Aim and Rationale

Professional School Counseling, the peer-reviewed journal of ASCA, publishes quality manuscripts on theory, research and best practices for the profession. As schools face increasing demands to address students' academic, mental health and college/career needs amid counselor shortages and systemic barriers, incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) technology offers innovative solutions to augment school counseling services, not replace the critical role of school counselors. This special issue aims to explore the emerging role of AI in advancing the work of school counselors.

By integrating AI in ethically grounded and focused ways, school counselors can enhance student outcomes, improve efficiency, increase responsiveness and expand their leadership capacity to support all students. This special issue will serve as a timely and critical resource for practitioners, scholars, policymakers and educator preparation programs.

Potential Topics

Potential article foci may include, but are not limited to:

- A national survey of school counselors' attitudes and readiness for AI integration
- A framework for ethical AI implementation in school counseling programs
- A case study on the use of AI for student interventions
- A pilot evaluation of chatbot-delivered psychoeducation for students
- Preparing school counseling interns for AI-enhanced data analysis at internship sites
- Challenges and opportunities in implementing AI in under-resourced school systems
- Professional development training strategies to integrate AI into counselor training and continued education programs

We invite submissions that critically examine, promote, and create the use of AI to enhance school counseling practice, training, policy, or research. Submissions may be conceptual, empirical (qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods), or practice-oriented.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Evidence-based AI-assisted prevention and early intervention for students (e.g., academic concerns, mental health, life readiness)
- Chatbots, digital tools and virtual agents in delivering school counseling services
- Ethical considerations in integrating AI into school counseling practice

- AI in data-informed decision-making and outcomes for comprehensive school counseling programs
- Preparing future school counselors to engage with AI tools and systems
- Collaborative AI-human models for school counseling systemic change

Deadlines and Important Dates

Authors are invited to submit a manuscript proposal by **Oct. 15, 2025.**

Instructions:

Each proposal should be 1–3 pages (double-spaced, excluding the title, abstract, and references pages) and include the following:

- **Title of Proposed Manuscript**
- **Author(s) Information:** Full names, institutional affiliations, email addresses, and a 100-word bio for each author.
- **Abstract** (75-100 words): Concise summary of the manuscript, including purpose, scope, and significance.
- **Manuscript Type:** Indicate whether the submission will be an empirical study (e.g., qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods), a conceptual/theoretical paper or a practice-based article. Note: Preference is for empirical studies.
- **Rationale and Relevance to the Special Issue:** Explain how the manuscript addresses the theme of the special issue and its significance for professional school counselors.
- **Framework and Methodology**: Brief overview of the guiding theoretical/conceptual framework and methods.
- **Anticipated Findings/Implications**: Key contributions to research, training, or practice.
- **Formatting Guidelines:** Use **APA 7th edition** for references and formatting.
  - Proposals should be submitted as a **PDF document (.pdf)**.
  - File name format: *FirstAuthorLastName_SpecialIssueProposal.pdf*.

Submit materials to via email PSC publication manager Angie Hickman, CAE at ahickman@schoolcounselor.org. The subject line should say "PSC AI Special Issue."

Timeline:

Oct. 15, 2025	Manuscript proposals close
Nov. 1, 2025	Selection of manuscript proposals and notification
May 1, 2026	Submission of completed manuscript for anonymized peer review
Late May-Mid June	Disposition and feedback from peer reviewers and editors

Completed Manuscripts and Reviews

Authors of accepted proposals will be invited to submit a full manuscript (APA 7th edition) by May 1, 2026. Excluding references, empirical manuscripts should not exceed 25 pages, and conceptual manuscripts are limited to 20 pages, and practitioner research should not exceed 14 pages.

All manuscript proposals will undergo a rigorous review by the guest editors. Please note that acceptance of the manuscript proposal does not guarantee acceptance of the manuscript.

Please contact *Professional School Counseling* publication manager Angie Hickman ahickman@schoolcounselor.org for additional information or questions.