

The Essential Role of School Counselor Educators/Practicum and Internship Supervisors



Research shows implementation of a comprehensive school counseling program, as outlined in “The ASCA National Model: A Framework for School Counseling Programs” (ASCA, 2012), has a positive impact on student achievement (Carey & Martin, 2015). The development and implementation of these programs requires a collaborative effort among well-trained, highly competent school counselors, school administrators, classroom teachers, school staff and community stakeholders.

School counselor educators/practicum and internship supervisors play a critical role in the preparation process. School counselor educators/practicum and internship supervisors must continually expand their knowledge and skills to meet the needs of preparing future school counselors (Collins, 2014). Certification requirements for school counselors in education or supervisory roles have increased for both initial certification and continuing education to meet this demand. In addition, national professional certification organizations require continuing in-service training and supervision for individuals in school counselor preparation roles.

A CREDENTIALLED AND/OR LICENSED PROFESSIONAL

All school counselor educators/practicum and internship supervisors must minimally hold a master’s degree and meet additional certification requirements as defined by each state. These degree and certification requirements include the completion of supervised practicum and internship experiences. Many states and accrediting bodies require school counselor educators/practicum and internship supervisors to have received training in the practice of supervision.

THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF SCHOOL COUNSELOR EDUCATORS/PRACTICUM AND INTERNSHIP SUPERVISORS

The professional preparation and continuing education of school counselor educators/practicum and internship supervisors include:

- Pre-service instruction and supervision in the development of counseling skills and school counseling program curricula
- Supervised field experiences and internships in a school setting

- In-service seminars and workshops, which enhance program implementation through individual and group supervision
- Appropriate state credentials
- Post-master's study and/or doctoral degree in school district administration, supervision, counselor education, counseling psychology or a related area

TRAINING AND PREPARATION OF SCHOOL COUNSELORS

It is essential that future school counselors are prepared to implement a comprehensive school counseling program. A comprehensive and developmental school counseling program focuses on the needs of all students in the academic, career and social/emotional development domains. The primary responsibility of the school counselor educator/practicum and internship supervisor is in providing relevant experiences to students pursuing a school counseling credential that develop skills and knowledge in best practices. School counselor educators/practicum and internship supervisors coordinate and supervise the school counseling program at the college/university level to ensure program quality for students in their K-12 educational training.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR EDUCATORS/PRACTICUM AND INTERNSHIP SUPERVISORS ALSO:

- Deliver relevant content within the program of study for school counselor candidates

- Provide individual and group supervision to school counselors in practice
- Collaborate in the supervision of school counseling interns
- Coordinate continuing education for school counselors
- Provide instruction to pre-service school counselor education students in the development of counseling skills and school counseling program curricula
- Provide individual and group supervision to pre-service school counselor education student
- Provide professional development opportunities for pre-service and practicing school counselors, which include best-practice topics

SUMMARY

School counselor educators/practicum and internship supervisors play a critical role in developing individuals who will carry out the implementation of a comprehensive school counseling program. The training and preparation of these individuals must address their role as educational leader, advocate, collaborator and systemic change agent. School counselor educators/practicum and internship supervisors must ensure their own professional training meets the high standards asked of the profession.

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Why School Counselor Educators/Practicum and Internship Supervisors?

The development and implementation of comprehensive school counseling programs requires a collaborative effort among well-trained, highly competent school counselors. School counselor educators/practicum and internship supervisors provide in-service and pre-service instruction and supervision to promote the development and enhancement of school counselor training and professional development. This ensures school counselors deliver school counseling programs in a comprehensive and systematic manner to all students.