

ANNOUNCEMENT

ACVREP Announces Revisions to Certification Eligibility Criteria

April 27, 2010

Tucson, Arizona. The Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) announces revisions to certification eligibility criteria for individuals applying for initial certification as a Certified Low Vision Therapist (CLVT®), Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS®), and/or Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (CVRT®). This Board action follows the completion of corporate protocols established within ACVREP's Soliciting Public Review and Comment Policy, including the review of public comments by the Board prior to taking action. Revised certification eligibility criteria take effect beginning on June 1, 2010.

Scope of Revised ACVREP Certification Eligibility Criteria

- Deletion of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) Approved University Program language from current ACVREP COMS® and CVRT® Category 1 certification eligibility criteria. This action effectively collapses Categories 1 and 2 certification eligibility criteria.
- In order to obtain ACVREP certification, candidates trained in the U.S. must provide evidence of a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited university or college with an emphasis or specialization in the discipline for which the individual candidate is applying for certification. The only exception to this requirement is CLVT® Category 2 certification eligibility criteria, which requires an individual candidate to provide evidence of a bachelor's degree or higher in addition to the verification of the CLVT supervisor that the applicant demonstrates basic competency in all core domain areas.
- In order to obtain ACVREP certification, non-U.S. trained candidates must provide documentation of one of the following:
 - An international equivalent of a bachelor's degree or higher (as verified through an independent credential evaluation company) with an emphasis or specialization in the discipline for which the candidate is applying for certification.
 - A post-secondary diploma, from an accredited university or college, with an emphasis or specialization in the discipline for which the individual candidate is applying for certification.

Explanation of the Revised ACVREP Certification Eligibility Criteria

- The deletion of AER Approved University Program language from current ACVREP COMS® and CVRT® Category 1 certification eligibility criteria does not prevent or limit a program's decision to seek AER University program approval. The termination of said language only means that ACVREP no longer requires that the documented evidence of educational attainment must be issued from an AER approved program.
- By relying on documented evidence of educational attainment (i.e. degree verified through transcript) from an accredited university or college, ACVREP does not extend its mission and/or purposes to include any corporate responsibility relevant to the review or approval of university or college programs.
- By allowing non-U.S. candidates the opportunity to submit a post-secondary diploma when applying for eligibility, ACVREP appropriately takes into account the educational systems of other national jurisdictions and recognizes the educational attainment of international candidates, such as those graduating from Mohawk College in Canada and other accredited universities/colleges in countries that recognize the post-secondary "diploma" rather than a "bachelor's degree."
- If U.S. employers are concerned about the professional qualifications (in addition to the individual demonstration of professional competency as facilitated by the ACVREP certification process) of individuals educated outside of the U.S. who qualified for eligibility to obtain ACVREP certification with a post-secondary diploma from an accredited university or college, the employer has the autonomy to require a bachelor's degree or higher (or international equivalent) within the discipline as a hiring requirement. The same consideration can be made by federal, state, and local legislative and regulatory bodies interested in mandating ACVREP certification as a requirement for practice.
- Individuals applying for eligibility for ACVREP certification after June 1, 2010 must meet the revised certification eligibility criteria. Individuals applying for eligibility for ACVREP certification prior to June 1, 2010 must meet current certification eligibility criteria.
- Recertification criteria remain unchanged.
- Individuals receiving services from ACVREP certified professionals now and in the future can have confidence in knowing that their service provider has demonstrated professional competency through a reputable certification process, which includes completion of the supervised internship requirement as documented by the clinical competency form, a passing score on the applicable certification examination and transcripts to support successful completion of a post-secondary education from an accredited university or college with an emphasis or specialization in the discipline for which the candidate has been granted ACVREP certification.

The Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals

Summary of ACVREP Revised Certification Eligibility Criteria

- Given the revised certification eligibility criteria, ACVREP's professional standards (i.e. professional knowledge and skills) remain as currently stated. The revision of certification eligibility criteria does not lower the standards.
- ACVREP's professional standards serve to define professional competency within the context of ACVREP certification. Therefore, ACVREP's performance-based certification requirements are aligned to ACVREP's professional standards.
- Performance-based requirements for ACVREP certification include the completion of the supervised internship requirement as documented by the "Clinical Competency Form" and a passing score on the applicable certification examination. All candidates for ACVREP certification must complete all performance-based requirements before they are granted ACVREP certification.
- ACVREP certification eligibility criteria represent those requirements determined necessary by ACVREP to find an individual applicant eligible to progress to ACVREP's performance-based requirements for certification.
- By maintaining the professional standards, ACVREP's organizational mission, purposes and focus remain fixed upon the individual demonstration of professional competency to enhance the provision of quality vision rehabilitation and education services and the protection of individuals receiving said services.

[Select this link to read the revised certification eligibility criteria for CLVT.](#)

[Select this link to read the revised certification eligibility criteria for COMS.](#)

[Select this link to read the revised certification eligibility criteria for CVRT.](#)

If you have any questions regarding the revised ACVREP certification eligibility criteria, please contact Garrett A. Holm, President at gholm@acvrep.org.