



## Non-Degree Certificate in School Counseling PK-12

**Rationale:** There is currently a shortage of school counselors across Florida school districts. The State of Florida has two paths for school counseling certification. <https://www.fldoe.org/teaching/certification/certificate-subjects/administrative-rules/6a-4-0181.stml>

- Plan one requires completing a master's or higher degree in School Counseling.
- Plan two allows individuals with a closely related counseling degree to complete a specified school counseling curriculum, including a 600-hour internship in a K12 setting.
- Applicants using Plan Two shall submit verification from the employing school district to attest that a school counselor with a state-issued professional certificate as specified in Rule 6A-4.004, F.A.C., will be assigned as the applicant's mentor during the first two (2) years of employment as a school counselor.

Florida school districts and individuals request a path for qualified candidates to meet state accreditation requirements without pursuing a degree. The department's School Counseling Concentration aims to create an 18-credit non-degree Certificate in School Counseling PK-12 and address the shortages across Florida. The new certificate includes courses currently provided and does not incur additional program or department costs.

### Non-Degree Certificate in School Counseling PK-12 Admission Requirements

1. Earned a master's or higher degree from a CACREP-approved counseling program.
2. Minimum graduate program GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
3. A professional goal statement (one-to-two pages).
4. Three letters of recommendation on each reference's letterhead attesting to the student's suitability for graduate study and entry into the field of professional counseling.
5. License as a Clinical Mental Health, Marriage and Family, or Rehabilitation counselor.
6. Verified employment in a Florida school district with confirmation of the applicant's assigned two-year mentor.

Required Course Titles	Prefix/Number	Credits
Counseling Children	MHS 6421	3
Counseling Adolescents	MHS 6423	3
Consultation and Behavior Management	MHS 6600	3
Fundamentals of School Counseling	SDS 5010	3
Internship – Counselor Education (may be taken over two semesters)	SDS 6820	6

<https://www.fau.edu/registrar/university-catalog/catalog/education/>

## COUNSELOR EDUCATION

### Faculty:

Gill, C., Chair; Bowers, P. H.; ~~Canfield, B. S.~~; Emelianchik-Key, K.; **Fields, A.**; Frain, M.; **Labarta, A.**; ~~Mariani, M.~~; ~~Petuso, P. R.~~; Torres, A.; Villares, E.

### Mission Statement

Counselor Education's mission is to educate a diverse community of students for professional counseling practice and leadership in local, national and international domains. Mindful that education extends beyond coursework, faculty and students collaborate with schools, communities, agencies and professionals to conduct research and provide services. The research and services are provided with the highest ethical and professional standards in response to the personal, educational and vocational needs of individuals and families living in diverse and multicultural environments. Faculty aspire to uncover new knowledge and relevant research, create dynamic atmospheres for learning and encourage students to actualize their potential, all with the goal of achieving just solutions to human concerns.

### Degree Programs Available

At the undergraduate level, the Department of Counselor Education offers developmental courses that give students considering the field a realistic and comprehensive view of counselors and what they do. The department also offers a certificate in [Applied Mental Health Services](#) in conjunction with the Department of Psychology in the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. This certificate program provides a curricular experience for students who wish to pursue careers in clinical psychology, mental health counseling and allied human services that enhances the student's chosen major. Certificate details and program requirements are listed under the [Interdisciplinary Programs](#) catalog section.

At the graduate level, **the department offers a non-degree certificate in School Counseling PK-12**, a Master of Education (M.Ed.) with major in Counselor Education and three concentrations, a combined [Master of Education \(M.Ed.\) to Specialist in Education \(Ed.S.\) with major in Counselor Education](#) and two concentrations, and a Specialist in Education (Ed.S.) with major in Counselor Education with ~~two~~ **three** concentrations. A Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with major in Counseling is also part of this department's offerings.

### Non-Degree Certificate in School Counseling PK-12

There is currently a shortage of school counselors across Florida school districts. The State of Florida has two paths for school counseling certification. Plan one requires completing a master's or higher degree in School Counseling. Plan two allows individuals with a closely related counseling degree to complete a specified school counseling curriculum, including a 600-hour internship in a K12 setting. The Department of Counselor Education offers an 18-credit non-degree Certificate in School Counseling and Guidance.

### **Non-Degree Certificate in School Counseling PK-12 Admission Requirements**

1. Earned a master's or higher degree from a CACREP-approved counseling program.
2. Minimum graduate program GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
3. A professional goal statement (one-to-two pages).
4. Three letters of recommendation on each reference's letterhead attesting to the student's suitability for graduate study and entry into the field of professional counseling.
5. License as a Clinical Mental Health, Marriage and Family, or Rehabilitation counselor.
6. Verified employment in a Florida school district with confirmation of the applicant's assigned two-year mentor.

### **Required Courses**

Counseling Children	MHS 6421	3
Counseling Adolescents	MHS 6423	3
Consultation and Behavior Management	MHS 6600	3
Fundamentals of School Counseling	SDS 5010	3
Internship – Counselor Education (may be taken over two semesters)	SDS 6820	3-6

**Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 13:57:47 Eastern Daylight Time**

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**Subject:** RE: School Counseling: New Program and Program Change Proposals  
**Date:** Monday, October 28, 2024 at 2:34:07 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Dale Williams  
**To:** Elizabeth Sacks  
**Attachments:** image001.png

No impact on CSD.

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**From:** Elizabeth Sacks <[evillare@fau.edu](mailto:evillare@fau.edu)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2024 2:14 PM  
**To:** Charles Dukes <[cdukes@fau.edu](mailto:cdukes@fau.edu)>; Robert Shockley <[SHOCKLEY@fau.edu](mailto:SHOCKLEY@fau.edu)>; Joseph Brojomohun-Gagnon <[josephgagnon@fau.edu](mailto:josephgagnon@fau.edu)>; Dale Williams <[DWILLIAM@health.fau.edu](mailto:DWILLIAM@health.fau.edu)>  
**Cc:** Carman Gill <[gillc@fau.edu](mailto:gillc@fau.edu)>; Mikaela Kursell <[MKURSELL@fau.edu](mailto:MKURSELL@fau.edu)>; Sarah Roberts <[sedris2017@fau.edu](mailto:sedris2017@fau.edu)>  
**Subject:** School Counseling: New Program and Program Change Proposals

Good afternoon, Chairs,

The Department of Counselor Education, School Counseling Concentration asks for your thoughts on two proposals.

1. New Program: Non-degree School Counseling K-12 certificate.
2. Program change: The School Counseling certificate, masters, and Ed.S. degrees propose eliminating the GRE requirement and increasing the GPA requirement from 2.5 to 3.0.

I have attached both proposals to the email for your review. We would appreciate your acknowledgment that these changes will not impact your programs by noon on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

*Warmly,*

**Elizabeth Villares Sacks, Ph.D.**

Interim Senior Associate Dean  
College of Education

Professor | School Counseling Coordinator

Department of Counselor Education

FAU SWELL Program Director  
FAU WAVES PI and Program Director

Florida Atlantic University  
777 Glades Rd.  
Boca Raton, FL 33431  
Phone: 772-202-8261  
Email: [evillare@fau.edu](mailto:evillare@fau.edu)  
[Schedule a meeting](#)

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**Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 13:58:22 Eastern Daylight Time**

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**Subject:** Re: School Counseling: New Program and Program Change Proposals  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 8:39:08 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Joseph Brojomohun-Gagnon  
**To:** Elizabeth Sacks, Charles Dukes, Robert Shockley, Dale Williams  
**CC:** Carman Gill, Mikaela Kursell, Sarah Roberts  
**Attachments:** image002.png

Hi,  
Theses changes will not impact the Special Education department.  
Cheers,  
Joe

Joseph Calvin Gagnon, Ph.D.  
Professor & Department Chair  
Department of Special Education

Florida Atlantic University  
Bldg 47 (Room 412), Boca Raton, FL 33431  
Phone: 561-297-3281  
[josephgagnon@fau.edu](mailto:josephgagnon@fau.edu)

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3266-5843>  
Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=E91DESMAAAAJ&hl=en>  
Researchgate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Joseph-Gagnon>

---

**From:** Elizabeth Sacks <[evillare@fau.edu](mailto:evillare@fau.edu)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2024 2:13 PM  
**To:** Charles Dukes <[cdukes@fau.edu](mailto:cdukes@fau.edu)>; Robert Shockley <[SHOCKLEY@fau.edu](mailto:SHOCKLEY@fau.edu)>; Joseph Brojomohun-Gagnon <[josephgagnon@fau.edu](mailto:josephgagnon@fau.edu)>; Dale Williams <[DWILLIAM@health.fau.edu](mailto:DWILLIAM@health.fau.edu)>  
**Cc:** Carman Gill <[gillc@fau.edu](mailto:gillc@fau.edu)>; Mikaela Kursell <[MKURSELL@fau.edu](mailto:MKURSELL@fau.edu)>; Sarah Roberts <[sedris2017@fau.edu](mailto:sedris2017@fau.edu)>  
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*Warmly,*

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Interim Senior Associate Dean  
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Professor | School Counseling Coordinator  
Department of Counselor Education

FAU SWELL Program Director  
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777 Glades Rd.  
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[Schedule a meeting](#)

**Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 13:58:41 Eastern Daylight Time**

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**Subject:** Re: School Counseling: New Program and Program Change Proposals  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 10:54:37 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Charles Dukes  
**To:** Elizabeth Sacks  
**Attachments:** image001.png

Hello,

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction does have a conflict with either proposal.

-----  
Charles Dukes, EdD, PhD

Professor and Chair, Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
Professor and Doctoral Coordinator, Department of Special Education  
Florida Atlantic University  
777 Glades Road Boca Raton, FL 33431  
E-mail: [cdukes@fau.edu](mailto:cdukes@fau.edu)  
office-561 297 3965

To learn more about me and my research,  
go to <https://www.fau.edu/education/faculty/dukes/>

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**From:** Elizabeth Sacks <[evillare@fau.edu](mailto:evillare@fau.edu)>  
**Date:** Monday, October 28, 2024 at 2:13 PM  
**To:** Charles Dukes <[cdukes@fau.edu](mailto:cdukes@fau.edu)>, Robert Shockley <[SHOCKLEY@fau.edu](mailto:SHOCKLEY@fau.edu)>, Joseph Brojomohun-Gagnon <[josephgagnon@fau.edu](mailto:josephgagnon@fau.edu)>, Dale Williams <[DWILLIAM@health.fau.edu](mailto:DWILLIAM@health.fau.edu)>  
**Cc:** Carman Gill <[gillc@fau.edu](mailto:gillc@fau.edu)>, Mikaela Kursell <[MKURSELL@fau.edu](mailto:MKURSELL@fau.edu)>, Sarah Roberts <[sedris2017@fau.edu](mailto:sedris2017@fau.edu)>  
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*Warmly,*


**Elizabeth Villares Sacks, Ph.D.**

Interim Senior Associate Dean  
College of Education

Professor | School Counseling Coordinator  
Department of Counselor Education

FAU SWELL Program Director  
FAU WAVES PI and Program Director

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Boca Raton, FL 33431  
Phone: 772-202-8261  
Email: [evillare@fau.edu](mailto:evillare@fau.edu)  
[Schedule a meeting](#)

**From:** Precious Skinner-Osei [pskinnerosei@fau.edu](mailto:pskinnerosei@fau.edu)   
**Subject:** Fw: School Counseling: New Program and Program Change Proposals  
**Date:** October 31, 2024 at 9:15 AM  
**To:** Elizabeth Sacks [evillare@fau.edu](mailto:evillare@fau.edu)  
**Cc:** Joy McClellan [JMCCLEL2@fau.edu](mailto:JMCCLEL2@fau.edu)

PS

Good morning Elizabeth,

Please see the response below.

**Respectfully,**

**Precious Skinner-Osei, Ph.D., MSW**

BSW Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor

Phyllis & Harvey Sandler School of Social Work

FAU College of Social Work & Criminal Justice

[sw-cj.fau.edu/ssw](http://sw-cj.fau.edu/ssw)

(561) 297-0385

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*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" - Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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**From:** Joy McClellan <[JMCCLEL2@fau.edu](mailto:JMCCLEL2@fau.edu)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 31, 2024 8:59:02 AM  
**To:** Precious Skinner-Osei <[pskinnerosei@fau.edu](mailto:pskinnerosei@fau.edu)>; Manny Gonzalez <[mannygonzalez@fau.edu](mailto:mannygonzalez@fau.edu)>; Danielle Groton <[dgroton@fau.edu](mailto:dgroton@fau.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: School Counseling: New Program and Program Change Proposals

Good morning,

The MSW Program Committee of the School of Social Work reviewed the following and acknowledge that these changes will not impact our programs:

1. New Program: Non-degree School Counseling K-12 certificate.
2. Program change: The School Counseling certificate, masters, and Ed.S. degrees propose eliminating the GRE requirement and increasing the GPA requirement from 2.5 to 3.0.

Thank you,

•••

**Joy McClellan, DSW, LCSW-QS**

*MSW Program Coordinator and Senior Instructor*

Phyllis and Harvey Sandler School of Social Work

College of Social Work & Criminal Justice

Florida Atlantic University

[fau.edu/sw-cj/ssw/](http://fau.edu/sw-cj/ssw/)

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