

Dean's Office

**To:** Amir Dabirian, Provost

**From:** Jason A. Smith, Dean 

**Date:** 05 September 2023

**RE:** Summary and Recommendations for Counseling

The Counseling program (COUN) is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). CACREP reviewed our COUN program in 2023 with a virtual site visit on April 24, 2023 – April 26, 2023.

The CACREP Board of Directors reaffirmed accreditation for the Clinical Mental Health Counseling (M.S.) degree. The program is accredited through October 31, 2031 with an application for renewal and self-study due in early 2030.

I would like to note that this reaccreditation is particularly singular in that it is for a period of eight years, the maximum allowed amount. This is a result of the dedication, hard work, and tenacity of the Counseling faculty in not only the creation of this program but also in advocating for it professionally and for California's unique approach to clinical mental health counseling.

I concur with the recommendations of the reviewers and the response of the department in general and have four specific recommendations in addition to or in response to the reviewers' report.

- I agree that the COUN program should continue to build the *Ánimo* program. I believe that this should be one of the strategic priorities of the program given the singular nature of the *Ánimo* program, our context as an HSI, and its alignment to CSUF Guiding Principles of Social Justice.
- The program report suggested that a doctoral degree was being planned. There is currently no proposal for such a program, nor is one currently approved on the AMP. The Dean's office is happy to explore the feasibility of such a program.
- I believe that there opportunities to support the program in its assessment and clinical placement efforts beyond the narrow scope described by the reviewers which I believe serve as a starting point and preliminary benchmark of needs rather than as a requirement to the on-going accreditation of the program.
- CACREP noted and commended the program on its approach to assessment. They also noted that the approach to assessment might be more extensive than is necessary. I would like to work with department in reconciling the needs of accreditation and licensure with the needs of CSUF.

I look forward to the continued success of our Counseling program and congratulate the faculty on their successful reaccreditation.






# COUN PPR Dean Review

Final Audit Report

2023-09-11

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