



School of Education



**Master of Arts/Master of Science in
School Counseling**
Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Credential

**2026-2027
School of Education
Point Loma Nazarene University**

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Purpose of the School of Education School Counseling Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to provide the prospective MA/MS in School Counseling and/or PPS Credential candidate in the School of Education with information essential for acceptance into the MA/MS in School Counseling and/or PPS Credential program.

The school counseling faculty is committed to contributing to the success of the candidate's educational experience. Consistent with a long history of excellence in education, the faculty also expects that each candidate ultimately recommended for a degree will be a model of professionalism.

Educators, counselors, and administrators of the future anticipate major changes in professional roles, instructional technology, teaching methodology, demographics, and the learning process. The faculty are encouraging candidates to research each of the above and infusing professional knowledge regarding each concept into the appropriate coursework.

Vision/Mission

University Mission Statement

To Teach • To Shape • To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU) exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

School of Education Mission Statement

Equip • Transform • Empower

PLNU School of Education is a vital Christian learning community that exists to develop high-performing, reflective educators of noble character who impact the lives of learners to influence the broader community.

School of Education Vision

We strive to equip by inspiring and preparing our candidates to be **servant leaders**, who serve collaboratively and effectively with professional excellence, honesty, integrity, and sensitivity.

We work to empower our candidates by helping them become reflective educational practitioners who engage in ongoing **scholarly**, professional, personal, and spiritual growth, and serve effectively as research-based transformational leaders within their classrooms, schools, districts, and communities.

We seek to transform our candidates' ways of thinking and begin to embrace the positive power of **diversity** and become advocates for **universal justice** within their classrooms, schools, districts, and communities.

Program Philosophy

The PLNU MA/MS in School Counseling and/or PPS Credential program is composed of faculty and staff who approach educational theories and practices from a Christ-centered foundation. Grace, truth, and holiness are central tenets of our Wesleyan tradition. Individually and collectively we seek daily guidance and strength to pursue our goals with the full understanding that our spirituality is not something we leave behind as we teach, but is totally integrated into, and the basis of, all our behaviors.

1. We believe that the world can be radically changed and brought to the Kingdom of God through graduates from PLNU. We follow a model of servant leadership, as

evidenced in the life of Jesus Christ. We intend to educate each candidate who comes to us to view her or his career as a calling.

2. We are challenged and intrigued by the fact that California is culturally more a microcosm of the whole world than it is a microcosm of the United States. In light of California's cultural complexity, we believe that our candidates need to hone their listening and observational skills, develop genuine empathy for others, and establish relationships with mentors who can serve as cultural guides. We believe that each one of us holds a piece of the puzzle that none of us could assemble alone.
3. We believe that academic rigor for our future educators is imperative. Of supreme importance is that our candidates develop strong reading, thinking, listening, speaking, math, research, technological, writing, and interpersonal skills as they learn their particular areas of study. Our faculty recognizes the importance of staying current and at the forefront of educational practices that are based on sound research and we are committed to continuously increasing our own technological and research skills. Through our own effective modeling of all that we advocate, we intend to maintain academic relevance and rigor.
4. We teach our candidates to view not just each child, but also each parent, staff, faculty member, and community member as a special human being of great worth. We ask our candidates to see beyond their respective classrooms to their roles as community representatives and to work to bring about the necessary changes so that our society truly lives out its rhetoric that "All...are created equal."
5. We are intentional about supporting our candidates in developing skills to guide and support others to become the ethical and moral people God wants them to be. For our candidates who will become administrators, we help them view the role of leader as that of a humble servant. We urge our candidates who will be educators to commit their hearts and minds and souls to the work before them in a spirit that demonstrates that they understand the value of each person with whom they will work.
6. We are purposeful about creating an environment in which candidates will have to delve deeply to arrive at creative solutions to the complex problems that will face them in the current century. Our candidates hear about the love of Jesus Christ, the grace so freely given, and the personal commitment necessary to live so that their faith, their calling, and their behaviors are in concert.

Spiritual Goals for Graduate Programs

1. To model the Christian life and live out the claims of the Gospel for our students through distinctly Christian faculty – both full-time and adjunct.
2. To provide regular opportunities for spiritual nurture and growth for both students and faculty.

3. To integrate within each academic program (where appropriate) curricular activities and assignments that emphasize and reinforce Christian values and our Wesleyan heritage.
4. To provide both counsel in times of crisis and ongoing spiritual support.
5. To provide opportunities to live out the call to holiness through service.

Curriculum Overview

The MA/MS in School Counseling and/or PPS Credential program within the PLNU School of Education is field-based and designed around themes and practices that reflect current school counseling research and practice. It is the intent of the faculty to infuse these themes into the courses they teach. We believe conceptualizing, personalizing, and applying these themes through extensive fieldwork is critical for the teacher candidate to be effective in a contemporary educational system. The following are the School of Education's themes:

- **Embracing all Learners:** PPS candidates will acquire knowledge about and demonstrate sensitivity toward students of diverse backgrounds and abilities.
- **Morals, Ethics, and Values:** PPS candidates will address such topics as the integration of morals, ethics, and values in the educational setting. They will receive instruction on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society and about teaching values in the schools.
- **Universal Design for Learning:** All effective educators must possess a repertoire of strategies from which to refer when teaching students from a full range of academic abilities, skills, and backgrounds.

General and Progression Policies

Candidate Policies

Policies for MA/MS in School Counseling and/or PPS Credential candidates regarding admission, progression, retention, dismissal, graduation, and rights and responsibilities are published in the PLNU Graduate Catalog, available to current students at www.pointloma.edu.

In addition to these policies, candidates must meet all accreditation standards for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Grades

Progression to the next level of the program is contingent upon successful completion of all required courses at the previous level. The candidate must receive a passing grade of "C" or above in each graded course and a grade of "credit" in each clinical course. Theory courses are graded with letter grades (A, B, C, D, F). Seminar courses are graded "credit/no-credit." The "credit" grade is passing, or satisfactory; the "no credit" grade is not passing. Each course syllabus contains the competencies required for successful completion of the course. **An unsatisfactory (C- or lower or "No Credit") grade in either a theory course or a clinical course will necessitate the repetition of the course.**

It is important for candidates to have frequent contact with their advisors/student success advisors (SSA) throughout their enrollment at PLNU (at least once per semester). Dropping a course may impede progress in the program and may also alter a candidate's financial aid. **Candidates must contact their assigned Student Success Advisor (SSA) either in person, by telephone, by email, or Zoom to discuss any changes to their academic schedule.**

Registration

Candidates who have completed registration clearance and been cleared to register by Friday before the first week of a quad must register for SOE courses on or before the Sunday before the start of the first week of a quad and/or a semester. To ensure a smooth registration process and seat availability in courses, candidates should complete registration clearance and course registration prior to the priority registration deadline. Exceptions to this deadline will only be considered if candidates have extenuating circumstances beyond their control. If a candidate registers for a course(s) past this deadline or for a course for which they have not been approved to register, they will be administratively withdrawn from the course(s).

Candidates who do not submit their fieldwork pre-requisite documents by the published prerequisite deadlines will be de-enrolled from their fieldwork course(s) and concurrent course and unable to proceed into fieldwork. Candidates who submit their fieldwork

prerequisite documents by the published deadlines but fail to enroll in their fieldwork course(s) or concurrent course by the same deadline will be unable to proceed into fieldwork or concurrent course.

Withdrawals

Candidates may drop a course within the first week of the quad or within the first two weeks of a semester, in accordance with university policy. Candidates may also withdraw from a course prior to completion of 60% of the total course duration, in accordance with university policy. Dropping a course during any of these timeframes may have financial ramifications, and candidates are expected to speak to their One-Stop Financial Counselor to determine the financial outcome of a drop or withdrawal.

Repeated course drops or withdrawals will prompt a review of the candidate's academic progress by the School of Education and may require a meeting with the Program Director before proceeding further in the program. In response to repeated course drops or withdrawals, the School of Education reserves the right to administratively revise a candidate's Academic Plan without the candidate's input. The revisions include, but are not limited to, rescheduling the course, requiring a lighter course load, and/or extending the expected program completion timeline. Either of these actions may result in dismissal from the program.

Candidates are expected to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress toward completion of the program. Failure to maintain adequate academic progress may result in probationary action or dismissal from the program.

Late Work Policy

The School of Education believes educators must be persons of noble character. Becoming a professional means taking responsibility for your own learning and following through with commitments.

For full credit, all assignments are to be submitted when they are due as posted in Canvas. Assignments submitted from 1-3 days late without an approved extension are assessed a 30% late penalty. Assignments will not be accepted beyond a 72 hour deadline.

SOE instructors expect proactive communication at all times. Below is the process for requesting an extension on an assignment due date.

General Policies:

- Requests should be made via email well before the assignment deadline.
- Requests made more than 3 days after an assignment due date will only be considered if you were unable to communicate during that time.
- Granting an extension and the amount of time given is at the discretion of the instructor.

- If you are given an extension, the work must be completed by the new assignment deadline with a comment referencing the approval of your extension.

Email (via your PLNU student email) requests for an extension should include:

- Your name
- The course name and section
- The name of the assignment and module location
- The reason you are requesting an extension. Please be specific.
- The amount of additional time you need or when you anticipate being able to complete the work.
- Proof of the emergency preventing advance notice of the request, if you are requesting the extension more than three days after the assignment was due.

Acceptable Reasons to Request an Extension:

Personal Medical Emergency: a severe health event that you cannot anticipate.

- Examples include: hospitalization, diagnosis of a life altering condition, broken bone, concussion, COVID/flu diagnosis, a fever over 101 degrees, or severe illness that prevents you from doing daily tasks.
- This does not include routine medical appointments or procedures that were scheduled in advance. In those cases, you are expected to be proactive and complete the work before the due date.

Mental Health Emergency: a severe or life-threatening onset of mental health symptoms that results in you seeking professional treatment and prevents you from doing normal life tasks. If this occurs, please let your instructor know how they can best support you.

Family Emergency: a catastrophe occurring to an immediate or close family member or friend with a sudden or serious illness occurring; a death in the family.

Housing Emergency: an unexpected event that requires you to leave your house or prevents you from accessing your house during the time the assignment was due. This includes events such as a house or complex fire, flooding, evacuation orders, or police blocking access to your immediate neighborhood.

Internet or Power Outage lasting more than 1 hour and occurring during the time the assignment was due. Work must be completed & turned in within 8 hours of service being restored & proof of the outage must be submitted (screenshot of a notification from the provider, community outage report, etc.) for the extension to be granted.

Program Gates

Gate 1: Admission as a Graduate Student to the PLNU School of Education

Candidates who hold an undergraduate degree are eligible to be considered for the PLNU School of Education MA/MS in School Counseling and PPS Credential program when the following conditions are met:

- An application protocol review with the School Counseling Program Director

Gate 2: Admissions Interview

- A successful application protocol review with the School Counseling Program Director
- Formal acceptance to PLNU as a student

Gate 3: Completion of Some Coursework & Practica Requirements

- Six (6) PLNU credential units successfully completed
- Successful submission of Certificate of Clearance (COC) or equivalent document from the CTC
- Successful submission of other required prerequisites

If one or more of the above criteria are not satisfied, the candidate will receive a “warning” notification letter via PLNU email.

Gate 4: Completion of Additional Coursework, Advancement Criteria, and Full Submission of COC and Prerequisites

- 12 PLNU credential units successfully completed
- Successful submission of Certificate of Clearance (COC) or equivalent document from CTC
- Successful submission of other prerequisite requirements

If one or more of the above criteria are not satisfied, the candidate will receive a “stop” notification letter via PLNU email.

If any components of Gate 4 are not satisfied, the candidate will be asked to work towards completion of these requirements independently. Upon successful completion of these requirements, the candidate’s SSA will review the candidate’s status and determine whether Gate 4 has been met. **As part of the remediation process, the candidate may not register for any further credential coursework until all criteria for Gate 4 have been satisfied. With the approval, the candidate may register for up to one (1) GED course (GED6081) prior to completion of this Gate.**

Maximum Number of Units Per Quad/Semester

The MA/MS in School Counseling Degree and/or PPS Credential should be viewed as a holistic experience rather than a set of courses. The purpose of the credential and degree is to prepare counselors as thoughtful practitioners serving PreK-12 public school students.

With this in mind, the MA/MS in School Counseling and/or PPS Credential program is designed to be experienced not only in a timely manner, but also in a progression that leads to maximum candidate knowledge and practice.

Candidates may not exceed nine (9) semester units per quad or 14 semester units per semester, except in cases of direct approval from the program director or associate dean.

Course Sequence and Program Design

The MA/MS in School Counseling and/or PPS Credential program is designed to provide candidates with specific counseling and support services training for PreK–12 public school students. The PPS program focuses on resiliency, the value of diversity and how to complement the academic experience of PreK–12 students with the belief that all individuals can succeed. Candidates complete the Counseling & Guidance core course work, PPS specialization coursework that includes 800 hours of field experience, general education coursework, and research coursework for a total of 50 units.

Courses Required for the Master of Arts Degree Only

All MA Only candidates must complete the following:

GSC6051: Foundations of School Counseling: Professionalism, Ethics, and Legal Mandates	(3 units)
GSC6052: School Counseling and Academic Development	(3 units)
GSC6053: The School Counselor's Role in Student College and Career Development	(3 units)
GSC6054: The School Counselor's Role in Social and Emotional Development	(3 units)
GSC6055: Growth, Development and Learning Support	(3 units)
GSC6057: Leadership and Advocacy in Social Justice, Equity, and Access	(3 units)
GSC6058: Program Development – Research, Program Evaluation, and Technology	(3 units)
GED6062: Counseling Theory and Techniques	(3 units)
GED6072: Philosophy of Education	(3 units)
GED6075: Family Systems	(3 units)
GED6081: Educational Measurement and Evaluation	(3 units)
GED6094: Action Research	(3 units)
GED6095: Action Research Project and Presentation	(3 units)

Total: 39 Units

Courses Required for the Master of Arts Degree with PPS Credential

All MA and PPS Credential candidates must complete the following:

GSC6051: Foundations of School Counseling: Professionalism, Ethics, and Legal Mandates	(3 units)
GSC6052: School Counseling and Academic Development	(3 units)
GSC6053: The School Counselor's Role in Student College and Career Development	(3 units)
GSC6054: The School Counselor's Role in Social and Emotional Development	(3 units)
GSC6055: Growth, Development and Learning Support	(3 units)
GSC6057: Leadership and Advocacy in Social Justice, Equity, and Access	(3 units)
GSC6058: Program Development – Research, Program Evaluation, and Technology	(3 units)
GED6062: Counseling Theory and Techniques	(3 units)
GED6072: Philosophy of Education	(3 units)
GED6075: Family Systems	(3 units)
GED6081: Educational Measurement and Evaluation	(3 units)
GSC6187P: School Counseling Practica (100 non-counseling hours)*	(1 unit)
GSC6187S1: School Counseling Seminar*	(1 unit)
GSC6187S2: School Counseling Seminar*	(1 unit)
GSC6188F1: School Counseling Fieldwork (400 counseling hours)*	(4 units)
GSC6188F2: School Counseling Fieldwork (400 counseling hours)*	(4 units)

GED6094: Action Research	(3 units)
GED6095: Action Research Project and Presentation	(3 units)

**Eleven (11) units of practica, fieldwork, and seminar in school counseling are required. The initial hours must be completed and a grade entered prior to registering for additional segments.*

Total: 50 Units

Courses Required for the Master of Science Degree with PPS Credential

All MS and PPS Credential candidates must complete the following:

GSC6051: Foundations of School Counseling: Professionalism, Ethics, and Legal Mandates	(3 units)
GSC6052: School Counseling and Academic Development	(3 units)
GSC6053: The School Counselor's Role in Student College and Career Development	(3 units)
GSC6054: The School Counselor's Role in Social and Emotional Development	(3 units)
GSC6055: Growth, Development and Learning Support	(3 units)
GSC6057: Leadership and Advocacy in Social Justice, Equity, and Access	(3 units)
GSC6058: Program Development – Research, Program Evaluation, and Technology	(3 units)
GED6062: Counseling Theory and Techniques	(3 units)
GED6072: Philosophy of Education	(3 units)
GED6075: Family Systems	(3 units)
GED6081: Educational Measurement and Evaluation	(3 units)
GSC6187P: School Counseling Practica (100 non-counseling hours)*	(1 unit)
GSC6187S1: School Counseling Seminar*	(1 unit)
GSC6187S2: School Counseling Seminar*	(1 unit)
GSC6188F1: School Counseling Fieldwork (400 counseling hours)*	(4 units)
GSC6188F2: School Counseling Fieldwork (400 counseling hours)*	(4 units)
GED6094: Master's Thesis Design	(3 units)
GED6095: Master's Thesis	(3 units)

**Eleven (11) units of practica, fieldwork, and seminar in school counseling are required. The initial hours must be completed and a grade entered prior to registering for additional segments.*

Total: 50 Units

Fieldwork

The PPS Credential program requires the successful completion of 100 practica (non-counseling) hours and 800 hours of supervised fieldwork in two (2) of the following levels:

- Elementary
- Intermediate/Middle/Junior High
- High School

While the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) permits candidates in fieldwork to select areas outside of the PreK-12 public school system under special circumstances, it is PLNU's policy that all 800 PPS fieldwork hours are completed in a PreK-12 public school setting.

Fieldwork occurs after successful completion of core coursework (GSC 6053, GSC 6054, and GED 6062) and 100 hours of practica (GSC 6187P). It is optimally completed sequentially over three semesters of enrollment (GSC 6188F1, and F2). Each section is 400 hours and must be completed in one semester if attending full-time. Two case studies are required/one for each educational level. These will be submitted and graded in the seminar courses (GSC 6187S1 and S2). Credit must be received in each section of fieldwork before enrolling in additional units.

Candidates who do not submit their fieldwork pre-requisite documents by the published prerequisite deadlines will be de-enrolled from their fieldwork, course(s) and concurrent course and unable to proceed into fieldwork. Candidates who submit their fieldwork prerequisite documents by the published deadlines but fail to enroll in their fieldwork course(s) or concurrent course by the same deadline will be unable to proceed into fieldwork or concurrent course.

Fieldwork Placement During Strikes

Student/Resident Counselors

If the teachers/counselors in a school district are involved in a strike, the field experience and clinical practice placements in that district shall be suspended. Candidates shall no longer go to their school sites during the period of the strike. Candidates should contact their supervisor or the Placement Team. If the length of the strike makes it impossible for candidates to fulfill the requirements of that field placement, they will either be reassigned or given options for completing the requirement. In this case, field experience refers to assignments made by Point Loma Nazarene University School of Education. This policy does not pertain to paid or volunteer services outside the scope of the field experience/clinical practice assignment.

Interns/Candidates Employed Under Permits or Emergency Credentials

Candidates employed under short-term staff permits and intern credentials are employees of a school district. During collective bargaining, they must decide for themselves whether or not they will take part in any action, including a strike, related to their employment. Be sure to notify the Placement Team of your decision to avoid any delay in program completion.

ASCA National Model

Candidates should not enter the experience with the question: “What do school counselors do?” because the more important question is, “How are students different as a result of what school counselors do?” To help answer this question, the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) created the **ASCA National Model**, which is a framework for a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program. The framework has four components, including define, manage, deliver, and assess, and helps school counselors address the three domains of school counseling, known as the academic, career, social/emotional development of PreK-12 students. Your *ASCA Folio*, the culminating project for the PPS program, will require artifacts around the three domains. Following are some of the activities that candidates should be thoroughly engaged in throughout the 800 hours aligned to the respective ASCA domain.

For more information, see your School Counselor Preparation Program - Field Experience Manual.

Roles and Responsibilities

School Counseling Program Director

Oversees the entire MA/MS School Counseling and PPS Credential program including implementation of policy and all CTC program standards across the university and assists in conducting professional development for supervisors.

School Counseling Supervisor Coordinator

The School Counseling Supervisor Coordinator, in collaboration with the School Counseling Program Director, oversees the placement of School Counseling candidates, the selection of their site supervisor, and assignment of PLNU university supervisor.

School Counseling Placement Coordinator

The School Counseling Placement Coordinator, in collaboration with the School Counseling Supervisor Coordinator, oversees the placement of School Counseling candidates, the selection of their site supervisor, and the PLNU university supervisor.

Site Supervisor

The site supervisor is a professional in the area of PreK-12 counseling who has their California PPS Credential (proof of credential is required) and has at least two years' experience counseling students in California PreK-12 public schools.

The site supervisor should meet with the candidate in the first week to develop a plan for an optimal field experience. Most importantly, the site supervisor should plan on providing the candidate a minimum of at least one (1) hour of face-to-face, individual supervision or one-and-one-half (1.5) hours of small group (limit of eight (8) candidates per group) supervision per week. During this time, the candidate may present cases for feedback, solicit explanations on guidance and counseling curriculums and materials, provide direction or discuss any other concerns. It is the candidate's responsibility to have questions and cases ready for these sessions. The site supervisor does not necessarily plan activities for this hour of supervision but the expectation is for the site supervisor to provide feedback, answer questions and share insights and any concerns, if applicable.

The site supervisor is encouraged to provide adequate orientation to the comprehensive counseling program. The candidates must have opportunities to perform all functions of a school counselor to gain competency of the nine (9) Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) Performance Expectations under supervised site supervision. Gradually the candidate is to be assigned individuals and groups as well as appropriate counselor duties. Professional legal and ethical codes of professional conduct must be upheld (based on ASCA and CASC guidelines). It is expected, toward the end of the experience, that the candidate is functioning as independently as possible.

The site supervisor should review and sign weekly log records provided by the candidate, which document the field experience and should communicate early with the university supervisor of any problems that may arise in connection with the candidate.

University Supervisor

The university supervisor will send a letter of appreciation to the approved site supervisor, copying the candidate and confirming placement. They will monitor and evaluate the candidate's fieldwork experience providing support and advocacy as needed. The university supervisor will make four (4) on-site visits or schedule four (4) meetings via Zoom per each section of fieldwork. They will make an appointment early in the experience to approve *the plan* that was developed between the site supervisor and the candidate.

Fieldwork Placement

The policy of the PLNU School of Education (SOE) is that field experience sites are chosen by the program to meet both the requirements of the approved program by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). This means that candidates do not make their own arrangements for fieldwork but instead work with the PPS placement coordinator to discuss options. Candidates may not be placed at a site where their children attend, a close friend or family member is employed or where there is a dual supervisory relationship.

Fieldwork sites must have a current memorandum of understanding (MOU) with PLNU. Consult your School Counseling Placement Coordinator to verify if the selected school district has a current MOU with PLNU. This must be verified for every semester of fieldwork as MOUs can expire or not be renewed. Candidates should meet with the university (what position?) for the purpose of discussing options, expectations, special accommodations and goals regarding the field experience. Once a viable option has been identified, a current MOU has been verified, and ensured that the prospective site supervisor holds a valid PPS credential in School Counseling, and has at least two (2) years of experience, the candidate should submit the PPS Fieldwork Placement Confirmation form in SOE's assessment system.

Each fieldwork course is considered complete when 400 hours of fieldwork are attained and all required documents have been submitted in SOE's assessment system. An "IP" (in progress) grade will be issued at the end of the course for those who do not complete all 400 hours of fieldwork in one semester. Candidates have a maximum of one additional semester to complete the 400 hours and are permitted to continue collecting hours between enrollment in fieldwork courses while on an IP if the site supervisor is willing to continue supervision AND the candidate is enrolled in other PLNU courses. Candidates may only enroll in one section of fieldwork each semester.

Fieldwork Application

Prior to enrollment in each fieldwork section, the candidate is responsible for submitting a PPS Credential Fieldwork Placement Application. The process for placement is initiated when the candidate completes the PPS Application. To avoid missing In order not to miss deadlines and to reveal more quality opportunities, candidates should contact the Placement Coordinator to begin the steps of planning where they will conduct their fieldwork and under whose supervision at least one semester prior to registering for fieldwork.

Fieldwork Confirmation

For each semester of fieldwork, once a candidate receives their placement, they must submit the PPS Credential Fieldwork Placement Confirmation in SOE's assessment system . The PPS Confirmation Form must be approved in SL&L by the Placement Coordinator, and the candidate must adhere to the designated start date of the semester to begin fieldwork.

Practica/Fieldwork Prerequisites

In order for PPS Candidates to be on any school site (even if you are an employee of a school district) the following items must be on file with the School of Education before enrollment in the course:

- **CA Fingerprint and Background Clearance:** A valid CA Commission on Teaching Credentialing document is the first of the four prerequisites that must be submitted prior to field experience which requires the completion of your fingerprints and background clearance. It can be met one of two ways: (1) If you have a permit or credential listed on the CTC website such as a substitute teacher permit, emergency permit, or a teaching credential. (2) If you do not have any of these, then you would need to get a Certificate of Clearance which is a 2-step process.
- **Health Clearance:** Evidence must be presented that a candidate is free from tuberculosis. This health clearance can be provided in four different ways: a negative TB test that is less than four (4) years old, an official at risk assessment (an official medical report showing blood test results), or a chest X-ray. To obtain the health clearance, you may visit your own doctor.
- **Professional Liability Insurance:** Liability insurance is NOT health insurance or car insurance. It is protective coverage for candidates provided by your school union dues or through a student membership in a professional organization such as the California School Counseling Association, American School Counselor Association or the American Counseling Association.
- **FERPA Training:** All candidates completing fieldwork must complete a Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) training prior to beginning fieldwork. All candidates will need to complete the FERPA 101: Local Agencies Training; registration is free and through the Department of Education. Candidates can find the link and instructions on the Field Experience website at www.plnusoe.com.

For more detailed information about pre-reqs, how to obtain them and samples of approved documentation, visit the PLNU Field Experience website at plnusoe.com. All prereq documentation must be submitted to soeforms@pointloma.edu.

SOE's Assessment System

All SOE candidates are required to have a SOE assessment system account that must remain active for the entire duration of their program. The subscription cost for SOE's assessment system is included in the candidate's fees. For assistance with SOE's assessment system, contact the Assessment Coordinator at soeassessment@pointloma.edu.

Transportation

Transportation for candidates to fieldwork sites is NOT provided by PLNU or the School of Education. The candidate must provide their own transportation. Fieldwork placements will not be based on transportation or carpooling needs.

Calendars

Candidates are to follow the calendar of the school district for vacations, even when different from the PLNU schedule. This may mean the candidate may have no official break, especially during the spring semester when PLNU classes may meet during the district's spring break. Fieldwork candidates do not follow PLNU's calendar for days off.

Time Commitment

In order to complete 400 hours of fieldwork in 16 weeks, candidates should plan on spending a minimum of 25-30 hours per week at their fieldwork site. This ensures completion of the required hours in light of school vacation days, sickness of either the candidate or the site supervisor, or other life events that can happen.

Field Experience Website

Information regarding the PPS program and the PPS Handbook can be found at the field experience website: www.plnusoe.com.

ASCA Folio Guidelines

The Point Loma Nazarene University School Counseling ASCA Folio serves as evidence of academic and professional competence in the field of school counseling. The ASCA Folio has been organized around the National Standards for School Counseling Programs of the American School Counseling Association (ASCA) and are aligned with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing Standards. ASCA's Three Domains (academic, career, and social/emotional development of the child) and accompanying nine standards focus on the knowledge and applicable skills required of all candidates that will ultimately lead to their becoming successful and contributing members in work and professional communities. The national standards mark a shift to a results-based, data driven methodology, which is meant to ensure that all candidates benefit from a graduate-level school counseling program.

The ASCA Folio is intended to be a culminating representation of the candidate's work in preparation for the Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC) in School Counseling. The school counseling candidate will upload the documents into SOE's assessment system. Written materials including reflections of each domain and documentation of activities will be completed throughout the fieldwork experience (GSC 6188F1/6188F2.)

For more information, see your School Counselor Preparation Program - Field Experience Manual.

Dispositions

In alignment with the conceptual framework, Point Loma Nazarene University faculty and staff are committed to supporting candidates as whole persons. Course professors and fieldwork partners will participate in the assessment of candidates' knowledge, skills and dispositions in an effort to equip, transform and empower each individual personally and professionally. Dispositions and Indicators of Noble Character will be addressed in each course and will be assessed in designated courses across all programs.

Indicator	Perf. Level (1-4)	Behavioral Evidence to Look For:
1. Honor and Respect The candidate honors and respects the worthiness of all individuals in word and deed based on PLNU's Wesleyan heritage: We are individuals created in the image of God, committed to civility, respect, hospitality, grace, and service, demonstrating coherence in attitudes and actions.		☐ Treats all students and adults equally with civility and grace ☐ Retains a non-judgmental demeanor ☐ Displays professionalism in dress, posture, and attitude ☐ Committed to social justice, equity, and cultural competency ☐ Consistent in word and actions ☐ Practices forgiveness and love for one another ☐ Follows through with commitments
2. Spirit of Harmony and Collaboration The candidate actively contributes to the learning community with caring, patience, and respect for the diversity of learners. The candidate takes responsibility for resolving conflicts or issues with others, and teaches students those skills in a way that sustains and enhances a healthy and safe learning community. The candidate's flexibility and humility ensures that all students have the opportunity to achieve their potential.		☐ Cooperative and flexible when working in a group, and easily moves between a leadership role and a participant role ☐ Openly considers the contributions of diverse learners ☐ Proactive rather than reactive with classmates, educators, parents, staff, and students ☐ Employs healthy conflict resolution skills in one-on-one and group situations ☐ Assists in resolving conflict and promotes acceptance of one another ☐ Shows interest and care for other classmates and their contributions, and equal interest for all students in their classrooms
3. Reflective Learner The candidate shows awareness of areas of strength, interests, learning style, and areas for continuing		☐ Articulates and models his/her calling to the profession

growth; generates and follows through on personalized growth plans. The candidate demonstrates that serving as a professional educator is a confirmed calling to equip, transform, and empower every student to fulfill his or her full potential.		☐ Understands personal strengths and demonstrates consistent performance in given activities ☐ Takes responsibility for this/her own learning ☐ Develops and monitors a plan that balances personal and professional growth ☐ Looks at an incident/activity to analyze what works and targets areas for improvement ☐ Asks questions, seeks support and guidance ☐ Uses journals or reflections to record thinking and improve practice
4. Professional and Positive Perseverance The candidate displays passion for teaching and learning by remaining positive, engaged, and accountable to the norms and expectations of the learning community, especially when academic or professional assignments are perceived as challenging. The candidate is reflective and receptive to formative feedback.		☐ Enthusiastic, energetic, prepared, constantly reflecting and improving ☐ Seeks feedback from other professionals with a positive spirit ☐ Willingly participates in the school community activities outside of the classroom ☐ Remains involved in the planning and innovation necessary of professionals ☐ Holds high expectations for all, and scaffolds learning when assignments are challenging ☐ Remains aware of all the profession requires and makes changes to own practice.

Candidates are expected to exhibit the above Dispositions of Noble Character and abide by the Community Expectations of the university. Candidates who violate university and School of Education behavioral standards may be subject to responses ranging from caution placed in the candidate's file to expulsion from the university, depending on the severity and history of the violation.

Requirements for Degree Posting & Credentialing

Requirements for degree posting are stated in the university catalog located at www.pointloma.edu. A degree processing fee will be assessed to the candidate's account upon the candidate's application for degree candidacy.

Exit Survey

All SOE candidates will complete an Exit survey on SOE's assessment system at the satisfactory completion of all coursework.

Requirements for Credentialing

Candidates will work with the Credential Analysts to complete the credential review and recommendation process at the conclusion of their program. Candidate participation and proactive communication is required in order to receive a recommendation to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

In order to be considered for recommendation for a California Pupil Personnel Services credential, a candidate must complete the following:

Completion of Coursework/Seminar

A grade of "C" or better in all credential coursework and a grade of CR in Fieldwork (3.0 GPA). All program requirements/gates are satisfied.

Completion of all MA/MS in School Counseling Degree Requirements

- **Infant/Child/Adult or Pediatric/Adult CPR:** Proof of valid Infant/Child/Adult or Pediatric/Adult CPR training that follows the guidelines of the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association.
- **ASCA Portfolio:** Completed ASCA Portfolio submitted in SOE's assessment system

Withdrawal and Readmission Procedures

Withdrawal from the University

There are times when a student finds it necessary to withdraw from the university. To avoid being administratively withdrawn, courses and incompletes being converted to a failing grade, and financial payments going into default, students are required to notify the Office of Records and complete a Notice of Intent to Withdraw form from the university. If withdrawal occurs while a candidate is registered for classes, candidates must follow the procedures listed below for withdrawing from a course.

Leave of Absence

Currently enrolled full-time candidates, or three-quarter-time for adult undergraduate candidates, in good academic/conduct standing may apply for a one semester leave of absence from their program of study. A leave of absence is when a candidate is still enrolled in the university during their leave or time away from the university, and where the candidate does not need to reapply for admission into the university when they want to return to the university. The maximum leave of absence allowed is one academic term, not to exceed 180 days in any 12 month period. Candidates receiving financial aid will continue to be considered "in-school status" only for institutional aid. Candidates receiving federal or state financial aid will not be considered "in-school status" for Title IV loan repayment purposes.

Candidates who wish to apply for a leave of absence should obtain an application from their student success advisor, program director, or the Office of Records. The application must be signed by the university officers indicated, a length of leave proposed, and the application returned as indicated. Any courses proposed to be taken for credit during an approved leave of absence must have prior written approval. Upon return to campus, students must schedule an appointment with their student success advisor. Also upon return, candidates are subject to availability of course offerings and course sequencing.

The completed Leave of Absence form is filed either with the student success advisor or with the Office of Records. Failure to return to campus and resume taking courses following the approved leave of absence period will result in an administrative withdrawal from the university as of the start date of the leave of absence. This withdrawal may also have financial aid implications, such as the expiration of a loan's grace period which may cause a student loan to immediately be in repayment, and may affect a candidate's eligibility for further financial aid.

- Filing dates: Current candidates must file for a leave of absence by the end of the tenth week of the semester, for the following semester.
- Notification dates: A decision regarding a leave of absence application will be communicated by the end of the last week of classes via university email.

Administrative Withdrawal

Candidates who have not attended or enrolled in a course for one semester, are not currently completing coursework, and have not officially withdrawn, will be placed in an inactive status. Candidates who have been inactive for one year will be administratively withdrawn. Such withdrawal may have financial aid implications. Students with this status must submit a new application to the university and to their degree program.

Readmission to the PPS Program

A candidate may reapply to the program if they have previously withdrawn. Candidates who withdraw from the PPS Program and subsequently decide to re-enter must submit an application for readmission. The Academic and Student Affairs Committee considers the application for readmission on an individual basis and with regard to space availability in classes. Candidates should be aware that university degree requirements and CTC regulations may have changed since previous enrollment; returning candidates who have left the university for one (1) or more semesters will be subject to any curriculum changes in the catalog upon readmission. The candidate is responsible for meeting all admission deadlines and requirements (including GPA) before being considered for readmission.

Grievance Policy

Candidates who have any grievance within the PLNU School of Education should address their concerns with the parties involved. Should candidates have further concerns, they should then appeal to the program director. If the issue is not resolved at this level, they are then directed to contact the associate dean and then the dean if not resolved with the associate dean. If a grievance is not resolved after a candidate has moved through all levels of the process in the School of Education, the candidate is directed to the PLNU catalog for further options.

Uniform Complaint Procedure

The Dean of the School of Education or designee shall determine whether a complaint should be considered a complaint against the university and/or an individual employee, or against an individual within a partner school district where the candidate initiating the complaint is completing his/her fieldwork activities, and whether it should be resolved by the university's process for complaints concerning personnel and/or other university procedures.

To promote prompt and fair resolution of the complaint, the following procedures shall govern the resolution of complaints against University employees:

1. Every effort should be made to resolve a complaint at the earliest possible stage. Whenever possible, the complainant should communicate directly with the employee in order to resolve concerns.

2. If a complainant is unable or unwilling to resolve the complaint directly with the employee, he/she may submit an oral or written complaint to the employee's immediate supervisor or the dean of the School of Education or designee (associate dean or program director for the program in which the candidate initiating the complaint is enrolled).
3. All complaints related to university personnel other than associate deans and dean or against individuals at partner school districts shall be submitted in writing to the dean of the School of Education or designee (associate dean for the program) or immediate supervisor. If the complainant is unable to prepare the complaint in writing, student success advisors shall help him/her to do so. Complaints related to a program director or SSA shall be initially filed in writing with the associate dean or designee. Complaints related to the dean of the School of Education or designee shall be initially filed in writing with the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (VPAA).
4. When a written complaint is received, the employee shall be notified within five (5) days. A written complaint shall include:
 - The full name of each employee involved
 - A brief but specific summary of the complaint and the facts surrounding it
 - A specific description of any prior attempt to discuss the complaint with the employee and the failure to resolve the matter
5. The administrator responsible for investigating complaints shall attempt to resolve the complaint to the satisfaction of the parties involved within 30 days. Both the complainant and the employee against whom the complaint was made may appeal a decision by the immediate supervisor to the dean or designee, who shall attempt to resolve the complaint to the satisfaction of the person involved within 30 days. Parties should consider and accept the dean's or designee's decision as final. However, the complainant, the employee, or the dean or designee may ask to address the VPAA regarding the complaint.

Any complaint of child abuse or neglect alleged against a university employee or individual at a partner school district shall be reported to the appropriate local agencies in accordance with the law.

School of Education Fees in the MA/MS and PPS Program

Course	Course Description	Fee	Description
Upon Entry	SOE's Assessment System	\$150	All candidates in the School of Education programs at PLNU will be enrolled in SOE's Assessment System and Student Financial Services has placed this fee on the candidate's account. Assessing the fee in this way allows the candidate to use financial aid to cover the cost of enrollment. The candidate pays this fee through university tuition.
GSC 6187P	School Counseling Practica	\$85	Graduate Supervision Fee
GSC 6188F1	School Counseling Fieldwork	\$300	Graduate Supervision Fee
GSC 6188F2	School Counseling Fieldwork	\$300	Graduate Supervision Fee



School of Education

MA/MS School Counseling (PPS) Candidate Handbook

Acknowledgement of Receipt 2026-2027 Handbook*

I have reviewed the Candidate Handbook and accept and understand the mission of Point Loma Nazarene University and the MA/MS in School Counseling with/without Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Credential program in the School of Education.

I have reviewed both the Fieldwork handbook located at www.plnusoe.com.

I agree to adhere to the School of Education's policies and procedures and will refer to them throughout the entire period I am a candidate in the MA/MS School Counseling with/without PPS Credential program in the School of Education at Point Loma Nazarene University.

I have reviewed and understand the MA/MS in School Counseling with Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Credential gates outlined for program progression as outlined.

I acknowledge that I must confer with my advisor prior to making any changes to my original academic plan.

I acknowledge that I must meet all credential requirements and submit them to credential analysts as directed in order to become eligible for a credential recommendation to the CTC.

I acknowledge that admission into the University Intern program pathway is not guaranteed and that eligibility is at the sole discretion of PLNU School of Education.

I acknowledge that the University reserves the right, at its sole discretion and at any time, to amend, modify, revoke, or add to the policies, procedures, requirements, and other provisions outlined in this Handbook. Such changes are effective immediately upon publication, and candidates are responsible for reviewing and complying with all updated policies.

Yes, I give Point Loma Nazarene University permission to share my Point Loma email address with school districts who wish to contact me regarding potential job opportunities. _____(Please initial)

Signature of the Candidate

Print Candidate Name

Date

** This form will be retained in the candidate's file.*