

A QUICK GUIDE **to Understanding Accreditation,** **Certification, Licensure,** **Examinations, and Professional** **Organizations.**

Provided by the members of Mu Tau Beta.

What does CACREP stand for and what does it mean when a graduate program is CACREP accredited?

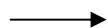
- CACREP stands for the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs. When a program is CACREP approved it means that they have met the requirements of the CACREP standards. CACREP is affiliated with the American Counseling Association (ACA) and the standards were developed to help strengthen the profession of counseling. Graduate programs that are CACREP approved have met a number of standards that include a minimum number of credit hours and required courses in counseling. Graduation from a CACREP approved program can be helpful when trying to obtain national certification or state licensure. The UNC Charlotte Counseling Graduate Program is CACREP approved.

- For more information please visit www.counseling.org/cacrep/default.htm

What is the National Board for Certified Counselors and why is it important?

- The National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. (NBCC) is a national non-profit organization that is a credentialing body for counselors. The NBCC was created to promote professional counseling and to help identify and register counselors from all over the country. NBCC certification means that counselors have met all of the national standards for counselors. Being nationally certified can help counselors in their profession and can even help them receive a better salary. For example in the state of North Carolina school counselors who are nationally certified are eligible for a 12% raise. To become nationally certified you must complete the NBCC application and you must meet all of the requirements. The requirements include graduating from a CACREP approved graduate program , passing the National Counselor Examination, and meeting the requirement for clinical and supervised hours. Please see the section on the National Counselor Examination for more information on that specific requirement.

- For an application and additional information visit www.nbcc.org



What is the National Counselor Examination and what other exams are required?

•The National Counselor Examination (NCE) is an exam that is administered by the NBCC. A passing grade on the NCE is required for national certification, as well as for the completion of the application to become a North Carolina Licensed Professional Counselor. The exam is made up for 200 multiple choice questions and is offered at UNC Charlotte every year. The questions are taken from categories that are similar to the categories required by CACREP. For more information on the format of the exam visit www.nbcc.org and click on examinations. In order to graduate from the UNC Charlotte Counseling Program, you must pass the comprehensive exam (also referred to as Comps). This exam is taken the semester before the semester that you graduate. Therefore if you are graduating in May then you must take the test during the fall. The exam consist of 160 multiple choice questions. For more information on the format of this exam visit <http://education.uncc.edu/counseling>.

What is an LPC and what does it mean?

•LPC stands for Licensed Professional Counselor. An LPC is a counselor that is licensed to practice through a private practice in the state of North Carolina. Licensure to become an LPC is through the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and is only valid in the state of North Carolina. To become an LPC you must have a graduate degree in counseling and you must complete the application process and meet all of the requirements, The requirements include a passing grade on the NCE, 2000 hours of supervised counseling, and a well written professional disclosure statement. Once you become an LPC you are required to complete continuing education credits in order to maintain your license. The 750 internship hours earned through the UNCC Counseling Program can be put towards your 2000 supervised hours. For more information on becoming an LPC visit www.ncblpc.org.

Professional organizations:

- American Counseling Association (ACA)- the main professional organization for counseling. ACA provides conferences, workshops, and continue education courses. Student liability insurance can also me purchased through ACA. You will be required to have student liability insurance when you are taking practicum and internship. To join ACA or for more information visit www.counseling.org.
- North Carolina Counseling Association (NCCA)- The North Carolina counseling professional organization. Provides local conferences and workshops. For more information visit www.nccounseling.org.
- Chi Sigma Iota- The national counseling honor society. Mu Tau Beta (MTB) is the UNC Charlotte chapter of Chi Sigma Iota. MTB provides community service, networking, and social events for its members. To become a member of MTB you must have at least 12 credit hours and a 3.5 g. p.a. to apply. Please visit <http://education.uncc.edu/mtb> for more information on how to apply.
- There are many other professional organizations that focus on specific areas within the counseling profession. For more information visit the ACA website.

For questions about any of this information please contact a Department of Counseling faculty member. This document is posted on the Mu Tau Beta website under professional links.

All of the information for this document was taken for the websites that have been provided.