

COUNSELOR EDUCATION, ED.S.

The Educational Specialist degree in counselor education leads to advanced certification for school counselors. Successful completion of the program results in eligibility to be recommended for Class AA (specialist-level) certification as a school counselor.

Admission Requirements

Admission requires a master's degree in school counseling from an accredited institution, in addition to valid, master's level certification in School Counseling and at least two full years of full-time acceptable professional educational work experience in a P-12 school system.

Admission requirements for the Graduate School (Admission Criteria) and the College of Education (General Admission) are detailed in earlier sections of this catalog.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Degree Requirements

A minimum of 30 hours of appropriate work beyond the MA degree in Counselor Education (School Counseling) and the completion of a comprehensive exam are required for the educational specialist degree.

This course listing applies to candidates having appropriate prior certification who begin this program on June 1, 2019, and thereafter. Candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.50 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C. At least 15 semester hours of the 30 semester hour total must be at the 600-level. All requirements must be completed during the 6 years preceding the date on which the degree is to be awarded.

Code and Title	Hours
Foundations of Professional Studies:	
BCE 626 Readings	3
Educational Research (Choose one of the following):	
BCE 698 Non-Dissertn Research (recommended)	3
BER 500 Intro Educatn Research	3
BER 540 Statistical Methods In Educ	3
BER 600 Quant Research Methods	3
BER 660 Eval I:Theory & Practice	3
Instructional Support Area:	
BCE 615 Field Exper Counselor Ed (Required)	6
BCE 633 Advanced Seminar (Multicultural Approaches to Helping)*	3
BCE 633 Advanced Seminar (Dev Guidance - Past, Present, Future)	3
BCE 653 Intro Play Therapy	3
SPE 506 Working W/Families	3
Select SIX hours from coursework below:	6
BCE 618 Adv Theory Counseling	3
BCE 652 Couns Stratg Adult-Child	3
BCE 613 Substance Abuse Counseling	3
BSP 660 Psychopathology	3
Additional Requirements:	0-3

SPE 500 Intro Exc Childr/Youth (Required ONLY IF a survey of special education course was not completed previously.)

Total Hours

30-33

Footnotes

* State-approved diversity course

The *Graduate Catalog* is published annually. Program checklists may be updated more frequently and are likely to provide the most up-to-date information about requirements. Students should obtain the most recent program checklists from their program advisors.

Please note: Courses taken for the prerequisite Class A certification and credits over six years old cannot be counted toward this degree. The certification programs of the department have been designed to fulfill current requirements of the Alabama State Board of Education.

In order to maintain compliance with the Alabama State Board of Education, admission and program requirements are subject to change. For the most current information, please check with the Office of Student Services and Certification or the Program in Counselor Education.

Certification

To be awarded Alabama Class AA School Counselor certification, students must:

- maintain a GPA of at least 3.5 (effective July 1, 2017) on all courses with no grade below a C
- receive a passing score on a comprehensive assessment documenting mastery of the curriculum
- hold valid, prerequisite Alabama Class A School Counselor certification
- complete an application for certification through the Alabama State Department of Education