

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
SECONDARY COUNSELOR (GRADES 7-12)**

I. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS: The secondary school counselor, initial student services certificate, valid for a period of four (4) years from the effective date on the certificate, will be issued to those persons meeting the following requirements:

A. Recommendation for certification from the designated official of a college or university approved to train secondary school counselors by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

B. The applicant must possess either:

1. Completion of a master's degree with a major emphasis in guidance and counseling from a college or university meeting approval of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education based upon the completion of a planned program of at least forty-two (42) semester hours of approved graduate credit in courses in guidance and counseling with at least twelve (12) semester hours focused upon guidance in the secondary schools.

a. Competence in each of the following areas:

- 1) Human Growth and Development;
- 2) Social and Cultural Diversity;
- 3) Assessment;
- 4) Career Development and Planning;
- 5) Group Work;
- 6) Structural Components of a Guidance Program;
- 7) Program Components of a Guidance Program: Guidance Curriculum, Individual Planning, Responsive Services and System Support;
- 8) Technology;
- 9) Professional Relationships in School, Family and Community;
- 10) Ethical Standards; and
- 11) Legal Standards;

b. Supervised practice in a Secondary School Guidance Program for at least three (3) semester hours

OR

2. A master's degree or higher degree in education, school counseling, counseling, counseling psychology, rehabilitation counseling, or a closely related mental health discipline; and complete additional graduate course work specific to school counseling, as designated by the state-approved recommending certification official, including a supervised internship or field experience of at least three hundred (300) hours in an appropriate school setting.

C. The applicant must either:

- 1.** Possess a bachelor's degree in education from a state-approved teacher preparation program; or
- 2.** Complete a curriculum in teaching methods and practices, classroom management and the psychology of the exceptional child, as specified by the recommending certification officer of a state-approved program; and

D. Must achieve a score equal to or greater than the Missouri qualifying score on the assessments designated by the State Board of Education not to include the principles of learning and teaching.

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II. CAREER CONTINUOUS STUDENT SERVICES CERTIFICATE

- A.** The secondary school counselor, career continuous student services certificate will be issued upon completion and verification of the following:
1. Four (4) years of state-approved school counseling experience;
 2. Participation in two (2) years of district-provided mentoring (during the first two (2) years of student services experience);
 3. The development, implementation and completion of a professional development plan of at least forty (40) contact hours of professional development, or three (3) semester hours of graduate credit toward an advanced degree; and
 4. Successful participation in an annual performance-based evaluation.
- B.** The secondary school counselor, career continuous student services certificate will remain valid upon verification of the following:
1. Participation in a performance-based system of evaluation; and
 2. Participation in twenty (20) contact hours of professional development annually.
- C.** The secondary school counselor, career continuous student services certificate holder is exempt from additional professional development if the holder has a local professional development plan in place with the school and meets at least two (2) of the following:
1. Ten (10) years of state-approved school counselor experience;
 2. An educational specialist's degree in school counseling; and/or
 3. Certification from a board-approved nationally recognized professional school counseling organization.