

CACREP
VITAL
STATISTICS

2023

Results from a National Survey of Accredited Programs



Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs

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CACREP VITAL STATISTICS 2023:

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INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The CACREP Vital Statistics Survey is used for collecting more detailed program information and soliciting feedback from accredited programs on current issues. The survey results are also used by the CACREP Board of Directors and staff to help improve the services provided to accredited programs.

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 2023 CACREP Vital Statistics Survey collected program data covering July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. This data is used to monitor changes and emerging trends within counselor education programs.

The purpose of this report is to make the results of the 2023 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 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 2023.

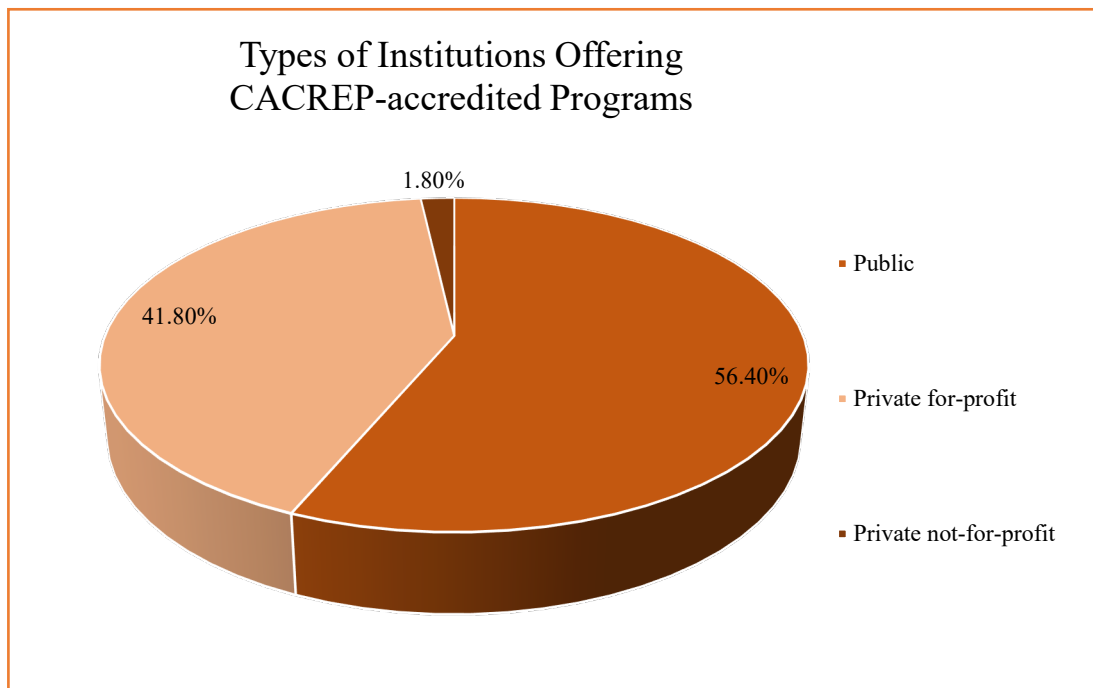
INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

All graduate counseling programs accredited by CACREP before July 2023 completed the 2023 Vital Statistics Survey. As a result, 445 institutions offering a total of 951 CACREP-accredited counseling degree programs contributed to the data included in this report.

INSTITUTION TYPE

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 2023 are broken down as follows: Public (n=251), Private not-for-profit (n=186) and Private for-profit (n=8).

FIGURE 1



INSTITUTIONS BY STATES/TERRITORIES

According to the 2023 Vital Statistics Survey results, CACREP-accredited programs employ 3,725 full-time faculty members and are offered by post-secondary institutions located throughout the United States. To present a clearer geographical picture, these institutions are categorized by their location within each state or territory (see TABLE 1). In 2023, the five states with the highest concentration of institutions with CACREP-accredited programs were Texas (n=35), Pennsylvania (n=25), New York (n=24), Illinois (n=23), and Ohio (n=20). The states of Alaska, Delaware, Vermont, and Wyoming each included a single institution (n=1) with a CACREP-accredited program.

TABLE 1

State	N	%	State	N	%	State	N	%
Alabama	11	2.47%	Louisiana	15	3.37%	Ohio	20	4.49%
Alaska	1	0.22%	Maine	2	0.45%	Oklahoma	4	0.9%
Arizona	4	0.9%	Maryland	5	1.12%	Oregon	9	2.02%
Arkansas	4	0.9%	Massachusetts	7	1.57%	Pennsylvania	25	5.62%
California	14	3.15%	Michigan	9	2.02%	Puerto Rico	2	0.45%
Colorado	10	2.25%	Minnesota	8	1.8%	Rhode Island	2	0.45%
Connecticut	7	1.57%	Mississippi	6	1.35%	South Carolina	9	2.02%
Delaware	1	0.22%	Missouri	11	2.47%	South Dakota	3	0.67%
DC*	3	0.67%	Montana	4	0.9%	Tennessee	17	3.82%
Florida	15	3.37%	Nebraska	5	1.12%	Texas	35	7.87%
Georgia	18	4.04%	Nevada	2	0.45%	Utah	2	0.45%
Idaho	3	0.67%	New Hampshire	3	0.67%	Vermont	1	0.22%
Illinois	23	5.17%	New Jersey	14	3.15%	Virginia	15	3.37%
Indiana	9	2.02%	New Mexico	4	0.9%	Washington	9	2.02%
Iowa	5	1.12%	New York	24	5.39%	West Virginia	3	0.67%
Kansas	5	1.12%	North Carolina	18	4.04%	Wisconsin	8	1.8%
Kentucky	8	1.8%	North Dakota	2	0.45%	Wyoming	1	0.22%

NOTE. N = Frequency % = Percentage DC= District of Columbia

CACREP PROGRAM AREAS

Clinical Mental Health Counseling was the specialty area with the highest number of CACREP-accredited programs (n=399) in 2023, with School Counseling programs having the second most (n=276). The CMHC specialty area is likely to continue to grow as Community Counseling and Mental Health Counseling programs under the 2001 Standards are combined while they transition into Clinical Mental Health Counseling programs under the 2009 Standards. School Counseling programs experienced the second highest increase (n=9) in growth last year while several other specialty areas increased slightly that include Addiction Counseling (n=2), Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling (n=1), Counselor Education and Supervision (n=7), and Marriage Couple and Family Counseling (n=2). However, two specialty areas experienced a slight reduction in numbers of programs last year that include Rehabilitation Counseling (n=5) and dually-accredited Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling (n=1). The decrease in the number of dually-accredited Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling is expected due to the time-limited availability of this accreditation option. This trend will continue until the time this accreditation option expires on October 31, 2024.

In terms of graduates in the past year, Clinical Mental Health Counseling programs claimed the most with 13,648 graduates. The Clinical Mental Health Counseling specialty area also claimed

the largest number of currently enrolled students (n=56,879) in 2023. Specialty areas that reported fewer than 100 students enrolled, as well as less than 100 graduates, in 2023 include: Career Counseling, Addiction Counseling, and Student Affairs and College Counseling. TABLE 2 offers further details on the number of accredited programs, student enrollment, and graduates reported by program area.

TABLE 2

Table 2 - Program Area Data (2021-2023)									
CACREP Program Area	Number of Programs			Enrollment			Graduates		
	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021
Addiction	16	14	13	267	187	213	61	70	90
Career	6	6	6	98	94	90	35	29	36
Clinical Mental Health	399	373	371	56,879	49,645	46,487	13,648	12,175	11,138
Clinical Rehabilitation	20	19	21	717	642	755	238	184	220
Counselor Ed. & Supervision	96	89	93	3,586	3,301	3,422	519	518	598
Marriage Couple & Family	52	50	53	2,047	2,169	2,418	685	664	684
Rehabilitation	47	52	59	1,745	1,762	2,136	475	525	675
School	276	267	287	12,747	12,862	14,129	3,987	4,457	4,484
Student Affairs & College	18	17	20	170	177	240	66	86	86
Dually-accredited Clinical Rehabilitation/Clinical Mental Health	21	22	25	1,207	1,105	1,262	434	399	348

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 2023 survey. Information about total program applicants, graduates, and current student enrollments is broken down by program level (i.e., master’s vs. doctoral) and data is provided for the past three years.

TABLE 3

Table 3 - Student Highlights by Program Level									
Program Level	Application			Enrollment			Graduates		
	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021
Master's Programs	71,810		72,294	75,877	68,643	67,730	19,629	18,289	17,761
Doctoral Programs	2,373	2,665	2,582	3,586	3,301	3,422	519	518	598
All CACREP Programs	74,183		74,876	79,463	71,944	71,152	20,148	18,807	18,359

NOTE. The aggregate applicant and graduate data for 2023 in TABLE 3 are based on programs 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 2022-Spring 2023). 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.

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 master’s students (TABLE 5), CACREP doctoral students (TABLE 6), and all CACREP graduate students combined (TABLE 7).

TABLE 4

Table 4 - CACREP Full-time Faculty Demographics				
Race/Ethnicity	Gender			Total
	Male	Female	Alternative Identity	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.38%	0.72%	0.00%	1.10%
Asian	1.26%	4.43%	0.03%	5.72%
Black	4.24%	12.83%	0.21%	17.28%
Hispanic or Latino	1.96%	5.05%	0.16%	7.17%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.05%	0.11%	0.00%	0.16%
Two or More	0.72%	3.25%	0.11%	4.08%
Unknown/Other	1.61%	3.44%	0.54%	5.59%
White	20.22%	37.18%	1.50%	58.90%

NOTE. Some institutions (5.97%) were unable to provide faculty racial/ethnic demographic information on the 2023 Vital Statistics Survey. The data in TABLE 4 are based on 3,725 full-time faculty members currently working in CACREP-accredited programs.

TABLE 5

Table 5 - CACREP Master's Student Demographics				
Race/Ethnicity	Gender			Total
	Male	Female	Alternative Identity	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.19%	0.74%	0.00%	0.94%
Asian	0.55%	2.52%	0.04%	3.10%
Black	2.90%	11.28%	0.26%	14.45%
Hawaiian Native or Pacific Islander	0.13%	0.12%	0.00%	0.25%
Hispanic	1.88%	9.72%	0.12%	11.72%
Two or More	0.66%	2.64%	0.06%	3.35%
Unknown/Other	1.27%	4.29%	0.23%	5.79%
White	11.31%	47.00%	0.84%	59.15%
International Student	0.25%	1.00%	0.01%	1.26%

NOTE. Some institutions (16.78%) were unable to provide student racial/ethnic demographic information on the 2023 Vital Statistics Survey. The data in TABLE 5 are based on a sample of 63,890 students currently enrolled in CACREP-accredited master's programs, which accounts for 84.20% of all students currently enrolled in CACREP-accredited master's programs.

TABLE 6

Table 6 - CACREP Doctoral Student Demographics				
Race/Ethnicity	Gender			Total
	Male	Female	Alternative Identity	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.13%	0.22%	0.00%	0.34%
Asian	1.09%	3.47%	0.13%	4.69%
Black	5.10%	18.14%	1.22%	24.45%
Hispanic	0.22%	0.22%	0.00%	0.44%
Hawaiian Native or Pacific Islander	1.59%	6.00%	0.34%	7.94%
Two or More	0.31%	1.56%	0.13%	2.00%
Unknown/Other	0.84%	2.31%	0.53%	3.69%
White	10.16%	38.15%	2.22%	50.53%
International Student	1.72%	4.16%	0.03%	5.91%

NOTE. Some institutions (13.68%) were unable to provide student racial/ethnic demographic information on the 2023 Vital Statistics Survey. The data in TABLE 6 are based on a sample of 3,198 students currently enrolled in CACREP-accredited doctoral programs, which accounts for 89.18% of all students currently enrolled in CACREP-accredited doctoral programs.

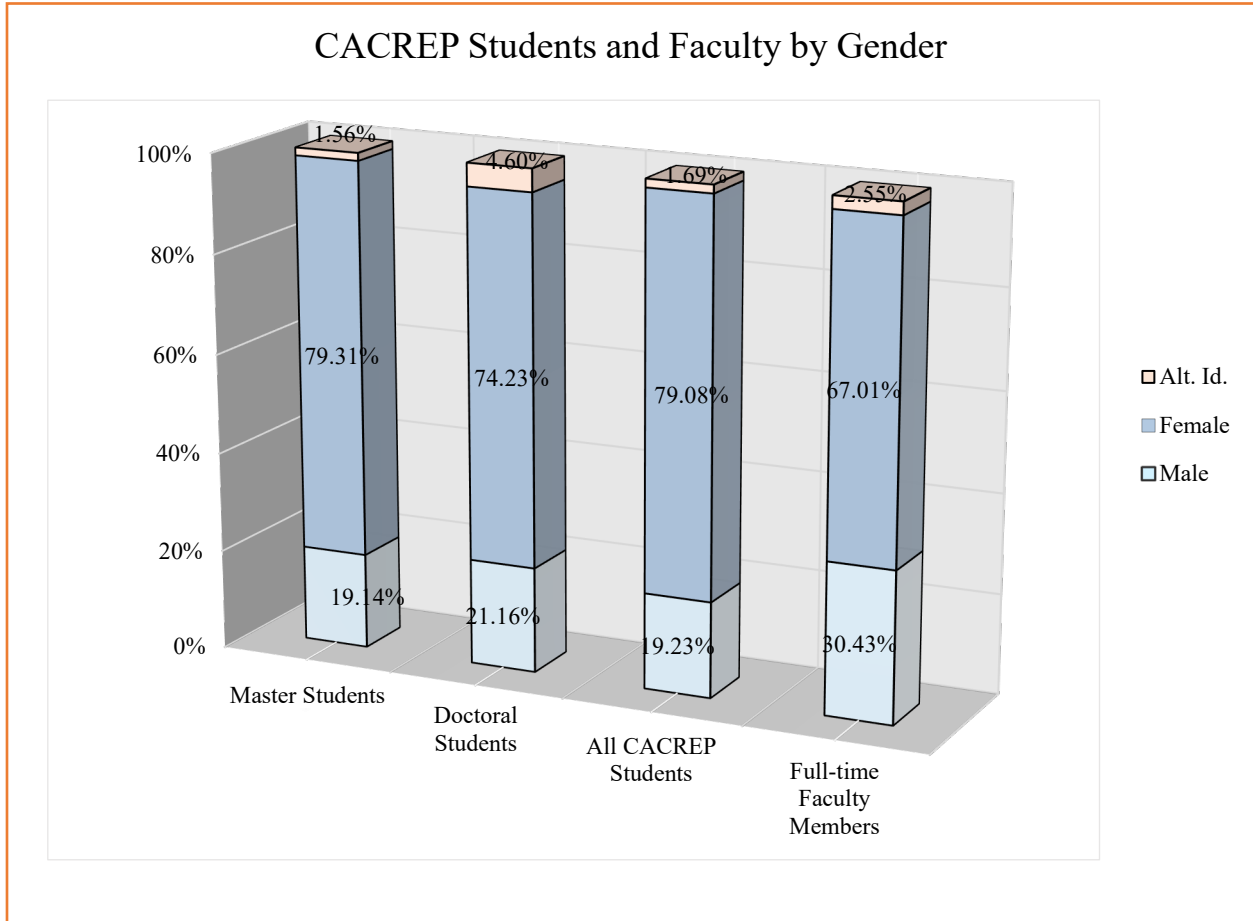
TABLE 7

Table 7 - All CACREP Student Demographics				
Race/Ethnicity	Gender			Total
	Male	Female	Alternative Identity	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.19%	0.72%	0.00%	0.91%
Asian	0.57%	2.57%	0.04%	3.18%
Black	3.01%	11.61%	0.31%	14.93%
Hispanic	0.13%	0.12%	0.00%	0.25%
Hawaiian Native or Pacific Islander	1.87%	9.54%	0.13%	11.54%
Two or More	0.64%	2.59%	0.06%	3.29%
Unknown/Other	1.25%	4.20%	0.24%	5.69%
White	11.25%	46.58%	0.90%	58.73%
International Student	0.32%	1.15%	0.01%	1.48%

NOTE. Some institutions were unable to provide student racial/ethnic demographic information on the 2023 Vital Statistics Survey. The data in TABLE 7 are based on a sample of 67,088 students currently enrolled in CACREP-accredited programs, which accounts for 84.43% of all students currently enrolled in CACREP-accredited programs.

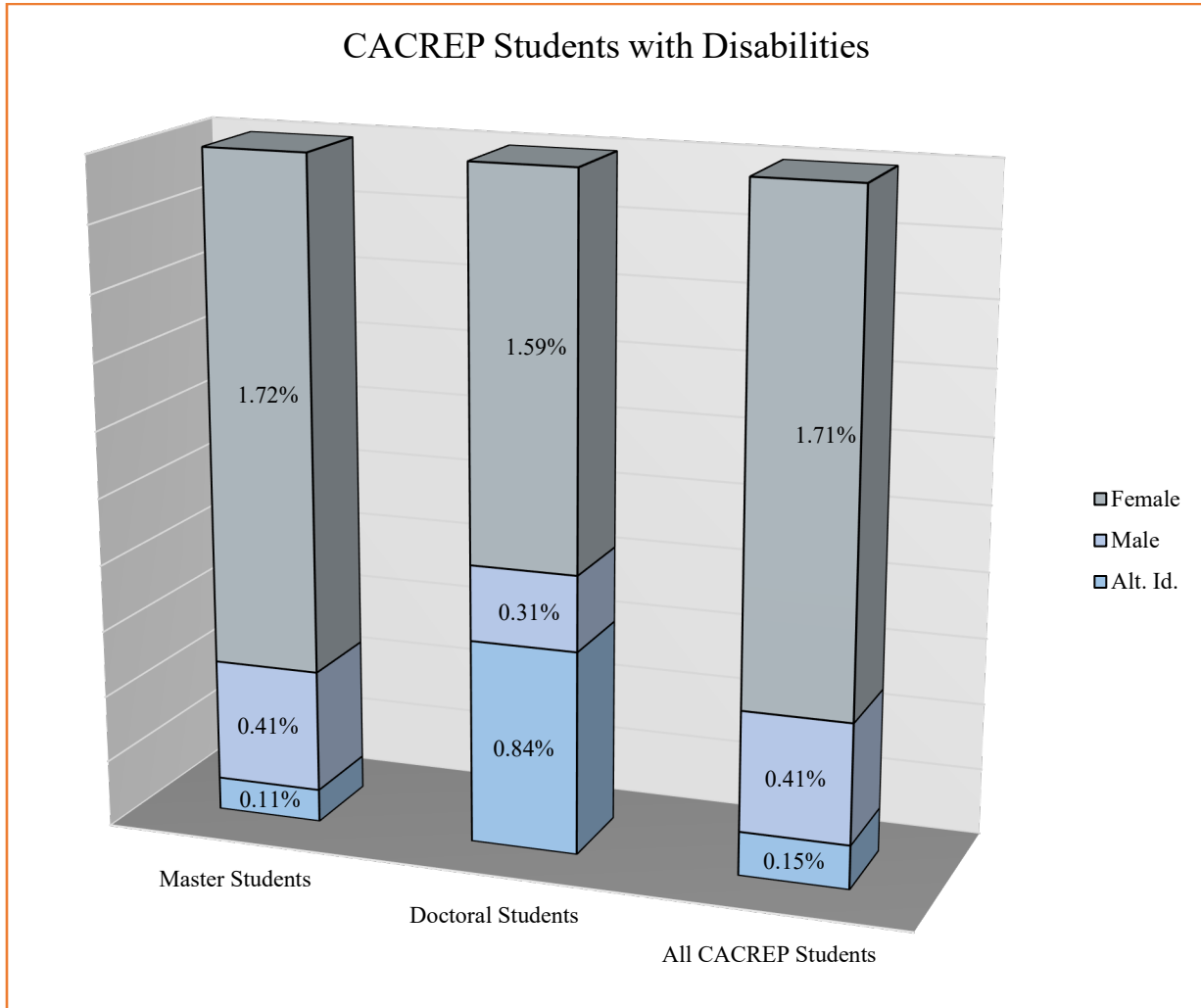
Lastly, FIGURE 2 illustrates the gender differences among students and full-time faculty members in CACREP-accredited programs followed by FIGURE 3 which highlights information about students with disabilities as reported by programs on the 2023 CACREP Vital Statistics Survey.

FIGURE 2



NOTE. Some institutions were unable to provide student and faculty demographic information on the 2023 Vital Statistics Survey. The data in FIGURE 2 are based on a sample of 67,088 students currently enrolled in CACREP-accredited programs, which accounts for 84.43% of all students currently enrolled in CACREP-accredited programs, and a sample of 3,725 full-time faculty members currently working in CACREP-accredited programs.

FIGURE 3



NOTE. Some institutions were unable to provide information about students with disabilities on the 2023 Vital Statistics Survey. The data in FIGURE 3 are based on a sample of 1,523 students with disabilities (1,435 master and 88 doctoral) currently enrolled in CACREP-accredited programs. All percentages were calculated individually and rounded to the nearest hundredth.