

**SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

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**To:** Mr. R. Austin Gilbert, Jr., Chairman, and Members,  
Commission on Higher Education

**From:** Ms. Dianne Chinnes, Chair *DC*  
Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

**Consideration of Request to Add Accreditation Agency:**  
**Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE)**

**Background**

The Performance Funding group has assigned to Academic Affairs the responsibility for entertaining requests from institutions to add additional accreditation agencies to the official CHE list used in performance funding. Discussed below is one such request.

Since there are two institutions currently holding accreditation with the Council on Rehabilitation Education, the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing believes that the agency should be added to the official CHE list of specialized accrediting agencies. This addition would have two immediate consequences: 1) South Carolina State and USC-Columbia will be able to add their programs accredited under CORE into the total count of accredited programs on their campuses, as required for performance funding purposes; and, 2) any new program accreditable under CORE would have five years to achieve accreditation with the agency, as called for by the Commission's *Guidelines for the Approval of Specialized Accrediting Agencies*.

CORE is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). This recognition is one of the means by which specialized accrediting agencies become eligible for addition to the official CHE list of agencies. The other is approval by the U.S. Department of Education.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the addition of the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) to the official CHE list of specialized accrediting agencies.

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