

Dear Education Committee,

As the Program Coordinator of the Counselor Education program at Capital University, I am happy to hear that you are reviewing an amendment to the existing legislation regarding Counselor Education of clinical students in the State of Ohio. As a university, we are in the process of creating a clinical track in our existing Counselor Education program. We were dismayed when we learned this past fall that there had been an oversight when the original bill passed, that did not address a procedure for new programs and their students.

The State of Ohio continues to be a leader in Counselor Education with strong academic programs, a stalwart board, and comprehensive ethical and professional guidelines. We've long been among the strongest states and the effort to require all clinical Counselor Education programs to be endorsed by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) only serves to further bolster Ohio's stance on graduating high quality professionals. However, with lack of a provision that addresses new academic programs and their graduates, we are limited in how we can continue to grow.

At Capital, we've developed a curriculum and program that adheres to the standards CACREP sets forth that prepares graduates to sit for licensure with the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage & Family Therapy Board. However, since graduates must come from a CACREP program and a program cannot be CACREP accredited until it graduates a class of students, we cannot move forward with this program. I firmly believe it is in the best interest of the State to amend this legislation to allow for a provision to address these new programs and its students. We need to continue to flourish as a profession.

In the case of our program, there is a paucity of academic programs in the Columbus area and we can better serve students in the region that wish to pursue Counselor Education. We have strong faculty, support of administration, and an already a strong base of students from our School Counseling program interested in pursuing clinical education and licensure. This serves only as a boon to the area and the profession.

I'm happy to discuss this matter further should the need arise. You can contact me with the information below. Again, I thank you for investigating this matter.

Sincerely,



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