

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COUNSELING

The M.S. in Counseling incorporates four specializations and/or emphases: career, college, school, and gerontology. The scope of this degree allows students the flexibility to focus their attention on specific areas of interest. The student combines the core sequence of classes with their specialization or emphasis. Counselors will be able to function in a wide variety of community agencies and work with individuals of all ages. The curriculum meets most of the educational requirements to be eligible for the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor license.

## Graduate Programs in Counseling General Information

At least 60 units of approved graduate work are required for the Master of Science degrees. All students go through a basic core sequence of academic courses including four semesters of supervised counseling practicum and internship. Students select electives according to their area of specialization. Two different academic year field placements are required. The department works collaboratively with over 150 community agencies, schools, colleges and universities that provide service and training opportunities for our students. These sites are carefully screened to meet our standards. Fieldwork placements are viewed as an integral part of the training of prospective counselors.

Once admitted to the program, students may petition the department's program coordinator and chair for up to 12 units of appropriate post-baccalaureate degree work taken in other institutions within seven years from the date students plan to graduate. Courses taken for another degree or credential may **not** be counted toward the master's degree. Courses taken at other institutions after admission to the graduate program may **not** be counted toward the master's degree. Refer to Graduate Admissions and Graduate Studies, Transfer Credit from Other Institutions (<http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/graduate-education/admissions/#TCFOI>) for more information.

It may be possible to complete the M.S. program either as a full-time student or as a part-time student. Students *must*, however, expect that their personal and work schedules will need to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate fieldwork requirements and department class schedules (must be able to take daytime, late afternoon, and evening classes at various times in the program).

## Admission to Program

Applicants are admitted as conditionally classified graduate students in the fall semester only - there are no spring admits. Admission to the department involves the following procedures:

- a. Submit the Cal State Apply application by January 15 including all supplementary materials.

## Recommended Preparation

Prior to enrolling for classes, it is recommended that an applicant complete the following undergraduate courses: theories of personality/counseling, development through the lifespan, and a psychopathology course and an undergraduate course providing an introduction to the field of counseling. The Department uses a holistic admissions process that considers past academic success, work and volunteer experience, letters of recommendation, personal statement, and other factors. A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 units is required by Graduate

Studies. Paid or volunteer experience working with people of diverse backgrounds is an important factor for admission. Selection of students is based on academic as well as personal background.

## Access to Counseling Courses Prior to Admission

Applicants may request to take a course in the department by submitting a formal request. These requests will be considered on a case by case basis.

## Written English Proficiency Requirement Level One

All applicants must successfully demonstrate writing proficiency through a writing sample that is evaluated by the department after being admitted to the program but before enrolling. Those who do not meet the minimum writing expectation upon admission will be required to take a writing course, usually at an additional cost.

## Level Two

Satisfied by demonstration of English competency on the culminating experience paper for COUN 892.

## Clinical Proficiency Requirement

Students must earn a grade of B or better in the following courses:

Code	Title	Units
COUN 705	Counseling Practicum	3
COUN 706	Counseling Skills and Process	3
COUN 736	Advanced Counseling Process	3
COUN 890	Integrative Counseling and Internship	3
COUN 891	Case Studies and Internship Seminar	3

## Program Learning Outcomes

- a. Students will apply concepts of normal development to counseling cases including physical, sexual, emotional, social, cultural, personality, cognitive, and career development.
- b. Students will distinguish abnormal development, including behavior disorders and substance abuse.
- c. Students will distinguish historic and contemporary theories of counseling and apply them to cases from practice.
- d. Students will acquire and demonstrate basic individual counseling skills through practice.
- e. Students will apply knowledge of group dynamics and group counseling skills.
- f. Students will develop self-understanding and a counseling framework that integrates attention to cultural and sociopolitical contexts for individual clients, their families and communities including diversity related to various cultural, economic, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexuality, age, immigration, religion/spirituality, and life style.
- g. Students will apply career theories to a range of counseling cases relevant to the settings in which they plan to work.
- h. Students will analyze assessment data and hypothesize the relationship between data gained through career assessment tools and case material and apply that to career and life decisions and challenges.
  - i. Students will apply a working knowledge of assessment tools to practice as a counselor.
  - j. Students will critically use research to maintain currency and cultural relevance in their practice and work.
  - k. Students will articulate the professional role of a counselor including individual and systemic interventions including use of community

resources, knowledge of cultures of the various agencies serving the public, and advocacy.

- I. Students will distinguish and apply knowledge of legal directives and ethical standards specific to the field of counseling generally as well as specialization specific standards.

## Counseling (M.S.) – 60 units

### Core Curriculum (48 units)

Code	Title	Units
COUN 700	Theories of Counseling and Psychotherapy	3
COUN 702	Developmental Foundations for Counselors	3
COUN 703	Psychological Foundations for Counselors	3
COUN 705	Counseling Practicum	3
COUN 706	Counseling Skills and Process	3
COUN 715	Assessment in Counseling	3
COUN 720	Career Counseling	3
COUN 736	Advanced Counseling Process	3
COUN 741	Crisis Counseling for Counselors	3
COUN 794	Seminar in Research	3
COUN 811	Group Counseling Process	3
COUN 833	Social and Cultural Foundations in Counseling	3
COUN 857	Law and Ethics for Counselors	3
COUN 890	Integrative Counseling and Internship	3
COUN 891	Case Studies and Internship Seminar	3
COUN 892	Culminating Experience for Counselors	3

### Area of Specialization (12 units)

#### Career Counseling

Code	Title	Units
COUN 721	Applied Career Counseling	3
COUN 727	Advanced Career Counseling	3
COUN 738	Addictions	3
Select one:		3
COUN 704	Biopsychosocial Aspects of Health, Behavioral Health, Aging, & Disability	
COUN 716	Professional Seminar I - Structural Elements in School Counseling	
COUN 792	Seminar for Counselors in Student Personnel Services	
COUN 858	Couple and Family Counseling I	

#### College Counseling

Code	Title	Units
COUN 738	Addictions	3
COUN 792	Seminar for Counselors in Student Personnel Services	3
COUN 793	Organization and Administration of Student Services in Higher Education	3
Select one:		3
COUN 704	Biopsychosocial Aspects of Health, Behavioral Health, Aging, & Disability	
COUN 716	Professional Seminar I - Structural Elements in School Counseling	

COUN 721	Applied Career Counseling	
COUN 858	Couple and Family Counseling I	
<b>Gerontological Counseling</b>		
<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Units</b>
COUN 704	Biopsychosocial Aspects of Health, Behavioral Health, Aging, & Disability	3
COUN 738	Addictions	3
COUN 820		3
Graduate GRN Course		3
<b>School Counseling</b>		
<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Units</b>
COUN 716	Professional Seminar I - Structural Elements in School Counseling	3
COUN 717	Professional Seminar II - Functional Elements in School Counseling	3
COUN 718	Professional Seminar III - Professional Issues in School Counseling	3
COUN 738	Addictions	3
or COUN 858	Couple and Family Counseling I	