**Kremen School of Education and Human Development**

**Graduate Committee Meeting**

**Department of Counselor Education and Rehabilitation**

**Proposal to change Title of M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling Degree**

**April 9, 2015**

As of July 2013, Council for Accreditation of Counseling and related Educational Programs (CACREP) and Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) entered into an agreement offering programs, for the first time, an opportunity to become dually accredited. Clinical rehabilitation counseling standards have been developed and issued by CORE. The following outlines the purpose, eligibility requirements, and objectives of seeking dual accreditation.

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|  | **Rationale for Converting Program** |
|  | *Explanation* |
| **1. Response to student need and national trends** | Students in CORE accredited rehabilitation programs receiving mental health training are not able to access the same job opportunities as other counseling master degree students due to rehab programs are non traditionally accredited by CACREP, although training is consistent with CACREP. |
| **2. Students enter field as highly knowledgeable and ethically competent counseling practitioners** | Knowledge and skills in the areas of rehabilitation and mental health allow rehabilitation counseling students to effectively serve individuals with disabilities as they undergo the process of adjusting to disability and chronic illnesses, seek to enter the World of Work, and pursue other quality of life aspects.  |
| **3. Increase in vocational choice and employment opportunities** | Additional occupational opportunities with various agencies including but not limited too:* Mental Health (Outpatient/Inpatient) Services
* Veterans Administration (VA)
* Defense Health Agency (DHA)
* Other federally funded service delivery programs
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| **4. Provide high learning experience** | Establishment of opportunities to pursue licensure requirements (California Board of Behavioral Sciences) in a more efficient manner among rehabilitation counseling students |
| **5. 1st time CACREP was an accreditation option** | Currently, the aforementioned job opportunities and others are not available to students graduating from rehabilitation counseling programs because CACREP has never been an accreditation option for rehabilitation counseling programs. |
| **6. Less time and Money** | The program goes through one review process for two accrediting bodies. Additionally, dual accreditation will save students time in the program which is likely to increase retention and decrease attrition.  |

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| **Eligibility conditions for CORE/CACREP affiliation agreement or** **Dual Accreditation** |
|  | *Fresno State MS in Rehabilitation Counseling*  |
| **1. Rehabilitation counseling program’s current accreditation cycle expires after 04/30/2015** | Accreditation cycle expires at the end of 2018 (Review in 2017) |
| **2. Rehabilitation counseling program must require a minimum of 60 semester hours**  | Program is 60 semester hours |
| **3. Program must use a program title that clearly reflects its combined identity with CORE and CACREP****[Reference 2009 CACREP Policy document, Accreditation Process Policy #4 –*Use of Program and Degree Titles]*** | Pending |
| **4. Accredited program must be in good standing with CORE****(i.e., no outstanding fees or reports)** | Program is in good standing |
| **5. Accredited program has been reviewed by CORE and found to be in substantial compliance with the Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling program area standards** | In process (after Title change) |

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| **Steps for Conversion Process** |
| **1. Title change** | Program must use title that clearly reflects its combined identity (CORE & CACREP); This is a minimum adjustment that the rehabilitation counseling program has to engage in based on the cooperative agreement between CORE and CACREP. |
| **2. Letter of Intent/application** | Program must submit documentation meeting the outlined requirements  |
| **3. Application Fee** | $1500 (possibly $2500.00 under 2016 conversion standards) |
| **4. Submit abbreviated self-study** | An abbreviated self-study document must be submitted in accordance with CACREP’s policy guidelines for “Electronic Submission of Accreditation Documents.” The abbreviated self-study will include an application form with signatures of key decision-making administrators at the institution and documentation of compliance with the eligibility conditions cited above.  |
| **5. Additional processes** | Program must address with both narrative and supporting documents how it meets the CACREP standards (*awaiting 2016 standards*) |

**Summary**

Currently, the name “Rehabilitation Counseling” disadvantages our graduates who pursue employment in a range of counseling positions. Employers narrowly interpret Rehabilitation Counseling to mean “non-clinical” and “non-mental health.” We (MS in Rehabilitation Counseling Faculty) expect the degree title change will enhance the job prospects of our future Rehabilitation Counseling graduates, as well as increase the visibility and attractiveness of the program for those seeking a graduate degree in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling.

**Consultation**

 Consultation has occurred at the program level. Discussions relative to a vocational rehabilitation emphasis being maintained within the new program structure were critical. An affirmative vote was obtained relative to moving forward with exploring the dual accreditation process and changing the rehabilitation counseling program’s name as a first step.

 Consultation has occurred at the departmental level. Discussion relative to maintaining a clear and distinct professional identity was emphasized for the benefit of future students (e.g., rehabilitation and mental health counseling versus clinical mental health counseling). An affirmative vote was obtained relative to moving forward with exploring the dual accreditation process and changing the rehabilitation counseling program’s names as a first step.

 Additionally, consultation was sought with the Interim Dean of KSOEHD and the Dean of Graduate Studies regarding the national trends in counseling education and the desire for the rehabilitation counseling program to seek formal approval at respective university levels.

*\*CACREP has extended a “grandfathering” period until January 1, 2018, whereby graduates of rehabilitation counselor education programs prior to this date will be eligible to teach in CACREP accredited programs for life, including programs dually accredited by CORE and CACREP.*