

# School & Career Counselor

## Background –

School, Career and Vocational counselors generally work with students to assess their interests and abilities in a school and career setting. The student's interests are discussed and a plan to help the student achieve their goals (educational and career) is usually created. In addition, working with students who report abuse or neglect may also fall under this career.

**What can I expect to make in this career?** \$54, 560\*

**What classes at GVSU may help prepare me to work in this career?** Discuss with your advisor which courses among those on this list, along with other courses not listed here, would best serve your career goals.

1. **PSY 452** – Counseling: Theories & Applications
2. **PSY 381** – Group Dynamics
3. **PSY 357** – Psychology of Language
4. **PSY 331** – Adolescent Development
5. **PSY 310** – Behavior Modification
6. **PSY 302** – Psychology of Adjustment
7. **COM 202** – Critical Interpretation
8. **COM 301** – Interpersonal Communication
9. **COM 303** – Small Group Communication

**What experiences outside of my classes could I explore?**

1. Volunteering with children in schools would be beneficial in preparation for a job in this field
2. Grand Valley's Career Services department as an employee or shadowing opportunity

**What education is needed beyond a Bachelors in Psychology?** In Michigan, school counselors must take 30 credits from an approved program, have finished no less than 600 hours of internship (at an approved placement) and passed the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) School Counselor Examination

1. For more information - [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/School\\_Counselor\\_License\\_558715\\_7.PDF](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/School_Counselor_License_558715_7.PDF)

**What skills would be helpful to have in this field?** Listening skills, empathy and understanding, the ability to connect with youth and communication skills (written and oral) are all skills that a counselor would strive for. In addition, the ability to communicate career information effectively to students and others and being culturally competent would also be important in order to work in this field successfully.

\*Salary from bls.gov (2016)

**Employer Possibilities** – Generally can be hired in a public or private school system, a career counselling center, or local community center that offers these types of services for the community.