

Mission Statement

The mission of the Counselor Education Area at Auburn Montgomery is to prepare graduate students primarily from central Alabama and the surrounding area for success as reflective, competent, and committed counselors in a challenging and nurturing academic and experiential learning environment. Graduates will be expected to exhibit high levels of self-awareness, ethical behavior, skills to effect positive client change, and the personal characteristics of caring and empathic helpers. Graduates will ultimately be expected to help improve the quality of life of a diverse public they will serve and be dedicated to the improvement of their communities by being committed to lifelong learning and professional development necessary to meet the counseling needs of a dynamic and changing society.

Philosophy and Purpose

The purpose of the Auburn Montgomery Counselor Education Area is to provide quality instruction, experiential learning, research and service opportunities for students enrolled in its programs. Students are encouraged to embrace a sense of mission, vision and values that will enhance their ability to work effectively with others in the helping process. The area philosophy embraces a firm belief in the individual's worth and dignity. Area faculty in Counselor Education seek to offer aspiring counselors opportunities to grow and develop to their full potential and to promote this attitude as the foundation for their professional service to others.

Program Objectives

The program objectives for the Auburn Montgomery Counselor Education area are to:

1. Recruit and select qualified graduate students with appropriate attention given to the inclusion of candidates from diverse and under-served populations;
2. Offer a graduate curriculum which reflects the preparation standards of the profession as described by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs;
3. Educate graduate level counselors in the knowledge, skills, attitudes, philosophical orientation, and technological applications to facilitate their working effectively with diverse populations;
4. Provide specialized programs for the preparation of professional counselors to work in a wide variety of public and private educational and human services settings;
5. Collaborate with schools and human service agencies in planning and evaluating the counselor education program, and in providing experiential opportunities for the counseling students;
6. Provide counseling students with research skills appropriate for their preparation level, and instill a commitment to the pursuit of scholarly research;
7. Provide students with a framework in professional, ethical, and legal issues related to counseling;
8. Help students develop a strong professional counseling identity by promoting student knowledge of professional associations and appreciation of the importance and value of active involvement;
9. Assist graduates and potential employers in the identification of appropriate placement opportunities; and
10. Maintain a systematic, comprehensive and integrated plan of program evaluation.