

School Counseling (MS)

The Master of Science in School Counseling program is designed to prepare students for certification in the state of Georgia and is approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission, 200 Piedmont Avenue SE, Suite 1716, West Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334-9032. The educational requirements to obtain licensure or certification as a school counselor are generally met when a student obtains a master's degree in school counseling from an accredited institution, as recognized by the DOE. Many states also prefer degree programs that have programmatic accreditation. In addition to Mercer's [institutional accreditation](#), the School Counseling program at Mercer is accredited by the [Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs \(CACREP\)](#), 1001 North Fairfax Street, Suite 510, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Certification or licensure requirements vary across the states and territories, and jurisdictions often have additional requirements, including minimum scores on content exams, other written and oral examinations, completed applications, fees, and background checks. Georgia applicants are required to pass the Georgia Assessment for Certification of Educators (GACE) School Counseling exam, and the National Counselor Examination (NCE) is necessary for NCC (National Certified Counselor) licensure. Applicants for positions outside of Georgia are often expected to complete the Georgia state certification application prior to applying outside of Georgia. Each state board, agency, or department has the ultimate authority and discretion to determine whether professional licensure or certification will be issued.

The table below displays where the MS in School Counseling program meets, does not meet, or Mercer has been unable to determine if it meets the educational requirements for certification.

Program Contact: [Dr. Morgan Kiper Riechel](#)

U.S. State or Territory	Regulatory Body	Contact	Website URL	Meets educational requirements
Alabama	Alabama State Department of Education	(334) 694-4900	https://www.alabamaachievers.org/teacher-center/teacher-certification/	Yes
Alaska	Alaska Department of Education & Early Development - Teacher Certification Office	(907) 465-2831	https://education.alaska.gov/TeacherCertification	Yes, for an initial Provisional (2-year) Special Services certificate, as long as the program completer has also met all of Georgia's associated testing requirements for certification in Georgia. Additional Alaska Studies and Alaska Multicultural coursework is required to convert the

U.S. State or Territory	Regulatory Body	Contact	Website URL	Meets educational requirements
				certificate to a 5-year Special Services certificate.
Arizona	Arizona Department of Education	(602) 542-4367	https://www.azed.gov/educator-certification/	Yes
Arkansas	Arkansas Department of Education	(501) 682-4342	https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/educator-effectiveness/become-an-arkansas-teacher	Yes, but applicants MUST have an existing teaching certificate.
California	California Commission on Teacher Credentialing	(916)-319-0800	https://www.ctc.ca.gov/	Yes
Colorado	Colorado Department of Education Licensing Office	(303) 866-6600	https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdepr of	Yes
Connecticut	Connecticut State Department of Education Bureau of Certification	(860) 713-6969	https://portal.ct.gov/sdecertification?language=en_US	Yes, but applicants MUST have an existing teaching certificate.
Delaware	Delaware Department of Education	(302) 735-4000	https://www.doe.k12.de.us/certification	Yes, for a Standard Certificate in Elementary School Counseling, Secondary School Counseling, or dual certification in both.
District of Columbia (DC)	District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education	(202) 727-6436	https://osse.dc.gov/ed-credentials	Yes
Florida	Florida Department of Education	(800) 445-6739	www.fldoe.org/teaching/certification	Yes
Georgia	Georgia Professional Standards Commission	(404) 232-2500	https://www.gapsc.com/	Yes
Hawaii	Hawaii Teacher Standards Board	(808) 586-2600	https://hawaiiteacherstandardsboard.org/	Yes
Idaho	Idaho State Department of Education	(208) 332-6800	https://www.sde.idaho.gov/cert-psc/cert/	Yes
Illinois	Illinois State Board of Education	Springfield: (217) 782-4321 Chicago: (312) 814-2220	https://www.isbe.net/educatorlicenseure	Yes, but it requires additional coursework in Reading and Teaching Strategies for English Learners.

U.S. State or Territory	Regulatory Body	Contact	Website URL	Meets educational requirements
Indiana	Indiana Department of Education Office of Educator Licensing	(317) 232-9010	https://www.in.gov/doe/educators/educator-licensing/	Yes, but applicants MUST have an existing teaching certificate.
Iowa	Iowa Board of Educational Examiners	(515) 281-5294	https://educate.iowa.gov/educator-licensure	Yes, but it requires additional Classroom Management, Curriculum, and Learning Theory coursework.
Kansas	Kansas State Department of Education	(785) 296-2288	https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Teacher-Licensure-TL	Yes, but requires a 3.25 GPA.
Kentucky	Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board	(502) 564-4606	http://www.epsb.ky.gov/course/vi ew.php?id=3	Yes, for a provisional license only.
Louisiana	Louisiana Department of Education	(877) 453-2721	www.teachlouisiana.net	Yes, but applicants MUST have an existing teaching certificate.
Maine	Maine Department of Education	(207) 624-6600	https://www.maine.gov/doe/cert	Yes
Maryland	Maryland State Department of Education	(410) 767-0100	https://marylandpublicschools.org/about/pages/dee/certification/index.aspx	Yes
Massachusetts	Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education - Office of Educator Licensure	(781) 338-3000	http://www.doe.mass.edu/licensure/	Yes
Michigan	Michigan Department of Education	(833) 633-5788	https://www.michigan.gov/mde/Services/ed-serv/ed-cert	Yes
Minnesota	Minnesota Professional Education Licensing and Standards Board	(651) 539-4200	https://mn.gov/pelsb/aspiring-educators/	Yes
Mississippi	Mississippi Department of Education	(601) 359-3483	https://www.mdek12.org/OEL	Yes
Missouri	Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education	(573) 751-0051	https://dese.mo.gov/educator-quality/certification	Yes

U.S. State or Territory	Regulatory Body	Contact	Website URL	Meets educational requirements
Montana	Montana Office of Public Instruction	(406) 444-3150	https://opi.mt.gov/Educators/Licensure/Educator-Licensure	Yes, but requires completion of a free online course entitled “An Introduction to Indian Education for All in Montana.”
Nebraska	Nebraska Department of Education	(402) 471-2295	https://www.education.ne.gov/tce/rt/	Yes, but applicants MUST have an existing teaching certificate.
Nevada	State of Nevada Department of Education	Carson City: (775) 687-9115 Las Vegas: (702) 486-6458	https://doe.nv.gov/Educator_Licensure/	Yes
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Department of Education Bureau of Credentialing	(603) 271-3494	https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/division-of-educator-support-and-higher-education/bureau-of-credentialing	Yes
New Jersey	State of New Jersey Department of Education	(609) 292-2070	https://www.nj.gov/education/certification/	Yes
New Mexico	New Mexico Public Education Department	(505) 827-5800 Option 1 or 2	https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/licensure/	Yes
New York	New York State Department of Education Office of Teaching Initiatives	(518) 474-3901	http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/	Yes, but additional workshops required.
North Carolina	North Carolina Department of Public Instruction	(919) 716-1800	https://www.dpi.nc.gov/educators/educators-licensure	Yes
North Dakota	North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board	(701) 328-9641	https://www.nd.gov/espb/licensure	Yes
Ohio	Ohio Department of Education	(877) 644-6338	https://sboe.ohio.gov/educator-licensure	Yes
Oklahoma	Oklahoma State Department of Education	(405) 521-3337	https://sde.ok.gov/teacher-certification	Yes, but applicants MUST have an existing teaching certificate.
Oregon	Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission	by appointment only; see URL link	https://www.oregon.gov/tspc/LIC/Pages/default.aspx	For a One-Year Preliminary School Counselor License

U.S. State or Territory	Regulatory Body	Contact	Website URL	Meets educational requirements
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Department of Education	(717) 787-3356	https://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/Certification/Pages/default.aspx	Yes
Rhode Island	Rhode Island Department of Education	(401) 222-4600	https://ride.ri.gov/teachers-administrators/educator-certification	Yes
South Carolina	South Carolina Department of Education	(803) 734-8500	https://ed.sc.gov/educators/certification/	Yes, but applicants must take Praxis II.
South Dakota	South Dakota Department of Education	(605) 773-3134	https://doe.sd.gov/certification/	Yes, but applicants must complete 1-hour suicide awareness and prevention training.
Tennessee	Tennessee State Board of Education	(615) 741-5158	https://www.tn.gov/education/educators/licensing.html	Yes
Texas	Texas Education Agency	(512) 936-8400 Option 2	https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/certification	No - Certification Credentials MUST be reviewed before a decision is made.
Utah	Utah State Board of Education	(801) 538-7740	https://schools.utah.gov/licensing	Yes, but applicants MUST have an existing teaching certificate.
Vermont	Vermont Agency of Education	(802) 828-3440	https://education.vermont.gov/educator-licensure	Yes
Virginia	Virginia Department of Education	(804) 786-2302	https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/teaching-in-virginia/licensure	Yes
Washington	Washington State Professional Educator Standards Board	(360) 725-6275	https://www.pesb.wa.gov/	Yes, but applicants must have professional development or a course in Abuse and Suicide Prevention.
West Virginia	West Virginia Department of Education	(304) 558-7010	https://wvde.us/certification/certification-info/	Yes
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction	(800) 266-1027	https://dpi.wi.gov/licensing	Yes

U.S. State or Territory	Regulatory Body	Contact	Website URL	Meets educational requirements
Wyoming	Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board	(307) 777-7291	https://wyomingptsb.com/licensure/becoming-licensed/	Yes
American Samoa	American Samoa Department of Education	(684) 633-5237 or 5238	https://www.amsamoadoe.com/	No – unable to determine
Federated States of Micronesia	FSM Department of Education	(691) 320 2609	https://www.national.doe.fm/teacher-certification/	No – unable to determine
Guam	Guam Commission for Educator Licensure	(671) 735-2554	https://gcec.guam.gov/	Yes
Marshall Islands	Republic of Marshall Islands Ministry of Education	(692) 625-5262 (692) 625-5261	https://pss.edu.mh/	No – unable to determine
Northern Mariana Islands	CNMI State Board of Education	(670) 237-3061	https://www.cnmipss.org/state-boe-certification	Yes, but it requires additional courses in Computer Technology and Culturally Diverse Schools.
Palau	Palau Ministry of Education	680 488-6425	http://moe.epsolutions.pw/	No – unable to determine
Puerto Rico	Puerto Rico Department of Education	(787) 759-2000	https://de.pr.gov/	No – unable to determine
US Virgin Islands	Virgin Islands Board of Education	St Croix: (340) 772-4144 St Thomas: (340) 774-4546	https://myviboe.com/	Yes, but the applicant must take a course in Virgin Islands History, and also take the Praxis II.

Updated June 2024