

# Promoting the Ongoing Development and Recognition of The Counselling Profession Globally



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## What is IRCEP?

- ▶ International Registry of Counsellor Education Programs
- ▶ An international registry process governed by a steering committee that reports to Board of Directors of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Educational Related Programs (CACREP)

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## Evolution and History of IRCEP

- ▶ Created in response to growing number of inquiries to CACREP regarding recognition and accreditation of programs outside of the US
- ▶ CACREP Board of Directors authorized the creation of a subcommittee to examine issues related to an international recognition processes

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## IRCEP was born

- ▶ Decision based on information obtained from
  - Attending international conferences,
  - Meeting faculty from international counselling programs
  - Working with non-US programs applying for accreditation using CACREP standards
  - Consulting with NBCC, NBCC-I and other international quality assurance organizations
- ▶ Initial tasks
  - Develop criteria and processes for application
  - Develop curriculum guidelines
  - Appoint members to IRCEP committee

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## Why Registry and not Accreditation?

- ▶ Language and cultural differences create difficulty in application and evaluation of CACREP standards
- ▶ Degree expectations and educational systems vary across the world
- ▶ While counselling is practiced worldwide, it is not a term that is understood or used in many countries
- ▶ Needed to develop a quality assurance process that worked despite differences in culture, country, educational system, language, etc.

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## IRCEP Steering Committee

- ▶ Dr. Salleh Amat (Malaysia)
- ▶ Dr. Eugenio Bacchini (Italy)
- ▶ Dr. Carol Bobby (executive director of CACREP)
- ▶ Dr. Tom Clawson (executive director of NBCC)
- ▶ Dr. Rick Gressard (liaison to the CACREP Board)
- ▶ Dr. Sachin Jain (India)
- ▶ Dr. Fidan Korkut (Turkey)
- ▶ Dr. Uchenna Nwachuku (Nigeria)
- ▶ Dr. Rebecca Stanard (chair of IRCEP steering committee)
- ▶ Dr. Brian Sullivan (Australia)
- ▶ Dr. Elias Zambrano (Latin America)

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## Vision

- ▶ IRCEP will promote the ongoing development and recognition of the counselling profession worldwide through the creation of a registry of approved counsellor education programs that use common professional requirements essential to the education and training of counsellors, regardless of culture, country, region, work setting, or educational system.

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## Mission

- ▶ In order to promote the development and recognition of the counseling profession worldwide, IRCEP's mission is to:
  - develop standards that focus on common professional requirements for counsellor education and training programs;
  - approve programs meeting the IRCEP standards;
  - maintain a registry of approved programs; and
  - create networks of counselor educators, students, and practitioners to further develop and promote excellence in counsellor education and training

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## Core Values

### ▶ IRCEP values

- advancing quality assurance in counsellor education and training worldwide through the creation of standards that reflect the needs of diverse societies and cultures;
- respecting the diversity of instructional approaches and strategies;
- encouraging program improvement and best practices;
- strengthening the public's understanding of counselling worldwide;
- serving as leaders and advocates for the profession of counselling worldwide; and,
- creating networks of counsellor educators, students and practitioners

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## Application Process

- ### ▶ Electronic submission of documents that provide evidence of:
- a written mission statement, goals, curriculum, and criteria for student selection;
  - a designated individual responsible for the oversight of courses offered;
  - counsellor educators, trainers and other resources of appropriate quality and sufficiency to achieve its mission and goals;
  - procedures for assessing students;
  - curricular experiences as outlined in the IRCEP Curriculum Guidelines; and,
  - legitimacy to operate

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## Curricular Guidelines

- ▶ Program must submit a narrative that describes how they meet curriculum guidelines in the following:
  - **Counseling skills and practice**
    - Communication/counseling Skills
    - Theory and techniques
    - Human Development
    - Supervised field practice
  - **Understanding the social context and norms of working as a counselor**
    - Ethical principles
    - Societal norms
    - Diversity and differences
    - Professional identity
    - Research and assessment

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## Review Process

- ▶ Review of documentation by IRCEP committee and others as appointed
- ▶ Recommendation to CACREP Board of Directors

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## Benefits of Registry

- ▶ Recognition of legitimate counsellor preparation programs that meet the requirements to be included on the Registry
- ▶ Program information (e.g., contact information, curricular offerings, structure) will be posted on IRCEP's website for:
  - prospective students
  - faculty
  - the public
  - other constituencies (counselor education programs, accrediting bodies, government agencies)
- ▶ Fostering the ongoing development and global recognition of the counselling profession through building
  - a foundation for potential national/regional accreditation processes
  - an international network of counsellor educators

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## Next Steps

- ▶ “Build it and they will come”
- ▶ Go online with the website
- ▶ Operationalize the processes that have been created
- ▶ Revise processes as needed
- ▶ Build networks of counsellor educators to serve as reviewers
- ▶ Continue to disseminate information about IRCEP to counsellor education programs internationally
- ▶ Continuous learning and improvement

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Thank you



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