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## **ABSTRACT**

Difficulties in the process of professional development for college counselors

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The purpose of this study was to explore the difficulties in the process of professional development for college counselors and to obtain suggestions to facilitate professional development. Accordingly, interviews with 31 counselors from 29 universities were conducted. Statements about difficulties in college counseling activities were extracted from the interview data and categorized. Four categories were generated from ten subcategories. The tasks for college counselors' professional development were discussed from the perspective of universities as institutions for higher education. Several implications were presented from the comparative analysis of categories found in this study with those of antecedent studies and the consideration of relationships between years of experience and difficulties. The findings of this study provide new insights regarding tasks for college counselors' professional development in Japan.

**Key Words:** college counselor, professional development, difficulty

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