

ACVREP's Quarterly Newsletter

- July 2009 -

Our Mission

Advancing professional competency in vision rehabilitation and education to promote service quality.

Approved on 10/24/08 by ACVREP Board of Directors

President's Message

2009 is shaping to be a landmark year for ACVREP, as we position ourselves to better meet the needs of our stakeholders. To meet this objective, ACVREP has identified several organizational priorities, including development of policies and procedures to solicit stakeholder feedback relative to ACVREP's certification programs and enhancing organizational transparency and accountability. Tantamount to this effort is a renewed focus on the professional standards for each of the professional domains ACVREP certifies.

In meeting your needs, ACVREP better meets the needs of the field and, more specifically, the needs of individuals seeking and receiving vision rehabilitation and education services. As we position ourselves to better meet your needs, it is important to work in full cooperation with all stakeholders in the field to promote the quality of vision rehabilitation and education services provided. This collaboration must not only serve to promote service quality, but to advocate and demonstrate that such services benefit those individuals who receive them.

After the first few months in office, it is clear to see that health care and education reform are key agenda items for both the Obama Administration and Congress. ACVREP recognizes that much is at stake in the debate and deliberation of these two crucial agenda items. Of critical importance to these matters is enhanced consumer access to quality vision rehabilitation and education services.

Given the responsibility of certifying professionals in this field, ACVREP understands its responsibility in advocating the strength of the professional standards, which serve as the foundation of ACVREP certification. Furthermore, it is important to clearly demonstrate a direct correlation between the practice of these standards and the provision of quality

services that benefit consumers. Such outcomes must be facilitated to fully support both professionals in the field and the individuals they serve. In promoting this action, ACVREP must facilitate a process of consistent development of professional standards that are measurable, relevant, and field-driven.

Recognizing that ACVREP certification attests to an individual's ability to demonstrate professional competency, ACVREP certification is a critical component in addressing the challenges faced ahead. Thus, your efforts to obtain or maintain ACVREP certification are essential in building a strong future for the profession. However, ACVREP certification is just one piece of the puzzle. In advocating the value of ACVREP certification, we must also work together to promote the university programs dedicated to professional preparation and research in the field and support the needs of professionals, employers, and persons seeking and receiving services.

The important challenges lying ahead of us can only be addressed through cooperation and by using our collective power. Now is the time to utilize that collective power to build a secure future for professionals in the field.

Garett A. Holm, President
ACVREP

ACVREP Board of Directors Meeting (May 2-3, 2009)

The Directors of ACVREP dedicated significant meeting time to discussion on the role and responsibilities of The Academy relative to its corporate mission and purposes.

Upon conclusion of the meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously committed to:

1. Insuring high quality certification programs in the field of vision rehabilitation and education services.
2. Building and maintaining stakeholder trust and confidence. Stakeholders include certified professionals, employers, third party payers, and especially those individuals seeking and receiving vision rehabilitation and education services.

To ensure that The Academy maintains this focus and fulfills its commitment, ACVREP will continue to:

- Fully promote and support the organization's Mission Statement: "Advancing professional competency in vision rehabilitation and education to promote service quality.
- Serve as the independent certification body that assesses, through appropriate means, the professional competency of individuals seeking certification and confirms certification of those individuals who meet the requirements.

- In a formal agreement with AER, the incorporation of ACVREP recognized the activities and assets legally transferred to the organization. As documented in the corporate bylaws, organizational policies and procedures, and industry standards established for professional certification agencies, the Academy will maintain:
 1. Professional standards that are relevant and field-driven.
 2. Eligibility and recertification criteria that are fair and rigorous.
 3. Codes of Ethics that set clear expectation relevant to the provision of quality services and ethical practice.
 4. Certification examinations that are aligned to the professional standards and provide rigorous assessment of an individual's professional knowledge and skill.
- Facilitate and support subject matter expert committees to review and develop The Academy's professional standards and certification eligibility criteria.
- Facilitate a process of public review and comment in relation to any proposed changes in The Academy's professional standards, eligibility criteria, or Codes of Ethics prior to adoption by the Board of Directors.
- Facilitate and support the validation of The Academy's professional standards by recognized means and ensure that certification examination results are statistically valid and reliable.
- Promote the value of Academy certification to the public.
- Collaborate with partners in the field to promote and support the provision of quality services by qualified professionals.

In the coming weeks and months, The Academy will review and analyze critical needs to support these actions. Utilizing the full resources available to The Academy, including the expertise of our valued certified professionals, we are confident that the actions taken by The Academy in the future will serve to meet critical stakeholder needs and promote confidence in our services and in the certification we issue.

On behalf of The Academy Board of Directors, I wish to thank VisionServe Alliance and those individuals who submitted comments to the Board for their valuable contributions to Board meeting.

To read the full Board Report, please visit the ACVREP website at www.acvrep.org and click the "Board Agendas and Reports" link.

VRT Certification Examination Development Project Nearing Completion

ACVREP is nearing completion of the updated Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (VRT) Certification Examination utilized by ACVREP to assess individual performance of candidates for VRT certification relative to the identified professional competencies. The development of examinations is a continuous process for certification bodies, such as ACVREP. Thus, all of our certification examinations need to be updated periodically for validity purposes. Furthermore, such action ensures that items present on ACVREP certification examinations align properly with the identified professional competencies and assess the knowledge and skill desired to confirm certification.

The redevelopment process includes, but is not limited to the following actions:

1. Conducting a job task analysis of the Vision Rehabilitation Therapist profession.
2. Creating a blueprint for the development of the exam.
3. Mapping existing exam test bank items onto the exam blueprint.
4. Determining which items are appropriate for future ACVREP VRT certification examinations.
5. Writing new items for the examination
6. Creating best-test formats and implementing beta-tests to assess the appropriateness of certification examination items
7. Reviewing statistical analysis of the beta-test results provided by ACVREP's exam development contractor (Prometric) to identify the items that will be utilized on the final forms of the examination and to establish a fair and reasonable cut-score for each of the final forms of the examination.
8. Creating final forms to be utilized in the assessment of candidates for ACVREP certification.

The completion of this project will result in an examination that is current, reliable, valid, and able to meet the standards established by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) relevant to the development of certification examinations.

ACVREP engaged subject matter experts (SMEs) to assist in the actions described above. SMEs were first asked to provide their insight on the VRT exam blueprint on-line survey. The SMEs participating in this phase of the process reviewed the exam objectives and rated each objective in terms of job relevance and importance, required competency level, and job frequency. Our test development contractor, Prometric, then conducted an analysis of the resulting survey data to determine which objectives to maintain and which to discard. Typically discarded objectives are too difficult or relatively unimportant

relative to job functions. Prometric's psychometricians then analyzed the remaining objectives according to these survey data. Based on the survey analysis and the recommendations provided by Prometric, ACVREP (in collaboration with identified SMEs) then decided how many items to assign a given objective based on the objective's relevance, importance, and complexity in relation to job function.

After this process was completed, a small group of SMEs then mapped ACVREP current VRT certification examination items unto the examination blueprint to identify the proper placement of items relative to each examination objective. Following that process, a two-day Item Development Workshop was conducted to instruct SMEs how to write exam items based on psychometric standards that accurately measure and assess the intended purpose of each identified exam objective.

The Item Development Workshop was conducted on June 23, 2007 through June 24, 2007 in Tucson, Arizona. 12 SMEs participated in the training and were assigned to revise current exam items as well as develop new items for each of the blueprint's objectives. Over the two-day period, this group of SMEs wrote over 350 items for the updated VRT certification examination.

Prometric then conducted a detailed edit of these items that included the completion of psychometric, sensitivity, and language reviews. After the editing and review process was completed, several technical review sessions were implemented with the SMEs who participated in Item Development Workshop. During the technical review process, Prometric staff worked in collaboration with SMEs to assess the technical accuracy of each item in the available pool and to identify and correct any ambiguity and misleading verbiage. After the technical review process, Prometric then conducted a second edit of the examination items.

Based on the technical review and editing process, Prometric created two forms of beta-testing purposes. The beta-test was given to participants in the following locations:

- Birmingham, AL
- Hines, IL
- Cleveland, OH
- Kalamazoo, MI
- Philadelphia, PA
- San Francisco, CA
- St. Petersburg, FL

Following the conclusion of the beta-test, Prometric completed an analysis of the results. In collaboration with five (5) SMEs selected from the SME cadre that participated in the Item Development Workshop, ACVREP reviewed the analysis provided by Prometric. From the review of the analysis, ACVREP identified the items that will be included on the finalized certification examination forms. Furthermore, based on the analysis that was provided by Prometric, the SMEs recommended a cut score to establish a passing score for the certification examination forms. The cut score that was recommended by the SMEs was then approved by the ACVREP Board of Directors in June 2008.

Those individuals that participated in the beta-test were notified of their results in June of 2008. After the beta test was complete, a final analysis and edit was completed to ensure the accuracy of all items and the final two forms of the ACVREP VRT certification examination. The updated two forms of the ACVREP VRT certification examination were finalized in November 2008. ACVREP plans to begin implementing the new version of the VRT certification examination upon the completion of the grading tool.

Continuing Education Opportunities

To learn more about ACVREP approved continuing education opportunities available to certified professionals, please visit the ACVREP website at www.acvrep.org and click the “Continuing Education Opportunities” link.

Career Opportunities

Salus University College of Education and Rehabilitation

Non-Tenure Track (Tenure Track if Qualified)
Full-Time Instructor Position (Assistant Professor if Qualified)

LOW VISION REHABILITATION SPECIALIST

The Institute for the Visually Impaired, William Feinbloom Vision Rehabilitation Center

Primary Function: Assist in the administration of the Low Vision Rehabilitation Programs, teach, supervise, and advise LVT students. Participate fully as a faculty member in the College of Education and rehabilitation and as Clinical Staff of the William Feinbloom Vision Rehabilitation Center in Direct Service with Clients.

Principle Duties and Responsibilities: include direct low vision service delivery, and the development of OT/LVR and Head Injury educational and rehabilitation programs. Assist in the preparation of proposals to secure funding for LVR programs and assist in administration and report preparation. Writing, publishing and presentations, data

collection and programmatic development are expected. Internship supervision, college and university committee responsibilities are also expected.

Join a faculty and staff knowledgeable and committed to quality personnel preparation and direct services in the area of blindness and low vision at a growing College within Salus University.

Required Qualifications:

1. Minimum of a Masters' degree in relevant field OT or LVR.
2. Certification in OT and/or LVR (ACVREP)
3. At least 3 years direct experience teaching or providing services to individuals who have low vision
4. Direct experience working with individuals with head injury and have low vision
5. Organizational, professional report and writing skills
6. Presentation skills
7. Team skills

Preferred Qualifications:

1. Doctoral Degree
2. Other relevant certifications, e.g., O&M, TVI, VRT
3. Grantsmanship Skills

The position is available immediately and will remain open until filled.

If interested please submit application packet consisting of:

1. Letter of interest explaining how qualified and why interested in position.
2. Professional Resume/Vita
3. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation attesting to your academic and professional skills which qualify you for the position.

Send application packet to Chair of Search Committee:

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