

Ed.S. OPTION (Revised)

FAU Department of Counselor Education

The Ed.S. OPTION targets FAU counseling program graduates. Its purpose is to increase employability and career options of our graduates in a time of high professional unemployment while also eliminating current inequities and disincentives in the existing Ed.S. program requirements. This option allows graduates to meet coursework requirements for certification or licensure while receiving a post masters degree.

Rationale:

The current Ed.S. degree requirement for FAU counseling program graduates is a minimum of **84 graduate credits**. This is **12 credits more** than FAU's Ed.S. programs in Educational Leadership and Curriculum and Instruction require. Moreover, the current Ed.S. in Counselor Education requires **up to 24 credits more** than some competing counseling programs.

In short, current FAU requirements effectively favor graduates from shorter masters [45- 48 credit hour] programs, such as Nova Southeastern University, St. Thomas University, and Palm Beach Atlantic University at the expense of FAU students. In addition, current FAU COE requirements seem inequitable for Counselor Education students by requiring 12 credits more than other COE Ed.S. programs. This serves as a disincentive to students interested in pursuing further graduate course work in Counselor Education.

The Department of Counselor Education can show its responsiveness to student employability and career options, as well as rectify this coursework inequity, by approving and implementing the proposed Ed.S. changes.

Benefits:

1. It communicates to graduates and others (including SACS & CACREP) that the Department of Counselor Education demonstrably cares about its graduates and their employability.
2. It decreases completion time and greatly reduces student costs.
3. It increases the number of Ed.S. degree awarded which reflects a positive impact of FAU on the local community.
4. It effectively reverses the unintended discrimination against FAU counseling program graduates.
5. It will increase graduate FTE in the College of Education as students seek to add the Ed.S. degree in a reasonable and equitable post-masters program of study.

Proposed Changes in Course Requirements:

The Ed.S. in Counselor Education requires a minimum of 72 credit hours beyond the bachelor degree.

Those seeking the Ed.S. with a major in Mental Health Counseling who are graduates of the FAU 60 hour M.Ed. in Counselor Education must complete an approved program with a minimum of 12 credits above the master's degree. Graduates with other FAU degrees or from other institutions may need additional courses.

Those seeking the Ed.S. with a major in School Counseling who are graduates of the FAU 60 hour M.Ed. in Counselor Education must complete an approved program with a minimum of 24 credits above the master's degree. Graduates with other FAU degrees or from other institutions may need additional courses.

N.B.: Applicants should be aware that, besides graduate coursework, additional requirements must be met to qualify for certification and/or licensure.