



**Pupil Personnel Services: School Counseling,  
School Psychology, School Social Work, and Child  
Welfare and Attendance Preconditions and  
Specialization Standards**

**Commission on Teacher Credentialing**

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[Commission on Teacher Credentialing Program Standards](#)

**Adopted October 2000:**

**Pupil Personnel Services: School Counselor Preconditions**  
**Pupil Personnel Services: School Psychologist Preconditions**  
**Pupil Personnel Services: School Social Work Preconditions**  
**Pupil Personnel Services: Child Welfare and Attendance Preconditions**

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## Pupil Personnel Services Preconditions

- (1) Specialization Requirements.** A college or university that operates a program of professional preparation shall have a curriculum that meets the requirements of (a) and one or more of (b), (c), (d), and (e) as specified below. *Statutory basis: Title 5 California Code of Regulations, Section 80632, Article 2, Professional Preparation Programs.*
- (a) In order to meet the scholastic needs of school pupils with a diverse range of needs, abilities and expectations, all programs approved as preparation in pupil personnel services shall give primary emphasis to helping public school pupils to achieve academic success by emphasizing the importance of academic advising. Persons admitted to programs must have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university in a subject other than Education.
  - (b) Credit for successful completion of a program of study for the **school counselor specialization** shall be: Equivalent to a minimum of 48 semester units or 72 quarter units; or 720 classroom hours of post baccalaureate study.
  - (c) Credit for successful completion of a program of study for the **school social work specialization** shall be: Equivalent to a minimum of 45 semester units or 67.5 quarter units; or 675 classroom hours of postgraduate study.
  - (d) Credit for successful completion of a program of study for the **school psychologist specialization** shall be: Equivalent to a minimum of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units; or 900 classroom hours of postgraduate study.
  - (e) Credit for successful completion of a program of study for the added **child welfare and attendance services specialization** shall be: Equivalent to a minimum of 9 semester units or 13 quarter units; or 135 classroom hours of postgraduate study.

## Generic Program Standards

*Each Pupil Personnel Services Specialization is required to cover all generic standards plus their respective specialization standards in the development of their programs.*

### Outline

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## Standard 1: Program Design, Rationale and Coordination

**The program is coordinated effectively in accordance with a cohesive design that has a cogent rationale. Foundation and theoretical courses precede and are designed to be taken prior to more specialized and advanced courses.**

### Rationale

To be well prepared as pupil personnel service providers, candidates need to participate in programs that have a cohesive design based on a sound rationale.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- In what ways does the program have an organizing structure that forms a logical sequence among the instructional components of pupil service education, such as foundational instruction, theoretical construction, practical exercises and field experiences and that provides for coordination of the administrative components of the program, such as admission, advisement, candidate assessment, and program evaluation?
- To what extent is there effective coordination between the program's faculty and staff, between the program and other academic departments on campus, and between the institution and local districts and schools where candidates pursue field experiences?
- To what degree is the overall design of the program consistent with a stated rationale that has a sound theoretical and scholarly basis and is relevant to the contemporary conditions of schooling (such as recent demographic changes)?

## Standard 2: Growth and Development

The program provides candidates with opportunities and experiences to acquire an understanding of typical and atypical growth and development, including relevant theories, research, and other information related to pupils' strengths and weaknesses that affect learning in school, community and family environments. The program provides candidates with an understanding of the effects of (a) health and developmental factors, (b) language, (c) cultural variables, (d) diversity, (e) socioeconomic status, and (f) factors of resiliency on pupil development.

### Rationale

In order to help pupils attain academic success and personal growth, pupil services specialists must have adequate knowledge of the major factors and domains of development. These include physical, emotional, cognitive, social, cultural, economic and environmental factors and how they impact the daily lives of pupils. PPS specialists must also be aware of how these factors and domains interact to influence overall pupil development.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of relevant research and theories of typical and atypical growth and development as they relate to pupil progress?
- How does the program provide opportunities for candidates to understand school, community, and family environmental factors and their influence on pupil learning?
- To what extent do candidates know the positive influences on pupil development including: (a) nutrition and fitness, (b) factors of resiliency, (c) home, family and school environments, (d) peer and mentor relationships, (e) and community factors?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of factors that impede or limit pupil development including stereotyping, socioeconomic status, inadequate language development, negative school climate, and discrimination?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate knowledge of principles and methods to (a) help pupils overcome barriers to learning and (b) learn effective strategies to plan, organize, monitor and take responsibility for their own learning?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate knowledge of risk factors and protective assets that inhibit or facilitate pupils' positive development?



- To what extent do candidates know of models that can be used to inform school staff and parents about developmental trajectories that are associated with pupils becoming involved in antisocial or aggressive behavior?

### **Standard 3: Socio-Cultural Competence**

**The program provides candidates with opportunities and experiences to display an understanding of ways in which ethnic, cultural, socioeconomic, and environmental factors influence pupil learning and achievement. Candidates will learn skills to work effectively with pupils and their families from diverse backgrounds. The program provides candidates with an understanding and appreciation for diversity.**

**An understanding of the importance of developing cultural competence is provided to candidates in order to effectively serve diverse and changing communities. The program provides candidates with an understanding of the ways in which educational policies, programs and practices can be developed, adapted, and modified to be culturally congruent with the needs of pupils and their families.**

#### **Rationale**

In order to help pupils from diverse backgrounds attain learning success and high achievement in academic, personal, social and career domains, pupil service specialists must have knowledge of socio-cultural, economic and other societal influences on the educational process. Candidates need to understand the socio-cultural diversity of traditional major groups (for example, African-American, Asian-American, European American, Hispanic/Latin-American and Native American) and also need to be knowledgeable about other manifestations of human diversity including those related to culture, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, socioeconomic status and degree of assimilation into mainstream California society.

#### **Questions to Consider**

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How do candidates demonstrate an understanding of the literature related to cultural competence as well as the various ways to assess their proficiency in applying culturally appropriate interventions?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate an understanding of how their own personal values influence their ability to work effectively with pupils who have different values and beliefs?
- In what ways do candidates show an understanding of the impact of bias, prejudice, processes of intentional and unintentional imposition, entitlement and discrimination, as well as other culturally-supported behaviors, on pupils' growth and learning?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of how social and cultural influences in the school environment affect delivery of pupil services?

- How effectively do candidates demonstrate knowledge and understanding of, and sensitivity to, the effect socio-cultural influences have on communication when working with individuals and families from various backgrounds?
- How effectively do candidates demonstrate knowledge of culturally sensitive strategies for involving parents and families in their children’s education?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the dynamics and processes involved in acculturation and assimilation?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate the ability to assess the cultural background, values, and mores of pupils and their families?
- How effectively do candidates demonstrate understanding of their own professional leadership role in advocating for educational equity, social justice, and harmony and peace among diverse groups of pupils, families and school staff?
- How well do candidates understand the demographic shifts in California and the effect these changes have on pupil learning?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate effective ways to assess and manage diverse community contexts in order to create effective learning environments?

## Standard 4: Assessment

**The program provides candidates with the knowledge of current theories and methods of using assessment data to support data-based decision making for the purpose of understanding, evaluating and promoting positive pupil performance, program outcomes, and school climate. Candidates develop an understanding of the influence of multiple factors on pupil achievement. The program requires candidates to analyze assessment information in a manner that produces valid inferences when evaluating the needs of individual pupils and assessing the effectiveness of educational programs.**

### Rationale

Knowledge of methods of assessment is essential to ensure that data-based decision making is the foundation of program planning and evaluation. This knowledge supports data-based decisions that promote effective individual educational plans and interventions. Knowledge of tools for assessing pupil performance, program outcomes and school climate, and understanding the importance of such assessments to promote pupil learning and achievement, is basic to a supportive learning community.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How well do candidates know and can apply established professional standards for the legal and ethical use of tests and other methods of assessment?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate knowledge of appropriate models of assessment?
- How do candidates display knowledge and application of appropriate and technically adequate methods of assessment for purposes of ensuring result-based accountability?
- To what extent do candidates know and can apply technology for data collection and analysis that contribute to data-based decision making?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge about appropriate methods of assessment for monitoring pupil progress to support effective instructional interventions?
- How effectively do candidates exhibit the ability to use appropriate methods of assessment for purposes of planning?
- How clearly do candidates demonstrate an ability to interpret and communicate results of standardized, norm-referenced, and other assessment information to parents, school staff, and the community?

- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge and application of skills in using different instruments and procedures to assess school climate for the purpose of promoting a supportive learning community in the school?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the influence of cultural and linguistic factors on the validity and appropriate interpretation of assessment instruments?
- To what degree do candidates exhibit knowledge of the influence of medical and emotional disorders and the impact of pharmacological interventions on individual and group assessments?

## **Standard 5: Comprehensive Prevention and Early Intervention for Achievement**

**The program provides candidates with opportunities and experiences to display an understanding of the factors that contribute to successful learning. In order to help pupils attain high learning goals, the program provides candidates with the knowledge to identify problems in their earliest stages and to implement prevention and early intervention strategies for addressing these problems. The program requires candidates to demonstrate knowledge of classroom, school, family, and community factors that support pupil learning and to develop skills to assist pupils who experience learning difficulties.**

### **Rationale**

Complex pressures in today's society produce barriers that inhibit pupils' social, intellectual, and emotional development. Pupil personnel service specialists must therefore, know how to build pupil assets and assist them in overcoming these barriers to learning.

### **Questions to Consider**

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How effectively do candidates display an understanding of the strategies, methods, and approaches to prevent the development of problems that impede learning?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the characteristics of pupils whose academic progress is less than satisfactory?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of institutional and environmental conditions that place pupils at risk for failure or early school dropout?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of assessment procedures including tests, record reviews, observations, and interviews as part of the process of early identification of learning problems?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of a variety of strategies, programs, interventions, methods and techniques proven to promote academic success?
- How effectively do candidates demonstrate knowledge of methods and techniques for resolving conflict between and among pupils and groups of pupils and for promoting positive intercultural, interethnic relationships among pupils, family, and school staff?
- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge of methods of promoting positive and supportive relationships with pupils such as counseling, teacher collaboration, classroom consultation, advocacy, peer counseling and parent education in working with school staff, parents and other persons having influence on pupils' lives?

- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the effects of grade retention on achievement, learning, and social and emotional development?

## Standard 6: Professional Ethics and Legal Mandates

**The program provides candidates with opportunities and experiences to display an understanding of professional codes of ethics and current legal mandates, as well as an awareness of the range of legal issues, such as, statutory, regulatory, and case law affecting the delivery of pupil services. The program requires candidates to demonstrate the ability to access information about legal and ethical matters.**

### Rationale

Pupil service professionals must be knowledgeable about pertinent federal and state laws that regulate the delivery of pupil services, pertain to pupil and family rights, and affect pupil and family access to community services. Candidates must be knowledgeable about professional codes of ethics relevant to potential ethical and value conflicts involving service delivery to school staffs, pupils and or families.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How do candidates demonstrate familiarity with laws and regulations pertaining to children and families, such as child abuse and neglect reporting laws, client confidentiality, attendance and truancy laws, and federal and state mandates related to special education?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge and skills to effectively advocate for children, families, and school staff to ensure that the spirit and intent of relevant laws and legal mandates are maintained?
- How well do candidates demonstrate ability to keep informed of changes in laws and regulations related to California public education?
- How effectively do candidates demonstrate ability to recognize and evaluate potential ethical conflicts that arise within the school setting?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the appropriate options to be pursued when confronted with ethical dilemmas?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the implications and legal applications of due process?



## Standard 7: Family-School Collaboration

**The program provides candidates with opportunities and experiences to display an understanding of the ways in which pupil development, well-being, and learning are enhanced by family-school collaboration. The program requires candidates to work with parents to foster respectful and productive family-school collaboration.**

### Rationale

The family is the child's first teacher. Family involvement in the education of children is critical to pupil success. Comprehensive, long-term, and well-planned partnerships among families, schools and community organizations lead to higher pupil achievement, more positive self-esteem, and better attitudes toward learning.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- In what ways do candidates demonstrate awareness of the importance of family-school relationships in fostering positive pupil development?
- What types of experience do candidates have in helping to implement efforts to build and maintain family-school relationships?
- In what way do candidates become aware of the benefits of family involvement at different grade levels?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge and skills in helping schools to overcome barriers to family involvement?
- How clearly do candidates demonstrate knowledge about and respect for family structures and socio-cultural diversity?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of ways to assist families to become actively involved in pupil development and learning?
- How do candidates demonstrate ability to help families and school staff to effectively communicate and collaborate when developing educational or behavioral plans to assist pupil development and learning?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate an understanding of family-centered approaches to collaboration with schools?

## **Standard 8: Self-esteem and Personal and Social Responsibility**

**The program provides candidates with opportunities and experiences to assess their own self-esteem and to demonstrate an understanding of principles associated with the building of (a) self-esteem, (b) personal and social responsibility, and (c) their relationship to the life-long learning process.**

### **Rationale**

Several national and California studies have indicated that a relationship exists between pupil achievement and self-esteem. Self-esteem and self-affirmation as well as a sense of personal and social responsibility are attitudes that contribute to the development of academically capable, active, socially responsible citizens in society. The building of self-esteem and personal and social responsibility are shared responsibilities of the pupil, school, family, and community.

### **Questions to Consider**

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of how the unique qualities of each individual are accepted, appreciated, affirmed and used as a bridge to positive personal relations?
- To what extent do candidates understand the importance of school organizational and educational policies and procedures as they relate to effective classroom management, positive adult-pupil relationships, effective approaches to discipline, and the development of personal and social responsibility and self-esteem?
- To what extent do candidates know how schools, families and communities act as partners in guiding pupils' acquisition of self-esteem, social and personal responsibility?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate an understanding of how self-esteem affects each pupil and the overall school climate?
- To what degree do candidates understand how personal and social responsibility relate to citizenship in a changing society?
- To what extent do candidates recognize how their own self-esteem affects pupils, staff, and families?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of curriculum related to self-esteem, personal and social responsibility?
- In what ways do candidates display an understanding of the benefits of positive personal self-esteem and its impact on pupil resiliency and learning?

- How effectively do candidates demonstrate skill in methods of social skills training that enhance pupils' ability to use positive decision making skills in social situations?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and ability to use multiple procedures for the assessment of self-esteem?

## Standard 9: School Safety and Violence Prevention

The program provides candidates with opportunities and experiences to understand ways in which school environments can enhance the safety and well-being of all pupils. The program provides candidates with the knowledge and models of systematic school safety planning that include comprehensive school climate and crisis response plans addressing elements of prevention, intervention, and treatment. The program provides candidates with opportunities and experiences to demonstrate knowledge and skills to assist in the development and implementation of a comprehensive program to reduce the incidence of school site violence. The program provides candidates with knowledge and skills that address the needs of witnesses, victims and perpetrators of violence as they relate to improved behavior and enhanced teaching and learning.

### Rationale

The need for safety and security is at the foundation of all human needs. If pupils and school staff do not feel safe and secure at school, then the capacity of schools to educate is diminished. Candidates need to receive instruction in human behavior, group dynamics and organizational culture. This training provides the basis with which to help schools address personal, social, and interpersonal situations that impede learning and that may create conditions that lead to injury and harm on school campuses. The promotion of school safety and the reduction of risks associated with verbal, emotional, and physical violence is central to the PPS professional's role in schools.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How well are candidates able to help pupils cope with grief and loss in their lives and to implement procedures to assist those who require more intensive interventions?
- To what extent are candidates aware of issues and procedures related to successfully identifying those youths who exhibit behaviors suggesting that they might be at risk of violence, victimization or perpetration?
- How effectively are candidates able to use negotiation skills, conflict management skills, and mediation skills to help school staff communicate with difficult and or angry parents, pupils, teachers, and other school staff?
- How aware are candidates of the influence of environment, community context, and substance use on the occurrence of violence and how capable are they in incorporating this knowledge into a comprehensive school safety plan?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of theories of violence and aggression, particularly as they relate to a pupil's development?

- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge and skills related to implementing crisis interventions and management, including triage (prioritizing needs in emergency situations), psychological first aid, and follow-up with pupils, parents, and school staff?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate knowledge of bullying behavior in school and have skills in applying research-based models and programs designed to limit the occurrence of bullying on school campuses?
- To what extent do candidates understand the dynamics of the laws pertaining to and strategies to reduce the incidences of sexual harassment in school?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge about exposure to violence as a significant developmental risk factor in the lives of children and adolescents?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge about the role that both inter-group conflicts and gang activity can play in the occurrence of school site violence?
- How comprehensive are candidates' knowledge about school-wide programs designed to implement conflict management and peace building into the school environment, including the classroom and the school yard?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of methods of assessment that contribute to interventions for the development of pupils' self-esteem and lowering the risk of suicide and substance abuse?

## Standard 10: Consultation

**The program provides candidates with opportunities and experiences to demonstrate knowledge and application of theories, models, and processes of consultation. The program provides candidates with opportunities and experiences to display the ability to use communication, interpersonal, and problem-solving skills in consultation with teachers, administrators, other school personnel, family members, community groups, and agencies. Candidates demonstrate skills in using a decision-making process when consulting and collaborating with others to (a) identify problem areas, (b) collect and analyze information to understand problems, (c) make decisions about service delivery, and (d) evaluate the implementation and outcome of the service delivery plan.**

### Rationale

Pupil services professionals are called upon to address increasingly diverse issues that influence behavior, achievement, and self-esteem. Teachers, school administrators, and families are challenged to make decisions that contribute to effective outcomes at school, home, and the community. Knowledge and skills in consultation and collaboration are necessary to facilitate the development and implementation of strategies that result in a positive impact on pupils' learning and behavior.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of individual and organizational consultation processes, including methods of initiating, developing, implementing, and concluding consultative relationships?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge and application of consultation principles and practices used to assist school staff in learning about (among other things) classroom management, school discipline, learning styles, the interpretation of test results, the improvement of pupil attendance and learning and achievement?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of factors that promote the development of effective relationships among teachers, staff, families and others, taking into consideration the influence of diverse cultures and languages?
- How well do candidates demonstrate understanding of the impact that teaching methods and style have on pupil learning in the classroom?

## Standard 11: Learning Theory and Educational Psychology

The program provides candidates with opportunities and experiences to display an understanding of learning theories and factors influencing learning and teaching such as cognition, memory, attention skills, perceptual-sensory processes, emotional state, motivation, organizational skills, gender, cultural differences, and linguistic differences. Candidates know how to evaluate the congruence between instructional strategies and pupil learning assets and deficits.

### Rationale

The socio-cultural diversity in today's schools contributes to a greater need to understand those factors that influence learning. It is necessary for pupil service providers to possess a knowledge and understanding of theories of learning, and cognitive and psycho-social development and to apply this knowledge to assist in the development of effective instructional strategies that promote pupil learning, self-esteem, and positive interpersonal relationships with age-group peers.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what extent do candidates display knowledge about theories of learning?
- To what degree do candidate understand the role of parents and other caregivers in the support of pupil learning?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge about barriers to learning?
- To what extent do candidates exhibit knowledge about developing positive, culturally-sensitive learning environments?
- To what extent do candidates exhibit an understanding of the strategies and techniques to help pupils accept responsibility for their own learning?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge about how feelings and emotions influence the learning process and impacts pupil self-esteem?

## Standard 12: Professional Leadership Development

The program provides candidates with opportunities and experiences to display an understanding of the development, improvement and evaluation of programs that support effective pupil learning. The program also provides candidates with an understanding of the importance of leadership by the pupil personnel services provider in operating as a systems change agent.

### Rationale

The development of effective Pupil Personnel Service Programs depends to a great extent on the leadership exercised by knowledgeable professionals who demonstrate skills in collaboration, persuasive communication, advocacy, and results-based accountability.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the systems and resources at the building or district level?
- In what ways do candidates exhibit knowledge of an array of methods for effectively communicating information to influence change?
- How do candidates display knowledge of and skill in program development, implementation, and evaluation?
- How do candidates exhibit the ability to present data effectively that influences change and supports improved outcomes for pupils?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of current trends in school reform?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate an understanding of various sources of funding that support instructional and pupil support services programs?



## **Standard 13: Collaboration and Coordination of Pupil Support Systems**

**The program provides candidates with opportunities and experiences to collaborate effectively with community-based organizations, agencies, and other professionals. Candidates demonstrate knowledge of programs and services within a comprehensive model of support at the school site level designed to promote high expectations and increase pupil learning and achievement.**

### **Rationale**

Successful learning and high achievement requires high quality teaching and adequate and effective support services. Emotional, social, and family problems, low motivation and interest, inadequate and insufficient learning and study skills and habits pose barriers to learning and academic achievement. The effort to remove these barriers and impediments to learning and promote the knowledge, skills and attitudes required for success for all pupils calls for the integration of community support services and family involvement within the mission of the pupil personnel services program and the educational mission of the school. Candidates must have the ability to collaborate with parents, family and community members and community agency personnel in order to maximize the supports pupils need to learn, to achieve at high levels and to become constructive and productive members of society.

### **Questions to Consider**

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what degree do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skills in collaborating with public and private community-based organizations, agencies, and others that contribute to improve learning outcomes for pupils?
- How effectively can candidates access and utilize resources within the community?
- What is the level of candidates' knowledge about models of school-based or school-linked services that promote pupil learning and success?
- How well do candidates understand community-based and school-based systems of care and support?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of multi-disciplinary teams, teamwork, team building and skill in functioning as a team member within schools and with community-based organizations?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of organizing and managing services of community-based organizations and agencies on a school site?

- How do candidates demonstrate the ability to implement assessment and data gathering procedures to document the nature and scope of the need for pupil support services?
- To what extent are candidates knowledgeable about the organization and dissemination of information about a school or district's comprehensive pupil support service plan?
- What are candidates' level of knowledge about creating formal memoranda of understanding with public and private child-serving agencies to clarify roles and services as part of a broader pupil services plan?
- To what extent can candidates provide leadership in the development and maintenance of viable school-community partnerships?

## Standard 14: Human Relations

**The program provides candidates with opportunities and experiences to demonstrate self-awareness, sensitivity to others, and skillfulness in relating to individuals and groups. The program provides candidates with opportunities and experiences to understand the importance of socio-psychological concepts of group formation, reference groups, inter-group and intra-group relations and conflict. The program provides candidates with opportunities and experiences to demonstrate an ability to facilitate group process and mediate conflict.**

### Rationale

As society becomes more diverse and schools experience continuing social and demographic shifts, candidates need to help individuals and groups to productively adapt to these changes. Candidate must possess personal and interpersonal skills that model positive relations with others and assist pupils to build and maintain positive relationships in school and community settings.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of theories and conceptual models of interpersonal relations and communication?
- How well do candidates demonstrate an ability to help the school community foster an appreciation for ethnic and cultural diversity and to facilitate management of interethnic or intercultural conflict when it arises on the school site?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate awareness of group dynamics and methods to facilitate inter-group relations and mediate conflict when it arises on the school site?
- How effectively do candidates demonstrate ability to use communication skills to facilitate pupils' efforts to develop positive supportive relationships with teachers and peers?

## Standard 15: Technological Literacy

**The program provides candidates with opportunities to understand and demonstrate skills in current technology for communication and collecting, organizing, distributing and analyzing data and resources in order to facilitate effective and appropriate outcomes in program management and individual student achievement.**

### Rationale

Schools and communities are becoming increasingly reliant on technology to become better informed about options, resources and opportunities to better serve their respective constituencies. Computer and communication system skills are essential for pupil service providers in gathering and distributing information, making presentations and otherwise managing all aspects of pupil support services to increase pupil learning and success.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge of pertinent computer hardware and software, such as word processing and database and computer presentation applications?
- To what extent do candidates understand legal and ethical issues related to computer-based technology?
- To what degree do candidates understand the appropriate use of computer-based technology and data-management systems, in support services, teaching, learning and data-based research?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate computer-based technology skills in such areas as accessing the internet, downloading files, communicating with others through the use of e-mail and otherwise making use computer technology as a resource tool?

## Standard 16: Supervision and Mentoring

**The program provides candidates with opportunities and experiences to demonstrate knowledge of models of supervision used to mentor pre-professionals in practica and field experience placements. Candidates recognize the important role that field-site supervisors play in pre-professional training of future pupil personnel service providers.**

### Rationale

The training of future pupil personnel professionals depends on partnerships between university training programs and school districts that provide high-quality field experience training opportunities. In addition to the university-based training opportunities, it is essential that candidates receive supervision from school-based practitioners. These field experiences are enhanced when the school-site supervisor understands the training objectives of the university training program and are skilled in the process of supervising and guiding the skill development of candidates. Upon successful completion of credential training, PPS practitioners continue to engage in professional development formally through courses and workshops and informally through consultation and advisement with their colleagues. For this reason, it is also important for candidates to learn about models of professional mentoring to provide support for recently credentialed practitioners.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How effectively do candidates demonstrate familiarity with supervision and mentoring models such as: administrative, behavioral, clinical, or professional growth and development?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of professional guidelines and standards for the supervision and mentoring of each credential candidate in field experience placement?
- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge of current professional literature about best practices in supervising field experience training?
- In what ways do candidates display knowledge of mentoring and consultation among professional colleagues?

# School Counseling Specialization Standards

## Organization

*The School Counselor Specialization Standards are organized into three areas: core knowledge base and foundations; professional skills and training (including domains, themes, and functions of school counseling); and field experience and competency evaluation. A brief description of each of the areas is provided within this document, followed by the school counselor specialization standards that support each area.*

## Outline

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# School Counselor Specialization Standards

## I. Core Knowledge Base and Foundations

*The complex needs of today's pupils emphasize the need for comprehensive counseling and guidance programs in schools. The foundation of the school counseling profession contains knowledge and professional attitudes that promote student development, learning and achievement. Future school counselors must have knowledge of the history as well as current trends in school counseling that is often achieved through active participation in professional organizations. They must also have knowledge of the laws and ethics of counseling specific to children in California schools. Effective school counseling is further supported by knowledge of state and national standards for school counseling and by familiarity with models of effective comprehensive school counseling and guidance programs.*

*A firm foundation of knowledge and professional attitudes form the basis for comprehensive school counseling and guidance programs that promote student development, learning and achievement.*

### Standard 17: Foundations of the School Counseling Profession

**The program provides candidates with knowledge and understanding of the core areas including history, philosophy and trends in school counseling; state and national standards; models of comprehensive and developmental school counseling and guidance programs; and the theoretical bases for counseling practices in schools.**

#### Rationale

Credential candidates must understand counseling responsibilities within a school setting, the goals of a school counseling program, and the knowledge base by which counselors conduct the practice of school counseling. The history, trends, philosophy and theories are the foundation on which school counseling programs are built. This standard represents the fundamental aspects that are common to the development of school counselors and the understanding and essential elements of a comprehensive school counseling program.

#### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what extent does the program provide candidates with the knowledge and understanding of the history, philosophy and trends of the school counseling profession including significant state and national events and factors?
- How does the program provide candidates with the knowledge and understanding for developing, implementing and evaluating a comprehensive and developmental school counseling and guidance program?

- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the domains of educational counseling including academic, career, and personal and social development?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of how school counseling programs and services promote student development, learning and achievement?



## Standard 18: Professionalism, Ethics and Legal Mandates

**The program provides candidates with an understanding of ways to develop a professional identity congruent with the knowledge of all aspects of professional functions, professional development, and organizational representation. The program provides candidates with knowledge of current legal mandates impacting school counselors and pupils. The program provides candidates with knowledge of the ethical standards and practices of the school counseling profession and how to apply these ethical standards to specific counseling situations.**

### Rationale

In order for school counselor candidates to best develop and maintain a school counseling program, they must develop a professional identity and an understanding of the scope of their professional responsibility and keep abreast of current relevant trends in education. Counselors must have knowledge of the effects of federal and California laws on pupils and counseling and guidance programs. School counselors have a responsibility to uphold the standards of their profession including adherence to ethical standards and practices to protect their clients.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the necessity for ongoing education as a part of professional development?
- How adequately do candidates demonstrate awareness of current trends in education and the impact of these trends on their professional identity?
- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the state and national associations representing the school counseling profession and related counseling interests?
- How well do candidates understand the benefits of belonging to a professional organization that represents school counseling interests?
- To what extent does the program allow candidates to demonstrate knowledge of the state requirements for academic achievement, promotion and retention policies and high school graduation?
- How well do candidates understand California and federal laws and regulations affecting school counseling and guidance programs, pupils and staff, such as confidentiality, child abuse reporting, and pupil records?

- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the ethical standards and practices developed by the American Counseling Association (ACA) and the American School Counselor Association (ASCA)?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate the skill of applying ACA and ASCA's ethical standards and practices to specific counseling situations?

## II. Domains of School Counseling and Guidance Programs

*The goal of comprehensive school counseling and guidance programs is to increase student learning and achievement by promoting student development in three domains: academic development, career development, and personal and social development. School counselors must be knowledgeable of these domains and familiar with models of school counseling and guidance programs that include desired student competencies and means of effectively attaining measurable student outcomes. It is essential that school counselors are skilled in the development, implementation, and delivery of comprehensive and developmental school counseling and guidance programs that effectively address each domain.*

### Standard 19: Academic Development

**The program provides candidates with an understanding of the concepts, principles, strategies, programs and practices for enabling pupils to experience academic success and achieve at high levels. Candidates are able to implement strategies and activities in the school setting for maximizing learning, producing high-quality work and preparing pupils for a full range of options and opportunities after high school, including the completion of a college and university education.**

#### Rationale

Counselors are mandated by state law to support the academic development and learning success of pupils. All strategies, activities, programs, and interventions organized and implemented by school counselors are to serve this end. Included as areas of knowledge and skill in the academic area are: reading literacy, basic mathematical skills, skills in decision making, problems solving and goal setting, critical thinking, logical reasoning, interpersonal communication, and the application of these skills to academic achievement. School counselors and school counseling programs should be directed at enabling all pupils to achieve success in school and to develop into contributing members of society. To do this effectively, school counseling candidates must gain knowledge of the principles and methods for increasing learning and success and skills in planning and implementing academic support systems.

#### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the application and rationale of state adopted curriculum standards and frameworks to academic development?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in improving pupils' self-concept and academic achievement, including: motivation to learn-confidence as a learner, pride in achievement, acceptance of mistakes as essential to the learning process, and development of attitudes and behaviors that lead to successful learning?

- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of learning skills including: goal setting, time and task management, task analysis, knowledge of learning styles, test taking skills, textbook reading strategies, problem solving skills, decision making skills, and communication skills?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in helping pupils achieve school success including: taking responsibility for their own actions; working independently and cooperatively; being dependable and productive; and sharing knowledge, interests and abilities?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of high school graduation requirements and skill in assisting pupils to develop appropriate academic plans?
- How adequately do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in implementing practices that ensure that all pupils receive equitable treatment relating to appropriate course selection for post-secondary options, including college?
- How effectively do candidates demonstrate knowledge of a guidance curriculum that supports learning and skill in using classroom guidance techniques?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate knowledge and skill in accessing admission requirements for public and private colleges and universities, vocational and trade schools, and other post-secondary training opportunities?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the relationship of academics to the world of work and to life at home and in the community?

## Standard 20: Career Development

**The program provides candidates with the knowledge of the components of career development programs and provides them with opportunities to develop, implement and evaluate such programs in schools.**

### Rationale

One goal of education is to prepare pupils to be knowledgeable and contributing members of society. While classroom instruction and learning focus on curricular contents and processes, school counseling programs also address the relationship between education and the world of work. Counselors provide guidance to pupils in the area of career development that gives education relevance and meaning, increases motivation, and establishes goals and direction for learning and achievement. School counselors must be prepared to organize and implement career and vocational development programs for all pupils at all school grades and levels in order to ensure student success and successful transition from school to career and the future.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How thoroughly do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the world of work, employment trends, career clusters and pathways, career choice theories, and school-based career development programs?
- How effectively do candidates demonstrate knowledge of career and vocational information resources including: labor market information, visual and print media, computer-based career information systems, and skill in accessing these resources to assist pupils in their career development and decision making?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in career development program planning, organization, implementation, administration and evaluation?
- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in using assessment instruments and techniques relevant to career planning and decision making?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in career and educational assessment, planning, and evaluation?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in using technology-based career development programs and strategies?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and the ability to teach and develop essential employability skills such as teamwork, problem solving, and organizational skills?

## Standard 21: Personal and Social Development

**The program provides candidates with the opportunity to apply knowledge and understanding to the theories, concepts, processes, skills and practices required for successful personal and social development. Candidates are able to plan, organize and implement programs that enable pupils to acquire knowledge, attitudes and interpersonal skills that help them understand and respect themselves and others, make decisions, set goals and take necessary action to achieve goals, and to understand and develop safety and survival skills.**

### Rationale

To ensure academic and learning success, school counselors must be able to identify the personal and social developmental needs of all pupils and address those needs in ways that will help pupils become personally and interpersonally successful. School counselors must also be able to assist pupils in: becoming knowledgeable about themselves and others; skilled in communicating effectively; capable of cooperating with and understanding others; able to show interest in, tolerance of and appreciation for differences between people; and being proficient in working through conflicts, problems and disagreements successfully.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How do candidates enable pupils to acquire knowledge of their own personal strengths, assets, personal values, beliefs and attitudes?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in developing programs that enable pupils to: develop positive attitudes towards themselves as unique and worthy persons; identify and express feelings, recognize personal boundaries, rights and privacy needs; understand the need for self control and how to practice it; demonstrate cooperative behavior in groups; develop effective communication skills; and identify and discuss changes in personal, social and family roles?
- How well do candidates demonstrate skill in helping pupils to: respect alternative points of view; recognize, accept, respect and appreciate individual differences; and appreciate cultural diversity and family configuration patterns?
- How effectively do candidates demonstrate the ability to: teach pupils a decision making and problem solving model; enable pupils to understand consequences of decisions and choices; identify alternative solutions to problems; and develop effective coping skills for dealing with problems, including seeking professional help?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate the ability to: educate and train pupils successfully in conflict resolution skills, develop respect and appreciation for individual and cultural differences, and know when peer pressure is influencing a decision?

- In what ways do candidates demonstrate the ability to: assist pupils in identifying short and long-term goals; set realistic and achievable goals; and develop a plan of action for successfully achieving those goals?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of how to help pupils learn and understand: the relationship between rules, laws, safety and the protection of individual rights; the difference between appropriate and inappropriate physical contact; personal boundaries, rights, and personal privacy; how to identify peer and professional resources in the school and the community; the emotional and physical dangers of substance use and abuse; how to cope with peer pressure; the techniques for managing stress and conflict; and the skills for coping with and managing life events?

### III. Themes of School Counselor Preparation

*Three themes or areas of emphasis guide the work of school counselors in addressing the domains of student development: Leadership, Advocacy, and Learning, Achievement and Instruction. These themes are to be represented as common strands in the teaching and learning of all knowledge, skills, and attitudes related to the domains and functional aspects of school counseling.*

*The work of school counseling is directed toward increasing the learning and achievement of pupils and focusing on enhancing the teaching and learning processes. School counselors work as leaders in the promotion of student learning and achievement. They serve as advocates for equal opportunity and access to a quality education including support for high learning expectations and standards.*

#### Standard 22: Leadership

**Candidates know the qualities, principles, and styles of effective leadership. Candidates also possess the knowledge, skills and attitudes of effective leadership by acting as agents of change in planning, organizing, implementing, managing and evaluating the outcomes of school counseling and guidance programs that increase student learning and achievement.**

#### Rationale

Effective and comprehensive learning supports for all pupils require school counselors to function as leaders in program development, education reform and school change efforts. School counselors must work to organize, coordinate and supervise programs and services, to train others in program and service provision, broker services to pupils both within and external to the school, and evaluate student learning and achievement outcomes.

#### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How do candidates demonstrate the knowledge of effective leadership in planning, organizing and implementing a counseling and guidance program designed to increase student learning and achievement?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate development as a leader in education reform and school change efforts?
- In what manner do candidates demonstrate knowledge of funding sources and budget issues concerning programs that promote student learning and academic achievement?



- How effectively do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the theories and principles of managing the delivery of a comprehensive and developmental school counseling and guidance program?

## Standard 23: Advocacy

**Candidates demonstrate skills and attitudes essential for advocating for the learning and academic success of all pupils. Candidates are able to identify institutional, systemic, interpersonal and intrapersonal barriers to learning, and are able to plan and implement strategies to eliminate those barriers and effectively support positive learning and achievement outcomes for all pupils.**

### Rationale

School counselors are in a unique position in the school to observe student and school staff learning and teaching performance and behavior and to organize educational courses, programs and services. They need to know about the communication and interaction between pupils and teachers, the learning problems and needs of pupils, the organization of courses and classrooms, student learning and success patterns, and the learning and safety climate of the school. Furthermore, school counselors must advocate for educational courses and programs that enable pupils to become successful learners, achieve at high levels and pursue challenging and personally fulfilling careers. School counselors must advocate for equity and inclusiveness in programs so that all pupils receive and benefit from a high quality education, including excellence in teaching, high expectations for all, availability of quality education resources, and opportunities to succeed at high levels of the learning endeavor.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge of current and potential biases and discrimination in educational programs, services and systems that limit, impede or block the highest educational attainment possible for all pupils?
- How effectively do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the barriers to the highest learning and achievement for all pupils, and how they can limit the future educational and career outcomes for pupils?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of school learning support programs and services that promote high academic attainment and learning success?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in advocating for high academic expectations and learning success for all pupils?
- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge of educational and career paths and skill in advocating for pupils in a manner that increases student motivation, high expectations and learning success?

- How thoroughly do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the academic and learning required for pupils to be eligible for admission to a four-year college or university?

## Standard 24: Learning, Achievement and Instruction

**Candidates know appropriate classroom management strategies and techniques for assisting teachers with classroom organization. Candidates understand curriculum design, lesson plan development, and instructional strategies for teaching counseling and guidance related material.**

### Rationale

In addition to learning theory and educational psychology, (which encompasses Generic Standard number 11) the instructional program is the central focus of schooling. All counseling and guidance activities in the schools need to be directed toward improved student learning and achievement. Counselors are also responsible for delivering guidance information and material to pupils in an efficient and effective manner.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge of effective classroom management strategies, techniques and practices and skill in applying classroom management principles to guidance instruction?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in writing guidance lesson plans coordinated with other instructional area subject matter?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of instructional strategies, activities, practices and skill in applying these to teaching guidance concepts to pupils, parents and teachers?
- How thoroughly do candidates demonstrate an understanding of classroom dynamics and instructional activities and materials that are appropriate for pupils with diverse needs, interests and learning styles?
- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge of strategies and techniques for involving parents and guardians in classroom learning including conducting student-led conferences, parent tutoring, and homework support?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate skill in organizing and implementing in-service education programs for school staff focused on the issues related to counseling and guidance?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate methods and techniques for supporting beginning teachers?

## IV. Functions of School Counselors

*School counselors must possess an array of knowledge, skills and attitudes to implement programs and services that increase student learning and achievement by addressing the three domains of school counseling and guidance programs within these domains (academic career and personal and social development). Programs and services are delivered through school counselors by exercising several functions. In addition to the many functions shared in the common standards, school counselors provide specialized functions including individual counseling; group counseling and facilitation; collaboration, coordination, and team building; organizational systems and program development; prevention education and training; and research, program evaluation and technology.*

*In an effort to maximize student support services, school counselors collaborate with other school staff, community agencies and members, parents and student groups, as they coordinate services to build the school into a safe learning environment that is a center of education and learning for families and the community. School counselors work to build acceptance and appreciation of the diversity among cultures, peoples and families in the school and community. School counselors also evaluate their work through the assessment and identification of student learning and achievement outcomes using data to support successful interventions and making corrective program modifications.*

### Standard 25: Individual Counseling

**Candidates demonstrate knowledge of the theories of counseling, the stages of the counseling relationship, and the elements of effective counseling, particularly as they pertain to the three domains of school counseling. Candidates also know and demonstrate skills in helping pupils cope with personal and interpersonal problems as well as skills in crisis intervention in response to personal, school, and community crises. Candidates are able to design and implement programs of wellness promotion, prevention, treatment and intervention services. In addition, candidates understand and possess skill for evaluating counseling outcomes, including the impact of individual and small group counseling on student learning and achievement. Candidates know community-based mental health referral resources and effective referral practices.**

### Rationale

Comprehensive counseling and guidance programs address the developmental needs of pupils focusing on the personal and social problems, and issues and concerns that are potential barriers to successful learning and achievement. School counselors must be skilled in identifying the mental health needs of pupils, determining the appropriate means of meeting such needs, providing direct intervention and guidance when necessary, exploring alternatives, and developing, organizing and utilizing effective mental health referral resources. As a primary mental health service provider in the schools, school counselors must demonstrate knowledge about early warning signs of emotional and behavioral disorders, including aggressive and violent behavior.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skills in applying theories of counseling as they pertain to counseling pupils in schools?
- How adequately do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in assisting individual pupils identify and express feelings, contain intense and overwhelming emotion, and work through emotional conflicts and problems?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the assessment of student mental and emotional problems for the purposes of determining appropriateness and selection of supportive programs and services?
- How effectively do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in making appropriate and effective referrals to community mental health agencies and professionals?
- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in applying research based counseling theory to particular problems and populations through individual or small group counseling, such as anger management, suicide prevention and intervention, stress reduction, eating disorders, depression, divorced parents, grief and loss?

## Standard 26: Group Counseling and Facilitation

**Candidates understand group dynamics and possess skill in group work, including counseling, psycho-educational, task, and peer helping groups; and facilitation of teams to enable pupils to overcome barriers and impediments to learning.**

### Rationale

The work of school counselors in effectively promoting the academic, personal, social and career development of pupils is often optimized by delivering counseling services, educating and training in the context of small groups. Groups provide mutual help, support and learning that enhances and expands what counselors can provide. Group work further enables counselors to identify interpersonal limitations and enhance interpersonal skills in a real-life context in which pupils can practice new skills and build caring and supportive relationships. Such group work increases student inclusion and identity in the school community and enhances their ability to learn, to grow, to develop, and to achieve at high levels.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of group theory, group dynamics and the types of groups relevant to working in schools?
- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in leading small groups directed towards promoting the academic, personal, social and career development of pupils?
- How effectively do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in facilitating teams and committee meetings of individuals working on education related tasks?

## **Standard 27: Collaboration, Coordination and Team Building**

**Candidates apply skills of effective collaboration among school staff, parents, individuals, groups, and agencies in the community to meet developmental needs along a continuum of preschool through adult pupils. In collaborative efforts, candidates demonstrate competence in coordinating the services of community members, agency personnel and parents within a comprehensive school counseling and guidance program as it relates to the educational mission of the school. Candidates know and possess skills in building effective working teams of school staff, parents and community members for eliminating personal, social, and institutional barriers to learning and increasing student academic achievement and learning success.**

### **Rationale**

School counselors must have the ability to collaborate with parents, family and community members and community agency personnel in order to maximize the supports that pupils need to learn, to achieve at high levels and to become productive members of society. The involvement of family in schools further enhances the richness of the school as a learning center and focus for community development.

Student learning and achievement are further enhanced through the involvement of family and community members. Such collaborative efforts should be coordinated within a comprehensive counseling and guidance program in order to optimize support efforts, establish consistency in goals, minimize conflict and disparate action and enable meaningful evaluation, accountability, and further action planning.

Collaboration and coordination require school counselors to be knowledgeable of and skilled in the principles and techniques for building and maintaining effective working teams.

### **Questions to Consider**

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How effectively do candidates demonstrate knowledge of effective collaboration programs and services that integrate parents, family and community members and community agency personnel to increase student learning and academic achievement?
- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skills in coordinating the support, roles and services of school staff, parents, family and community members and community agency personnel within the framework of a comprehensive counseling and guidance program?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge and skill in team building?



- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in coordinating support services necessary for success in academic, career, personal and social development and in providing appropriate services to meet these student needs?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in coordinating guidance activities through which pupils develop competency in self-management, communication, interpersonal interaction, and decision making?

## Standard 28: Organizational Systems and Program Development

**Candidates understand the organization, structure, and cultural context of schools as educational systems and are able to plan, develop, implement and evaluate systemic and comprehensive counseling and guidance programs that are part of an overall school plan. Such programs include student outcomes that reflect the impact of counseling and guidance programs on student learning and academic achievement.**

### Rationale

Local schools operate as systems within a larger organizational and cultural context in the community. School counselors need to understand the dynamics of these organizations, the cultures that characterize them, and the wider context that helps or hinders the development of effective programs.

School counselors must be prepared to plan, develop, implement and evaluate counseling and guidance programs and support services that effectively address the educational needs of pupils and the needs of the school to become an effective learning community. To determine the effectiveness of these programs in relation to the educational mission of the school, counselors must be able to identify and assess student outcomes that result from involvement in such programs and use this information to make appropriate changes in existing programs as well as plan and implement new programs.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How clearly can candidates explain a comprehensive school counseling and guidance program and its impact on teaching and learning?
- To what extent do candidates understand basic principles of organizational theory and change theory so as to be able to lead and work collaboratively as a part of a total educational team?
- To what extent do candidates understand the organization of the school, dynamics of change and the roles of individuals within the school setting?
- How effectively can candidates identify a wide range of philosophical, historical, political, ethical, cultural and economic forces that impact the school organization and ecology?
- To what degree do candidates understand the interrelationships among prevention and intervention strategies, school organization, and society?
- How effectively do candidates understand the techniques used to guide, motivate, delegate, and build consensus in program development and the achievement of results?

- How effectively do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in conducting needs assessments and in planning, developing and implementing counseling and guidance programs based on such assessments?
- How adequately do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the process of developing comprehensive counseling and guidance program budgets, sources of funding and appropriate expenditures?
- How thoroughly do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in designing and implementing the evaluation of a counseling and guidance program? This would include the collection of data, understanding validity and reliability and the preparation of an evaluation report that demonstrates the impact of the program on student outcomes related to improved learning and achievement?

## Standard 29: Prevention Education and Training

**Candidates know and have skill in the planning, organizing and implementing educational programs designed to promote pupil learning and high academic achievement. Candidates also have knowledge in preventing problems that pose barriers to learning and achievement. Candidates develop knowledge and skills in working with school staffs, parents, and family members to enable them to eliminate barriers to learning and achievement.**

### Rationale

In addition to Generic Standard 5, Comprehensive Prevention and Early Intervention, comprehensive counseling and guidance programs include a major emphasis on educational strategies designed to prevent problems from occurring. Such strategies enable school counselors to provide services to all pupils through presentations in classrooms and assemblies, and through in-service education programs to school staff, parents and family members. School counselors are capable of anticipating student and school problems and can effectively provide preventive measures to overcome or resolve problems that could limit or diminish the capacity of pupils to learn and achieve at their highest levels.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in identifying early signs and predictors of student learning problems?
- How thoroughly do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in developing, organizing, presenting and evaluating educational programs designed to prevent learning difficulties and promote learning success?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in developing, organizing, presenting and evaluating preventive in-service education programs for school staff?
- In what manner do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in developing, organizing, and presenting prevention programs for parents, family and community members?
- How effectively do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skill in working with teachers to implement and evaluate educational programs designed to prevent learning problems and promote student learning success and high academic achievement?

## Standard 30: Research, Program Evaluation and Technology

Candidates are knowledgeable about basic principles of research design, action research, and program evaluation. This includes traditional experimental design as well as qualitative and single-subject designs. Candidates are able to differentiate high quality from inadequate research, and understand measurement and statistics in sufficient depth to evaluate published research and conduct evaluations of counseling and guidance and other educational programs in terms of student outcomes. Candidates understand and utilize computer technology and attendant technological applications for conducting program evaluation.

### Rationale

The psychological and educational research literature has much to offer to school practitioners, but the information is not always accessible or easily understood by all school personnel. School counselors should provide leadership and guidance in the school community with their knowledge of current literature on various aspects of education and child development, their ability to translate research into practice, and their understanding of research design and technology. School counselors should serve vital roles in helping various members of the school community to gain access to important information about best practices in education and in counseling and guidance programs. School counselors should contribute to the development and evaluation of educational and intervention programs by assessing pupil needs, assisting with data-based decisions in program design and evaluating programs in terms of pupil learning and achievement.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge about basic principles of research design in education and psychology?
- How proficient are candidates in the use of relevant technology in order to (a) conduct and disseminate research, (b) access information and (c) evaluate pupil progress?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate skill in locating research data and interpreting its meaning to pupils, parents, school, and the community?
- How adequately do candidates demonstrate the knowledge and skills of program evaluation including the gathering of needs assessment data, the use of data in planning and decision making, the development of evaluation strategies, and the gathering of outcome data focused on student learning and achievement outcomes?
- How well do candidates demonstrate skill in disseminating program evaluation findings to program stakeholders, and how proficient are candidates in the use of evaluation outcomes to modify or extend programs and interventions?

- To what degree do candidates demonstrate an understanding of research methods, statistical analysis, needs assessment and program evaluation?

## V. Field Experience and Competency Evaluation

*Supervised field experience is central to the training of school counselors at every stage of their development. Carefully structured and supervised experiences in schools and other appropriate settings allow candidates to observe experienced practitioners, practice initial skill development and become oriented to schools and the community. Field experience is also the primary means through which supervisors and more experienced mentors can deliver immediate and direct feedback, essential to the development of professional skills and competence. Professional experience and coursework are linked throughout the program.*

### Definition of Terms

**Practica (Singular = Practicum).** Practica consists of a series of supervised experiences that occur in classroom, laboratory and field-based settings, and provide for the application of knowledge and the development of skills. Practica experiences should be completed prior to the beginning of field experience.

**Field Experience.** Field experience is the principal experience in training school counselors. It occurs after successful completion of the practica experiences.

**Internship Credential.** A candidate may receive a salary for school counseling services provided in a district prior to completing the credential program. Service with an Internship Credential will qualify for field experience hours. Internship opportunities must be offered collaboratively by universities and school districts for prospective school counselors. In order to qualify, candidates must apply for and receive the intern credential from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Interns must be enrolled in an approved school counseling credential program while they serve under the supervision of experienced credentialed school counselors from the district and university program faculty.

## Standard 31: Field Experience

To develop competency in all areas of school counseling and guidance, candidates have the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and skills in applying the themes and functions of school counseling in school settings designed and organized to support the training and preparation of school counselors. Candidates demonstrate in field experience the knowledge of and skills in working with pre-K through adult pupils in the areas identified in the standards for school counseling.

### Practica

A minimum of one hundred (100) clock hours in a practicum experience, that can include: (a) peer counseling related to a university or college program practicum course; (b) personal and career assessments; (c) personal counseling experience in either an individual or group context; (d) school-based programs serving parents and family members; (e) community service programs serving children and families; (f) school related experience such as “shadowing” a school counselor, observing classroom instruction, attending district and school-based meetings, and mapping school-based community resources. Practica experiences should be completed prior to the field experience.

### Field Experience

The school counseling program requires candidates to complete a supervised field experience of six hundred (600) clock hours that is begun after successful completion of the practicum experience and the series of preliminary courses defined by the program as preparation for the field experience. The field experience provides an opportunity for the candidate to perform, under supervision, the functions of school counselors in school counseling domains.

Up to one hundred fifty (150) clock hours shall be devoted to issues of diversity. This may be satisfied with up to 100 clock hours in a diversity program or with the development and implementation of a program that addresses diversity issues. AND, at least fifty (50) clock hours shall be with at least ten (10) pupils (individually or in a group) of a racial and ethnic background different from that of the candidate. OR, all 150 clock hours with pupils of a racial and ethnic background different from that of the candidate.

The candidate’s total field experience includes the following:

1. A minimum of six hundred (600) clock hours in public school settings at two of three school levels such as elementary, middle, high school with a minimum of two hundred (200) clock hours at each level. Two hundred (200) of the six hundred (600) clock hours may be completed in settings other than public schools. At least four hundred (400) clock hours must be completed in public school settings with k-12 pupils.
2. An average of one (1) hour of individual or one-and-one-half (1.5) hours of small group (limit 4 interns per group) supervision per week provided



3. Throughout the field experience, usually performed by the on-site supervisor IS SUGGESTED, NOT REQUIRED.
4. An average of one-and-one-half (1.5) hours per week of group supervision provided on a regular schedule throughout the field experience, usually performed by a program faculty member IS SUGGESTED, NOT REQUIRED.
5. The opportunity for the candidate to gain supervised experience in the understanding and use of a variety of school resources, including: data and information systems on student learning and achievement; career development materials; information on colleges and universities; the use of school technologies for information access, teaching and learning; tests and measures used in assessing student learning and achievement; and information on school and district policies and practices.
6. A planning document for field experience is prepared and agreed upon by the field supervisor(s) and program faculty serving as fieldwork course instructors. The plan includes the competencies candidates are expected to develop, the experiences used to attain competencies, and a plan for determining competency attainment. The plan also delineates the responsibilities of both program faculty and school counseling supervisors. The plan is completed early in the field experience and periodically reviewed and revised.

### **Rationale**

Individualized, appropriate field practice provides candidates with comprehensive professional preparation that qualifies them for work in schools with a range of grade levels and with pupils who are culturally and ethnically diverse. It provides candidates with the opportunity to enhance their professional preparation through activities outside of the university setting and allows for the integration of coursework with field experience.

### **Questions to Consider**

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How consistently are candidates provided with an individualized plan for field experience that provides the opportunity to gain practical knowledge and practice the skills identified in the generic and school counseling specialization standards and attain program competencies?
- How frequently do field experience settings provide opportunities for candidates to become familiar with a range of classroom instructional practices and learning experiences for pupils from diverse backgrounds?
- How adequately are candidates provided with the opportunity to develop effective interpersonal and counseling skills through interactions with pupils, parents, school staff and other professionals working with pupils?

- How well does the program and field experience site provide the opportunities for candidates to develop audio or videotapes of their performance in school counseling domains and functions for use in supervision?
- How thoroughly does the program and field experience site provide opportunity for candidates to develop competency in all domains, themes and functions of school counseling?
- How often do candidates get a chance to demonstrate skill in program development and evaluation and the implementation of at least one prevention program?
- To what extent are candidates provided with regular and formal evaluations of their performances during the field experience by a site supervisor and program faculty member in a manner that provides opportunity for improvement in skill acquisition?
- How effectively does the program ensure that candidates have experience in developing the skills included in the school counseling standards?

## Standard 32: Determination of Candidate Competence

**Prior to recommending candidates for a School Counseling Credential, one or more persons who are responsible for the program determine that candidates have satisfied each professional standard. This determination is based on thorough documentation and written verification by at least one district supervisor and one institutional supervisor. Candidates have also documented that they have earned an appropriate graduate degree from an accredited institution of higher learning.**

### Rationale

If the completion of a professional preparation program is to constitute a mark of professional competence, as the law suggests, responsible members of the program staff must carefully and systematically document and determine that the candidate has fulfilled the standards of professional competence.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what extent does the program have effective procedures to track and monitor candidate completion of credential requirements and all competency standards?
- How consistently has a systematic summative assessment been completed of the candidates' performance by at least one district supervisor and one institutional supervisor?
- How clearly does the assessment encompass the skills and knowledge necessary for professional competence and is it based on documented procedures or instruments that are clear, fair, and effective?

In what manner do individuals responsible for the program, who have access to information on the competence and performance of candidates, use that information to recommend candidates for credentials?

## School Psychology Specialization Standards

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# School Psychologist Specialization Standards

## I. Core Knowledge Base and Foundations

*The complex needs of today's pupils emphasize the need for comprehensive service delivery in school-based settings. The school psychologist, a school-based mental health professional, is in a position to provide a holistic approach to psychological service delivery in the schools. It is essential that school psychologists have a solid foundation in a core knowledge base of psychology, education, and professional school psychology so that they are able to use theory and context to form comprehensive conceptualizations of and responses to the challenges and opportunities that confront pupils, families, and schools.*

### Standard 17: Psychological Foundations

**The program provides candidates with a strong foundation in the knowledge base for the discipline of psychology in order to facilitate the individual development of all pupils. This knowledge base includes biological foundations of behavior, human learning, social and cultural bases of behavior, child and adolescent development, and the diversity of individual differences in development and learning.**

#### Rationale

School psychologists serve as representatives of the discipline of psychology and learning in the school. School psychologists need to apply theories of learning and development in order to facilitate and improve the instructional process. They should know (a) empirically demonstrated components of effective instruction, (b) alternative instructional methodologies, and (c) how to use communication and interpersonal skills in order to work with others to improve instruction. School psychologists bring a perspective that combines a focus on individual learners (their heredity, experiences, perspectives, backgrounds, talents, interests, capacities and needs) with a focus on learning (the best available knowledge about how learning occurs and about teaching practices that are most effective in promoting the highest levels of motivation, learning and achievement for all learners).

#### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of child and adolescent development?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of human learning?
- In what ways can candidates display knowledge of individual differences, such as human exceptionalities and developmental psychopathology?

- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of biological foundations of behavior, such as biological bases of development, neuropsychology, physiological psychology, and psychopharmacology?
- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge of social and cultural bases of behavior, such as cross-cultural research, social development, social and cultural diversity, and social psychology?
- How effectively do candidates demonstrate knowledge and application of learning theory and cognitive strategies related to the instructional process?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of empirically-supported components of effective instruction and alternative instructional methodology?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate skills in communication and the interpersonal skills necessary to work with school staff and parents to improve instruction?

## Standard 18: Educational Foundations

The program provides candidates with a foundation in the knowledge base of education concerning the organization and operation of schools, school and community-based resources, as well as alternative service delivery systems. The program requires candidates to be prepared to help design and operate programs to promote school-family interactions. The program requires candidates to be knowledgeable about: (a) family influences on pupil cognitive, motivational, and social characteristics that affect classroom performance; (b) family involvement in education; (c) ways to promote partnerships between parents and educators to improve outcomes for pupils; (d) cultural issues that impact home-school collaboration; and (e) methods to facilitate safe and caring school communities.

### Rationale

School psychologists should know how to help schools organize in ways that promote learning and prevent problems. School psychologists should provide leadership in developing schools as safe, caring, inviting places in which there is a sense of community, and where there are high expectations for excellence for all pupils. School psychologists need to share leadership roles in coordinating with other agencies and in forming linkages within the community. Efforts should be made to make schools less independent and more collaborative with parents, social and health agencies, juvenile probation authorities, local businesses, and other community agencies.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge about the organization and operation of schools, school and community-based resources, as well as alternative service delivery programs?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge about how to design and organize programs that promote learning and prevent problems, as applied to individuals, groups, and systems?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge about family involvement in education and ways to improve collaboration between parents and educators to enhance pupils' development and achievement?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of cultural issues that impact home-school collaboration?

- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of various public and private agencies and resources available within the community and how do candidates make use of technology, such as the Internet, that can provide a variety of services and information to pupils and their families?



## Standard 19: Legal, Ethical and Professional Foundations

The program provides candidates with the knowledge base specific to the professional specialty of school psychology. This knowledge base includes (a) the history and foundations of school psychology, (b) legal and ethical issues, (c) professional issues and standards, (d) alternative models for the delivery of school psychological services, (e) emergent technologies, and (f) the roles and functions of the school psychologist. The program requires candidates to understand the diverse values that influence the lives of people, and to be prepared to practice in schools in ways that meet all appropriate ethical, professional, and legal standards both to enhance the quality of services and to protect the rights of all parties.

### Rationale

School psychology provides a highly relevant contribution to teaching, learning, and child development. The school psychologist's role is increasingly more comprehensive, as reform movements in healthcare, education, and social services converge on providing services in the schools. School psychologists are positioned to deliver psychological services both in the schools and in the broader, emerging context of school, family and community. School psychologists are directly involved in making decisions that reflect the legal rights of pupils and their guardians, and thus must be aware of and adhere to all appropriate ethical, professional, and legal standards when carrying out their professional responsibilities.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what degree are candidates knowledgeable of the history and foundations of school psychology?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of alternative models for the delivery of school psychological services, emergent technologies, and the roles and functions of the school psychologist?
- When appropriate how do candidates demonstrate ability to adhere to (a) due- process guidelines in all decisions affecting pupils; (b) accepted standards in assessment, consultation, and general professional practice; and (c) all legal requirements, as in response to legal decisions?
- To what extent are candidates knowledgeable of the legal requirements that determine the pupil's rights to and eligibility for special education services and the processes that protect pupil's rights?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and the ability to participate in the development and implementation of 504 Plans in the school setting?

- In what ways do candidates participate in an ongoing formative process that helps them identify their personal strengths and weaknesses for the purpose of improving the candidates' expertise in the practice of school psychology?
- To what extent are candidates familiar with the content of the codes of ethics and service delivery standards of national (National Association of School Psychologists and American Psychological Association) and state (California Association of School Psychologists) professional organizations?
- To what degree are candidates aware of the many sources and content of laws and regulations and are able to participate in a variety of decision-making activities in the school setting that involve the legal rights of pupils and their parents or guardians?
- How do candidates combine a data-driven model with an ethical decision-making process to resolve problems arising from value conflicts at the individual, group, and organizational levels?
- How do candidates display ability to resolve dilemmas combining a data-driven model with an ethical decision-making process when legal guidelines and ethical codes do not provide explicit guides to problem resolution?

## II. Professional Skills and Training

*Candidates are involved in a broad array of activities related to the delivery of mental health and educational services to the schools. These services include consultation with teachers, parents, and school personnel about: (a) pupils' learning and development; (b) social, emotional and behavior problems; (c) development and implementation of educational programs on classroom management strategies; (d) parenting skills; (e) substance abuse; (f) teaching and development; (g) assessment of child development and evaluation of pupil progress; (h) direct interventions with pupils and families; and (i) development of solutions to conflicts related to learning and adjustment.*

*Candidates possess professional skills and training, and effectively integrate personal attributes and experiences with a core knowledge base of the profession (for example, biological and social bases of behavior). These skills and training are a necessary but not a sufficient part of what it means to be a school psychologist. Candidates must also be flexible and capable of personal development in areas such as leadership, ethical conduct, self-awareness, wellness and professional resiliency.*

### Standard 20: Collaboration and Consultation

**Candidates have positive interpersonal skills with which to facilitate communication for the purposes of consultation and collaboration with teachers, teams of school personnel, community professionals, agencies, and families. Candidates are prepared to listen, adapt, deal with ambiguity, and be patient in difficult situations. Candidates are able to clearly present and exchange information in a variety of contexts with diverse audiences such as families, teachers, school boards, policy makers, business leaders, and fellow school pupil service providers.**

#### Rationale

School psychologists deliver direct services as well as indirect services. Providing consultation and collaboration services with individuals who work with pupils allows psychological and educational interventions to efficiently reach more pupils. Utilizing skills in collaboration and consultation, school psychologists should be able to listen well, participate in discussions, convey information and work with others at individual, group, and systems levels. They should be able to form partnerships between parents, educators, and the community. School psychologists facilitate development of harmonious school environments that can reduce the divisiveness often found in schools experiencing social or academic difficulties, or both and promote the kinds of principled negotiations necessary to achieve consensus. Strong communication skills are essential in order for school psychologists to clearly present and exchange information with diverse audiences.

#### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of behavioral, mental health, organizational or collaborative consultation approaches?
- To what extent are candidates provided the opportunity to participate on child study, student study teams, and other school-based and multi-agency teams designed to develop and coordinate programs and services for pupils and their families?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate skills in presenting and exchanging information with diverse audiences such as parents, teachers, school boards, policy makers, business leaders, and colleagues in a variety of contexts?
- How do candidates demonstrate skills in individual and systems consultation?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate effective consultation skills with teachers, parents and other professional staff?
- How do candidates display the ability to collaborate with parents and school staff to develop interventions for pupils experiencing difficulty in school?
- How well do candidates facilitate communication and collaboration with pupils and among teams of school personnel, community professionals, agencies, schools and families?
- How do candidates use knowledge of multicultural factors in individual and system levels consultation?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge about cultural issues that impact home-school collaboration?
- To what extent do candidates display skills related to problem solving?

## **Standard 21: Wellness Promotion, Crisis Intervention, and Counseling**

**Candidates are prepared to help design, implement and evaluate wellness, prevention, intervention, and other mental health programs at the individual, group and system levels. They are knowledgeable about academic, behavioral, and serious personal difficulties. As primary mental health service providers, candidates are able to recognize the behaviors and contexts that are precursors to the development of internalizing disorders, externalizing disorders, and dropping out of school. Candidates can design programs and implement prevention, intervention, and treatment services across the hierarchy of pupils' development needs. Candidates can work with school personnel, pupils, parents, and the general community in the aftermath of personal, school and community crises.**

### **Rationale**

Public schools are one of a variety of organizations in each community that serves pupils and their families. Within the school system, school psychologists serve vital roles in the promotion of wellness and the prevention of academic, emotional, and behavioral problems. Given their expertise in typical and atypical child development, school psychologists are called upon to work with individuals in the school and community and at times to help in the aftermath of disasters such as earthquakes or acts of violence. Additionally, pupils and their families often have needs that go beyond the services typically provided through the public school system and need assistance to access services within the community.

### **Questions to Consider**

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge about behavioral, academic, and socio-emotional difficulties?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge about public and private agencies within communities that provide a variety of services to pupils and their families?
- In what ways do candidates, through their own example, model for others wellness and personal resilience?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the developmental processes associated with internalizing disorders such as depression, anxiety, and risk of suicide?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the developmental processes associated with externalizing disorders such as defiance, aggression, and potentially destructive behaviors?
- How do candidates demonstrate leadership skills in coordinating with other agencies and in forming linkages within the community?

- To what extent do candidates display the ability to design and operate programs that promote school-family partnerships to enhance pupils' social and emotional development?
- How well do candidates implement prevention and wellness promotion activities across a broad range of age levels and with a variety of potential problems?
- How well do candidates use direct methods and techniques such as behavioral management and individual and group counseling to improve school performance?
- How well do candidates demonstrate skills in effective counseling and intervention skills to (a) enhance personal development, (b) address socio-emotional problems, and (c) respond to crises?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate ability to provide individual, small group and classroom-based counseling activities for pupils of different ages, and with different types and degrees of difficulties?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate skills in working with school personnel, pupils, parents and the general community in the aftermath of crises?

## Standard 22: Individual Evaluation and Assessment

Candidates are well versed in a variety of assessment methods, including formal and informal test administration, behavioral assessment, interview, ecological or environmental assessment, as well as assessment methodologies to define a student's problems and needs, to assess current status, and to measure the effects of the problems-solving process. Candidates also understand contextual influences on outcomes, such as: (a) personal attributes of the pupil; (b) types of aptitude; and (c) community, cultural, gender, and language influences, and (d) classroom climate and instructional practices. Candidates understand how to use assessment information in a problem solving process and are able to convey findings in an articulate way to a diverse audience. Candidates are able to use data-based decision making to improve outcomes for instruction, development of cognitive and academic skills, and the development of life competencies. Candidates also demonstrate an understanding of the process and procedures identified in federal and state laws related to special education services, such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

### Rationale

School psychologists are responsible for collecting considerable data on individual pupils and educational programs. They do so through evaluation and assessment—a process of observing, interviewing, testing, and reviewing records to collect data for the purposes of making decisions about pupils. School psychologists are needed to provide leadership in identification of instructional environments (school and home), as well as cognitive, emotional, social, and behavioral factors that have a significant impact on school achievement and the development of personal competence. They help in the development of challenging but achievable cognitive, behavioral, and academic goals for all pupils.

The school psychologist plays a key role as a member of an interdisciplinary team process in the evaluation of student needs and in the delivery of services associated with federal and state mandates such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It is therefore essential that the school psychologist be able to design effective academic and behavioral interventions to support student participation in the least restrictive setting.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what extent and how effectively do candidates use and collect data for decision making in individual assessments and in program evaluation?
- How do candidates show that they can use assessment information in order to define, understand, and solve educational problems and to evaluate problem-solving strategies for accountability purposes?

- How well do candidates conduct ecologically valid individual assessments of pupils from preschool through high school in all areas of functioning (cognitive, developmental, psychomotor, academic, social and emotional development.)?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate skills in making decisions about appropriate interventions based on systematically collected assessment data?
- How do candidates assess the progress of individual pupils to determine the effectiveness of instructional and behavioral interventions?
  - To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skills in the IEP Team process?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge about ecological influences on pupil cognitive, motivational, and social characteristics that affect classroom performance?
- How do candidates use assessment information to evaluate educational interventions and to modify them as needed?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate skills in conducting functional behavioral assessment?



## Standard 23: Program Planning and Evaluation

Candidates understand the school as a system. Candidates work with individuals and groups to facilitate organizational structures and policies that create and maintain safe school environments that promote learning and enhance positive educational outcomes for pupils. Candidates utilize data-based decision making skills to (a) assist in the development of challenging but achievable goals for all pupils; (b) provide information about ways in which pupils can achieve these goals; and (c) monitor pupil progress toward these goals. Candidates are skillful in evaluating local school programs and in interpreting findings to other educators and to the public.

### Rationale

Data-based decision making and accountability are important in program creation and development and evaluation for groups and systems. As a result of their training, school psychologists are often called upon to plan and evaluate prevention and intervention programs for the developing pupil. School psychologists must possess the knowledge to design curriculum that reflects an understanding of typical developmental tasks. School psychologists are called upon to help create a safe and nurturing school environment for pupils who may otherwise not experience such stable, affirming and positive environments.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of program evaluation theories and techniques?
- How effectively do candidates know how to gather data on school systems and classroom environments?
- How well do candidates display knowledge about development in social, affective, and adaptive domains and identify and apply sound principles of behavior change within these domains?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate the ability to help schools create environments that reduce alienation and foster dignity and respect for all members of the school community?
- How effectively do candidates demonstrate skills in designing, conducting, and reporting the results of program evaluations?

## Standard 24: Research, Measurement, and Technology

**Candidates know basic principles of research design. This includes traditional experimental designs as well as qualitative and single-subject designs. Candidates are able to differentiate high quality from inadequate research, and understand measurement and statistics in sufficient depth to evaluate published research and conduct investigations relevant to their work. Candidates understand and utilize computer technology and attendant technological applications.**

### Rationale

The psychological and educational research literature has much to offer to school practitioners, but the information is not always accessible or easily understood by all school personnel. School psychologists provide leadership and guidance in the school community with their knowledge of current literature on various aspects of education and child development, their ability to translate research into practice, and their understanding of research design and technology. School psychologists serve vital roles in helping various members of the school community gain access to important information about best practices in education.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge about basic principles of research design in education and psychology?
- How proficient are candidates in the use of relevant technology in order to (a) conduct and disseminate research, (b) evaluate pupil progress, and (c) access information?
- How well can candidates locate research data and interpret its meaning to pupils, parents, school, and the community?

### III. Experience: Practica and Field experience

*Supervised field experience is critical to the training of school psychologists at every stage of their development. Carefully structured and supervised experiences in schools and other appropriate settings allow trainees to observe experienced practitioners, practice initial skill development, and extend their skills. Field experience is also the primary means through which supervisors and more experienced mentors can deliver immediate and direct feedback and coaching essential to the development of professional skill and confidence. Prior to receiving a credential, professional experience and coursework are inextricably linked, and based on an explicit model of anticipated candidate development.*

#### Definition of Terms

**Practica (Singular = Practicum).** Practica consists of a series of supervised experiences that occur prior to the field experience, are conducted in laboratory and or field-based settings, and provide for the application of knowledge and mastery of distinct skills.

**Field experience.** The field experience is the culminating experience in the training of a school psychologist. It occurs after successful completion of the practica field experience and near or after successful completion of other program course requirements.

**Internship:** The culminating field experience is called an “internship” when the candidate is issued an internship credential from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing and receives a salary for services provided in a district. The types and breadth of activities the candidate obtains in the culminating field experience is the same regardless of whether or not the candidate receives a salary. Internships may be offered collaboratively by universities and school districts for prospective school psychologists. Interns are enrolled in an approved school psychology credential program while they serve under the supervision of experienced credentialed school psychologists from the district AND university trainers. During this one-year to two-year training period, each intern holds an internship credential that is granted by the Commission.

**Field Experience Settings.** The four basic field experience settings for school psychologists include (a) preschool, (b) elementary, (c) middle school or junior high, and (d) high school. It is expected that candidates will complete field experiences in three (3) of these four (4) settings. A total of 150 hours is required for the second and third field experience settings when combining all practica and field experiences.

## **Standard 25: Practica**

Candidates are provided the opportunity to engage in field-based activities in all areas of professional training. Specifically, candidates are provided with practica experiences in the areas of (a) collaboration and consultation, (b) wellness promotion, (c) counseling and crisis intervention, (d) individual assessment, (e) educational planning and evaluation, (f) program planning and evaluation, (g) and research and measurement. Candidates demonstrate the ability to select and apply core knowledge regarding psychological foundations, educational foundations, and legal, ethical, and professional foundations in their work in schools.

Practica consists of a series of supervised experiences that occur prior to the field experience, are conducted in laboratory or field-based settings or both. They provide for the application of knowledge and mastery of distinct skills. There must be a systematic means of evaluating the practica experiences that seeks to ensure the acquisition of desired skills by pupils.

A minimum of 450 clock hours of practicum is required according to the following standards and guidelines:

- 1. A minimum of three hundred (300) clock hours in a preschool to grade 12 school setting providing direct and indirect pupil services.**
- 2. Up to 150 hours of experience may be offered through on-campus agencies (for example, child study center, psychology clinic, relevant educational research or evaluation activities), or community agencies (for example, private schools, community mental health centers).**
- 3. The supervision and principle responsibility for the practicum experience typically remains with faculty of the training program, in coordination with field-based professionals. Whether provided by faculty or a field-based professional, practicum supervision must be provided by an experienced (minimum of two years) professional who possesses background, training and credentials appropriate to the practicum experience.**
- 4. Practicum is offered for academic credit, or is a part of a course for which a candidate receives credit. However organized, the experience is a direct extension of program training goals and objectives, and concurrent instruction is provided as a part of the experience.**
- 5. All practica experiences are evaluated. Practica evaluations are appropriate to the program objectives, whether the experience is accomplished through on-campus or off-campus placements or through practical application components of separate courses. The evaluation also seeks to clarify the utility of the experience in terms of setting, supervision, and appropriateness of experiences. In this manner, the evaluation process is twofold, evaluating both the candidate's progress and the suitability of the various characteristics of the experience.**

**The four basic field experience settings for school psychologists include (a) preschool, (b) elementary, (c) middle school/junior high, and (d) high school. It is expected that candidates will complete a total of 450 clock hours of practica and 1,200 clock hours of culminating field experience. Although candidates are encouraged to obtain diverse field experiences, it is recognized that many candidates will accrue most of their 1,650 clock hours of field experience in one primary setting. To ensure that candidates have a breadth of field experience, candidates are required to complete a minimum of 200 clock hours across a second, third, or fourth field experience setting. These 200 hours can be accrued in both practica and the culminating field experience settings combined.**

### **Rationale**

Practica experiences are viewed as integral and essential components of professional training in school psychology. They provide opportunities for trainees to gain knowledge and skills most appropriately learned in the field, and to refine skills and clarify knowledge learned as a part of the university training program. Practica experiences must be of sufficient duration and intensity to allow for desired skill acquisition. They must also be provided in settings and under conditions appropriate to program objectives. For example, courses or practica experiences designed to develop candidate skills in the area of individual assessment and educational planning and evaluation should include some school-based practice. This allows candidates to become familiar with such activities as classroom observation, interviewing of teachers and pupils, participation on Student Study and IEP Teams, consultation and intervention planning with parents and school staff, and other activities that only occur in schools.

### **Questions to Consider**

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How are candidates provided a program of individualized and supervised field experiences that gives them the opportunity to practice skills acquired in coursework?
- In what ways are candidates provided the opportunity to observe individual differences in cognitive, social, emotional and physical development by systematically observing pupils in different settings from early childhood through late adolescence?
- How do field experience settings provide candidates the opportunity to become familiar with a wide range of classroom instructional settings designed for pupils from diverse backgrounds and with different abilities from preschool through high school?
- To what extent are candidates provided the opportunity to develop effective interpersonal skills through interactions with pupils, parents, school staff and other professionals working with pupils?

- In what ways do candidates receive regular evaluations regarding their field experience performance from field- and university-based supervisors?
- How do both field supervisors and university supervisors evaluate candidates' readiness to assume the responsibilities involved in being an intern school psychologist?

## **Standard 26: Culminating Field Experience**

**During the culminating field experience, candidates have the opportunity to demonstrate the full range of skills acquired during formal training, and to acquire additional knowledge and skills most appropriately gained through supervised professional experience. Under the supervision of a credentialed school psychologist, candidates provide direct and indirect services to pupils, parents, and school staff in all areas of training.**

**Note: This culminating field experience is called an “internship” when the candidate is granted an Internship Credential issued from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing and receives a salary from a school district.**

**A minimum of twelve hundred (1,200) clock hours of field experience is required according to the following standards and guidelines:**

- 1. The field experience is typically completed within one (1) academic year but shall be completed within no more than two (2) consecutive academic years.**
- 2. The field experience must include eight hundred (800) clock hours in a preschool-grade 12 school setting providing direct and indirect services to pupils.**
- 3. Up to four hundred (400) hours of field experience may be acquired in other settings. Other acceptable field experiences may be acquired in (a) private, state-approved educational programs; (b) other appropriate mental health-related program settings involved in the education of pupils; or (c) relevant educational research or evaluation activities.**
- 4. Supervision and principle responsibility for the field experience typically is the responsibility of the off-campus educational agency, although training program faculty provides indirect supervision.**
- 5. A field-based professional holding a current and valid Pupil Personnel Services Credential authorizing service as a school psychologist provides intern supervision. The primary supervisor must have at least the equivalent of two (2) years of full-time experience as a school psychologist. A field experience placement site is approved by the candidate’s credential-granting institution and provides experiences that are consistent with the credential-granting institution’s training objectives. In those few instances when an appropriate field experience site is located outside of California, the field experience site supervisor must be a Nationally Certified School Psychologist, or a graduate of a program approved by the National Association of School Psychologists.**

6. **A written plan for the field (or intern) experience is prepared and agreed upon by representatives of the local educational agency, the field (or intern) supervisor(s), training program supervisory staff. The field experience plan is completed early in the field experience and periodically reviewed and revised. The plan identifies the field experience objectives, describes appropriate experiences for the achievement of the objectives across settings, and outlines the evaluation plan for determining the achievement of each objective. The plan also delineates the responsibilities of both the university and the local supervisory personnel.**
7. **Candidates receive academic credit for the field experience, and the experience is recognized primarily as a training activity with appropriate supervision by the cooperating school district. On-campus course work is reduced in proportion to the demands of the field experience.**

**The four basic field experience settings for school psychologists include (a) preschool, (b) elementary, (c) middle school or junior high, and (d) high school. It is expected that candidates will complete a total of 450 clock hours of practica and 1,200 clock hours of culminating field experience (called “internship” when completed for pay using an Internship Credential). Although candidates are encouraged to obtain diverse field experiences, it is recognized that many candidates will accrue most of their 1,650 clock hours of field experience in one primary setting. To ensure that candidates have a breadth of field experience, candidates are required to complete a minimum of 200 clock hours across a second, third, or fourth field experience setting. These 200 hours can be accrued in both practica and the culminating field experience (internship) settings combined.**

### **Rationale**

The field experience is critical to the development of well-trained and professional school psychologists. These 1,200 hours of supervised practice are consistent with the *Standards for Training and Field Placement Programs* established by the National Association of School Psychologists and they provide essential experiences that allows the candidate to develop competence, confidence and professional autonomy and identity. Prior to the field experience, candidates learn specific skills that are required for professional practice. During the field experience, the trainee has the opportunity to practice the skills that have been acquired, and learn those professional and interpersonal skills that can more specifically be acquired through on-the-job training. For this reason, a critical and defining characteristic of the field experience is the commitment to complete all 1,200 field experience hours in no more than two academic years. The field experience is an intense and diversified experience, as compared to a practica placements, and requires close supervision.

### **Questions to Consider**

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*



- How consistently do candidates participate in a field experience on a full-time basis over one year, or part-time over two years, accounting for a minimum of 1200 clock hours? [Eight hundred (800) clock hours must be spent in a preschool-to grade 12-school setting providing direct and indirect services to pupils. Four hundred (400) of the 1200 hours is can be completed other appropriate settings and activities as documented by institutional records.]
- How does the school setting(s) for the field experience provide for access to pupils across a broad age range, other pupil personnel services personnel functioning within a team framework, a full range of services for all pupils, and services for those pupils who have both high and low incidence disabilities?
- To what extent has the institution made sure that field experience placements provide a broad and multifaceted experience and provide interns the opportunity to engage in the full range of activities expected of a school psychologist? These activities include but are not limited to:
  - developing and implementing prevention as well as intervention programs for individuals and groups of pupils;
  - consultation (with school staff and parents);
  - counseling, (individual, group, class, and crisis with pupils and parents);
  - screening and assessment;
  - coordination of resources, programs;
  - opportunities for interdisciplinary team membership;
  - opportunities to assess the effectiveness of instructional and behavioral interventions for individuals and groups of pupils;
  - opportunities to work with pupils from diverse socioeconomic, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds; and
  - opportunities for professional development (professional conferences and in-service training).
- How specific and clearly written is the candidate's plan for the field experience, describing the objectives, the evaluation plan and supervisory responsibilities of both field and university personnel?
- How consistently do interns receive a minimum of two hours of supervision each week (prorated for part-time placements)?

## Standard 27: Determination of Candidate Competence

**Prior to recommending candidates for a School Psychologist Credential, one or more persons who are responsible for the program determine that candidates have satisfied each professional standard. This determination is based on thorough documentation and written verification by at least one district supervisor and one institutional supervisor. Candidates have also documented that they have earned an appropriate graduate degree from an accredited institution of higher learning.**

### Rationale

If the completion of a professional preparation program is to constitute a mark of professional competence, as the law suggests, responsible members of the program staff must carefully and systematically document and determine that the candidate has fulfilled the standards of professional competence.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what degree does the program have effective procedures to track and monitor candidate completion of credential requirements and all competency standards?
- To what extent has a systematic summative assessment been completed of the candidates' performance by at least one district supervisor and one institutional supervisor?
- To what extent does the assessment encompass the skills and knowledge necessary for professional competence and is it based on documented procedures or instruments that are clear, fair, and effective?

In what manner do individuals responsible for the program, who have access to information on the competence and performance of candidates, use that information to recommend candidates for credentials?

- To what extent does the program seek independent assessment of the knowledge and skills of their graduates, such as through the National School Psychology Examination (Praxis II) as administered by Educational Testing Service (ETS), employer evaluations, or client satisfaction surveys or both?

# School Social Work Specialization Standards

## Outline

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# School Social Work Specialization Standards

## I. Core Knowledge Base and Foundation

*In order to achieve positive educational outcomes for pupils in California schools, the complexities of the educational tasks need to be addressed in a comprehensive fashion. School social workers are school-based mental health professionals that understand the need for a comprehensive and holistic approach to the many issues implicated in pupil success. School social workers have a solid knowledge base in child and youth bio-psychosocial and intellectual development. They are prepared to work with school staffs in a collaborative team role. They also have knowledge and skills in building partnerships with pupils' families, as well as with community resources and agencies offering the services families may need in order to support their children's educational and personal development. Additionally, cultural competency of a very high order is necessary as part of their professional preparation. School social workers are prepared to weave all the above elements together in support of the education of all the pupils.*

### Standard 17: Social Work Foundations

**In addition to the generic standards required of all members of the Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) team, the preparation program provides candidates with a strong foundation in the knowledge base of social work. There is a special emphasis on school social work, in order to support the full development of pupils, their schools, the resources of their families and the linkage of community service resources, working in partnerships toward the shared goal of pupils' success.**

#### Rationale

School social workers serve as representatives of the discipline of social work in schools. This discipline links all the components of a pupil's life into a support partnership with pupils at the core. School social workers are trained to work as members of school and community teams serving pupils. The quality of the preparation programs for school social workers is embedded in the national standards of the accrediting body of the profession, the Council on Social Work Education, (CSWE), which sets standards for all graduate social work programs culminating in the Master's Degree in Social Work (MSW). CSWE sets standards in areas including, but not limited to, Promotion of Social and Economic Justice, Populations-at-Risk, and Social Welfare and Policy. The National Association of Social Workers (NASW), the profession's largest membership organization, has established a document on school social work standards as well as a code of ethics that all professional social workers are expected to meet and observe.

#### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what extent does the program provide candidates with the knowledge and understanding of the role and function of the school social workers?

- How do candidates demonstrate an understanding of the ways to link the resources of community service organizations to develop partnerships to meet the shared goal of pupils' success?

## Standard 18: Professional Ethics

**Candidates demonstrate the ability to practice according to ethical standards including the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics and the NASW Standards for School Social Work Services. Candidates demonstrate the ability to analyze and resolve ethical dilemmas that emerge in the practice of school social work.**

### Rationale

Critical life situations of families and children, the cultural imperatives of a diverse society, and other requirements all have the potential to create value conflicts and dilemmas for practitioners. The National Association of Social Workers has developed a Code of Ethics and a set of standards specific to school social workers that establishes a set of standards that guide professional social workers in their practice with all clients.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics and the NASW Standards for School Social Work Services as it applies to school social work practice?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the differences in professional ethics and practice perspectives among and within the professional groups serving pupils in schools and community settings?
- How do candidates demonstrate skill in applying the NASW Code of Ethics and Standards for School Social Work Services to school-site situations?
- How do candidates demonstrate skill in identifying potential ethical and value conflicts between the professions, as these may be evident in specific situations concerning pupils?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate skill in resolving potential conflicts that arise from issues, such as confidentiality, of the various professions serving pupils and their families?

## II. Professional Skills and Training

*The personal and professional integration of the school social work practitioner is achieved through a developmental process that culminates in a beginning professional identity as a school social worker. Through the course work and field experience the conceptual foundations evolve into skills in the key areas of utilization of clients assets and strengths, understanding the person in the context of his or her social environment, and the ability to coordinate, access and develop services and programs both within the school and broader community. School social workers apply these skills with the individual, the family, the school, the larger school system, and the community. They advocate at every level for the creation of programs that support strength-based positive development and build resiliency in the clients served.*

### Standard 19: Wellness and Resiliency Promotion

**Candidates demonstrate the ability to promote healthy emotional development and resiliency of pupils by designing, implementing and evaluating services and programs at the individual, group, and institutional level. These programs and services are designed for pupils, staff, families, and communities to maximize educational, social and promotional outcomes.**

#### Rationale

By understanding the theories of resiliency and recognizing the strengths and abilities that children and families possess, school social workers are better able to develop prevention and early intervention efforts. School social work candidates must work towards designing, implementing and evaluating services and programs that increase the number of protective factors and promote growth experiences within a child's life that lead to personal and social responsibility and academic success.

#### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How well do candidates demonstrate an understanding of the principles of child and youth development, resiliency, and family support within the context of a comprehensive health and wellness model?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate the ability to assess the strengths and assets found in pupils' homes, the school setting, and in the community?
- How well do candidates demonstrate the ability to recognize the precursors of dysfunctional behaviors such as a sudden drop in grades or school attendance?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate the ability to conceptualize and plan prevention, direct intervention services, and crisis intervention programs in the natural environments of children and youth, including the school setting, the home, and the community?

- To what extent do candidates understand the impact of the school setting and culture as they pertain to enhancing youth development and promoting academic success and resiliency in the pupil population?



## Standard 20: Direct Learning Support Services

Candidates demonstrate the ability to perform culturally competent, bio-psychosocial assessments of pupils, their families, and their social and school environments. Candidates demonstrate the ability to deliver a continuum of prevention and intervention opportunities, services, and supports to maximize positive academic, social, and emotional outcomes to pupils, their families, and to enhance the school community for all its members. Candidates understand and use the basic methods of social work intervention, which may include counseling, crisis intervention, casework, group work, community organizing, consultation, case management, family therapy, and effective educational strategies.

### Rationale

School social work candidates must possess the ability to assess the cognitive, emotional, psychological and social needs of pupils and their families in order to promote positive academic, social, and emotional outcomes for pupils, their families, and the school community. School social work candidates must be able to develop intervention strategies using a wide array of individual, family, group, and community level methods.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge and understanding of normal and abnormal child, adult, family and community development including variations related to culture, ethnicity, class, and ability differences?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate the ability to assess the operation and interaction of key social systems in a child's life including the home, classroom, school, peer group, neighborhood, significant institutions and community at large?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the developmental impacts of life-changing events and conditions such as poverty, abuse, neglect, changing family constellations, domestic violence, loss, and family conflict?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skills in the different techniques of interviewing children, adolescents, and adults to clarify problems and to elicit their participation in problem-solving activities?
- How do candidates demonstrate skill in utilizing appropriate social work methods with pupils, groups of pupils, parents, and others to make proper definitions of problems, conduct comprehensive assessments, and then develop strategies, and implement appropriate action plans for pupils and their families?

- To what degree do candidates demonstrate skill in interpreting pupils' developmental and educational status and potential to families with the specific purpose of enhancing families' understanding and utilization of available school resources and community-based services?
- To what extent do candidates understand the importance of the principles underlying case management practices?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate knowledge and understanding of follow-up procedures as an integral part of a coordinated case plan?
- How do candidates demonstrate the ability to design and implement treatment plans, support services, and conduct activity groups that meet client needs in a developmentally and culturally appropriate manner and integrate effectively into the school environment?

## Standard 21: System Level Learning Support Services

**Candidates demonstrate the ability to assess, design, advocate for, and deliver direct and indirect services to affect culturally sensitive educational outcomes at the systemic level. These activities are based on knowledge of the mission and function of the school, school district and community, and how these systemic factors contribute to learning outcomes in both positive and negative ways.**

### Rationale

To fully understand the context in which learning occurs, school social workers must have knowledge of how systems are developed and operate. School social workers must be able to evaluate how institutions and systems impact a child's ability to learn.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How well do candidates demonstrate skills in understanding the school as an organizational system interacting with the community?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate knowledge and understanding of school structure, school climate, roles, rules, lines of authority, traditions, program options, leadership styles, and the formal and informal decision making process that contribute to learning outcomes in both positive and negative ways?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skills in identifying community or neighborhood environments, sources of conflict and support, available resources, and identification of community leaders that affect the school site and its programs?
- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skills in identifying public and community organizations and their resources related to income maintenance, employment development and security, housing, health and nutrition, mental health, family planning, juvenile justice, family and child welfare, and the developmentally disabled?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate the ability to develop needed services and programs that are both culturally and gender sensitive?
- How do candidates demonstrate the ability to work at both the site and district levels to identify a sustainable, predictable, culturally sensitive network for collaboration and referral?
- How do candidates demonstrate the ability to respond to issues including but not limited to student isolation, truancy and dropout, school safety, alcohol and drug use, school violence, as well as to advocate for policy and priority shifts to address these concerns?

- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge and understanding of systems that would include the governance structures of public education and its impact on funding, regulatory policies, procedures and programs, particularly relating to pupil welfare and attendance requirements, student eligibility for special education services, and the rights and obligations of schools, parents and pupils?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of the impact that local institutions such as health, mental health, law enforcement, social services, juvenile justice, and recreation and parks have on the learning outcomes to pupils?

## Standard 22: Pupil, Family, Faculty and Community Linkages and Partnerships

Candidates demonstrate the skills to create and maintain linkages and partnerships with pupils, families, faculty and staff and the community. Candidates demonstrate the ability to advocate for and partner with a wide range of service integration efforts and providers to enhance pupils' ability to define, work toward and reach their full academic and personal potential.

### Rationale

The increase in the number of Full Service Schools, Healthy Start Schools, and other school and community partnerships underscores the importance for school social work candidates to become professionally competent in creating and maintaining partnerships with pupils, their families, school faculty and staff, and community organizations. These models use innovative service delivery methods to support pupils and their families.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How do candidates demonstrate the knowledge and skill to implement assets mapping focused on community linkages and partnerships?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge and skills in working within an interdisciplinary, inter-organizational, and multicultural context, which includes techniques and methods such as, asset mapping, facilitation, collaboration, consultation, and team and organizational development?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate knowledge and skills in contributing to the development of policies and procedures that maximize all potential levels of family involvement and partnerships, including community development efforts, in which schools are partners?
- How do candidates demonstrate the ability to use tools such as communication skills, facilitation skills, collaborative and team-building skills, and consultation skills in cases, classrooms, schools, districts and community agency inter-organizational levels, to maximize outcomes for pupils, schools, families and communities?
- To what extent are candidates familiar with inter-organizational services access issues, including barriers to access, and the skills needed to address such issues?
- To what extent are candidates familiar with the resources available in the community and are able to document gaps between which services currently exist and what services are needed? Also, how well prepared are candidates to join with others in addressing these gaps through a variety of approaches such as developing and joining collaboratives and task forces to bring attention to the service gaps and work towards overcoming them?

- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge and skills in carrying out joint efforts across schools, agencies and communities in support of finding common ground, developing a shared vision and language and shaping community-anchored service delivery approaches?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate the ability to link schools, agencies, and communities to better serve pupils and families?

## Standard 23: Research

**Candidates demonstrate knowledge of and skills in completing the essential steps and processes of research, with particular attention to: problem formulation based on theory and previous research, issues related to assessment and measurement, the logic of research design, data collection and analysis, and the appropriate interpretation of the results upon which the conclusions are based. Candidates demonstrate the ability to access and critically analyze research related to schools and communities.**

### Rationale

It is essential that school service programs be based upon knowledge that has been developed and refined through multiple scientific methods. School social workers should have the understanding and skills necessary to conduct research in school and community settings, in order to improve their own practice and for the general delivery of services.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How do candidates demonstrate knowledge and understanding of relevant findings of social research, particularly as these relate to school and community issues and the diverse needs of those pupils and families who experience school differently than others because of culture, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, national origin, or immigration status?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate skill in designing and conducting studies, and writing proposals that include a needs assessment, program development, and evaluation of the practice or program?
- How adequately do candidates demonstrate an understanding of various qualitative and quantitative methods in research, that are used in program design and evaluation that work to minimize various types of bias?
- How thoroughly do candidates demonstrate an understanding of how design decisions and study constraints limit the conclusions that can be drawn from a particular research or evaluative study?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of various research methodologies including but not limited to case studies, ethnographies, surveys, and quasi-experimental and experimental studies?
- How well do candidates demonstrate an understanding of and skills in the appropriate use of descriptive and inferential statistical techniques?

- In what ways do candidates demonstrate an understanding of the issues related to assessment and measurement including the numerous types of reliability and validity?



### **III. Field Experience**

*Field experience is a hallmark of social work education. The learning contracts developed between the universities and field placements formalize expectations and ensure that the experience will build competencies based on the standards within the credential candidate. There is a strong emphasis put on the integration of the field experience and academic coursework. All graduate programs require supervision by an experienced credential holder. Supervisors serve as a role model in the field setting and nurture the development of autonomy through careful monitoring.*

#### **Standard 24: Field Experience**

**Candidates demonstrate competency in school social work practice by successfully completing 1000 clock hours of field experience. At least 450 clock hours are school-based practice supervised by a credentialed practitioner, of which a minimum 100 hours are with at least ten (10) pupils of an ethnic background different from that of the candidate. The school assignment is provided in at least two age groups (preschool, elementary, middle, high school) with a minimum of 100 clock hours at each setting, not to exclude district services and programs or alternative school settings.**

**If candidates are working toward the acquisition of the Child Welfare and Attendance Credential, 150 additional clock hours of field experience are required as part of the total field experience requirement. Ninety (90) of these hours must be completed in a school setting in direct contact with pupils and a minimum of 30 up to a maximum of 60 must be acquired in a setting that is outside the field of education. See Standard 7 of Child Welfare and Attendance standards for reference.**

#### **Rationale**

Social work training is based on a concurrent field experience model that exposes candidates to classroom theory and practical hands-on learning experiences in the field. The field experience assures that candidates blend the knowledge derived from academic course work in human behavior, counseling and other intervention methods, policy and laws, research, and program development with experiences in school based practice settings. In order for candidates to develop professional practice skills, school social work training programs must provide: (1) sufficient time for candidates to develop practice skills; (2) competent supervision (by a credentialed practitioner) and field instruction on a regular weekly basis; (3) a range of learning experiences for candidates to understand the similarities and differences of working with pupils of different ages, cultures, ethnic backgrounds, socioeconomic backgrounds, and national origins and with a variety of problem situations; and (4) a method of evaluating candidates' progress in the field.

#### **Questions to Consider**

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- In what ways do candidates demonstrate skill in developing and using the social work relationship to effect change consistent with social work purposes and assessed needs of pupils and their families?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate skill in integrating the knowledge and skills described in both the Pupil Personnel Services Generic and School Social Work Standards?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate skill in conducting appropriate bio-psychosocial assessments of pupils and families, including the identification of school and community factors that inhibit the student's progress in learning?
- How do candidates demonstrate skill in implementing effective prevention and intervention strategies, developing programs, and utilizing community resources to meet the needs of pupils, their families, and the school community?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate skill in developing collaborative working relationships with school staff and other professionals within the school and the community at-large?
- How do candidates demonstrate skill in working effectively within the policies and procedures of the school site to advocate on behalf of pupils, their families, and school staff?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate skill in effectively utilizing supervision for further professional growth and development and to understand the principles of supervision?
- How do candidates demonstrate skill in identifying barriers in the school and community that affect student learning, and how do they collect relevant data that may lead to the development of programs or activities to promote student success?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate skill in working effectively within the code of ethics of the social work profession at each school site and within the community?

## **Standard 25: Determination of Candidate Competence**

**Prior to recommending candidates for a School Social Work Credential, one or more persons who are responsible for the program determine that candidates have satisfied each professional standard. This determination is based on thorough documentation and written verification by at least one district supervisor and one institutional supervisor. Candidates have also documented that they have earned an appropriate graduate degree from an accredited institution of higher learning.**

### **Rationale**

If the completion of a professional preparation program is to constitute a mark of beginning professional competence, as the law suggests, responsible members of the program staff must carefully and systematically document and determine that the candidate has fulfilled the standards of professional competence.

### **Questions to Consider**

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what extent does the program have effective procedures to track and monitor candidate completion of credential requirements and all competency standards?
- How consistently has a systematic summative assessment been completed of candidates' performance by at least one credentialed school social work supervisor and one institutional social work faculty?
- How clearly does the assessment encompass the skills and knowledge necessary for professional competence, and is the assessment based on documented procedures or instruments that are clear, fair, and effective?
- In what manner do individuals responsible for the program, who have access to information on the competence and performance of candidates, use that information to recommend candidates for credentials?

## Child Welfare & Attendance Specialization Standards

*Child Welfare and Attendance Specialization is a supplemental authorization which requires that a credential candidate either holds one of the three PPS credentials or is concurrently enrolled in one of the three PPS credential programs.*

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# Child Welfare & Attendance Specialization Standards

## I. Core Knowledge Base and Foundation

*Child Welfare and Attendance professionals are skilled “trouble-shooters” in correcting Average Daily Attendance (ADA) “leaks.” Concerns and problem areas can be targeted by examining attendance policies, procedures, records, and programs. Once problems are known pertinent solutions can be suggested. Because of the many fine points of law and procedures associated with building maximum levels of school attendance, the Child Welfare and Attendance specialist is needed to make corrective efforts. The CWA usually access appropriate services from both public and private providers, including law enforcement and social services; provide staff development to school personnel regarding state and federal laws pertaining to due process and child welfare and attendance laws; address school policies and procedures that inhibit academic success; implement strategies to improve student attendance; participate in school-wide reform efforts; and promote understanding and appreciation of those factors that affect the attendance of culturally-diverse student populations. CWA programs cover the professional role of CWA, Laws Pertaining to CWA, Program leadership and management, collaboration and partnerships, school culture and related systems, assessment and evaluation of barriers to student learning, field experiences and supervision.*

### **Standard 1: Professional Role of Child Welfare and Attendance Provider**

**The program provides candidates with knowledge and understanding of the history, philosophy and trends in Child Welfare and Attendance (CWA) Programs, particularly as they relate to the professional role of the CWA Supervisor as a student advocate.**

#### **Rationale**

Child Welfare and Attendance professionals serve as advocates for all pupils, with special emphasis on at-risk and under-achieving youth. Candidates should have a firm understanding of the laws related to youth and the policies and practices of effective CWA programs.

#### **Questions to Consider**

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How does the program provide candidates with the knowledge of history, philosophy and trends related to child welfare and attendance?
- To what extent does the program provide candidates with the knowledge and ability to advocate for at-risk and under-achieving youth?

## Standard 2: Laws Pertaining to Child Welfare And Attendance

Candidates demonstrate knowledge and application of laws related to child welfare and attendance as found in the California Education Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Welfare & Institutions Code, Penal Code, local and civil ordinances and relevant federal and state laws relating to pupil records, confidentiality, the custody, registration, attendance and education of minors, including suspension, expulsion and due process.

### Rationale

In order to insure compliance with California compulsory attendance laws and the rights of minors, candidates must have a broad knowledge of legal enablements and constraints.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge, understanding and ability to apply laws related to child welfare and attendance, such as student discipline proceedings, due process, pupil records, confidentiality, custody, compulsory school attendance, child abuse reporting and child protection?
- How well do candidates demonstrate knowledge, understanding and ability to apply state and federal laws pertaining to all residency and alternative enrollment options and custody situations including foster care, adoption issues, and individual, group and institutional placements?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the legislative process as it relates to pupil personnel services, such as impact of legislation on day-to-day operations and analysis of legislation?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the ability to monitor district compliance with state and federal mandates on matters pertaining to child welfare and attendance?
- How clearly do candidates demonstrate knowledge of laws related to due process and the appropriate use of severance of school attendance?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate the appropriate use of legal alternatives to regular California public school attendance in discipline proceedings?
- To what extent do candidates demonstrate knowledge and understanding of promotion and retention policies, high school graduation requirements and minimum day attendance requirements?

## II. Professional Skills and Training

### Standard 3: Program Leadership and Management

**Candidates demonstrate skills applicable to leadership and management of child welfare and attendance programs, including the knowledge and understanding of the development of program goals and management objectives, establishment of communication systems, identification of funding resources, case management procedures and measurement of outcomes.**

#### Rationale

Child welfare and attendance specialists are educational leaders and function as managers and change agents. Therefore, in order to effectively manage and create change, candidates must develop skills in several areas, including: leadership, management and supervision; collaboration and coordination; policy and program development; program accountability and evaluation and technology.

#### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- How well do candidates demonstrate an understanding of funding resources related to Child Welfare and Attendance (CWA) programs?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate an understanding of and the ability to apply research and evaluation methodology related to CWA performance and outcomes?
- How thoroughly do candidates understand the use of technology and information systems related to CWA?
- In what manner do candidates demonstrate an understanding of issues related to school safety, including crisis preparedness, safety planning, crisis team leadership, participation and personal safety?
- How adequately do candidates understand program development and oversight functions related to CWA such as: multi-discipline teams, collaborative partnerships, School Attendance Review Boards (SARB), Student Attendance Review Teams (SART), Student Study Teams (SST), and case management and delivery of adjunctive services?
- How clearly do candidates understand attendance policies and attendance accounting systems, including district and state rules and regulations?

- How well do candidates demonstrate an understanding of the role of leadership, management and supervision in collaboration and coordination, especially with multiple agencies and community members related to school safety and attendance?



## **Standard 4: Collaboration and Partnerships**

**Candidates demonstrate knowledge and skills related to developing, utilizing and maintaining inter- and intra-agency collaboration and partnerships with education organizations, juvenile justice courts, law enforcement, general and mental health agencies, probation and children and family services.**

### **Rationale**

Knowledge and skills in collaboration and referral to various agencies and individuals are essential to success as supervisors of child welfare and attendance.

### **Questions to Consider**

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what degree do candidates understand team building, facilitation, consensus building, working with diverse groups and writing Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's) and contracts?
- How do candidates demonstrate an understanding of developing and sustaining learning and support systems that include elements such as Healthy Start, family resource centers, health clinics, parent centers, tutoring centers and mentoring?
- How thoroughly do candidates understand health and human services resource mapping?
- How effectively do candidates demonstrate an understanding of connecting youth and families to services and the empowerment of clients to maximize utilization of services?

## Standard 5: School Culture and Related Systems

**Candidates understand the organizational culture and politics of public school and related systems particularly as they relate to the role of student advocate and the professional role of the child welfare and attendance supervisor.**

### Rationale

In order for child welfare and attendance supervisors to be professional and effective in their role, they need to understand the organizational culture and the politics of the school, community and related systems.

### Questions to Consider

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what extent do candidates demonstrate an understanding of the various advocacy roles of the CWA professional, including student, parent and professional advocacy?
- How clearly do candidates understand the school system organization and governance structure and the role CWA plays within the structure?
- How well do candidates understand the role of professional organizations including national, state and local organizations?
- How do candidates demonstrate an understanding of the strategies for advocating for CWA services and programs?

## **Standard 6: Assessment and Evaluation of Barriers For Underachieving Learners**

**Candidates demonstrate knowledge and skills pertaining to the assessment and amelioration of barriers to learning such as emotional, familial, educational, institutional, and community related factors, that facilitate an environment for underachievement or school failure. Candidates also demonstrate understanding and ability to apply alternative education pathways that may be appropriate for pupils experiencing difficulties in the regular school setting. Among the various alternatives might include the GED, California High School Proficiency Examination, adult education, employment preparation, continuation schools, opportunity classes, community day centers, County Alternative Education Programs, independent study programs, special education programs, pregnant minor programs, parenting programs, Regional Occupational Programs and Centers, charter schools, summer school and community college.**

### **Rationale**

A primary function of the child welfare and attendance supervisor is to provide programs and services to remove barriers to learning and provide access to achievement for at-risk and under-achieving youth. A large portion of the child welfare and attendance supervisor's time is spent with at-risk youth. In order to provide the most effective services for this population, CWA providers must be knowledgeable of the various programs and other options available for youth who are not progressing through the regular school system. A concerted effort must be made to reach these youth and to get them back into the main system.

### **Questions to Consider**

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what extent do candidates demonstrate an understanding of and an ability to work with various at-risk populations such as youth in out-of-home placement, pregnant and teen parents, homeless youth, dropouts, potential dropouts, delinquent youth, special education, disabled and expelled youth?
- How well do candidates understand conflict mediation and resolution and peer mediation methodologies that can be used to remove learning barriers?
- How adequately do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and the ability to facilitate staff development programs on issues pertaining to at-risk pupils and CWA?
- How well do candidates demonstrate an understanding of dropout prevention and attendance improvement practices?
- How thoroughly do candidates understand the critical dimensions involved in conducting successful home visitations including home assessment, triage (establishing priorities in crisis

situations), strategies for personal safety, and culturally competent counseling with special consideration for race and poverty?

- In what ways do candidates demonstrate an understanding of parental involvement and parenting skills and their application and inclusion in CWA and educational issues?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate knowledge of and the ability to identify health related resources and link them to student and family needs?
- How effectively do candidates demonstrate an understanding of strategies for involvement of parents of at-risk pupils in a linguistic and culturally competent manner with special consideration for race and poverty?

### **III. Field Experience**

#### **Standard 7: Field Experience of Child Welfare and Attendance Supervisors**

**In addition to the requirements contained in Title 5, Sections 80632.1, 80632.2 (school counseling), 80632.3 (school social work), or 80632.4 (school psychology), candidates complete a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) clock hours of field experience, under the supervision of a Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Credential holder.**

**A minimum of 90 clock hours are in a school setting in direct contact with pupils. A minimum of 30 clock hours are in interdisciplinary experiences in a setting that is outside the field of education, such as law enforcement, juvenile justice, child health and welfare, mental health, social services, child protective services and community based organizations. The remaining thirty (30) clock hours can be at the discretion of the university supervisor.**

#### **Rationale**

Supervised field experience in the application of laws pertaining to attendance and the rights of minors enables the child welfare and attendance specialist to develop competence, confidence and professional autonomy.

#### **Questions to Consider**

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what extent do candidates complete a broad variety of supervised field experiences related to the use of the California school attendance laws?
- How adequately do candidates complete supervised field experiences, related to parent and pupil rights, regarding education and attendance?
- How successfully do candidates demonstrate completion of supervised field experiences, related to the assessment of symptoms of poor school attendance and the improvement of attendance patterns?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate completion of supervised field experiences, in the appropriate use of alternatives to regular school attendance?
- How clearly do candidates demonstrate, through supervised field experiences, the ability to interpret California and federal child labor laws so that the pupils' parents and school officials may understand for the purpose of complying with existing laws?
- How effectively do candidates demonstrate, through supervised field experience, the ability to interpret child custody laws to school personnel, pupils, parents and guardians?

- How thoroughly do candidates demonstrate, through supervised field experience, an ability to recognize a child abuse situation and report it through proper channels to the appropriate authorities?
- In what ways do candidates demonstrate, through supervised field experiences, the ability to form meaningful and helpful relationships with clients and co-workers?
- To what degree do candidates demonstrate, through supervised field experiences, appropriate use of the referral process, as related to the use of community resources?

## **Standard 8: Determination of Candidate Competence**

**Prior to recommending candidates for a Child Welfare and Attendance Credential, one or more persons who are responsible for the program determine that candidates have satisfied each professional standard. This determination is based on thorough documentation and written verification by at least one district supervisor and one institutional supervisor. Candidates have also documented that they have earned an appropriate graduate degree from an accredited institution of higher learning.**

### **Rationale**

If the completion of a professional preparation program is to constitute a mark of professional competence, as the law suggests, responsible members of the program staff must carefully and systematically document and determine that the candidate has fulfilled the standards of professional competence.

### **Questions to Consider**

*The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.*

- To what extent does the program have effective procedures to track and monitor candidate completion of credential requirements and all competency standards?
- How consistently has a systematic summative assessment been completed of candidates' performance by at least one district supervisor and one institutional supervisor?
- How clearly does the assessment encompass the skills and knowledge necessary for professional competence and is it based on documented procedures or instruments that are clear, fair, and effective?
- In what manner do individuals responsible for the program, who have access to information on the competence and performance of candidates, use that information to recommend candidates for credentials?