

The School Counselor's Role

School counselors design and deliver school counseling programs that improve student outcomes. They uphold the ethical and professional standards of ASCA and promote the development of the school counseling program based on the following areas of the ASCA National Model: define, deliver, manage and assess.

DEFINE

School counselors create school counseling programs based on three sets of standards that define the profession. These standards help school counselors develop, implement and assess their school counseling program to improve student outcomes.

Student Standards –

ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors for Student Success: K–12 College- and Career-Readiness for Every Student

Professional Standards –

- ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors
- ASCA School Counselor Professional Standards & Competencies

MANAGE

To be delivered effectively, the school counseling program must be efficiently and effectively managed. School counselors use program focus and planning tools to guide the design and implementation of a school counseling program that gets results.

Program Focus

- Beliefs
- Vision Statement
- Mission Statement

Program Planning

- School Data Summary
- Annual Student Outcome Goals
- Action Plans
 - Classroom and Group
 - Closing the Gap

- Lesson Plans
- Annual Administrative Conference
- Use of Time
- Calendars
 - Annual
 - Weekly
- Advisory Council

DELIVER

School counselors deliver developmentally appropriate activities and services directly to students or indirectly for students as a result of the school counselor's interaction with others.

These activities and services help students develop the ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors for Student Success and improve their achievement, attendance and discipline.

Direct Services with Students

Direct services are in-person interactions between school counselors and students and include the following:

- Instruction
- Appraisal and Advisement
- Counseling

Indirect Services for Students

Indirect services are provided on behalf of students as a result of the school counselors' interactions with others including:

- Consultation
- Collaboration
- Referrals

ASSESS

To achieve the best results for students, school counselors regularly assess their program to:

- determine its effectiveness
- inform improvements to their school counseling program design and delivery
- show how students are different as a result of the school counseling program

School counselors also self-assess their own mindsets and behaviors to inform their professional development and annually participate in a school counselor performance appraisal with a qualified administrator. The ASCA National Model provides the following tools to guide assessment and appraisal.

Program Assessment

- School Counseling Program Assessment
- Annual Results Reports

School Counselor Assessment and Appraisal

- ASCA School Counselor Professional Standards & Competencies Assessment
- School Counselor Performance Appraisal Template

SUMMARY

School counselors are certified/licensed educators with the minimum of a master's degree in school counseling and are uniquely qualified to address the developmental needs of all students through a school counseling program addressing the academic, career and social/emotional development of all students.

For research on the effectiveness of school counseling programs, go to <https://www.schoolcounselor.org/effectiveness>

For more information about the role of the school counselor, go to <https://www.schoolcounselor.org/role>