

## Virginia Board of Counseling

### **Guidance on Meeting Degree Program Requirements for Professional Counseling Licensure**

Regulation 18VAC115-20-49 (Degree Program Requirements) states that in order to qualify for licensure, there must be a sequence of academic study with the expressed intent to prepare counselors as documented by the institution.

Academic courses of study accredited by CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs) or CORE (Council on Rehabilitation Education) shall be considered as satisfying this standard.

Academic courses of study not accredited by CACREP or CORE may be considered as satisfying this standard if:

- a. Preparation for the practice of counseling is the primary emphasis throughout the academic curriculum (evidence: curriculum description, student transcript, course syllabi);
- b. The intent to prepare professional counselors is stated explicitly in the description and/or mission statement of the course of study within the program (evidence: program description and mission statement) and;
- c. Primary emphasis on the practice of counseling is evidenced in the training and experience of identified program faculty (evidence: faculty biographical information).

Applicants from non-accredited programs may be required to provide evidence of compliance with regulation 18VAC115-20-49 in areas where compliance is not readily apparent. Applicants may expedite the review process by using the above criteria to assess their compliance with 18VAC115-20-49 prior to submitting their application materials. Providing supplemental evidence of compliance along with the initial application can help to avoid delays due to subsequent Board requests for additional information.