

# Accreditation and Professional Organizations in Counselor Education

ICES Counselor Educator and Supervisor Summit  
Friday, April 5th 2019

## CACREP Overview

Established in 1981, the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP)

- Currently 785 accredited master's programs (75 in process), 82 doctoral programs (3 in process).

## CACREP Updates

*New policy on adding a new delivery method or offering an existing program through more than one delivery method.*

- <http://www.cacrep.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Multiple-Delivery-Policy-final-2.7.19-002.pdf>

*2023 Standards Revision Committee. Charge includes examining every standard and the following issues:*

- Professional identity of programs and faculty (e.g., faculty with specialties/degrees outside of counselor education).
- Infuse disability concepts into the eight core curricular areas in Section 2
- Evaluate standards with consideration of delivery methods.
- Evaluate doctoral standards, including consideration of specializations within doctoral programs.
- Evaluate standards related to the site placement process.
- Review Section 4, Student and Program Assessment, and revise standards related to FTEs.
- <http://www.cacrep.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Charges-to-the-2023-CACREP-Standards-Revision-Committee.pdf>

*Delayed implementation of 60-credit hour requirement:* <http://www.cacrep.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/CACREP-Special-Announcement-48-to-60.pdf>

- Moved from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023. At this point, all accredited entry level programs must be at least 60 credits.
- Additional resources and guiding principles statements can be found here: <https://www.cacrep.org/for-programs/resources-for-applying-for-cacrep-accreditation/>

*CACREP vs CAEP:* <https://www.cacrep.org/news/cacrep-and-the-council-for-the-accreditation-of-educator-preparation-caep/>

- Published in January 1, 2019 on website, states that “CACREP and the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Professionals (CAEP) are both specialized accreditors nationally recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). A primary difference between the two organizations has to do with the respective units of focus. CAEP accredits educator preparation providers, which may include, departments, schools, or colleges within an institution of higher education (IHE), or stand-alone/alternative providers which prepare teachers or other educators, regardless of the specific specialized programs within these units. CACREP solely accredits counseling specializations at the masters and doctoral levels”.

## Alternative Accreditation Efforts: MPCAC and APA Task Force

*Master's in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC)* <http://mpcacaccreditation.org/>

- Established in 1995 but expanded to include counseling programs in 2011.
- Approximately 56 accredited programs

*APA Task Force to Develop a Blueprint for APA Accreditation of Master's Programs in Health Service Psychology (HSP)* <https://www.apa.org/ed/governance/bea/masters-accreditation-blueprint>

- Final report submitted in January 2019. Recommendations include:
  - “The Task Force recommends pursuing accreditation of programs in HSP at the master's level as part of the continuum of education and training in HSP, following the recommendations of this group” (p. 7).
  - The Task Force also recommends “that APA expand the scope of the existing Commission on Accreditation to accredit master's programs that provide training in the practice of HSP, regardless of program title” (p. 12)
  - “The Task Force suggests that the APA collaborate with MPCAC on state-level advocacy on matters related to the licensing and scope of practice of master's level HSP practitioners and to the recognition of APA accreditation of master's programs” (p. 22).

*Alliance for Professional Counselors (APC):* <https://apccounseloralliance.org/>

- Counseling association that positions itself separately from much of ACA, ACES, and CACREP stances, “is opposed to policies that would restrict counselor education, initial licensure, certification in a specialty area, employment, and/or reimbursement to graduates of programs accredited by any singular program-level accrediting body” (APC, 2018). Supports the MPCAC accrediting body.
- Opposed the NCLEP Plan: <https://apccounseloralliance.org/virginia-issue/>
-

**Professional Organizations – Disaffiliations and Divisions**

*AMHC Disaffiliation from ACA*

- In November 6, 2018 a letter was sent from AMHCA to ACA seeking to voluntarily withdraw as a Division of ACA. The rationale provided “AMHCA saw itself as specifically serving clinically-trained licensed mental health counselors, while ACA served the entire counseling profession” (ACA Governing Council Minutes, 11/2018).
- According to ACA, “AMHCA fulfilled the requirements to complete their disaffiliation from ACA as of March 14, 2019”: <https://www.counseling.org/about-us/divisions-regions-and-branches/divisions>

*ASCA Disaffiliation from ACA*

- As of April 2018, ASCA is a completely independent organization and is no longer a division of ACA: [https://www.counseling.org/docs/default-source/announcements-and-news/faqs-aca-and-asca-collaborative-relationship.pdf?sfvrsn=dc2e522c\\_2](https://www.counseling.org/docs/default-source/announcements-and-news/faqs-aca-and-asca-collaborative-relationship.pdf?sfvrsn=dc2e522c_2)

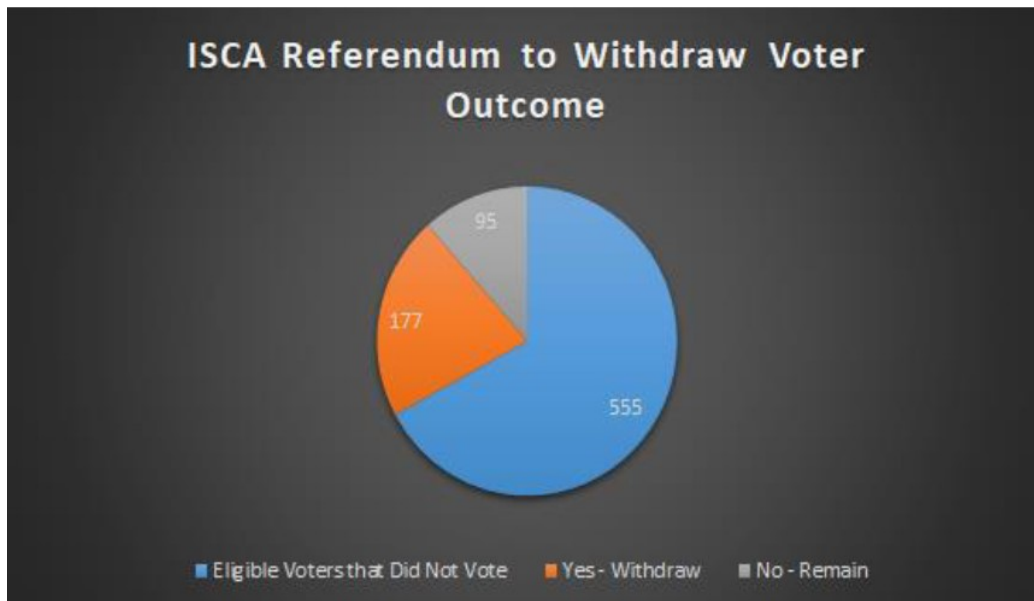
*ISCA Referendum to Withdraw from ICA*

The ISCA Referendum to withdraw from ICA did not pass per the 2/3 voting threshold to withdraw as a division pursuant to the ICA Bylaws and Policies and Procedures.

177 ISCA members voted yes "to withdraw" and 95 members voted no "do not withdraw."

**Below are the Voting Ballot Statistics:**

- Total eligible ISCA voters: **827**, minus those with member email entry errors: **803 remained**
- Total ISCA members voted: **272**
- 2/3 of those voting, or 272 \* 66.7% =182 (Total needed to vote “yes” in compliance with ICA By-laws and Policies)
- Total voting “yes” to withdraw: 177
- Total voting “no” to not withdraw: 95
- The referendum did not pass by 5 votes.



**Notes:**