

Accreditation

The Professional Education Unit at Governors State University consists of all programs which prepare candidates for licensure as teachers or other school personnel. Although these programs are located primarily in the College of Education, there are five programs located in other colleges throughout the university (i.e., secondary Biology, Chemistry, English, and Mathematics programs in the College of Arts and Sciences; and the Master's level program in Communication Disorders, located in the College of Health Professions). The head of the Professional Education Unit is the Dean of the College of Education.

College of Education/Professional Education Unit

The College of Education/Professional Education Unit at Governors State University is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education to offer preparation programs for teachers and other school professionals

[The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education \(NCATE\)](#)

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This accreditation covers initial and advanced preparation programs.

GSU Program	National Recognition
Alternative Certification	Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI)
Biology Education	National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)
Chemistry Education	National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)
Communication Disorders	Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA)
Counseling	Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)
Early Childhood Education	National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
Educational Administration	Educational Leadership Constituent Council (ELCC)
Elementary Education	Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI)
English Education	National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)
Mathematics Education*	National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) (*New program: ISBE approval 2008; NCTM recognition pending 2009.)
Multicategorical Special Education	Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
Reading	International Reading Association (IRA)

College of Education – Counseling Programs



Accreditation and Licensure

All three counseling sequences—school counseling, clinical mental health counseling, and marriage and family counseling—are accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counselor Education and Related Programs (CACREP).

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has approved the School Counseling sequence as leading to the Professional Educator License-Endorsed in School Counseling. Applicants for this license must hold, or be eligible for, a standard Illinois teaching license or have completed the GSU or equivalent teaching competency courses.

Students applying for certification must pass the Illinois certification tests in basic skills and in school counseling. In addition, the School Counseling program is one of several programs which together comprise the GSU professional education unit, which is fully accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) as one of its constituent programs.

Certification, Licensure, and Endorsement

Students graduating from a CACREP approved program are eligible to take the National Counselor Certification examination during internship or upon graduation. In addition, The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has approved the School Counseling sequence as leading to the Professional Educator License-Endorsed in School Counseling. GSU counseling degree seeking students who wish to be recommended for Professional Educator License-Endorsed in School Counseling shall either

1. hold or be qualified to hold a teaching certificate or
2. have completed the GSU or equivalent teaching competence courses.

Program Modifications

Master of Arts in Counseling

2009 – Present The Counseling program is converting all paper portfolios (binders) into electronic copies via CD's.

Fall 2011 The Community Counseling sequence officially switched to Clinical Mental Health Counseling. This switch included the addition of COUN 8848 - Crisis and Intervention Counseling and COUN 8849 - Psychopharmacology and Substance Abuse. Fact sheets, Handbook, study plans, website and catalog were changed.

Candidacy courses changed from COUN 600 (Professional Orientation & Ethics), COUN 630 (Counseling Theories & Ethics), COUN 810 (Beginning Counseling Techniques) and COUN 847 (Group Counseling) to: COUN 600, COUN 720 (Social and Cultural Foundations), COUN 810 and COUN 847.

Spring 2012 The School Counseling program changed all materials to reflect the State change of the Illinois Basic Skills test to the Test of Academic Proficiency. Fact sheets, Handbook, study plans, website and catalog were changed.

COUN 6610, Research and Assessment, was added to take the place of PSYC 6110, Measurements and Evaluation. Fact sheets, Handbook, study plans, website and catalog were changed.

Counseling Peer Mentor Program was added as a support service to Counseling students.

Fall 2012 GSU changed from a 3-digit code to a 4-digit code. All counseling courses were modified to reflect this directive.

For Fall 2014 The School Counseling program is in the middle of changing all materials to reflect the State change of the Type 73 Certificate to Educator License - School Counseling endorsement.

The MA in Counseling program adopted the following program change: "Students must complete all core and sequence coursework with a "B" or better. If a grade is below a B, that course must be retaken. Any course with less than a B cannot be used as a prerequisite for another course until it is retaken".

The Clinical Mental Health sequence changed COUN 7633 from Community Counseling to Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Community Counseling and Professional Orientation.

Student Outcome Assessment

A. Graduate Program Advisory Council

Each year the GSU counseling program conducts a meeting of its advisory council. This meeting is designed to enlist the support of community members who serve our program and are a part of the counseling profession to give feedback to the counseling program faculty on how we are doing as a program and how we can improve our training program to better meet the needs of the community and profession.

B. Counseling Program Graduate Survey

Graduates of the counseling program are surveyed after they have successfully defended their portfolios and graduated from the program. The results of this grouping of surveys are incorporated into the program for improvement and feedback.

C. GSU Counseling Program Employer Survey

In academic year 2004-2005, Governors State University's counseling program began conducting their assessment of the employers who hired our graduates over the past three or more years. The employer surveys returned to the GSU counseling program overwhelmingly rated our graduates satisfactorily. Each sequence was represented in the survey of employers and the results are in. GSU graduates have

maintained a favorable impression in the each sequence taught and continue to serve the profession competently while maintaining the reputation of the GSU counseling program.

D. Site Supervisor Training Meeting

Each year the counseling program at GSU hosts a training meeting for our site supervisors. This meeting is designed to provide training to all of our site supervisors that represent each sequence that we have at GSU.

E. Counseling Program Faculty Meetings

Each month during the academic year the counseling program holds a meeting to discuss current and future issues within the counseling program. The meetings that we hold are held to manage the program according to our accreditation needs, student issues and course scheduling.

F. Internship Oral Defense

To graduate from the counseling program at GSU each sequence requires an oral defense of their internship which is reviewed by three tenure or tenure-track faculty members. Each student is tasked to meet with their chair of their internship and determine a date and time to defend their work. Students are asked to complete a portfolio inclusive of their internship experiences. Appendix F holds the requirements for internship portfolios for all sequences. The evidence room will hold examples of graduate portfolios completed by our graduates.

G. National Counselor Examinations (NCE)

In Illinois graduates are required to take the National Counselor Exam as part of their licensing. NCE is used to examine our course content and our overall ability to determine if our pedagogical methods are in league with national standards. The NCE serves as our litmus test for our teaching and program requirements.

H. Course Curriculum Surveys

Each semester students are asked to evaluate the faculty member responsible for their courses. GSU uses a one page evaluation form of standard questions that also allow for the professor to add additional questions. Surveys are used by the Chair of the Division to assist professors with their retention packets as well as supervision and feedback. Each professor receives their feedback from the students confidentially from the University. Professors maintain their own record of evaluations for their personal growth and development.

Governors State University - Regional Accreditation

Governors State University is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The university is also a member of the Illinois Council of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs.

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