

Professional Certification

School Counselor Educational Staff Associate

THE GONZAGA School Counselor Professional Certificate Program (ProCert) is grounded in the unique identity and mission of both the University and the School of Education and built on the values at the heart of those missions: service leadership, academic excellence, social justice, and reflective and collegial practice. Upon this foundation, we have designed a program to serve counselors by equipping and encouraging them to meet the Professional School Counselor Standards (WAC 180-78A-535) at the Professional Level.

The purpose of the Professional Certificate is to provide a School Counselor Educational Staff Associate (ESA) with a process that allows the individual to refine his/her skills and to enable them to assist teachers in creating a positive impact on student learning. The professional certificate candidate will engage in a self-assessment process and reflection through the assistance of a Professional Growth Team. The process is job embedded and should be aligned with national standards, best practices, and building/district goals.

Program Design

Prior to the Entry Seminar, the candidate will complete a professional audit. (download at <http://www.pesb.wa.gov/educators/professional-certificate/education-staff-associate>).

Entry Seminar (2 credits): The Entry Seminar provides awareness of the standards and benchmarks, assistance in the development of a Professional Growth Team (PGT), assessment of strengths and challenges against the standards, development of a Professional Growth Plan (PGP), feedback and refinement of the PGP from University and other professionals, and overview of the development of a portfolio of evidence that verifies meeting of the standards.

Core: (4 credits) Core will be individually determined and will focus on portfolio development, mentoring and support. The candidate will work toward Professional Growth Plan goals and analyze his/her impact for all students in multiple contexts over time. The candidate will compile evidence in a portfolio that supports accomplishment in reaching State Standards at the Professional Level.

Portfolio: The portfolio will include analysis of gap/need in the context of the school setting, identification of new learning, activities/steps in meeting the standards, clear and compelling evidence that demonstrates impact on student learning, professional level practice, reflection on learning and growth and how the process will influence the candidate's future work in the school counseling profession.

Culminating Seminar (2 credits): The Culminating Seminar will allow an opportunity for the candidate to present an analysis of professional growth focused on Standard 6: School Climate. The candidate will submit the final portfolio and reflection paper including evidence that all standards have been met – evidence of Professional Level performance.

Candidates must satisfactorily complete all 8 credits in order to be recommended for the Professional Certificate.

ProCert Requirements - Admission Materials

Candidates will be registered for the Entry Seminar after submitting the following documents:

- The School of Education Professional Certification Application Form.
- A copy of his or her valid ESA Residency Certificate (Initial Residency).
- The Washington State Form SPI/Cert 4301F, Verification of Educational Staff Associate Experience (download at <http://www.k12.wa.us/certification/certapp/institutional/ESA/4301F.pdf>)

- An autobiographical statement of purpose (of no more than 1000 words) which addresses the candidate's professional experience, decision to pursue the professional counseling certificate and professional aspirations.
- A professional resume.
- A copy of the completed Professional Audit by June 17.

Certification Requirement: In order for certification applications to be processed at the end of the program, each candidate will need to have on file with the Gonzaga Certification Office the following materials:

- the Washington State Application for Professional Certification,
- the Washington State application fee, payable to ESD 101

The ProCert program is a site-based program and offers a reduced tuition rate of \$235 per credit. Candidates will pay per course. * ***Course fees will be due prior to the first day of class.*** *

The Professional Certification Program is a stand-alone certification program and is not affiliated with any of the master's degree programs at Gonzaga.