

Contact: Rachel Boon

REQUEST FOR DEPARTMENT NAME CHANGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA: FROM DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND COUNSELOR EDUCATION TO DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELOR EDUCATION

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to change the name of the Department of Rehabilitation and Counselor Education to the Department of Counselor Education in the College of Education.

The Council of Provosts and Board office support approval of this request.

Reason for proposed change: There are several reasons why changing the name of the Department of Rehabilitation and Counselor Education to the Department of Counselor Education is beneficial to both students and the university. Nationally, the counseling profession has worked to unify and consolidate its identity as one that is inclusive of school, rehabilitation and mental health counseling. This effort is evidenced in the merging of two accreditation bodies – Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) and Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) – into one accrediting body (CACREP) for counseling preparation programs in all three counseling professions. The University of Iowa's Department of Rehabilitation and Counselor Education includes programs in School Counseling and Mental Health Counseling as well as a program in Rehabilitation Counseling. Eliminating the word "rehabilitation" from the department name will indicate to prospective students that the department is inclusive of all three fields of counselor education and will align with current accreditation language.

Effect on program configuration: The proposed name change will not result in any program configuration changes, changes in personnel, or in the number of credit hours required for program completion.

Effect on students: By changing the name of the department, all of the MA and PhD students in the three counseling programs (school, mental health and rehabilitation) will be represented equally under the broad umbrella of counselor education. Because the new name will better align with accreditation language, the department may be more easily identifiable for prospective students. The proposed permanent name change will not have any adverse effects on current or prospective students.

Effect on accreditation: The proposed name change reflects the consolidated professional identity of the accrediting body, CACREP. All accreditation requirements are met by the current programs of study within the department and will remain unchanged.

Effect on resources: No additional resources are needed to make this proposed change.

Date of implementation: August 2021.