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**The Counseling Program prepares School Counselors at the highest level of preparation. The faculty ensures that only the prepared school counselors graduate from the program.**

The graduates know how to develop a consistent accountability measurement for school counseling/student development programs. They have the skills and knowledge to align their program with school counseling’s national model (ASCA) and have the skills to modernize Florida’s concept of school counseling, replace the currently used title, “guidance counselor” with *Professional School Counselor.* The FGCU School Counseling graduates are trained at a CACREP and NCATE accredited program.

**Need for Highly Qualified School Counselors.**

Many more school Counselor will be needed in the schools if the “Put School Counselor Where they’re Needed Act” is passed in Congress. This would require implementation of the school counselor/student ratio of 1:250. This ration is recommended by the American School Counselor Association, the American Counseling Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Medical Association and other organizations.

**Justification for School Counselors**

Research shows that schools with sufficient counselors implementing comprehensive and appropriate student development programs have improved student and school performance. This is especially true of low performing and high drop-out rate schools.

The Certification Ombudsman is Ms. Sherree Houston, Assistant Dean in the College of Education.