



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

Office of Academic Affairs
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December 1, 2008

To: Dr. Dan Julius, Vice President Academic Affairs and Research
UA Systemwide Academic Council

From: Mike Driscoll, UAA Provost

Subject: New graduate certificate program in the UAA College of Education

The UAA College of Education (COE) has developed a new graduate certificate in Counselor Education that is designed to provide continuing professional preparation for counselors in public schools and community agencies who are seeking to maintain current certifications or obtain additional credentials through the Alaska Board for Professional Counselors and/or the National Board of Certified Counselors.

This certificate has been developed in response to recommendations made after a recent comprehensive program review of the Counselor Education Program and in response to a request by the Alaska Board for Professional Counselors. The certificate requirements were developed in consultation with representatives of the Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna School Districts, the Alaska Board for Professional Counselors, and the Alaska Counseling Association.

The coursework for this certificate is already available at UAA and there is sufficient capacity in the required courses to support the anticipated additional students. The College of Education has committed to regular offerings, through fund reallocations if needed.

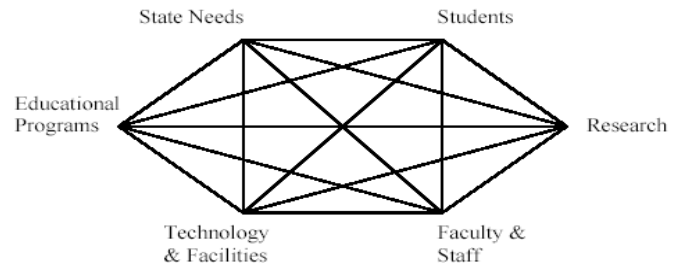
This certificate was created by the faculty in the College of Education and has been reviewed and approved through the normal governance process. The implementation of this certificate program will encourage students to engage in these structured academic programs to build their skills as counselors. Students will receive recognition from the university for their academic accomplishments and be prepared for special certifications. We ask that you add your approval to these certificates and forward them to the Board of Regents.

New Program Prospectus

MAU: University of Alaska Anchorage

Title: Graduate Certificate in Counselor Education

Target admission date: Fall 2009



Mission: The Graduate Certificate in Counselor Education provides graduates of counseling programs with continuing professional preparation as counselors in public schools and community agencies. The certificate program builds on the knowledge and skills acquired through previous master's level study in counselor education and related fields. This Graduate Certificate provides structured support for those seeking continuing education for maintaining current certifications or obtaining additional credentials through the Alaska Board for Professional Counselors and/or the National Board of Certified Counselors.

The mission of the program aligns with that of the University of Alaska as well as the strategic plan for the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). A stated priority for UAA is to "continue to design and implement new, mission-appropriate academic programs with special attention to advanced graduate study." The program addresses this priority by providing continued quality academic preparation to graduate students. The UAA priorities also include the need to "build, in partnership with our community school districts, a coherent, integrated, mutually reinforcing public education program from pre-school through post-graduate continuing education; and to collaborate closely with public and private sector partners to maintain and develop our programs supporting workforce development and high-demand careers." The program will support these priorities by providing structured support for practicing school and community counselors to achieve their career goals.

Proposal development and advisory committee input: During the 2006-2007 academic-year, the Counselor Education Program at the University of Alaska Anchorage underwent a comprehensive review. One of the recommendations was that program curriculum be created that will fulfill the state's requirements for the counseling credential of Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). The recommendation was supported by Dean Mary Snyder (Counselor Education Program Review, May 2, 2007). The recommendation to create an avenue for completing the academic requirements for licensure was also expressed by the Alaska Board for Professional Counselors (Eleanor Vinson, personal communication; August 8, 2007 & January 30, 2008)

The first step toward creating an avenue for students to complete academic requirements for a LPC through the Counselor Education Program was to revise the Master's degree curriculum to be aligned with the national standards espoused by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP). The CACREP standards include specific coursework in eight areas: Professional Orientation & Ethical Practice, Helping Relationships, Research and Program Evaluation, Assessment, Social and Cultural Foundations, Human Growth and Development, Group Work, and Career Development. These eight areas are the same topics that appear on the national examination that must be passed by candidates seeking the LPC or the National Certified Counselor (NCC) credential. The program alignment was completed during the 2007-2008 academic-year.

Input about the program was received from many sources. The proposal was presented and discussed at the College of Education Graduate Committee, Course and Curriculum Committee, and College Advisory Board. Program faculty also engaged in sustained communications with the Alaska Board for Professional Counselors, the Anchorage School District school counselors, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District counselors, and the Alaska Counseling Association to develop a certificate option that will lead to a workforce of highly qualified counseling professionals.

Student opportunities and learning outcomes: Completers of the Post-Graduate Certificate program will benefit from the professional development opportunities offered in the program. Novice and practicing counselors will advance their knowledge and skills by engaging in formal study of additional components of the counseling field. Successful program completers will have the credit hours and academic preparation needed to apply for the LPC and the NCC credentials. These credentials will increase occupational opportunities for counselors. Furthermore, holders of additional credit hours and/or credentials may qualify for increased pay through their current employers.

State and local needs: The existing MEd. in Counselor Education is a 48-credit degree program. While this program adequately prepares school counselors for state licensure and community counselors for initial job placement, there is a need for continuing professional development for counselor education graduates. The typical next step in the career path for counselors is to obtain credentials such as the LPC or NCC. In order to attain these credentials, counselors must pass the National Counselor and Licensure Examination (NCE). Furthermore, counselors seeking the LPC must have a total of master/post-master 60 credits.

Both the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Fairbanks have Counselor Education Programs that require 48 credits. Currently, there are no post-graduate counselor education certificate programs in the state of Alaska or offered through the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE).

The need for a structured program that would provide an avenue for counselors to obtain the necessary additional coursework to meet the academic requirements for the LPC was expressed by Tawshawna Olson, chair for the Board of Professional Counselors in a letter dated September 19, 2008 to the College of Education, "The Board of Professional Counselors fully supports you efforts to provide your students an academic program that will be aligned with national and state standards...In the past, the Board has dealt with a number of applicants who were pursuing licensure, but had to delay their process because their degree did not have the sixty required credits."

The Counselor Education Program faculty conducted interest assessment focus groups with the Anchorage School District school counselors, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District school counselors, and current program students. A call for interest was also sent to the Department of Education and Early Development's listserv for school counselors and the Alaska Counseling Association's listserv. To date, 80 individuals have written to express their interest in applying to the program.

Examples of these written statements include:

I would be so happy if this Post graduate program was offered which would lead to licensure by the LPC board and certification. It is a program that would enable me to move forward in such a powerful way as a counselor that I would be thrilled if it was offered.

Regards,
Patricia

I believe this post graduate program would provide me the educational avenue to complete my educational and professional goals through UAA...The proposed certificate program would allow me the opportunity to complete the course work necessary to become a licensed professional counselor within an educational system I am comfortable with and know well, UAA.

Gina
Current UAA Masters in Education Counseling Student

Enrollment projections: To date, 80 practicing counselors and counselors-in-training have expressed interest in applying for admission into the program. In order to provide quality advisement and support for accepted students, admission will be capped at approximately 10 candidates per trimester.

The program adviser will work with students to review their past transcript(s) and create an individualized program that consists of 12-18 selective credits of courses they need to acquire specific knowledge and skills not previously obtained through their master's programs. An example of the courses that a 2005 graduate of the Counselor Education Program may need and the plan for offering the courses is detailed in Table 1. An example of the faculty and credentials that may teach these courses appears in Table 2.

Table 1: Sample Four-year Course Offering Plan

Course (Prefix and Number)	2009			2010			2011			2012		
	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer
EDCN A614		Ongtooguk	Ongtooguk		Ongtooguk	Ongtooguk		Ongtooguk	Ongtooguk		Ongtooguk	Ongtooguk
EDCN A620	Bunsen		Bunsen	Bunsen			Bunsen		Bunsen	Bunsen		
EDCN A695A	Russ	Russ		Russ	Russ		Russ	Russ		Russ	Russ	
EDRS A667	McLain		McLain	McLain		McLain	McLain		McLain	McLain		McLain
EDSE A624	Konopasek			Konopasek			Konopasek			Konopasek		

Table 2: Sample Faculty Availability and Qualifications

Faculty name, highest degree	Areas of expertise	Courses to be taught	Rank/position
Deb Russ, Ph.D.	Counselor Education, LPC & NCC credentials	EDCN A695A	Associate Professor, tenure-track
Dean Konopasek, Ph.D.	Special Education, Diagnostic Intervention	EDSE A624	Associate Professor, tenure track/Department Chair
Paul Ongtooguk, M.A.	Alaska Native and Multicultural Education	EDCN A614	Assistant Professor, term

Tesa Bunsen, Ph.D.	Special Education, Behavioral Disorders	EDCN A620	Associate Professor, tenure-track
Ed McLain, Ed.D.	Program Evaluation	EDRS A667	Associate Professor, tenure-track

Research: The post-graduate certificate program has a clinical education focus and is designed for counselors engaged in providing direct services to clients. As a result of the clinical education focus, it is not expected that the program will generate funded scholarly research. While opportunities for research are limited due to the nature of the program, graduates will be prepared to use qualitative and quantitative methods to evaluate the effectiveness of counseling programs in community agencies.

Effect on GER departments: Because this is a graduate certificate, no GERs will be required.

Space and Facilities: It is anticipated that there will be a minimal impact on space and facilities. The counselor education courses are offered frequently enough to accommodate the increase in enrollment expected as a result of the addition of this certificate program.

Student Services and Support: The College of Education Student Services Office, in cooperation with program staff, provides recruitment services, academic advising, internship placements, and general support with regard to registration, university deadlines, etc.

Distance Delivery: Some courses may be available by distance delivery. The College of Education has appropriate technology equipment and experience at distance delivery to successfully deliver these courses. Faculty members utilize the Elluminate Live (e-Live) technology to enhance distance education delivery.

Library and Information Resources: The Consortium Library is designed to support on-campus, community-based, and distributed learning programs. Certificate candidates have access to the Consortium Library's printed books, journals, and documents as well as the electronic library resources.

The library book collection contains 820,456 volumes, of which 1,996 relate to counselor education. The library subscribes to 4,882 print journals, of which 1,715 relate directly to counselor education. In addition, counseling students have access to thousands of book and journal resources in such crossover areas as psychology, social work, human services, and sociology.

Through the electronic library initiative, the Library's web site provides access to more than 200 databases, including ERIC, Education Abstracts, Education Periodicals, PsycInfo, and Social Services Abstracts. The Library databases collectively provide access to the full-text of over 20,000 electronic journals. As with printed sources, a wealth of information can also be accessed from electronic journals in counseling cross-over areas.

Materials not available in digital form via the Library may be ordered through interlibrary loan. Interlibrary Loans may be requested in person, online, and from within some databases to which the Library subscribes.

Program Budget: The program adviser will work with students to review their past transcript(s) and create an individualized program that consists of 12-18 selective credits of courses they need to acquire specific knowledge and skills not previously obtained through their master's programs. Students will also have the opportunity to engage in advanced internships. The program budget includes requests for the additional faculty expense for advisement and travel funds for internship site visits. Table 3 provides the projected budget for this program.

Table 3: Projected Budget

	FY10 Salary + Benefits	FY11 Salary +	FY12 Salary +	FY13 Salary +
Graduation Certificate in Counselor Education				
Program Expense:				
Incremental faculty expense required: One workload unit for administrative and program oversight. Other costs are currently budgeted for College of Education operations.	3,000	3,090	3,182	3,278
Personnel Total	3,000	3,090	3,182	3,278
Travel: Incremental costs for this program	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Contractual: Budgeted through college operations	0	0	0	0
Commodities: Budgeted through college operations	0	0	0	0
Equipment: Budgeted through college operations	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	4,000	4,090	4,182	4,278
Tuition revenue for Graduate Certificate in Counselor Education:	28,440	56,880	71,100	85,320
College Portion of Tuition Revenue (According to UAA distribution procedures = 80%)	22752	45504	56880	68256
Total Balance: This balance will contribute to College of Education operations in the same manner as tuition revenue from all programs, providing support for instructional costs.	18752	41414	52698	63978
Graduate Tuition Rate for AY 2009-2010	316	316	316	316
Est. Graduate Certificate in Counselor Education Student Credit Hours	90	180	225	270
Total Student Credit Hours	90	180	225	270

Significant Assumptions

- Enrollment estimates are based on program coordinator projections
- Faculty salary projection includes an annual increase of 3%
- Travel estimate includes the cost of mileage, airfare, and lodging that are often needed for on-site intern supervision
- Graduate tuition rates used are the approved resident AY2010 rates (\$316/credit)
- Tuition revenue based on projected enrollments for each year (e.g. FY 10: 30 enrollments at 3 credits each = 90 SCH*\$316/credit)

Catalog Copy

Graduate Certificate in Counselor Education

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STUDENT OUTCOMES

The outcomes for the program are based on the National Board of Certified Counselors standards located at www.nbcc.org. Students who complete this program will be able to:

1. Articulate a personalized meaning of the professional and ethical issues in the counseling field.
2. Demonstrate mastery in the counseling field content areas of
 - a. Research including program evaluation
 - b. Appraisal of the individual
 - c. Social and cultural foundations
 - d. Human growth and development
 - e. Group work
 - f. Career development through the lifespan
 - g. Helping relationships

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Satisfy the university graduate certificate admission requirements at the beginning of this chapter.
2. Complete the Counselor Education Application (application can be found on the program website).
3. Hold a Master's Degree in counselor education or closely related field from a regionally accredited institution with a grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
4. Submit three letters (or reference forms) of professional recommendation (see application packet for forms).
5. Provide a goal statement of approximately 500 words that contains an autobiography, career goals, and how the certificate program relates to those goals.

6. Participate in an interview (if requested).
7. Submit a writing sample (if requested).

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Satisfy university graduate certificate requirements found at the beginning of this chapter.
2. Complete program requirements below.

BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIREMENTS

See Field Placements located at the beginning of the College of Education section of this chapter.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Submit all graduate transcripts to the advisor for review.
2. Collaborate with the advisor to create a Graduate Studies Plan within the first semester of program admission.
3. Complete a total of 12 – 18 selective credits of coursework as specified on the student's Graduate Studies Plan.
4. Maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 in the program with no more than one C.
5. Submit a Professional Disclosure Statement.
6. Pass the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination.

Alaska Type C Special Services Certification Note: This program does not lead to certification or endorsement from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Individuals holding master's degrees in counseling related fields who are interested in certification as an Alaska school counselor should consider applying to the M.Ed. in Counselor Education as a second master's degree candidate.

Alaska Licensed Professional Counselor and National Certified Counselor Note: This program addresses academic preparation requirements for the Alaska Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and the National Certified Counselor (NCC). Other requirements apply.

Candidates seeking the Alaska LPC credential must have a total of 60 credits approved by the Alaska Board of Professional Counselors. See their web site for more information: www.commerce.state.ak.us/occ/ppco.htm.

The credential of NCC is awarded by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC). See their web site for more information: www.nbcc.org.