LETTER OF NOTIFICATION – 5

DELETION

(Certificate, Degree, Option/Emphasis/Concentration, Organizational Unit)

1. Institution submitting request: University of Arkansas Fayetteville
2. Contact person/title: Dr. Terry Martin, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
3. Phone number/e-mail address: (479) 575-2151/tmartin@uark.edu
4. Proposed effective date: Fall 2017
5. Title of certificate, degree program, option/emphasis/concentration, or organizational unit: Ph.D. in Rehabilitation (Rehabilitation, Doctor of Philosophy)
6. CIP Code: 51.2310 - Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling/Counselor.
7. Degree Code: 7390
8. Reason for deletion:

On July 20, 2015, two accrediting organizations – the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) and the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) signed a Plan of Merger Agreement (<http://www.cacrep.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Press-Release-on-Merger-FINAL-7-20-15.pdf>). As a result of this merger, the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Rehabilitation as a stand-alone program will be deleted. The program will merge with CACREP accredited Ph.D. in Counselor Education program as one of its cognate areas.

1. Number of students still enrolled in program: 13
2. Expected graduation date of last student: December 2020
3. Name of courses that will be deleted as a result of this action:

RHAB courses will not be deleted. Rehabilitation program will merge with the Counselor Education program, but students who will be pursuing Rehabilitation Counseling cognate in the Counselor Education Ph.D. program will still be required to take RHAB courses as part of their cognate requirement.

1. How will students in the deleted program be accommodated?

There are 13 students currently in the program (the last student was admitted in the program in Spring 2016). As stated in the *FAQs – PhD Rehabilitation Counselor Education and CACREP Accreditation* document, if they graduate before January 1, 2018, they “will be eligible to serve as core faculty in all CACREP-accredited programs for life, including programs dually accredited by CORE and CACREP” (<http://www.cacrep.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/FAQs-on-doctoral-level-Rehabilitation-Counselor-Education-accreditation-10.22.15.pdf>). Current students who will not be able to graduate before January 1, 2018, will be given two choices. They can continue to pursue degree requirements in the deleted Ph.D. in Rehabilitation program and earn the degree by December 2020, or seek admission in the Ph.D. in Counselor Education program and complete requirements for CACREP accredited Ph.D. doctoral degree.

1. Provide documentation of written notification to students currently enrolled in program.

Dear Doctoral Student in PH.D. in Rehabilitation Program:

In response to the Merger Agreement between the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) and the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), the Rehabilitation Education and Research program at the University of Arkansas will be merging with the Counselor Education program. As stated in the *FAQs – PhD Rehabilitation Counselor Education and CACREP Accreditation* document, if you meet all your degree requirements and graduate from your Ph.D. in Rehabilitation program before January 1, 2018, you “will be eligible to serve as core faculty in *all* CACREP-accredited programs for life, including programs dually accredited by CORE and CACREP” (<http://www.cacrep.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/FAQs-on-doctoral-level-Rehabilitation-Counselor-Education-accreditation-10.22.15.pdf>)

If you are not able to complete your Ph.D. in Rehabilitation degree by January 1, 2018, you will have two choices:

1. Continue to pursue your degree requirements and still graduate from the Ph.D. in Rehabilitation program by December 2020 the latest.
2. Seek admission into the Counselor Education Ph.D. program and complete all CACREP-accredited program requirements for doctoral degree.

Please be aware that if you decide to pursue the first option, you will have until December 2020 to graduate; however, earning a non-CACREP accredited Ph.D. in Rehabilitation degree after January 1, 2018 will affect your employment options.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Rehabilitation Education and Research program coordinator, Dr. Brent Williams, and faculty members, Drs. Lynn Koch and Stephanie Lusk.

1. Indicate the amount of program funds available for reallocation:

There are no funds available for reallocation. As necessitated by the merger of two accrediting agencies, the Rehabilitation program will continue its operations as part of the CACREP accredited Counselor Education program. Therefore, all resources, including faculty lines of the two programs will be merged.

1. Provide additional program information if requested by ADHE staff.

President/Chancellor Approval Date: January 30, 2107

Board of Trustees Notification Date: March 30, 2017

Chief Academic Officer: Ashok Saxena Date: January 23, 2017