

**TITLE: The Expansion of Chaminade’s School Counseling License to Include
Preschool**

The Hawai’i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) approves the expansion of Chaminade University’s School Counseling Licensure field to include preschool.

Currently, the Chaminade University School Counseling Master’s Degree program, under [New Business Item 15-36](#), has the ability to recommend its teacher candidates for School Counseling K-12 licensure.

Initial License:

Students currently enrolled in the Chaminade University School Counseling Master’s Degree with Licensure program may be recommended for P-12 licensure by submitting an Official Praxis Score Report showing successful passing of the School Counseling Praxis 5421 or 5422 and providing evidence of successful clinical experience at a Hawai’i P-12 school site that includes an established full-time preschool program.

Add a Teaching Field:

Past completers of Chaminade’s School Counseling program may add preschool to their active licenses by submitting an Official Praxis Score Report showing successful completion of the School Counseling Praxis 5421 or 5422, along with evidence of successful teaching experience at a Hawai’i P-12 school site with an established full-time preschool program, as outlined by HTSB’s added field experience requirements.

Chaminade has provided an attached comprehensive overview of how the courses in their School Counseling Master’s Degree with Licensure program incorporate additional content related to preschool.

Rationale/Background:

According to the Educational Testing Service (ETS), "The School Counseling assessment was developed to align with the ASCA School Counselor Professional Standards and Competencies. These standards and competencies define the mindsets and behaviors school counselors must exhibit to meet the rigorous demands of the profession and effectively support the needs of students from preschool through 12th grade."

Launched in January 2023 under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke, Ready Keiki is committed to providing preschool access for all 3- and 4-year-olds in Hawai’i by 2032, with a target of creating over 400 classrooms statewide.

As the number of public preschool classrooms grows, the HTSB will need to work with approved educator preparation providers to address the counseling needs of these young students.

Adding preschool to a school counselor’s license can significantly enhance their ability to support the developmental and emotional needs of young children in early childhood education settings. Here are several reasons why school counselors should consider adding preschool to their license:

Early Intervention: Preschool years are critical for emotional, social, and cognitive development. By adding preschool to their license, counselors can intervene early to address behavioral issues, mental health concerns, and learning challenges before they become more ingrained.

Holistic Support: Counselors with preschool licensure can provide a more comprehensive range of support to families and children, offering guidance on early childhood development, school readiness, and strategies to help children adjust to the school environment.

Building Strong Foundations: Early intervention is key to setting children on a path toward success. Counselors can help foster positive social skills, emotional regulation, and problem-solving abilities, laying the foundation for lifelong academic and personal success.

Increased Career Opportunities: Having preschool licensure expands a counselor's qualifications and career options, particularly as schools increasingly recognize the importance of counseling services at all educational levels, including preschool.

Collaboration with Teachers and Families: Counselors with preschool training are better equipped to collaborate with preschool teachers, parents, and early childhood professionals, ensuring that children receive consistent support across home and school environments.

Addressing Developmental Concerns: Counselors can play a pivotal role in identifying and addressing developmental delays, mental health issues, or early signs of learning disabilities, which can improve a child's trajectory in school and beyond.

Promoting Inclusive Education: Adding preschool to their license allows counselors to work within inclusive early childhood settings, helping children from diverse backgrounds—including those with disabilities—develop social-emotional skills and adjust to school life.

In summary, adding preschool to a school counselor's license broadens their scope of practice, equips them with the skills to support young children's emotional and developmental needs, and strengthens the overall educational experience for early learners.

Cost(s):

The expense for this adjustment is covered within the existing licensing management system contract.

Submitted by: Kristi Miyamae
Referred to: Teacher Education Committee

**TITLE: The Expansion of Chaminade's School Counseling License to Include
Preschool**

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) approves the expansion of Chaminade University's School Counseling Licensure field to include preschool.

Currently, the Chaminade University School Counseling Master's Degree program, under [New Business Item 15-36](#), has the ability to recommend its teacher candidates for School Counseling K-12 licensure.

Initial License:

Students currently enrolled in the Chaminade University School Counseling Master's Degree with Licensure program may be recommended for P-12 licensure by submitting an Official Praxis Score Report showing successful passing of the School Counseling Praxis 5421 or 5422 and providing evidence of successful clinical experience at a Hawai'i P-12 school site that includes an **established** full-time preschool program.

Add a Teaching Field:

Past completers of Chaminade's School Counseling program may add preschool to their active licenses by submitting an Official Praxis Score Report showing successful completion of the School Counseling Praxis 5421 or 5422, along with evidence of successful teaching experience at a Hawai'i P-12 school site with an **established** full-time preschool program, as outlined by HTSB's added field experience requirements.

Chaminade has provided an attached comprehensive overview of how the courses in their School Counseling Master's Degree with Licensure program incorporate additional content related to preschool.

Rationale/Background:

According to the Educational Testing Service (ETS), "The School Counseling assessment was developed to align with the ASCA School Counselor Professional Standards and Competencies. These standards and competencies define the mindsets and behaviors school counselors must exhibit to meet the rigorous demands of the profession and effectively support the needs of students from preschool through 12th grade."

Launched in January 2023 under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke, Ready Keiki is committed to providing preschool access for all 3- and 4-year-olds in Hawai'i by 2032, with a target of creating over 400 classrooms statewide.

As the number of public preschool classrooms grows, the HTSB will need to work with approved educator preparation providers to address the counseling needs of these young students.

Adding preschool to a school counselor's license can significantly enhance their ability to support the developmental and emotional needs of young children in early childhood education settings. Here are several reasons why school counselors should consider adding preschool to their license:

Early Intervention: Preschool years are critical for emotional, social, and cognitive development. By adding preschool to their license, counselors can intervene early to address behavioral issues, mental health concerns, and learning challenges before they become more ingrained.

Holistic Support: Counselors with preschool licensure can provide a more comprehensive range of support to families and children, offering guidance on early childhood development, school readiness, and strategies to help children adjust to the school environment.

Building Strong Foundations: Early intervention is key to setting children on a path toward success. Counselors can help foster positive social skills, emotional regulation, and problem-solving abilities, laying the foundation for lifelong academic and personal success.

Increased Career Opportunities: Having preschool licensure expands a counselor's qualifications and career options, particularly as schools increasingly recognize the importance of counseling services at all educational levels, including preschool.

Collaboration with Teachers and Families: Counselors with preschool training are better equipped to collaborate with preschool teachers, parents, and early childhood professionals, ensuring that children receive consistent support across home and school environments.

Addressing Developmental Concerns: Counselors can play a pivotal role in identifying and addressing developmental delays, mental health issues, or early signs of learning disabilities, which can improve a child's trajectory in school and beyond.

Promoting Inclusive Education: Adding preschool to their license allows counselors to work within inclusive early childhood settings, helping children from diverse backgrounds—including those with disabilities—develop social-emotional skills and adjust to school life.

In summary, adding preschool to a school counselor's license broadens their scope of practice, equips them with the skills to support young children's emotional and developmental needs, and strengthens the overall educational experience for early learners.

Cost(s):

The expense for this adjustment is covered within the existing licensing management system contract.

Submitted by: Kristi Miyamae
Referred to: Teacher Education Committee

**TITLE: The Expansion of Chaminade’s School Counseling License to Include
Preschool**

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) approves the expansion of Chaminade University’s School Counseling Licensure field to include preschool.

Currently, the Chaminade University School Counseling Master’s Degree program, under [New Business Item 15-36](#), has the ability to recommend its teacher candidates for School Counseling K-12 licensure.

Students currently enrolled in the Chaminade University School Counseling Master’s Degree with Licensure program may be recommended for P-12 licensure by submitting an Official Praxis Score Report showing successful passing of the School Counseling Praxis 5421 or 5422 and providing evidence of successful clinical experience at a Hawai'i P-12 school site that includes a full-time preschool program.

Past completers of Chaminade’s School Counseling program may add preschool to their active licenses by submitting an Official Praxis Score Report showing successful completion of the School Counseling Praxis 5421 or 5422, along with evidence of successful teaching experience at a Hawai'i P-12 school site with a full-time preschool program, as outlined by HTSB’s added field experience requirements.

Chaminade has provided an attached comprehensive overview of how the courses in their School Counseling Master’s Degree with Licensure program incorporate additional content related to preschool.

Rationale/Background:

According to the Educational Testing Service (ETS), "The School Counseling assessment was developed to align with the ASCA School Counselor Professional Standards and Competencies. These standards and competencies define the mindsets and behaviors school counselors must exhibit to meet the rigorous demands of the profession and effectively support the needs of students from preschool through 12th grade."

Launched in January 2023 under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke, Ready Keiki is committed to providing preschool access for all 3- and 4-year-olds in Hawai'i by 2032, with a target of creating over 400 classrooms statewide.

As the number of public preschool classrooms grows, the HTSB will need to work with approved educator preparation providers to address the counseling needs of these young students.

Adding preschool to a school counselor's license can significantly enhance their ability to support the developmental and emotional needs of young children in early childhood education settings. Here are several reasons why school counselors should consider adding preschool to their license:

Early Intervention: Preschool years are critical for emotional, social, and cognitive development. By adding preschool to their license, counselors can intervene early to address behavioral issues, mental health concerns, and learning challenges before they become more ingrained.

Holistic Support: Counselors with preschool licensure can provide a more comprehensive range of support to families and children, offering guidance on early childhood development, school readiness, and strategies to help children adjust to the school environment.

Building Strong Foundations: Early intervention is key to setting children on a path toward success. Counselors can help foster positive social skills, emotional regulation, and problem-solving abilities, laying the foundation for lifelong academic and personal success.

Increased Career Opportunities: Having preschool licensure expands a counselor's qualifications and career options, particularly as schools increasingly recognize the importance of counseling services at all educational levels, including preschool.

Collaboration with Teachers and Families: Counselors with preschool training are better equipped to collaborate with preschool teachers, parents, and early childhood professionals, ensuring that children receive consistent support across home and school environments.

Addressing Developmental Concerns: Counselors can play a pivotal role in identifying and addressing developmental delays, mental health issues, or early signs of learning disabilities, which can improve a child's trajectory in school and beyond.

Promoting Inclusive Education: Adding preschool to their license allows counselors to work within inclusive early childhood settings, helping children from diverse backgrounds—including those with disabilities—develop social-emotional skills and adjust to school life.

In summary, adding preschool to a school counselor's license broadens their scope of practice, equips them with the skills to support young children's emotional and developmental needs, and strengthens the overall educational experience for early learners.

Cost(s):

The expense for this adjustment is covered within the existing licensing management system contract.

Submitted by: Kristi Miyamae
Referred to: Teacher Education Committee



Introduction

The Master of Science in Counseling Psychology (MSCP) program at Chaminade University of Honolulu has a strong history of preparing school counselors for K-12 educational settings through a robust curriculum that aligns with Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) School Counseling and the American School Counseling Association (ASCA) standards. The MSCP School Counseling program supports HTSB's plan to allow recent graduates and current students to add preschool and pre-kindergarten (Pre-K) to the HTSB K-12 license. The expansion of the K-12 license was in response to the growing need for early childhood counseling and interventions that support young children's emotional, cognitive, and social development.

Alignment with HTSB & ASCA Standards

The MSCP program aligns with HTSB/ASCA standards for pre-K-12 school counseling. The existing School Counseling curriculum educates its students on providing consultation, guidance, and support for preschool and pre-K students. This claim is supported by the School Counseling program's PRAXIS pass rate for exams 5421 and the current 5422. All graduates are required to pass the content area PRAXIS exam before entering internship clinical experience courses. By adding preschool and pre-K onto the HTSB K-12 School Counseling license, we will continue to meet HTSB and ASCA standards through the integration of key early childhood development principles, evidence-based interventions, and family collaboration and consultation. This addition has aligned with developmental psychology and counseling theories, enhancing our understanding and support of early learners. The MSCP program's continued vision includes preparing counselors who are equipped to work in diverse environments, including early childhood settings, while maintaining the program's commitment to adaptation and change.

Justification for Expansion

Stakeholder feedback emphasized the importance of early intervention in a child's emotional and behavioral development, particularly during preschool and pre-K years. Interventions during these years can mitigate the long-term effects of childhood trauma, family stressors, and/or emotional and developmental delays.

The MSCP Program's School Counseling Emphasis provides comprehensive training through specialized courses designed for educational settings. PSY 724: Advanced Counseling Techniques and Consultation in School Settings equips students with essential skills for collaborating with educators and parents to develop integrated support systems. The coursework focuses on evidence-based practices for supporting early learners. This course emphasizes working with P-12 students in school environments, covering mental illness including behavioral causes, development, and treatment of mental health disorders. Students learn to implement early interventions and develop practical strategies for supporting children's mental health and



Chaminade University

OF HONOLULU

academic success. Through these courses, school counselors-in-training gain the knowledge and skills needed to effectively serve their school communities using evidence-based approaches and collaborative techniques.

Other existing counseling courses provide the foundational content knowledge to work with the preschool and pre-K population. These are PSY 500 School Counseling and Exceptional Children, PSY 501 The School Counselor in an Educational Context, PSY 524 Abnormal Psychology, PSY 602 Life Span Development, PSY 720 Psychological and Educational Testing, and PSY 722 Evaluation Processes in the School Setting.

Evidence of Program Efficacy

The MSCP School Counseling program's track record of success in preparing school counselors, particularly with their AAQEP and previously CAEP national accreditations, underscores its capacity to expand its HTSB K-12 license to P-12. Our program's strengths in applying evidence-based practices, cultural responsiveness, and ethical standards will support this expansion.

Conclusion

The expansion of the MSCP School Counseling program's HTSB K-12 School Counseling license to include preschool and pre-K counseling reflects Chaminade University's commitment to addressing the educational, emotional, cognitive, and social development needs of all students, starting from the earliest stages of development. This aligns with HTSB's vision of comprehensive support for students' well-being and development across all grade levels P-12.