Licensure for School Counselors

The Tennessee State Department of Education requires that all school counselors be licensed. Our School Counseling program is approved by the state and the paper work and tests for licensure can all be completed within the College of Education. All program graduates will be prepared to be licensed to counsel in grades Pre K-12. Graduates of the School Counseling program must apply for licensure at the end of their program and must complete all course work, supplementary course work (if required), and tests before the School Counselor’s license is applied for. Steps for receiving licensure as a School Counselor are as follows:

1) Candidates without prior teaching experience **must** complete the following courses
   SPED 5500, History, Issues & Trends in Educ. Exceptional Learners (3 hours) (may be used toward degree credits)
   or
   SPED 2300 Exceptional Learners in the Schools & Communities (3 Hours) (not recommended)
   And
   CUAI 5442 Elementary Clinical Field I (3 credits) or CUAI 5452 Middle Clinical Field I (3 credits)
   (use toward degree credits)
   or
   EDFN 2300 Foundations for Teaching (2 hours) (if started program prior to 2013)

2) All School Counselors must take the counseling portion of the PRAXIS II (Professional School Counselor) exam. Applications for the PRAXIS II are obtained in room 428 Warf Pickel. The exam is also given in Warf Pickel on the designated dates. The ETSU code required on the application is unique for paper/pencil (0421) or computer format (5421). **Always check for Praxis TENNESSEE information at ets.org/praxis** (choose Tennessee even if you intend to move to a different state). The test should be taken in Tennessee. If you would like to also become licensed in a different state, talk with the School Counseling Concentration Coordinator. In addition, the TN Department of Education should be designated as a recipient (Code: 8190).

3) After the above requirements are completed you must apply for licensure. Licensure applications can be obtained in room 321 Warf Pickel from Ms. Angela Murray (current Certification Analyst). Only candidates who successfully complete the program, complete the above necessary requirements, and receive a favorable endorsement by the program are qualified for school counselor licensure.

   Angela Murray, Certification Analyst
   College of Education -- Dean's Suite Room 323C
   Box 70685
   East Tennessee State University
   Johnson City, TN 37614-0685

Note from Angela Murray:
**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ETSU STUDENTS SEEKING SCHOOL LICENSURE:** Tennessee Teaching or other School Licensure/Endorsement requires an application made directly to the Certification Officer, Angela Murray, in the Clemmer College of Education. Application should not be made until all relevant coursework, degrees and qualifying test scores are completed. A complete set of official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended will be required for the application. Students must have their test results reported to East Tennessee State University, Recipient Code 1198, by the testing company. Every effort will be made to send students up to date application forms and instruction near the end of their final semester. However, if you do not receive this information by the end of your program, you will need to contact

   Angela Murray, Phone: 423/439-7562, Email: murrpyp@etsu.edu, Office: Room 323C Warf Pickel Hall.

On occasion, school counseling students may find possible job opportunities (or be recruited) and be encouraged to apply for a school counseling position prior to degree completion under the auspices of “alternative licensure.” Please note that our counselor education program does not endorse students for licensure (alternative) unless they only have one semester of internship remaining to complete the degree. Of course, upon degree completion the school counseling student will be fully endorsed for TN State Initial Licensure as a School Counselor.
NOTE: Licensure is separate from earning a degree. There are requirements in addition to coursework and post degree in order to obtain licensure. This is standard practice. In addition, there may be variations depending on state requirements. We continue to work to meet TN state requirements.

**Note regarding Background Checks:**
In Tennessee, all approved education training programs (i.e., ETSU) that lead to Tennessee state licensure as a professional educator (including School Counseling) are subject to this new requirement. Per statute T.C.A. 49-5-5610, a criminal background check and fingerprint sample are required prior to entrance into an approved “teacher” training program. In other words, all applicants to the school counseling Master’s in Arts program (which leads to licensure as a professional school counselor in the state of Tennessee) must supply a fingerprint sample and submit to a criminal history records check to be conducted by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI).