

505-2-.144 SCHOOL COUNSELING

(1) Initial Certificate Requirements.

(a) Professional Certificate (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-.05 PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE):

1. An applicant is eligible for a Standard Professional certificate in the field of School Counseling based on meeting the following requirements:

(i) Fulfilling one of the following options:

(I) Completion of a state-approved certification preparation program in School Counseling at the master's degree level – level five (5) – or higher;

(II) Completion of a master's degree or higher in a counseling area and submission of a valid National Certified School Counselor (NCSC) credential issued by the National Board of Certified Counselor; or

(III) Completion of a master's degree or higher in a counseling area and submission of a valid State of Georgia Professional Counselor's license issued by the Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Office of the Secretary of State, O.C.G.A. Title 43, and

(ii) Meeting the Special Georgia Requirements (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-.24 SPECIAL GEORGIA REQUIREMENTS) applicable to the field of School Counseling:

(I) Content knowledge assessment– pass the GACE content knowledge assessment at the Professional level;

(II) Special education – course work in the identification and education of children who have special educational needs; and

(III) Standards of conduct.

(b) Induction Certificate (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-.04 INDUCTION CERTIFICATE):

1. An Induction certificate in the field of School Counseling may be issued at the request of an employing Georgia local unit of administration (LUA) in the following circumstances:

(i) An applicant has met all of the requirements for the initial Standard Professional certificate outlined in section (1)(a), above, except that the GACE content assessment has been passed at the Induction level and not the Professional level;

(ii) An applicant does not hold an educator certificate but meets all of the following requirements:

(I) Hold a master's degree or higher from a GaPSC-accepted accredited institution in any counseling area; or a Master of Social Work degree; or a valid State of Georgia Clinical Social Work license issued by the Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Office of the Secretary of State, O.C.G.A. Title 43;

(II) Pass or exempt the Program Admission Assessment;

(III) Pass the GACE content knowledge assessment at the Induction level or higher;

(IV) Be accepted into a state-approved certification preparation program in School Counseling at the master's degree level or higher; and

(V) Meet Georgia's standards of conduct.

(c) Non-Renewable Professional Certificate (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-.09 NON-RENEWABLE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE):

1. Non-Renewable Professional certificates in the field of School Counseling are issued in the following situations at the request of an employing Georgia LUA:

(i) The applicant has satisfied all other requirements for the Standard Professional certificate except that the highest degree held is a bachelor's degree – level four (4) – state-approved certification preparation program in School Counseling, for completion of the options outlined in (1)(a);

(ii) The applicant holds an expired Georgia Standard Professional or Clear Renewable certificate or professional out-of-state certificate in School Counseling at the bachelor's degree level, for completion of the options outlined in (1)(a);

(iii) The applicant holds a renewable professional certificate in any field at the bachelor's degree level – level four (4) – or higher, has completed a master's or higher degree in any counseling area and can submit verification of acceptance into a state-approved certification preparation program in School Counseling for completion of the options outlined in (1)(a);

(iv) The applicant holds a renewable professional certificate in any field at level four (4) or higher and has completed all requirements for the Professional certificate in School Counseling outlined in (1)(a) above, except that the GACE content assessment has been passed at the Induction level but not the Professional level; or

(v) The applicant holds an expired Georgia Clear Renewable or Standard Professional School Counseling Certificate but has not met renewal requirements outlined in section (5) below.

(2) Certificates Not Issued. The GaPSC does not issue the following certificates for this field:

(a) International Exchange certificate (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-.11 INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE CERTIFICATE);

(b) Permit (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-.10 PERMIT CERTIFICATE); and

(c) Adjunct License (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-.15 ADJUNCT LICENSE).

(3) To Add the Field (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-.34 ADD A FIELD).

(4) To Upgrade the Level (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-.33 CERTIFICATE UPGRADE).

(5) Renewal Requirements (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-.36 RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS)

(a) To renew a Standard Professional School Counseling Certificate, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

1. Have the employing Georgia LUA request the renewal. This requirement does not apply to renewal applications submitted prior to July 1, 2015, or renewal of professional certificates held by educators who have at least one (1) year of acceptable educator experience in a Georgia LUA, as outlined in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.25 EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS, paragraph (3)(a)1, while holding a valid Georgia renewable, professional certificate; and

2. Fulfill one of the following:

(i) Complete renewal requirements outlined in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.36 RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS);

(ii) Hold a valid National Certified School Counselor (NCSC) credential issued by the National Board of Certified Counselors; or

(iii) Hold a valid State of Georgia Professional Counselor's license issued by the Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Office of the Secretary of State, O.C.G.A. Title 43.

(6) In-Field Statement (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-.40 IN-FIELD ASSIGNMENT)

(a) Individuals certified in School Counseling are in-field to serve as a School Counselor in grades P-12.

Authority O.C.G.A. 20-2-200