

Endorsement Policy

In order to be a practicing professional school counselor in the state of Mississippi, you must become certified by the Mississippi Department of Education (<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us>). If you are seeking employment as a school counselor in other states, you must consult the State Education Department of that state and seek their certification. You will note that state certification is not national certification.

The Jackson State University Master's degree program in School Counseling meets the requirements for certification in the state of Mississippi. Upon successful completion of this 51 credit Master's degree program in School Counseling, a graduate of the program may apply to the Mississippi State Department of Education for certification as a school counselor. If you are beginning work as a professional school counselor at the completion of your Masters' degree program you should make an appointment with the Certification Officer, prior to graduation. Jackson State University's College of Education has a certification office, located in the Joseph H. Jackson Building, and the Certification Officer is Dr. Lennie M. Little. Her telephone number is 601-979-4111 and her email address is lennie.m.little@jsums.edu. Contact her directly to find out when certification advisement hours are scheduled.

The College of Education only recommends School Counseling Candidates who have completed the 51 credit Master's degree program, and who have earned a minimum grade of B in COUN 571, COUN 578 and COUN 671.

In order to be a Clinical mental health counselor in the state of Mississippi, graduate students in the Clinical Mental Health program must complete a 60 hour master's degree and coursework required of Licensed Professional Counselors.

Graduates must accumulate a required amount of hours of supervised post-master's-degree work experience prior to applying to becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor. The Licensed Professional Counseling Board currently requires a passing score on the NCC examination. Graduating students may be eligible to take the local administration of the NCC examination. Contact the coordinator of the Clinical Mental Health program, Dr. Regina Fults-McMurtery at 601-979-3416 for further information about the graduate student administration of the NCC examination.

The College of Education only recommends Clinical Mental Health Candidates who have completed the 60 credit Master's degree program, and who have earned a minimum grade of B in COUN 571, COUN 578 and COUN 671.

Departmental faculty members are pleased to assist trained and qualified students in obtaining employment by writing reference letters and providing recommendations. However, departmental faculty reserves the right to decline the request."