

School Counselor Certification Requirements

My signature below acknowledges that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the ethical standards listed below. I verify that I meet the criteria listed below and declare my Intent to pursue School Counselor Certification Preparation:

1. I verify that I have read and understood the [Texas Educator Code of Ethics](#) and the [ASCA Ethical Standards](#).
2. I have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher education that was at the time accredited or approved by an accrediting organization recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
3. **I have two creditable years of teaching experience as a classroom teacher** at an Accredited institution, public or private elementary, secondary, or post-secondary institution whose education program has been evaluated and deemed accredited by a state department of education or recognized regional accrediting agency, or a Charter school that has been authorized to operate under the Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 12, Subchapter D or E. relating to Commissioner's Rules on Creditable Years of Service) and TEC, §5.001(2)

OR

I am currently employed as a classroom teacher and have one year of teaching experience at an Accredited institution, public or private elementary, secondary, or post-secondary institution whose education program has been evaluated and deemed accredited by a state department of education or recognized regional accrediting agency, or a Charter school that has been authorized to operate under the Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 12, Subchapter D or E. relating to Commissioner's Rules on Creditable Years of Service) and TEC, §5.001(2). I understand that I must submit a creditable service record of at least two years of teaching experience to the School Counselor Certification Preparation Program Coordinator before I can register for the TEA Field Practicum: COUN 5386 Internship in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

4. I understand that a criminal history background check is not required for admittance into a certification program at A&M - Central Texas. However, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) requires background checks at several points as candidates progress through the Educator Preparation Program. Additionally, a check will be conducted prior to issuance of a standard certificate. Pursuant to Texas Administrative Code 249.16, a candidate may be ineligible for issuance of a certificate upon completion of

the Educator Preparation Program due to offenses considered to relate directly to the duties and responsibilities of the education profession.

5. Texas Administrative Code (TAC) 227.101c) states that a person who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a State Board of Educator Certification-approved educator preparation program or planning to take a certification examination may request a preliminary criminal history evaluation letter regarding the person's potential ineligibility for certification due to a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense. For more information about the Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation, go to the link:

https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Educators/Investigations/Preliminary_Criminal_History_Evaluation-FAQs

6. Field based experiences are required during the program. A candidate may also undergo a school district / campus criminal history check if the candidate is not employed by the district.

7. I understand that I must disclose prior educator preparation program admission information to the school counseling program coordinator and that if it is found that I was not in good academic standing in that program, my acceptance into the school counseling program may be denied or terminated.

8. I understand that if I take any of the following courses, as a conditionally admitted student or as a fully admitted student in the MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, that they **will not count towards certification preparation requirements** until I have been admitted into the School Counselor Certification Preparation Program: COUN 5351 Career & Guidance, COUN 5352 Foundations of Professional School Counseling, COUN 5353 Theories of Counseling, COUN 5357 Methods and Practices in Counseling, COUN 5311 Multicultural Counseling, COUN 5386 Clinical Mental Health Internship.

9. I understand that **I will be required to retake** any of the courses listed above if taken prior to admittance into the School Counselor Certification Preparation Program

10. I understand that I must submit a Letter of Continued Employment to the School Counseling Program Coordinator if I do not have two years of teaching experience as shown on my Service Record.

11. I understand the following program completion and certification steps:

- a. Successful completion of School Counselor Preparation Program.
- b. Degree conferred

c. Candidate requests official service record demonstrating two creditable years of teaching experience from school district Human Resources office (if not completed at time of application)

d. Candidate successfully completes the most current TExES exam: http://www.tx.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/TX252_TestPage.html

e. Candidate creates a TEA/TEAL account and applies for standard principal certification. Notify "CT Educator Prep" when this step is complete

f. Candidate is recommended for standard School Counselor certification.

12. I understand that I must complete the following in TEA Field Practicum:

a. 160 hours during COUN 5386 Internship in Counseling. These hours may overlap with the 600 hour CACREP requirement.

b. Completion of formal observations following current TEA guidelines

c. Field Supervisor and Site Supervisor Recommendation