

**Pennsylvania Department of Education: School Counselor Certification**  
**Code 1839: Specialist – Elementary & Secondary School Counselor PK-12**

**Address:** 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17126

**Web site:** <https://www.education.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx> **Phone:** 717-783-6788

**PDE “Contact Us” Form:** <https://expressforms.pa.gov/apps/pa/education/contact-us>

**Department of Education Requirements for Education 1 Specialist – Elementary & Secondary School Counselor PK-12:**

The following information was obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (DOE) The Framework for Elementary and Secondary School Counselor Preparation Program Guidelines and American School Counselor Association (ASCA). This is a summary of the current state requirements and may change. Students are expected to visit the Pennsylvania Department of Education to become familiar with the most up-to-date requirements.

**Educational Requirements:**

The Rosemont College master’s degree in Counseling (School Counseling Concentration) satisfies the educational requirements established by the PA Department of Education for certification eligibility. These requirements include a master’s degree, 60 graduate level credits, and 700 hours of supervised field experience.

The Candidate Competencies stipulated by the PA Department of Education are listed below.

I.A History and Philosophy of School Counseling	I.B Ethical and Legal Issues
I.C Social and Cultural Diversity	I.D Academic Development
I.E Career Development	I.F. Personal-Social Development
II.A Program Planning	II.B Counseling, Prevention and Intervention
III.A Research and Program Evaluation	III.B Appraisal and Assessment
IV.A Collaboration and Consultation	IV.B. Advocacy
IV.C Leadership	IV.D Systematic Change

**Field Experience and Student Practice:**

In order to ensure exposure, understanding, and candidate competence regarding the practice and delivery of academic, career, and personal/social interventions, candidates must obtain experience at the elementary (Pre K-8) and secondary (7-12) levels during their field experiences, which include pre-practicum, practicum, and internship. Students may satisfy the

requirement of field experience at the elementary and secondary levels through their pre-practicum, practicum, or internship placements.

- a. The Pre-Practicum field experience is built into CNS 6065 School Counseling PK-12. To fulfill the Pre-Practicum requirement, students will visit a school of their choosing and interview the counselor at the site. Students should request a tour of the school to better understand the school counselor's day to day.
- b. Students complete a 100-hour Practicum in a Spring semester (CNS 6600 School Counseling Practicum) at the level of the student's secondary interest (elementary or secondary).
- c. After the completion of the School Counseling Practicum, students complete a 600-hour School Counseling Internship during consecutive Fall and Spring semesters at the level of the student's primary interest (elementary or secondary).
- d. During either Practicum or Internship, students should have a high school experience.

### **Qualifications for On-Site Supervisors:**

Candidates may satisfy the competencies identified in the school counselor program preparation guidelines under the supervision of one school counseling supervisor, or several school counseling supervisors from the same or different schools and school districts. The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires an on-site supervisor to be a certified school counselor, have a minimum of three (3) years of experience as a school counselor, and be currently employed as a school counselor. The on-site supervisor may supervise a candidate's internship activities that occur within a school that is not a primary assignment of the on-site supervisor, but the school must be within the on-site supervisor's district in order for the supervisor to monitor the candidate's internship activities.

### **Background Checks:**

Background Checks are required for prospective school counselors. These individuals must have integrity and demonstrate ethical behavior and professional conduct as stated in Pennsylvania's Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators.

### **Examination Requirements:**

In addition to successfully completing the degree program, a passing score on the Praxis for the Professional School Counselor (5421) must be achieved in order to request certification. It is recommended that students take the Praxis during their final semesters of the program.

The following link provides information you need to know in preparation for Praxis Professional School Counseling Examination (Code 5421): <https://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/5421.pdf>

### **Exam Study Guides and Resources:**

Praxis II Professional School Counselor (5421) Exam Secrets Study Guide (Mometrix)

[https://www.amazon.com/Praxis-Professional-School-Counselor-Secrets/dp/1630940224/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?keywords=Praxis+for+the+Professional+School+Counselor+%285421%29&qid=1585260360&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Praxis-Professional-School-Counselor-Secrets/dp/1630940224/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=Praxis+for+the+Professional+School+Counselor+%285421%29&qid=1585260360&sr=8-1)

Praxis II Professional School Counselor (5421) Exam: Teacher Certification

[https://www.amazon.com/Praxis-Professional-School-Counselor-Exam/dp/1982993111/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?keywords=Praxis+for+the+Professional+School+Counselor+%285421%29&qid=1585260360&sr=8-3](https://www.amazon.com/Praxis-Professional-School-Counselor-Exam/dp/1982993111/ref=sr_1_3?keywords=Praxis+for+the+Professional+School+Counselor+%285421%29&qid=1585260360&sr=8-3)

PRAXIS 5421 Professional School Counselor

[https://www.amazon.com/PRAXIS-5421-Professional-School-Counselor/dp/154411303X/ref=sr\\_1\\_7?keywords=Praxis+for+the+Professional+School+Counselor+%285421%29&qid=1585260360&sr=8-7](https://www.amazon.com/PRAXIS-5421-Professional-School-Counselor/dp/154411303X/ref=sr_1_7?keywords=Praxis+for+the+Professional+School+Counselor+%285421%29&qid=1585260360&sr=8-7)

### **The Application Process:**

Institutional recommendation for initial school counselor certification is required. At the conclusion of the program when all degree requirements have been completed and examination passed, students must submit a Certification Request Form, which is available through the iWay, to Sara Elliott ([sara.elliott@rosemont.edu](mailto:sara.elliott@rosemont.edu)). The Certification Request Form will be processed only after the degree is conferred. The Certification Request is then processed by Rosemont College's Certification Officer for who will contact the student with instructions on how to register on TIMS.

### **Candidates with Certification from Other States:**

This information is for candidates certified as School Counselors in other states who are seeking PDE Certification as an Education 1 Specialist – Elementary & Secondary School Counselor PK-12.

There are no reciprocity agreements between Pennsylvania and other states to obtain certification as a school counselor. However, Pennsylvania has signed an Interstate Agreement with 45 other states/jurisdictions based upon the mutually agreed-upon conditions of that contract.

The following states possess such agreements with Pennsylvania: AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, DE, DC, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, KA, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MS, MN, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, RI, SC, TN, TX, UT, VE, VA, WA, WV, WY. It should be noted, however, that in all cases, candidates for Pennsylvania certification must complete the Praxis tests required by Pennsylvania.

For candidates with PDE Certification as an Education 1 Specialist – Elementary & Secondary

School Counselor PK-12 in Pennsylvania seeking certification in other states, please contact the appropriate state for more information.

**Transitioning from Level I to Level II Certification:**

Level I Pennsylvania Instructional and Educational Specialist certifications are valid for six (6) years of service, not calendar years.

If you have been counseling in Pennsylvania on a Level I certificate for 3-6 years of satisfactory service and have earned 24 post-baccalaureate credits, you can apply for a Level II certificate. The following conditions must be met:

- Six credits must be associated with your area(s) of certification and/or must be designed to improve professional practice
- You must have three years of satisfactory service on a Level I certificate, verified by the chief school administrator of the employing school entity
- You must have completed a PDE induction program verified by the chief school administrator of your employing entity

**Act 48**

Act 48 of 1999 requires all Pennsylvania educators holding Pennsylvania public school certification (including Instructional I and II, Educational Specialist I and II, Administrative, Supervisory, Letters of Eligibility, and all vocational certificates) to participate in ongoing professional education.

Educators must earn six credits of collegiate study; or six credits of PDE-approved continuing professional education courses; or 180 hours of continuing professional education programs, activities or learning experiences through a PDE approved provider; or any combination of the above every five years to maintain active certification status.

Please contact the Graduate Counseling program for information about courses to satisfy Act 48 credits. Rosemont College graduates may qualify for the college's Alumni 25% Discount.