

CACREP
VITAL
STATISTICS

2021

Results from a National Survey of Accredited Programs



Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs

500 Montgomery Street, Suite 350 Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Phone: (703) 535- 5990 www.cacrep.org

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CACREP VITAL STATISTICS 2021:

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INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

CACREP has collected essential information from its accredited counseling programs on an annual basis since the early 1990s. Before the invention of the Internet, CACREP mailed a paper form to accredited programs each year asking them to provide basic programmatic information as well as updates regarding changes in leadership or contact information. This yearly form has evolved over time and today it is known as the CACREP Vital Statistics Survey.

In recent years, the CACREP Vital Statistics Survey has been used for collecting more detailed program information and soliciting feedback from accredited programs on current issues. The results of this survey are used in reporting to government agencies, professional organizations, and even individual researchers who contact the CACREP office. The survey results are also used by the CACREP Board of Directors and staff to help improve the services provided to accredited programs.

CACREP's Vital Statistics Survey underwent a number of changes in 2012, including the transition from a paper-pencil format to an online survey platform. CACREP program liaisons are charged with reporting data on the Vital Statistics Survey each academic year, including the summer, fall, and spring academic terms. The 2021 CACREP Vital Statistics Survey collected program data reflective of Summer 2020 through Spring 2021; the results of which are included in this report. These data are used to monitor changes and emerging trends within counselor education programs.

The purpose of this report is to make the results of the 2021 CACREP Vital Statistics Survey available to CACREP-accredited programs, state and federal government agencies, counseling licensure/certification entities, counseling researchers, and other stakeholders within the counseling profession as well as the general public. Data concerning CACREP programs, specialty areas, faculty members, and students are presented along with brief narratives as appropriate. The information in this Vital Statistics Survey results report offers a unique description of currently accredited counselor education programs—as well as the students they serve—which assists in providing an environmental context that is helpful for understanding counselor preparation in 2021.

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

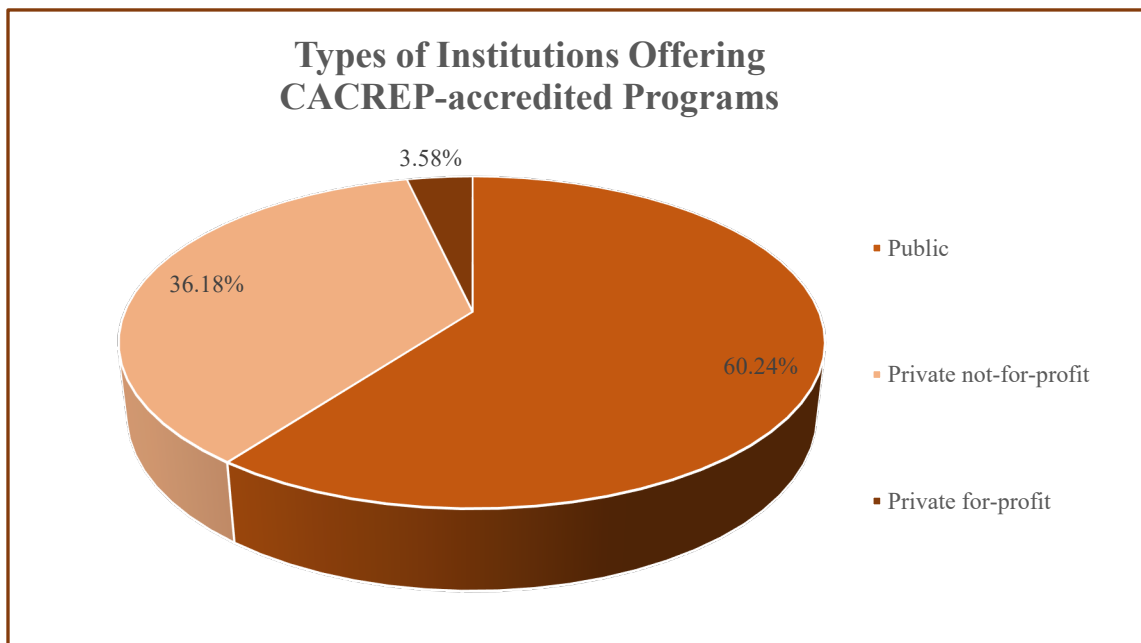
All graduate counseling programs accredited by CACREP before July 2021 completed the 2021 Vital Statistics Survey. As a result, 427 institutions offering a total of 948 CACREP-accredited counseling programs contributed to the data included in this report.

INSTITUTION TYPE

One approach to classifying types of post-secondary institutions is based on institutional control. The Common Educational Data Standards (CEDS) developed by the U.S. Department of Education outline two major types of post-secondary institutional control: those that are operated by publicly elected or appointed officials (public control) and those that are operated by privately elected or appointed officials and derive their major source of funds from private sources (private control). Institutions are often classified further based on other criteria, for example, for-profit status or religious affiliation.

CACREP accredits graduate counseling programs at all types of post-secondary institutions (see **FIGURE 1**). Using categories set forth by federal guidelines, institutions offering CACREP-accredited counseling programs in 2021 are broken down as follows: Public (n=303), Private not-for-profit (n=182) and Private for-profit (n=18).

FIGURE 1



INSTITUTIONS BY ACES REGIONS

According to the 2021 Vital Statistics Survey results, CACREP-accredited programs employ 3,260 full-time faculty members and are offered by post-secondary institutions located throughout the United States, as well as Mexico. To present a clearer geographical picture, these institutions are categorized by their location within the regions designated by the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) (see **TABLE 1**). In 2021, the highest concentration of institutions with CACREP-accredited programs was located in the SACES region (n=207); followed by NCACES (n=132), NARACES (n=92), WACES (n=44), RMACES (n=24), and US Territory (n=4).

TABLE 1

Institutions with CACREP Programs by ACES Regions						
ACES Region	North Atlantic (NARACES)	North Central (NCACES)	Rocky Mountain (RMACES)	Southern (SACES)	Western (WACES)	US Territory
Number of Institutions	92 (18.29%)	132 (26.24%)	24 (4.77%)	207 (41.15%)	44 (8.75%)	4 (0.80%)
States in Region	Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Maine Massachusetts New Hampshire New Jersey New York Pennsylvania Rhode Island Vermont	Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Michigan Minnesota Missouri Nebraska North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma South Dakota Wisconsin	Colorado Idaho Montana New Mexico Utah Wyoming	Alabama Arkansas Florida Georgia Kentucky Louisiana Maryland Mississippi North Carolina South Carolina Tennessee Texas Virginia West Virginia	Alaska Arizona California Hawaii Nevada Oregon Washington	AS FM GU MH MP PR PW VI American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands

CACREP PROGRAM AREAS

Clinical Mental Health Counseling was the specialty area with the highest number of CACREP-accredited programs (n=371) in 2021, with School Counseling programs having the second most (n=287). Student Affairs and College Counseling decreased by three programs in 2021 from the previous year. In terms of graduates in the past year, Clinical Mental Health Counseling programs claimed the most with 11,138 graduates. The Clinical Mental Health Counseling specialty area also claimed the largest number of currently enrolled students (n=46,487) in 2021. Specialty areas that reported fewer than 100 students enrolled as well as less than 100 graduates in 2021 included Career Counseling, Addiction Counseling, and Student Affairs and College Counseling. The dually accredited Clinical Rehabilitation/Clinical Mental Health Counseling programs reported 348 graduates last year. **TABLE 2** offers further details on the number of accredited programs, student enrollment, and graduates reported by program area.

TABLE 2

Program Area Data (2019-2021) *									
CACREP Program Area	Number of Programs			Enrollment			Graduates		
	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019
Addiction ^{2,3}	13	11	11	213	195	139	90	83	78
Career ^{1,2,3}	6	5	5	90	37	113	36	18	76
Clinical Mental Health ^{2,3,4}	371	339	191	46,487	38,638	3,254	11,138	9,548	2,330
Clinical Rehabilitation ³	21	13	8	755	789	147	220	513	54
College ¹	-	-	2	-	-	192	-	-	15
Community ¹	-	-	5	-	-	252	-	-	153
Counselor Ed. & Supervision ^{1,2,3}	93	83	51	3,422	3,028	1,126	598	431	859
Gerontological ¹	-	-	1	-	-	12	-	-	12
Marriage Couple & Family ^{2,3}	53	47	28	2,418	2,229	469	684	548	452
Mental health ¹	-	-	4	-	-	192	-	-	137
Rehabilitation*	59	62	44	2,136	2,088	1,417	675	711	562
School ^{1,2,3}	287	255	164	14,129	13,082	5,390	4,484	4,161	2,260
Student Affairs ¹	-	-	1	-	-	12	-	-	12
Student Affairs & College ²	20	23	16	240	260	671	86	102	101
Dually-accredited Clinical Rehabilitation/Clinical Mental Health ^{2,†}	25	18	17	1,262	900	270	348	236	170

¹Specialty area in the 2001 CACREP Standards

²Specialty area in the 2009 CACREP Standards

³Specialty area in the 2016 CACREP Standards

[†]Permitted by the 2013 CACREP/CORE Affiliation Agreement (Prior to the 2015 merger signing)

*** Consultant's Disclaimer: The 2019 data appear to have been corrupted during transport to Qualtrics. Some of the results are thought to be largely inaccurate, and one should exercise strong caution in drawing conclusions based upon these results.**

TABLE 3 sheds light on the number of individuals who applied to CACREP programs in the past year, the number of students who graduated from CACREP programs in the past year, and the total number of students currently enrolled in CACREP programs across the country, per the 2021 survey. Information about total program applicants, graduates, and current student enrollments are broken down by program level (i.e., masters vs. doctoral) and data are provided for the past three years.

TABLE 3

Student Highlights by Program Level (2019-2021) *									
Program Level	Application			Enrollment			Graduates		
	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019
Master's Programs	72,294	48,709	18,842	67,730	58,218	12,530	17,761	15,920	6,412
Doctoral Programs	2,582	2,822	251	3,422	3,028	1,126	598	431	859
All CACREP Programs	74,876	51,531	19,093	71,152	61,246	13,656	18,359	16,351	7,271

NOTE. The aggregate applicant and graduate data for 2021 in TABLE 3 are based on program report and reflect the total number of applications received and total number of students who graduated from programs “in the past year” (e.g., Summer 2020-Spring 2021). Current student enrollment is based on data reported by programs as of the date each program submits the Vital Statistics Survey for a given year.

*** Consultant’s Disclaimer: The 2019 data appear to have been corrupted during transport to Qualtrics. Some of the results are thought to be largely inaccurate, and one should exercise strong caution in drawing conclusions based upon these results.**

FACULTY AND STUDENTS

Placing significant value on diversity, CACREP requires counseling programs to create and support an inclusive learning community. The CACREP Standards not only call for programs to recruit, employ, and retain a diverse faculty, they also require programs to make systematic efforts to attract, enroll, and retain a diverse student body. Part of examining diversity within the counseling profession involves taking a close look at the individuals who are becoming professional counselors. Going beyond numbers of applicants, graduates and student enrollments, this final section will provide a detailed demographic perspective regarding the makeup of full-time faculty members and students in CACREP programs.

Racial/ethnic demographic breakdowns are reported for full-time faculty members (TABLE 4), CACREP masters students (TABLE 5), CACREP doctoral students (TABLE 6), and all CACREP graduate students combined (TABLE 7). Lastly, FIGURE 2 illustrates the gender differences among students and full-time faculty members in CACREP-accredited programs followed by FIGURE 3 which highlights information about students with disabilities as reported by programs on the 2021 CACREP Vital Statistics Survey.

TABLE 4

CACREP Full-time Faculty Demographics				
Race/Ethnicity	Gender			Total
	Male	Female	Alternative Identity	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.23%	0.32%	0.00%	0.55%
Asian	1.32%	4.35%	0.03%	5.70%
Black	4.48%	12.63%	0.00%	17.11%
Hispanic or Latino	1.93%	3.58%	0.13%	5.64%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.10%	0.13%	0.00%	0.23%
Two or More	0.68%	1.71%	0.03%	2.42%
Unknown/Other	0.71%	1.51%	0.32%	2.55%
White	24.26%	40.98%	0.58%	65.82%

NOTE. Some programs were unable to provide faculty racial/ethnic demographic information on the 2021 Vital Statistics Survey. The data in TABLE 4 are based on a sample of 3,104 full-time faculty members currently working in CACREP-accredited programs. All percentages were calculated individually and rounded to the nearest hundredth; the sum of the “Total” percentages may not equal 100%.

TABLE 5

CACREP Masters Student Demographics				
Race/Ethnicity	Gender			Total
	Male	Female	Alternative Identity	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.12%	0.45%	0.00%	0.57%
Asian	0.48%	2.13%	0.02%	2.63%
Black	2.50%	13.98%	0.09%	16.57%
Hawaiian Native or Pacific Islander	0.05%	0.11%	0.10%	0.16%
Hispanic	1.72%	8.35%	0.00%	10.17%
Two or More	0.60%	2.60%	0.01%	3.21%
Unknown/Other	2.42%	6.25%	1.64%	10.31%
White	9.73%	45.87%	0.33%	55.94%
International Student	0.20%	0.82%	0.01%	1.02%

NOTE. Some programs were unable to provide student racial/ethnic demographic information on the 2021 Vital Statistics Survey. The data in TABLE 5 are based on a sample of 63,510 students currently enrolled in CACREP-accredited masters programs, which accounts for 93.24% of all students currently enrolled in CACREP-accredited masters programs. All percentages were calculated individually and rounded to the nearest hundredth; the sum of the “Total” percentages may not equal 100%.

TABLE 6

CACREP Doctoral Student Demographics				
Race/Ethnicity	Gender			Total
	Male	Female	Alternative Identity	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.19%	0.34%	0.00%	0.53%
Asian	1.03%	2.56%	0.03%	3.63%
Black	4.97%	16.29%	0.06%	21.32%
Hispanic	1.56%	5.31%	0.03%	0.13%
Hawaiian Native or Pacific Islander	0.03%	0.09%	0.00%	6.91%
Two or More	0.94%	1.66%	0.03%	2.63%
Unknown/Other	4.63%	7.19%	4.13%	15.94%
White	10.25%	34.64%	0.22%	45.11%
International Student	1.44%	2.38%	0.00%	3.81%

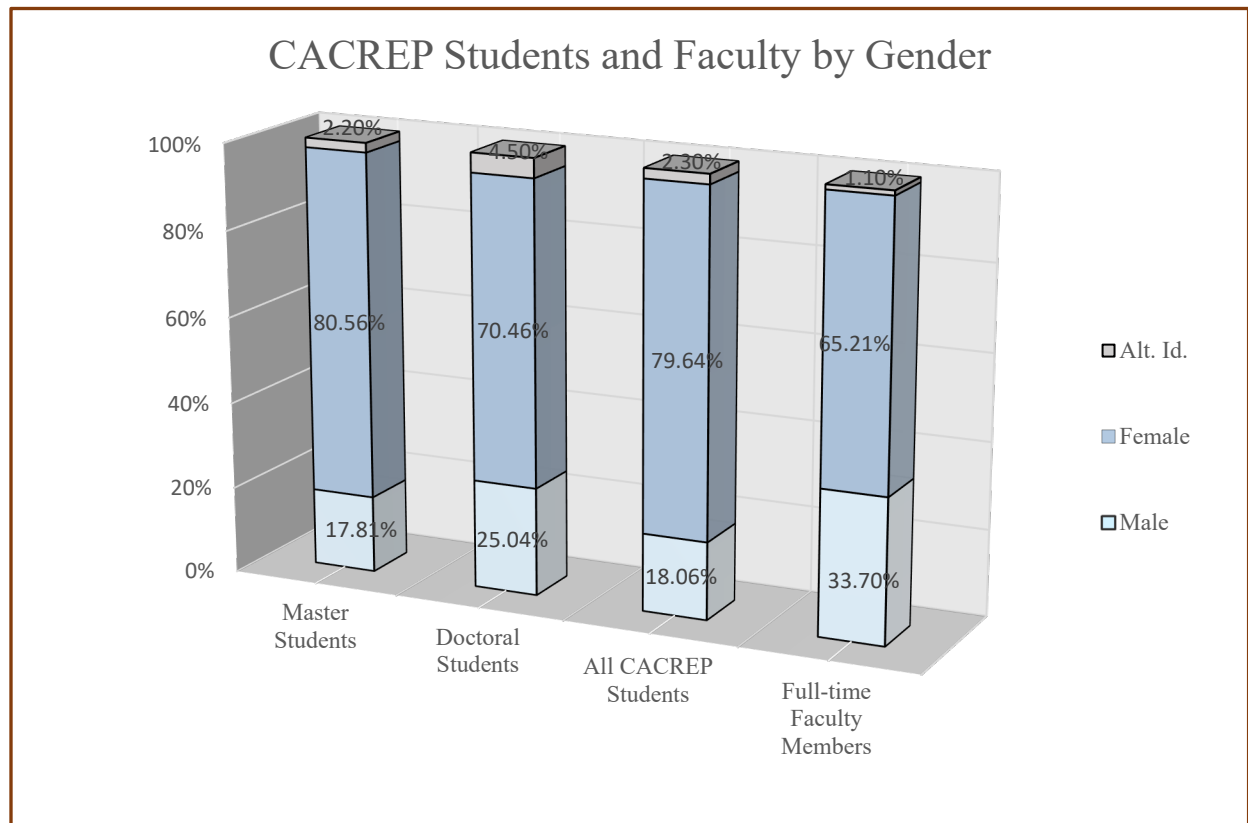
NOTE. Some programs were unable to provide student racial/ethnic demographic information on the 2021 Vital Statistics Survey. The data in TABLE 6 are based on a sample of 3,199 students currently enrolled in CACREP-accredited doctoral programs, which accounts for 93.48% of all students currently enrolled in CACREP-accredited doctoral programs. All percentages were calculated individually and rounded to the nearest hundredth; the sum of the “Total” percentages may not equal 100%.

TABLE 7

All CACREP Student Demographics				
Race/Ethnicity	Gender			Total
	Male	Female	Alternative Identity	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.12%	0.44%	0.00%	0.56%
Asian	0.50%	2.14%	0.02%	2.66%
Black	2.60%	14.01%	0.09%	16.71%
Hispanic	1.71%	8.16%	0.09%	9.96%
Hawaiian Native or Pacific Islander	0.04%	0.11%	0.00%	0.16%
Two or More	0.61%	2.54%	0.01%	3.17%
Unknown/Other	2.51%	6.26%	1.75%	10.52%
White	9.70%	45.09%	0.32%	55.11%
International Student	0.26%	0.89%	0.01%	1.15%

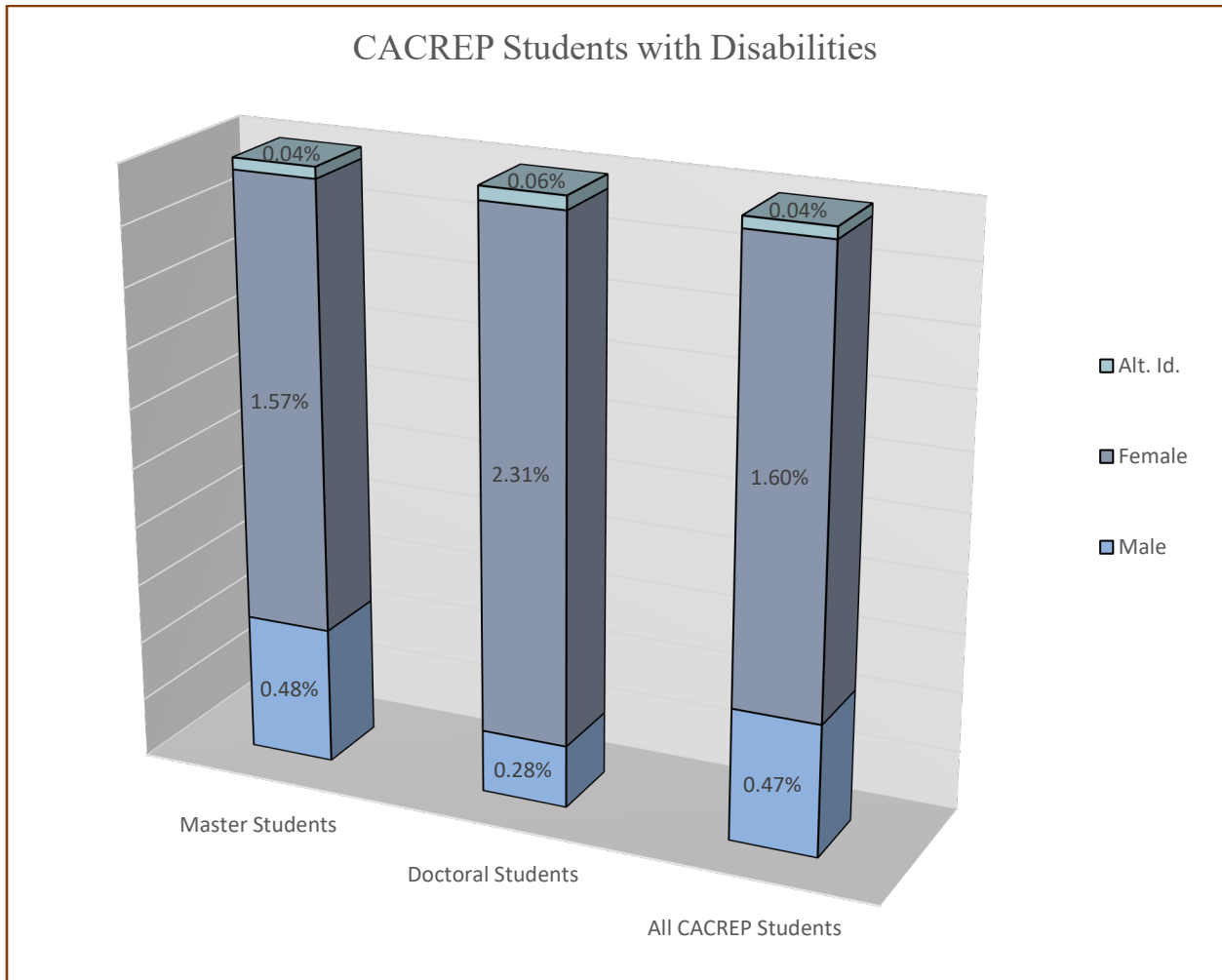
NOTE. Some programs were unable to provide student racial/ethnic demographic information on the 2021 Vital Statistics Survey. The data in TABLE 7 are based on a sample of 66,709 students currently enrolled in CACREP-accredited programs, which accounts for 93.76% of all students currently enrolled in CACREP-accredited programs. All percentages were calculated individually and rounded to the nearest hundredth; the sum of the “Total” percentages may not equal 100%.

FIGURE 2



NOTE. Some programs were unable to provide student and faculty demographic information on the 2021 Vital Statistics Survey. The data in FIGURE 2 are based on a sample of 66,709 students currently enrolled in CACREP-accredited programs, which accounts for 93.76% of all students currently enrolled in CACREP-accredited programs, and a sample of 3,104 full-time faculty members currently working in CACREP-accredited programs, which accounts for 95.21% of all full-time faculty members in CACREP-accredited programs. All percentages were calculated individually and rounded to the nearest hundredth; the sum of the percentages in each category may not equal 100%.

FIGURE 3



NOTE. Some programs were unable to provide information about students with disabilities on the 2021 Vital Statistics Survey. All percentages were calculated individually and rounded to the nearest hundredth.