



CORE

Council on Rehabilitation Education

CRCC and CORE formed a partnership in 2008 to advance the interests of the rehabilitation counseling community by advocating for recognition of rehabilitation counselors in the state laws and regulations governing the licensure requirements for professional counselors. This partnership unites two organizations focused on rehabilitation counseling services that are committed to improving training, education, and certification that reflects current professional practice.

Central to CORE and CRCC efforts to promote rehabilitation counseling services in the states is the encouragement of individuals to enter educational programs and certification programs that focus on rehabilitation counseling. Accordingly, we do not support state policies that would discourage new entrants to the rehabilitation counseling profession, or that would limit the ability of experienced practitioners to serve clients in new jurisdictions. Separate licensure for rehabilitation counselors forces practitioners to choose between investing in a specialized license or obtaining broader professional licensure. The vast majority of states have chosen to issue licenses to professional counselors without creating a separate license for rehabilitation counselors.

Several states have already acknowledged the equivalency of the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Examination (CRCE) to the National Counselor Examination (NCE) by rule or departmental policy for licensure as a professional counselor. This position is reflected by the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) recognition of both the CRCE and NCE as appropriate examinations in its policies and procedures on license portability. Similarly, many states also recognize that education from a CORE accredited program is an appropriate avenue towards licensure as a professional counselor.

For both new entrants and existing professionals, many counseling boards have chosen to allow flexibility for qualified applicants to achieve licensure without duplicating testing and education that are already focused on counseling. This policy results in immediate benefits: less confusion as qualified licensure candidates move from one jurisdiction to another as well as reduced work and more certainty for state boards reviewing applications.

Maintaining the integration of the specialized knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to serve people with disabilities is increasingly important as the health care landscape changes. Increased planning and management of services by public and private payers should reflect the demand for diverse counseling services. Providing licensing flexibility to professionals providing rehabilitation counseling will not only strengthen the counseling community, but will aid efforts to assure that persons with disabilities have needed access to, and reimbursement for, quality counseling services in the future.

CORE and CRCC understand that rehabilitation counseling is a dynamic profession that is constantly evolving and that rehabilitation counselors frequently wish to further their professional development in other counseling disciplines. Our focus is assuring that quality rehabilitation counseling services are available. It is for this reason that our organizations wish to incorporate CORE accreditation and the CRCE into the rules governing professional counselor licensure, and not solely as requirements for a license specific to rehabilitation counseling.