



Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs

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

August 11, 2025

Dr. Michael Schmit
Department of Counseling
East Texas A&M University
P.O. Box 3011
Commerce, Texas 75429

Dear Dr. Schmit:

The Board of Directors (Board) of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) met July 17-19, 2025, for the purpose of making accreditation decisions. At this meeting, the Board reviewed a Substantive Change Report submitted on behalf of the counseling program faculty at East Texas A&M University. CACREP recognizes that many changes in programs are routine and do not affect a program's ability to maintain its accreditation. Some changes, however, can significantly alter a program's nature and delivery. CACREP reviews these types of changes under its Substantive Change Policy to ensure that accreditation standards continue to be met.

The Substantive Change Report addressed the teach-out of the CACREP-accredited 60-credit hour School Counseling specialized practice area. As of Fall 2024, to align with state certification requirements for school counselors in Texas, the counseling program at East Texas A&M University has offered a 48-credit hour School Counseling degree program. As a result, the program is discontinuing and relinquishing CACREP accreditation for the 60-credit hour offering.

Based on its review of the Substantive Change Report, the Board made the following decision:

School Counseling (M.S. degree)

Continue Accreditation, with an accreditation end date of December 12, 2025

The decision to continue accreditation with no requirement for follow-up reporting reflects the Board's approval of the teach-out plan. The end date indicated is the last day through which the School Counseling specialized practice area will be CACREP-accredited, as determined by the

Board based on its review of the teach-out plan materials and the program's request. This date, identified by the program as the conclusion of the Fall 2025 semester, is consistent with the specialized practice area's current cycle end date and the provisions of CACREP [Policy A.3.j](#).

Please note that, while the School Counseling specialized practice area retains accreditation, it should be included—to the extent applicable—in any other required CACREP reporting. Additionally, please refer to the entry for Standard 1.V in the *2024 CACREP Standards Guidance Document* for guidance on the inclusion of students in non-accredited programs in FTE ratio reporting.

Thank you for your diligence in reporting the program changes and for your ongoing commitment to the CACREP accreditation process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Sylvia Fernandez, Ph.D.".

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