



SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

July 6, 2016

Dr. Marc A. Nigliazzo
President
Texas A&M University-Central Texas
1001 Leadership Place
Kilgore, TX 75649

Dear Dr. Nigliazzo:

It has come to the Commission's attention that, effective August 1, 2017, the Texas Department of State Health Services and Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors will require an increase in program length for master's degree programs that prepare students to sit for the Counselor Licensure exam, from 48 credit hours to 60 credit hours.

The Texas Administrative Code, Title 22 "EXAMINING BOARDS" Rule 681.82 states:

"(a) Persons applying for licensure must have:

- (1) a graduate degree in counseling or related field on at least the master's level;
- and
- (2) a planned graduate program in counseling or related field of at least 48 semester hours with 60 semester hours for applicants starting a counseling program as of August 1, 2017.

(b) The 48/60 semester hours must be designed to train a person to provide direct services to assist individuals or groups in a professional counseling relationship using a combination of mental health and human development principles, methods, and techniques to achieve the mental, emotional, physical, social, moral, educational, spiritual, or career-related development and adjustment of the client throughout the client's life.

(1) The 48/60 semester hours may be course work that was part of the required graduate degree, or may be in addition to course work taken for the degree, or a combination of both.

(2) The 48/60 hours must cover the course content described in §681.83 of this title (relating to Academic Course Content)."

Reference:

[http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=T&app=9&p_dir=N&p_rloc=164863&p_tloc=&p_ploc=1&pg=2&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=30&ch=681&rl=81](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=T&app=9&p_dir=N&p_rloc=164863&p_tloc=&p_ploc=1&pg=2&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=30&ch=681&rl=81)



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For institutions with graduate degree programs in counseling or a related field on at least the master's level, this change in program length constitutes a substantive change requiring review and approval under the SACSCOC Substantive Change policy (pages 8 and 17). **If your institution will be affected by this new requirement, you will need to submit to my office by January 1, 2017**, the following documentation: a cover letter, a completed cover sheet (available on our website under the Substantive Changes button), and an explanation of how the proposed change will affect the following:

- Student learning outcomes
- Staffing needs and faculty workloads
- Facilities
- Library and learning resources

Please feel free to contact your SACSCOC staff member with any questions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/CAT:rb

cc: Dr. Tracy Teaff
Dr. Crystal A. Baird