



Professional Support Services is a program of study within the **Education and Training Career Cluster**. A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. There are 16 Career Clusters.

Career clusters link what students learn in school with the knowledge and skills they need for success in college and careers. The Education and Training Career Cluster prepares learners for careers in planning, managing and providing education and training services, and related learning services.

There are three programs of study in this cluster:

- Administration and Administrative Support
- Professional Support Services
- Teaching and Training

Employment Outlook

The employment outlook for the **Education Counseling** profession is good. The number of jobs for school counselors is expected to grow as fast as average through the year 2016. This will be due to the continued expansion of counseling responsibilities in schools, especially in the areas of crisis and prevention counseling. Nationally, salaries range between \$29,360 and \$82,330 (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-2009). Entry level salaries in Texas are \$36,485 (Texas Workforce Commission, 2009).

Using this brochure

Inside you will find a suggested **program of study** that has lots of helpful information. The model is an example of the types of courses and extended learning experiences that are important for the **Professional Support Services Program of Study**. Use this model to plan your course schedule, educational experiences, and career choices.

At the top of the model, you will find **career goals** with the corresponding **O*NET code**. The O*NET code is an official classification of jobs and can be used to locate career-related information. Your teacher, counselor, or media center should be able to help you locate further information.

The upper left side of the model highlights the **core courses and career-related electives** in high school that will help prepare you for your career goal. This model is based upon the Recommended High School Graduation Plan and can easily be adapted for the Distinguished Achievement High School Graduation Plan.

The upper right side of the model highlights examples of **extended learning experiences** that can enhance your knowledge and skills for your career goal. You will find examples of curricular activities, such as participation in Career and Technical Student Organizations like FCCLA, career learning experiences, service learning activities, and extracurricular activities.

The lower left side of the model indicates **industry licensures/certifications** and **on-the-job training experiences** that may be available while still in high school. This section also highlights the various levels of **postsecondary education** and examples of **career options** available to you once you have completed that level of education and training.

The lower right side of the model contains examples of **professional associations** available for education support professionals. Many of these organizations allow preprofessional membership while enrolled in a postsecondary program. Most organizations have websites which can be easily located by entering the organization name in available search engines.

Thinking about a career in Education Counseling?



<http://www.achievetexas.org>

This program of study may be for you! Education counselors are important for the success of schools and students. Besides providing education and career counseling, they also assist learners with physical, personal, and family needs. Look inside to see suggested coursework and learning opportunities that will prepare you for an exciting and rewarding career.

