### Unconditional Admission to a School Counseling Program

The study of school counseling begins at the Class A level. Requirements for unconditional admission shall include:

**a)** A valid bachelor’s-level or valid master’s-level professional educator certificate in a teaching field or a valid master’s-level professional educator certificate in another area of instructional support.

If an individual is unconditionally admitted to an Alabama Class A program based on a valid bachelor’s- or valid master’s-level professional educator certificate in another state, completes a Class A program, and subsequently applies for Alabama certification at the Class A level, then the individual must hold at least a valid Class B Professional Educator Certificate before applying for Class A certification.

**b)** Effective July 1, 2017, and thereafter, two full years of full-time, acceptable professional educational work experience.

Effective July 1, 2019, two full years of full-time, acceptable P-12 professional educational work experience. See Definition (18).

### Requirements for Certification in School Counseling

Readiness to serve as a school counselor shall include:

**a)** At least a valid Class B Professional Educator Certificate in a teaching field, a valid Class A Professional Leadership Certificate, or a valid Class A Professional
Educator Certificate in a teaching field or in another area of instructional support.

(b) An official transcript from a regionally accredited institution documenting an earned master’s degree.

(c) A survey of special education course is required unless that course was taken for prior level certification. [See Rule 290-3-3-.01(51)].

An individual who completed a survey of special education course prior to meeting requirements for unconditional admission to a Class A program July 1, 2017, and thereafter, must take a course focused primarily on one of the following categories: methods of accommodating instruction to meet the needs of students with exceptionalities in inclusive settings, multicultural education, teaching English language learners, rural education, or urban education.

A diversity course used to meet this requirement for one level of certification may not be used to meet the requirement for a higher level of certification.

(d) Satisfactory completion of a State-approved program with a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all courses in the Alabama State Board of Education approved program for school counseling.

For candidates unconditionally admitted to a Class A school counseling program July 1, 2017, and thereafter, a minimum GPA of 3.25 on all courses in the Alabama State Board of Education approved school counseling program.

(e) Practicum. For candidates admitted prior to August 1, 2010, a practicum that includes a minimum of 30 clock hours of supervised, direct service work in
individual and group counseling with early childhood/elementary and secondary school students. For candidates admitted on or after August 1, 2010, a practicum of at least 100 clock hours in a school-based setting, including a minimum of 40 clock hours of supervised, direct service work in individual and group counseling with early childhood/elementary and secondary school students.

(f) **Internship.** For candidates admitted prior to August 1, 2010, competence to perform all activities that a school counselor is expected to perform as demonstrated in a supervised elementary and secondary school-based internship of at least 300 clock hours, begun subsequent to completion of the practicum.

For candidates admitted on or after August 1, 2010, competence to perform all the activities that a school counselor is expected to perform as demonstrated in a supervised elementary and secondary school-based internship of at least 600 clock hours, begun subsequent to the completion of the practicum, including a minimum of 240 clock hours in direct service work with early childhood/elementary and secondary school students.

Internships in P-12 schools must be supervised by individuals who hold a valid master’s level professional educator certificate in school counseling and who are employed as a counselor.

(g) Two full years of full-time, acceptable professional educational work experience if admitted prior to July 1, 2017.

(6) **Testing for Certification in School Counseling.** Applicants for initial certification in school counseling through
INSTITUTION:

ANALYSIS FORM FOR: 290-3-3-.49 School Counseling (adopted 6-10-2021)

the completion of a Class A Program must meet the Praxis requirements of the Alabama Educator Certification Assessment Program (AECAP).

Comments: