

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 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 will align 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>)

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION – School Counselor

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GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

School Counselor Professional Certification Program





Entry Seminar (Summer - 2 credits)

- Orientation to the professional growth process
- Awareness of the SC Standards and Benchmarks
- Review of the program audit and assistance in assessing strengths and areas of growth
- Assistance in the development of the Professional Growth Team
- Development of a Professional Growth Plan (PGP); feedback and refinement of the PGP draft
- Steps in developing a portfolio of evidence that documents meeting the Standards and Benchmarks at a professional level
- Steps in completing an evidence-based action research project designed to improve student achievement that provides evidence of professional level knowledge, skill and performance

Core (Fall & Spring - 4 credits)

- Collaboration with other Pro Cert candidates
- Mentoring
- Refinement of goals and a plan specific to the counselor and his/her context
- Guidance in defining learning opportunities to meet personalized goals
- Guidance in the collection of evidence
- Guidance in the completion of an action research intervention
- Reflection on interactions with diverse populations in order to integrate professional growth in cultural competency as a habit of practice
- Reflection of professional growth and progress towards meeting the standards
- Opportunity to gain experience in implementing action research and communicating outcomes

Culminating Seminar (Summer - 2 credits)

- Action research intervention narrative paper is written
- The PGP, portfolio and action research narrative paper are assessed by the University program to assure that all standards and requirements have been met
- When it has been determined that the individual meets all standards and requirements, the university will recommend readiness for the final presentation
- Candidate presents action research summary to group of educators

ProCert Requirements – Admission Materials

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

- The School of Education Professional Certification Application Form
- A copy of his/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/certaapp/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
- The ProCert program offers a reduced tuition rate of \$235 per credit. Candidates pay per course **Course fees will be due prior to the first day of class**
- A copy of the completed Professional Audit by mid-June
We admit on a first-come first-serve basis

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