could have envisioned the far-reaching effects for CACREP and the opportunities for revision of the standards. We look forward to moving to the other side of the crisis and continuing our work to prepare the next set of CACREP accreditation standards.