

# SC SCHOOL COUNSELING CERTIFICATION

For students taking EDCE 805E or EDCE 805S in Spring 2020

# OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

This presentation is split into three sections:

- The first section covers the SC educator certification application process for students seeking initial certification at the advanced level
- The second section covers the SC educator certification application process for current SC certified teachers seeking add-on certification at the advanced level
- The third section covers general certification information applicable to all applicants

If you have any questions about applying for SC Educator Certification for the area of School Counseling, please do not hesitate to contact Lauren Sanborn at [brownlw@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:brownlw@mailbox.sc.edu) or 803-777-5531.

# SECTION I – APPLICATION PROCESS FOR INITIAL CERTIFICATION AT THE ADVANCED LEVEL

This process is for all applicants who are NOT current SC certified educators

# OVERVIEW OF APPLICATION PROCESS

The following items must be completed by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

1. Complete the online certification application submitted to the SC Department of Education
2. Pay \$105 certification application fee to the SC Department of Education
3. Submit a copy of your Social Security card to the SC Department of Education
4. Complete the background check process outlined by the SC Department of Education
5. Complete the Verification of Educator Preparation – Recommendation for Certification form and submit directly to Lauren Sanborn
6. Check your SCDE status to ensure you are cleared for final internship

## STEP ONE: COMPLETE THE ONLINE CERTIFICATION APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO THE SC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**You must complete and submit the online application before doing any other step in the application process.**

- Start by going to the SCDE's website at [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov) and under the "Educators" tab, select "Apply for Certification". Then select "Student Teaching Clearance" in the "Apply for Traditional Pathways" box (or just click [here](#)). Review the information on this page, click "Application for Student Teaching Approval and Initial Certification", and access the CATS portal. You will need to create an account to do this.
- Even though your program does not have a true student teaching semester, you will apply as a student teaching applicant.
- Once you are logged in, select "Apply". You must select "Student Teaching" as the type of certification you are applying for. For the student teaching semester, select Spring 2020. Complete and submit the application. If you have any questions regarding how to respond to a question on the application, please email Lauren Sanborn at [brownlw@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:brownlw@mailbox.sc.edu).

## STEP TWO: PAY THE APPLICATION FEE

- The application fee is \$105 and is submitted directly to the SC Department of Education (SCDE)
- You can pay this online through the SCDE website after completing the certification application (step one) or you can mail a check directly to the SCDE. ([Here](#) is a direct link to pay the application fee online.) If you opt to mail a check, make the check out to the SC Department of Education and mail it to:

SC Department of Education  
Office of Educator Services  
8301 Parklane Road  
Columbia, SC 29223

- The application fee covers the cost of the application and issuance of your certificate
- All payments to the SCDE are non-refundable

## STEP THREE: MAIL A COPY OF YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY CARD TO THE SC DEPT. OF EDUCATION

- The SCDE must have a copy of your Social Security card on file before they can issue you a certificate
- Make a copy of your Social Security card and mail it to this address:

SC Department of Education  
Office of Educator Services  
8301 Parklane Road  
Columbia, SC 29223

## STEP FOUR: BACKGROUND CHECK PROCESS

**You must complete and submit the online certification application before starting the background check process. If you start this process without having a completed certification application on file, you will pay for and complete a new background check.**

- Once you complete and submit your application, instructions for completing the background check will be viewable. The background check will include an FBI and SLED background check.
- Cost is approximately \$50.50.
- Questions about the background check process should be directed to the SCDE (803-896-0325) and additional information can be found [here](#).
- **You must check your SCDE status (see step 6) to ensure the SCDE has received your FBI and SLED background checks within 30 days of completing the background check process.** Failure to do so could result in repeating the background check process and repaying the background check fee.



## STEP FIVE: SUBMITTING THE RECOMMENDATION FOR CERTIFICATION FORM

**Complete the top section only (Applicant Information box) of the Verification of Educator Preparation – Recommendation for Certification form and submit form to Lauren Sanborn.**

- Scan and email the form to [brownlw@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:brownlw@mailbox.sc.edu) or drop it off in Wardlaw 113. You can access the recommendation form [here](#).
- Include a copy of your background receipt that you receive when completing the fingerprint scan (not a payment confirmation if you paid online). Write your program area, degree, and VIP number on this receipt (example: Counselor Ed., Ed.S, 12345678)

## STEP 6: CHECKING YOUR SC DEPT. OF EDUCATION STATUS

- Approximately 1 week after completing steps 1-5, check your SC Department of Education status. Right now, click [here](#) to check your status. In the future (date not yet determined), your SCDE status will only be available through the CATS portal.
- You should see “Student Teaching Status: Cleared” in red. If you do not, email Lauren Sanborn for next steps. Please include a screen shot of your status.

## SECTION 2 – APPLICATION PROCESS FOR ADD-ON CERTIFICATION AT THE ADVANCED LEVEL

This process is for all applicants who are currently SC certified educators

# OVERVIEW OF APPLICATION PROCESS

**This process is for all applicants who are currently SC certified educators.** If you are not sure of your current status, start by contacting Lauren Sanborn ([brownlw@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:brownlw@mailbox.sc.edu)).

The following items must be completed by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020:

- Verification of Educator Preparation – Recommendation for Certification form
- Change/Action Form

Advanced applicants do not need to complete a new background check for the SC Dept. of Education, but all applicants must follow the background check guidelines overseen by the Counselor Education department.

## SUBMITTING THE RECOMMENDATION FOR CERTIFICATION FORM AND THE CHANGE/ACTION FORM

Complete the top section only (Applicant Information box) of the Verification of Educator Preparation – Recommendation for Certification form and submit form to Lauren Sanborn. Scan and email the form to [brownlw@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:brownlw@mailbox.sc.edu) or drop it off in Wardlaw 113. You can access the Recommendation for Certification form [here](#).

Complete the Request for Change/Action and submit form to Lauren Sanborn. You can access the Change/Action form [here](#).

- Fill out the top box.
- Check item 2 and indicate your USC transcript has been ordered (though in reality, you have not ordered it yet!).
- Check item 3. Check the MA+30 level box and write “School Counseling” for the area (write small!).
- Check item 4, indicate School Counseling as the area, and check Approved Program.
- Be sure to sign the bottom of the form and scan and email the form to [brownlw@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:brownlw@mailbox.sc.edu) or drop it off in Wardlaw 113.

The college recommendation will be completed once your degree posts, provided you have passing Praxis II scores on file with the College of Education. This recommendation will be mailed to the SCDE along with the change/action form.

## SECTION 3 – ALL APPLICANTS

The information in this section applies to both initial and add-on certification applicants

# OVERVIEW OF TOPICS COVERED

The information in this section applies to both initial and add-on certification applicants. This information covers:

- The process for gaining SC Educator certification
- Transcripts
- Praxis II information
- General Notes
- Contact Information

# THE PROCESS FOR GAINING SC EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION

## **What is needed to become certified?**

- Recommendation for certification form (submitted to SCDE by certification officer; see below)
- All college transcripts must be submitted to the SCDE – unless you attended USC for your undergraduate degree, you must submit your official undergraduate transcript (see next slide)
- SCDE must have a copy of your Social Security Card on file
- SCDE must have record of passing scores for Praxis II
- Up-to-date background checks must be on file with the SCDE (applies to initial certificates only)

## **What is needed to be recommended for certification?**

- Passing scores for the Praxis II on file with the College of Education (Be sure to list USC – College of Education, CODE: 5818 as a score recipient when registering for this exam)
- Degree must be posted to your USC record (generally 3 weeks after commencement date – see next 2 slides)



# TRANSCRIPT INFORMATION

It is your responsibility to send all college transcripts to the SC Department of Education (SCDE). You can order your USC transcript through Self Service Carolina (under “student records”). The registrar’s office processes all transcript requests and can be reached at 803-777-5555. **Make sure to request your transcript after your degree posts (see next slide).** You can opt to send official transcripts by standard mail or electronically to the SC Dept. of Education:

Electronically: [transcripts@ed.sc.gov](mailto:transcripts@ed.sc.gov)

OR

Mail:


SC Department of Education  
Office of Educator Services  
8301 Parklane Road  
Columbia, SC 29223

# TRANSCRIPTS CONTINUED

To see if your degree has posted, view your Academic Transcript in Self Service Carolina (under “student records”)


## NOT POSTED

<b>Curriculum Information</b>	
<b>Current Program</b>	
<b>Degree:</b>	Bachelor of Arts
<b>College:</b>	College of Education
<b>Campus:</b>	USC Columbia
<b>Major:</b>	Middle Level Education
<b>Major Concentration:</b>	Social Studies/English
***Transcript type:ADVS Advising is NOT Official ***	
<b>DEGREE INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Pending:</b> Bachelor of Arts	<b>Degree Date:</b>
<b>Curriculum Information</b>	
<b>Primary Degree</b>	
<b>Major:</b>	Middle Level Education
<b>Major Concentration:</b>	Social Studies/English



## POSTED

<b>Curriculum Information</b>	
<b>Current Program</b>	
<b>Degree:</b>	Bachelor of Arts
<b>College:</b>	College of Education
<b>Campus:</b>	USC Columbia
<b>Major:</b>	Middle Level Education
<b>Major Concentration:</b>	Social Studies/English
***Transcript type:ADVS Advising is NOT Official ***	
<b>DEGREE INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Awarded:</b> Bachelor of Arts	<b>Degree Date:</b> May 06, 2017
<b>Curriculum Information</b>	
<b>Primary Degree</b>	
<b>Major:</b>	Middle Level Education
<b>Major Concentration:</b>	Social Studies/English



# PRAXIS II

To gain School Counseling certification, you must pass the Praxis II Subject Area exam – Professional School Counselor (code 5421, minimum score – 156)

Test dates are available on the ETS website as you go through the registration process.

*For specific information on how to register:*

- Call ETS at 1-800-772-9476 or log onto the website at [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis).
- Select “Register for a Test” and follow instructions for registering online.
- **You must indicate both USC and the SC Department of Education (SCDE) to receive your Praxis and PLT scores in order to be recommended for certification (USC) and certified (SCDE).**

USC’s Praxis School **CODE: 5818**

SCDE Praxis School **CODE: 8108**

ETS offers a fee waiver for the Praxis II exam for qualifying students. Visit their [website](#) for details.

## GENERAL NOTES

1. The background check process is handled through the SC Department of Education and cannot be done before submitting your online application. **If you submit a background check to the SCDE prior to submitting an online application, you will have to repeat the process and repay the fee.**
2. Any payment to the SCDE is non-refundable.
3. Transcripts are not automatically submitted to the SCDE – you must order your USC transcript (after degree has posted) from Self Service Carolina
4. If you received a degree from another institution, you will need to contact that institution to have your transcripts submitted to the SCDE (initial applicants only).
5. It can take up to 4 weeks for your degree to post. Your recommendation cannot be sent until your degree shows on your academic record. Recommendations are typically mailed by June 1, by September 1, or by January 31, depending on graduation term.
6. Once your degree posts, your college recommendation and change/action forms will be mailed to the SCDE. Once the SCDE has your recommendation, change/action form, and your transcript(s), it will take approximately 6-8 weeks to receive your educator certificate.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Lauren Sanborn  
Certification Officer

USC College of Education  
Wardlaw 113  
820 Main Street  
Columbia, SC 29208  
[brownlw@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:brownlw@mailbox.sc.edu)  
803-777-5531

SC Department of Education  
Office of Educator Services  
8301 Parklane Road  
Columbia, SC 29223

[certification@ed.sc.gov](mailto:certification@ed.sc.gov) – certification questions

[transcripts@ed.sc.gov](mailto:transcripts@ed.sc.gov) – email address to use if sending electronic transcript

Certification Hotline: 803-896-0325