

# Standards for Utah School Counselor Education Programs

*(Adapted from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP) Standards, July 1, 2016.)*

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The eight common core areas represent the foundational knowledge required of all entry level counselor education graduates. Therefore, counselor education programs must document where each of the lettered standards listed below is covered in the curriculum.

## ***Counseling Curriculum***

### 1. PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING ORIENTATION AND ETHICAL PRACTICE

- a. History and philosophy of the counseling profession and its specialty areas.
- b. The multiple professional roles and functions of counselors across specialty areas, and their relationships with human service and integrated behavioral health care systems, including interagency and interorganizational collaboration and consultation.
- c. Counselor's roles and responsibilities as members of interdisciplinary community outreach and emergency management response teams.
- d. The role and process of the professional counselor advocating on behalf of the profession.
- e. Advocacy processes needed to address institutional and social barriers that impede access, equity, and success for clients.
- f. Professional counseling organizations, including membership benefits, activities, services to members, and current issues.
- g. Professional counseling credentialing, including certification, licensure, and accreditation practices and standards, and the effects of public policy on these issues.
- h. Current labor market information relevant to opportunities for practice within the counseling profession.

- i. Ethical standards of professional counseling organizations and credentialing bodies, and applications of ethical and legal considerations in professional counseling.
  - j. Technology's impact on the counseling profession.
  - k. Strategies for personal and professional self-evaluation and implications for practice of self-care strategies appropriate to the counselor role.
  - l. The role of counseling supervision in the profession.
2. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY
- a. Multicultural and pluralistic characteristics within and among diverse groups nationally and internationally.
  - b. Theories and models of multicultural counseling, cultural identity development, and social justice and advocacy.
  - c. Multicultural counseling competencies.
  - d. The impact of heritage, attitudes, beliefs, understandings, and acculturative experiences on an individual's view of others.
  - e. The effects of power and privilege for counselors and clients.
  - f. Help-seeking behaviors of diverse clients.
  - g. The impact of spiritual beliefs on clients' and counselors' worldviews.
  - h. Strategies for identifying and eliminating barriers, prejudices, and processes of intentional and unintentional oppression and discrimination.
3. HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
- a. Theories of individual and family development across the lifespan.
  - b. Theories of learning.
  - c. Theories of normal and abnormal personality development.
  - d. Theories and etiology of addictions and addictive behaviors.
  - e. Biological, neurological, and physiological factors that affect human development, functioning, and behavior.
  - f. Systemic and environmental factors that affect human development, functioning, and behavior.

- g. Effects of crisis, disasters, and trauma on diverse individuals across the lifespan.
  - h. A general framework for understanding differing abilities and strategies for differentiated interventions.
  - i. Ethical and culturally relevant strategies for promoting resilience and optimum development and wellness across the lifespan.
4. CAREER DEVELOPMENT
- a. Theories and models of career development, counseling, and decision making.
  - b. Approaches for conceptualizing the interrelationships among and between work, mental well-being, relationships, and other life roles and factors.
  - c. Processes for identifying and using career, avocational, educational, occupational and labor market information resources, technology, and information systems.
  - d. Approaches for assessing the conditions of the work environment on clients' life experiences.
  - e. Strategies for assessing abilities, interests, values, personality and other factors that contribute to career development.
  - f. Strategies for career development program planning, organization, implementation, administration, and evaluation.
  - g. Strategies for advocating for diverse clients' career and educational development and employment opportunities in a global economy.
  - h. Strategies for facilitating client skill development for career, educational, and lifework planning and management.
  - i. Methods of identifying and using assessment tools and techniques relevant to career planning and decision making.
  - j. Ethical and culturally relevant strategies for addressing career development.
5. COUNSELING AND HELPING RELATIONSHIPS
- a. Theories and models of counseling.
  - b. A systems approach to conceptualizing clients.
  - c. Theories, models, and strategies for understanding and practicing consultation.

- d. Ethical and culturally relevant strategies for establishing and maintaining in-person and technology-assisted relationships.
  - e. The impact of technology on the counseling process.
  - f. Counselor characteristics and behaviors that influence the counseling process.
  - g. Essential interviewing, counseling, and case conceptualization skills.
  - h. Developmentally relevant counseling treatment or intervention plans.
  - i. Development of measurable outcomes for clients.
  - j. Evidence-based counseling strategies and techniques for prevention and intervention.
  - k. Strategies to promote client understanding of and access to a variety of community-based resources.
  - l. Suicide prevention models and strategies.
  - m. Crisis intervention, trauma-informed, and community-based strategies, such as Psychological First Aid.
  - n. Processes for aiding students in developing a personal model of counseling.
6. GROUP COUNSELING AND GROUP WORK
- a. Theoretical foundations of group counseling and group work.
  - b. Dynamics associated with group process and development.
  - c. Therapeutic factors and how they contribute to group effectiveness.
  - d. Characteristics and functions of effective group leaders.
  - e. Approaches to group formation, including recruiting, screening, and selecting members.
  - f. Types of groups and other considerations that affect conducting groups in varied settings.
  - g. Ethical and culturally relevant strategies for designing and facilitating groups.
  - h. Direct experiences in which students participate as group members in a small group activity, approved by the program, for a minimum of 10 clock hours over the course of one academic term.

## 7. ASSESSMENT AND TESTING

- a. Historical perspectives concerning the nature and meaning of assessment and testing in counseling.
- b. Methods of effectively preparing for and conducting initial assessment meetings.
- c. Procedures for assessing risk of aggression or danger to others, self-inflicted harm, or suicide.
- d. Procedures for identifying trauma and abuse and for reporting abuse.
- e. Use of assessments for diagnostic and intervention planning purposes.
- f. Basic concepts of standardized and non-standardized testing, norm-reference and criterion-referenced assessments, and group and individual assessments.
- g. Statistical concepts, including scales of measurement, measures of central tendency, indices of variability, shapes and types of distributions, and correlations.
- h. Reliability and validity in the use of assessments.
- i. Use of assessments relevant to academic/educational, career, personal, and social development.
- j. Use of environmental assessments and systematic behavioral observations.
- k. Use of symptom checklists, and personality and psychological testing.
- l. Use of assessment results to diagnose developmental, behavioral, and mental disorders.
- m. Ethical and culturally relevant strategies for selecting, administering and interpreting assessment and test results.

## 8. RESEARCH AND PROGRAM EVALUATION

- a. The importance of research in advancing the counseling profession, including how to critique research to inform counseling practice.
- b. Identification of evidence-based counseling practices.
- c. Needs assessments.
- d. Development of outcome measures for counseling programs.
- e. Evaluation of counseling interventions and programs.

- f. Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed research methods.
- g. Designs used in research and program evaluation.
- h. Statistical methods used in conducting research and program evaluation.
- i. Analysis and use of data in counseling.
- j. Ethical and culturally relevant strategies for conducting, interpreting, and reporting the results of research and/or program evaluation.

**ENTRY-LEVEL SPECIALTY AREAS: SCHOOL COUNSELING**

Students who are preparing to specialize as school counselors will demonstrate the professional mindsets and competencies necessary to promote the academic and learning, life and career, multicultural and global citizen, and social and emotional development of all P-12 students through data-informed school counseling programs. Counselor education programs with a specialty area in school counseling must document where each of the lettered standards listed below is covered in the curriculum.

1. FOUNDATIONS

- a. History and development of school counseling.
- b. Models of school counseling programs.
- c. Models of P-12 career literacy.
- d. Models of P-12 comprehensive plan for college and career readiness.
- e. Models of school-based collaboration and consultation.
- f. Assessments specific to P-12 education.

2. CONTEXTUAL DIMENSIONS

- a. School counselor roles as data driven leaders, advocates, collaboration and systemic change agents in P-12 schools.
- b. School counselor roles in consultation with families, P-12 and post-secondary school personnel, and community agencies.
- c. School counselor roles in relation to plan for college and career readiness.
- d. School counselor roles in school leadership and multidisciplinary teams.
- e. School counselor roles and responsibilities in relation to the school emergency management plans, and crises, disasters, and trauma.

- f. Competencies to advocate for school counseling roles.
- g. Characteristics, risk factors, and warning signs of students at risk for mental health and behavioral disorders.
- h. Common medications that affect learning, behavior, and mood in children and adolescents.
- i. Signs and symptoms of substance abuse in children and adolescents as well as the signs and symptoms of living in a homes where substance use occurs.
- j. Qualities and styles of effective leadership in schools.
- k. Community resources and referral sources professional organizations, preparation standards, and credentials relevant to the practice of school counseling.
- l. Legislation and government policy relevant to school counseling.
- m. Legal and ethical considerations specific to school counseling.

### 3. PRACTICE

- a. Development of school counseling program mission statements and objectives.
- b. Use of data driven leadership to create systemic change.
- c. Design and evaluate of school counseling programs, core curriculum design, lesson plan development, classroom management strategies, and differentiated instructional strategies.
- d. Interventions to promote academic and learning mindsets and competencies.
- e. Use of developmentally appropriate career literacy interventions and assessments.
- f. Techniques to support successful social and emotional development in school settings.
- g. Strategies to facilitate school and postsecondary transitions.
- h. Mindsets and competencies to critically examine the connections between social, familial, emotional, and behavior problems and academic achievement.
- i. Systemic dropout prevention.
- j. Interventions to promote college and career readiness.

- k. Strategies to promote equity in student achievement and college access.
- l. Techniques to foster collaboration and teamwork within schools.
- m. Strategies for implementing and coordinating peer intervention programs.
- n. Use of accountability data to inform decision making.