



# UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE

## College of Education

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### *Counseling Education Program*

Alaska School Counselor Association

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## *PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR LICENSURE A REALITY!*

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The passage of the Alaska licensure bill for professional counselors was one of the front page stories in the July 1998 issue of "Counseling Today." The article highlighted the successful grassroots effort of the American counseling Association of Alaska's first endeavor into the legislative arena. Passage of this bill now means a new level of professional recognition for all counselors in Alaska. The Alaska School Counselor Association supported this legislation from its inception with a formal letter from the Executive Board on behalf of its membership. In addition, some Board members testified in front of various legislative committees as the bill moved through both houses of the Alaska Legislature....

*The following article first printed in the "ACA of Alaska Newsletter", and now submitted by Sally Donaldson, Highlights this historic event for professional counseling in our state.*

Members of ACAAK including President Pam Watts, Bob Pound, and Dave Reeves stood by as Governor Knowles signed SB331 into law on June 4, 1998. That sets in motion the formation of the regulatory board and the process of licensing eligible counselors. The

Governor's Office has gathered names of potential board members, and is in the process of interviewing and appointing a five-member board whose responsibility will include setting regulations and procedures for licensing professional counselors in the state of Alaska. Occupational licensing will be prepared to issue applications for licensure by January 1, 1999. The first licenses will be issued as of March 1, 1999. The end of the "transitional licensing" or grand parenting period will be December 31, 1999. ..

The more licensed counselors, the lower the fee. There will be a bill drafted for introduction into the legislature in January, 1999. If you are interested in joining the ACAAK and in keeping current with legislative and organizational updates, please send your e-mail address to Anne Henry, CO-Secretary ACAAK, [winktas@alaska.net](mailto:winktas@alaska.net) or send for a membership application to:

ACAAK  
PO Box 212163  
Juneau, AK 99802

Membership dues are \$35.00 per year, January-December.

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## *PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR LICENSURE*

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*Licensing Authority:* Alaska Department of Community & Economic Development

Division of Occupational Licensing  
Board of Professional Counselors  
P.O. Box 110806  
Juneau, AK 99811-0806  
(907) 465-2551 voice  
(907) 465-2974 fax  
[Email cori\\_hondolero@dced.state.ak.us](mailto:cori_hondolero@dced.state.ak.us)

***License/Exam Fees:***  
Application \$50  
License \$500  
Biennial renewal \$500  
Board approved supervisor \$100 (\$50 application fee, \$50 supervisor fee)

Licenses expire on October 31, odd numbered years, and continuing education requirements must be met in order to renew.

To receive a **license by examination**, applicants must submit certified transcripts of a master's or doctorate degree in counseling or related professional field; submit verification of having completed at least 3,000 hours of supervised experience in the practice of professional counseling, performed over a period of at least two years under the supervision of a board approved supervisor; verify having at least 1,000 hours of direct counseling with individuals, couples, families, or groups and at least 100 hours of face-to-face supervision; and submit verification of having passed the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification within the last three years.