

Professional Counseling	School Counselors (Teacher-Certified)	School Counselors (Non-Teachers)
<p>Academic Program Requirements Master's degree awarded after the completion of at least 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours that includes at least all of the following content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career development Consulting Counseling techniques Counseling theories Counseling philosophy Group techniques Professional ethics Research methodology Testing procedures Practicum Internship of not less than 600 hours Recommendation by an approved counselor education program 	<p>Academic Program Requirements Completion of an approved school counselor education program that includes at least all of the following skills and content areas or their equivalent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance services Individual and group analysis Guidance information Counseling theory and practice Supervised experiences Evaluation <p>Recommendation by an approved school counselor education program to provide services as a school counselor.</p>	<p>Academic Program Requirements Completion of a master's degree awarded after completion of an approved school counselor education program that includes at least all of the following skills and content areas or their equivalent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance services Individual and group analysis Guidance information Counseling theory and practice Supervised experiences Evaluation <p>Recommendation by an approved school counselor education program to provide services as a school counselor.</p>
<p>Examination Requirements LLPC—No examination LPC—Passage of the National Counselor Examination (NCE)</p>	<p>Examination Requirements Passage of the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) - Test # 51: Guidance Counselor</p>	<p>Examination Requirements Passage of the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) - Test # 51: Guidance Counselor</p>
<p>Initial Credential LLPC</p>	<p>Initial Credential The preliminary employment authorization (PESC) is available but requires written recommendation of the applicant's university training program and passage of MTTC.</p>	<p>Initial Credential The preliminary employment authorization (PESC) is available but requires written recommendation of the applicant's university training program and passage of MTTC.</p>
<p>Supervision Requirements? Yes. All LLPCs must be supervised by an LPC until they earn the LPC. To become eligible for the LPC, LLPCs must practice for at least 3000 hours over not less than 2 years. During this time, LLPCs must accrue at least 100 hours of supervision by an LPC who has training in supervision.</p>	<p>Supervision Requirements? None at this time.</p>	<p>Supervision Requirements? None at this time.</p>
<p>Terminal Credential LPC</p> <p>Continuing Education Requirement? None at this time</p>	<p>Terminal Credential School Counselor NT Endorsement on Teaching Certificate</p> <p>Continuing Education Requirement? Yes. The SCL can be renewed every five years by completion of 6 semester credit hours or 18 State Board-Continuing Education Unit's (SB-CEU) or a combination of the two based on the formula that 3 SB-CEUs = 1 semester credit hour.</p>	<p>Terminal Credential SCL– School Counselor License</p> <p>Continuing Education Requirement? Yes. The SCL can be renewed every five years by completion of 6 semester credit hours or 18 State Board-Continuing Education Unit's (SB-CEU) or a combination of the two based on the formula that 3 SB-CEUs = 1 semester credit hour.</p>

Credentials for Michigan Counselors: Two Primary Paths

By Suzanne M. Hobson, Ed.D.

The practice of counseling in the state of Michigan is regulated by two separate governmental agencies. The Department of Education regulates the practice of school counseling and determines applicant eligibility for the three different school counselor credentials in Michigan: (1) the preliminary employment authorization; (2) the School Counselor Endorsement on a teaching certificate; and (3) the School Counselor License for those without a teaching certificate. The Department of Consumer and Industry Services currently regulates the practice of counseling outside the K-12 school setting and determines applicant eligibility for the two professional counselor credentials: (1) the Limited Licensed Professional Counselor credential; and (2) the Licensed Professional Counselor credential.

To make matters more complicated, some individuals in Michigan are eligible for credentials in each area. Indeed, many school counselors are eligible for the LLPC or the LPC but are uncertain about whether they need this other license and how to obtain it. The purpose of this article is to clarify the purpose and path to each of these credentials.

Scopes of Practice

A scope of practice serves to determine who can legally practice a given profession. Both school counseling and professional counseling have protected scopes of practice.

In order to serve in the role of a school counselor in the state of Michigan, an individual must have a valid teaching certificate with a school counseling endorsement (NT), a school counseling license (SCL), or a preliminary employment authorization (PESC) from the Michigan Department of Education. No other credential allows an individual to serve in the role of a school counselor in Michigan. This means that a district cannot legally hire someone who does not have one of these credentials as a school counselor. Regardless of the person's job title, it is illegal to have a person without one of these credentials serve in the role of a school counselor.

Similarly, in order to practice counseling in Michigan anywhere except a K-12 school setting, an individual must legally have a credential as either a Limited License Professional Counselor (LLPC) or a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). Counselors working in a church, college, community, mental health, hospital, or private practice setting – anywhere except a school – must have one of these credentials!



Professional Counseling **School Counseling**

Examinations

Both the school counseling and the professional counseling credentials require passage of a competency examination.

School Counselors must pass the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) - Test # 51: Guidance Counselor . This test is administered by the Michigan Department of Education. Passage of this test is necessary to obtain any one of the three school counseling credentials.

Professional Counselors must pass the National Counselor Examination (NCE). This test is administered by the National Board for Certified Counselors. Passage of this test is necessary to become an LPC but is not necessary to obtain the LLPC credential. In addition to rendering an individual eligible for the LPC credential in Michigan, passage of the NCE may also allow an individual to become eligible for the National Certified Counselor (NCC) credential in the United States. This is a voluntary certification that is administered by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBC).

Acronyms

NT	Endorsement for teacher-certified school counselors
SCL	School Counselor License for non-teachers
PESC	Preliminary Employment Authorization for School Counselors
LLPC	Limited Licensed Professional Counselor
LPC	Licensed Professional Counselor