



Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs

500 Montgomery Street, Suite 350 • Alexandria, VA 22314 • (703) 535-5990 • www.cacrep.org

August 7, 2023

Dr. Sylvia A. Alva
Office of the President
California State University, Fullerton
2600 Nutwood Avenue, CP-1000
Fullerton, California 92831

Dear Dr. Alva:

The Board of Directors (“Board”) of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) met July 6-8, 2023, for the purpose of making accreditation decisions. A counseling specialty area housed in the College of Health and Human Development at California State University, Fullerton was reviewed under the 2016 CACREP Standards. The Board made the following decision:

Clinical Mental Health Counseling (M.S. degree)

Reaffirm Accreditation

California State University Fullerton offers its Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) specialty area via primarily in-person synchronous learning at its Fullerton, California campus. The program currently offers one hybrid course in the program of study involving in-person instruction at the Fullerton campus combined with additional coursework to be completed online.

* Please note that the counseling program has submitted a required Digital Delivery Report. The Board will provide developmental feedback on the program’s use of digital delivery and learning components when it completes its review of the Digital Delivery Report.

The Board based the above accreditation decision on an extensive review of the self-study documents, the site review team’s report, and the institution’s response to the site review team’s report. The Board makes a decision to reaffirm accreditation when it determines that a counseling specialty area is in full compliance with all applicable accreditation standards and policies.

The accreditation cycle for the Clinical Mental Health Counseling specialty area runs through October 31, 2031. Barring an interruption of accredited status for the specialty area, resulting from voluntary withdrawal or Board actions related to the review of required reports during the accreditation cycle, the program’s

application and self-study report for reaffirmation of accreditation will be due approximately eighteen months prior to the cycle end date.

In the process of reaffirming the accreditation of this counseling specialty areas for the period specified above, the Board also issued a comment pertaining to program identity. The Board considers this issue to be an important matter; however, please note there is no requirement for a formal response to the comment.

Comment

The Board acknowledged and commended the work completed by the counseling faculty and the administration during this review period to revise and clarify information in the counseling program materials regarding the connection of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling specialty area to Marriage and Family Therapy, a distinct discipline and a unique component of licensure in California for professional counselors. The Board encourages the program faculty to continue in these efforts, noting some remaining references that are unclear in this regard in program materials, such as the assessment document in the student handbook (p. 37) and training manual (p. 21). The Board further encouraged continued vigilance on the program's part in relation to program identity and attention to the guidelines presented in the recently released [*Guiding Statement on Variation in Accredited Programs*](#).

A certificate of accreditation will be sent directly to Dr. Smith. On behalf of the CACREP Board, I would like to extend my thanks to you and your administration for the support provided to the counseling program throughout the accreditation process. Administrative support is considered vital to the process of continuous improvement of higher education programs. I extend congratulations, on behalf of the CACREP Board and Staff, to all of those involved in making this a successful reaffirmation of accreditation review process.

Sincerely,



M. Sylvia Fernandez, Ph.D.
President and CEO

cc: Dr. Jason Smith, Dean, College of Health and Human Development
Dr. Matt Englar-Carlson, Chair, Department of Counseling
Dr. Leah Brew, CACREP Liaison