PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES CREDENTIAL: SCHOOL COUNSELING DESIGNATION – POST-MASTER’S LEVEL

Pupil Personnel Services Credential Only Program

School counselors are professionals who specialize in serving students in public and private schools (grades PK–12) through classroom, group, and individual counseling within a comprehensive school counseling program designed to meet students’ academic, personal-social, and career needs. The Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC) program in school counseling is designed to accommodate those individuals who currently hold a master’s degree in counseling and who wish to acquire a credential enabling them to work as a school counselor in a public school setting.

Employment Prospects

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that “employment of school and career counselors is projected to grow 8 percent from 2018 to 2028, faster than the average for all occupations. Rising student enrollments in elementary, middle, and high schools are expected to increase demand for school counselors.”

General Information

Students completing the post-master’s PPSC program in school counseling will meet the standards of quality and effectiveness as recommended by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).

The program is designed to supplement in a systematic manner an already completed master’s degree. It comprises a minimum of 15-semester units that can be completed in two or three semesters. The three-course school specialization sequence (COUN 716, COUN 717, COUN 718) is offered fall, spring, and fall. Students also complete a post-master’s internship, consisting of a minimum of 600 hours in two of three settings (elementary, middle, or high school) and under the supervision of a credentialed school counselor who has been practicing in the field for at least two years. Additional courses may be required depending on the student’s previous coursework.

Admissions Procedure

Applications are accepted for the fall semester only and must be received through the Cal State Apply system no later than January 15 of each year. The department reviews each application and, if accepted, consultation with the coordinator of the school counseling program is required to determine which classes are needed to complete the PPSC program. Upon departmental review of the application and acceptance to the credential program, the student is invited for advising and orientation.
• A minimum of 15 clock hours will involve small group counseling and/or classroom level interventions.