

MS IN COUNSELING (MARRIAGE, COUPLE, AND FAMILY COUNSELING)

Total units required for MS: 60

Program Description

The 60-unit Master of Science in Counseling prepares professional counselors for employment in a variety of settings such as public and private agencies, universities and colleges, schools and private practice. This degree meets the educational requirements for becoming a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) and/or a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) in the State of California. The 59-unit Pupil Personnel Services, School Counseling Credential prepares professional counselors to work within the K-12 educational system.

The programs are clinically oriented, with didactic and experiential courses, a 100-hour clinical practicum, and 600 hours of field experience. The program is a full time three-year program and students will take between 9-12 units each fall and spring to complete within the three years. Students are admitted into a cohort and will follow the course sequence designated by their program concentration. The cohort model allows students to advance together throughout their education while building support and connections within their peer group. Students are encouraged to advance their advocacy and professional experiences through such activities as participation in professional organizations, research, and presentations at the state, regional, and national level; involvement in the CSUS Multicultural Conference; (<https://www.csus.edu/college/education/engagement/multicultural-education-conference.html>)and/or involvement in the Counselor Education Student Counseling Society. Both leadership and research opportunities are supported through faculty mentorship. The curricular experience is organized around core foundation courses, an intensive on-campus practicum training clinic experience, interpersonal growth experiences, advanced theory and practice courses, and a culminating field study placement.

Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling Concentration

- The Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling Concentration is designed to provide students with all the educational competencies required by the California State Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) for licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT). The program trains professionals to work in a variety of settings, including community agencies, county and state agencies, hospitals and private practice, and prepares students to provide consulting to businesses and agencies. Emphasis is placed on developmental and preventative concerns from a holistic perspective.

Note: Only students who are already enrolled in the School Counseling concentration at California State University, Sacramento may apply to the Pupil Personnel Services School Counseling Internship Credential Program (<http://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/education/graduate-professional-studies-education/pupil-personnel-services-school-counseling-internship-credential/>).

The Career Counseling; Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling; and School Counseling concentrations at Sacramento State are applying for national accreditation by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The Rehabilitation Counseling

concentration is nationally accredited by CACREP through October 31, 2021. The Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling concentration is both CACREP and COAMFTE aligned in order to help students with licensure in California and other states.

Note: For additional information on credentials, see the "College of Education" section of this catalog. For program specific information, see the Counselor Education webpage. Program requirements are subject to change in order to maintain compliance with relevant state and national certification, licensure, and/or accreditation requirements. Interested parties should refer to the current student handbook for up to date program information.

Special Features

- An on-campus Center for Counseling and Diagnostic Services brings clients from off campus to be counseled by students in the program and provides opportunity for video and audio feedback.
- Trainees provide off-campus counseling in local agencies, school districts, hospitals, and non-profit organizations.
- Faculty actively support diversity and focus on multicultural counseling skills throughout the curriculum.
- Classes are offered during the day, late afternoon, and evening.
- Opportunities to collaborate with school districts.

Admission Requirements

Admission as a classified graduate student in the Master of Science in Counseling program requires:

- A baccalaureate degree;
- Good academic standing at the last college attended;
- A grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in the last 60 semester (or 90 quarter units);
- Completion of the University application materials;
- Completion and submission of all Departmental application materials which include:
 - Application form;
 - Written statement(s) delineated in application;
 - Copies of transcripts (from all universities and colleges attended);
 - Professional letters of recommendation (2 total);
 - Relevant work experience via a Resume/CV.
- Participation in an In-Person Admission Evaluation, which may include (but is not limited to) interviews, experiential activities, and writing samples.

Selected applicants, based on paper screening of completed applications, will be invited for an In-Person Admission Evaluation via an Interview Day. Decisions for admission into the Master of Science in Counseling program are made based on a comprehensive assessment of **all application materials** and performance in the In-Person Admission Evaluation.

Admission Procedure

The M.S. in Counseling accepts applications each fall for admission the following year. **The program does not offer spring admissions.** Applicants must complete a university application and program supplemental application by the posted application deadline date for the term applying.

For more admissions information and application deadlines, please visit the Office of Graduate Studies website (<http://www.csus.edu/gradstudies/>).

Prospective applicants, including Sacramento State graduates, must submit the following to the Office of Graduate Studies, River Front Center 215, (916) 278-6470:

- an online application for admission;
- official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, *other than Sacramento State*;
- an online program supplemental application for admission, please see the department website (<https://www.csus.edu/college/education/masters-programs/>) for more information.

Admission is competitive with a limited number of students admitted each year. At the end of the application and screening period, a program recommendation will be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies for further review. Decisions regarding admission are then mailed to each applicant. Following admission, students are assigned to a faculty advisor who assists with academic advising.

Students are strongly advised to remain in communication with the Counselor Education Program (by attending group advising sessions and meeting with their assigned faculty advisor each semester) as well as with any licensing or credentialing boards related to their area(s) of specialization (i.e., California Board of Behavioral Sciences, California Commission on Teacher Credentialing) since licensing and credentialing requirements may change. Catalog rights hold only degree requirements; they do not protect students from changes such as prerequisites required for a given course, field study hours, individual course requirements, or additional requirements imposed by licensing or credentialing agents. Students should note that the Counselor Education course listings are subject to modification.

Minimum Units and Grade Requirement for the Degree

Units required for the MS: 60

Minimum Cumulative GPA: 3.0

Advancement to Candidacy


Each student working toward a Master's degree must file an application for Advancement to Candidacy for the Master's degree. The purpose of this application is to provide certification to the Office of Graduate Studies that the student will complete or has completed the necessary requirements and acceptable electives for the Master's degree with a minimum 3.0 GPA. The Advancement to Candidacy application should be filed upon completion of 30 units in the program.

Note: Students must meet the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) before advancing to candidacy.

The Advancement to Candidacy form will be made available to admitted students through Canvas. Students should complete the relevant form electronically in consultation with their assigned academic advisor. Once the form is endorsed by the student and the advisor, it will be verified by the Department's Graduate Coordinator and then forwarded to the Office of Graduate Studies for final approval. (The form is also available from the Office of Graduate Studies; however, it does not include the Departmental instructions). The completed form is submitted to the Department's Graduate Coordinator for signature, then forwarded to the Office of Graduate Studies for final approval. An Advancement to Candidacy must be on file prior to registration for culminating experience (EDC 500) and prior to submitting a Petition to Graduate to the Office of Graduate Studies.

For Counselor Education information please visit the College of Education: Master's Programs Website (<https://www.csus.edu/college/education/masters-programs/>) where you will find the Counselor Education webpage (<https://www.csus.edu/college/education/masters-programs/counselor-education.html>) and under the "Current Students" link, the Forms and Handbooks (<https://www.csus.edu/college/education/masters-programs/current-students.html>) page where you can obtain the Student Handbook. It is highly recommended that students read the Student Handbook.

Program Requirements^{1,2}

| Code | Title | Units |
|--|--|-----------|
| Required Courses for All Specializations (44 Units) | | |
| EDC 210 | Multicultural Counseling | 3 |
| EDC 214 | Dynamics of Human Development | 3 |
| EDC 216 | Counseling Theory | 3 |
| EDC 218 | Assessment In Counseling | 3 |
| EDC 219 | Group Processes in Counseling | 3 |
| EDC 231 | Diagnosis and Treatment Planning | 3 |
| EDC 233 | Substance Use and Addiction Counseling | 3 |
| EDC 244 | Trauma and Crisis Counseling | 3 |
| EDC 250 | Education Research  | 3 |
| EDC 252 | Legal and Ethical Issues in Professional Counseling | 3 |
| EDC 260 | Career Development | 3 |
| EDC 280 | Practicum in Communication | 2 |
| EDC 475 | Practicum In Counseling | 3 |
| EDC 480 | Field Study In Counseling | 6 |
| Total Units | | 44 |

¹ Minimum GPA: 3.0

² *Academic Residence:* A minimum of 42 approved semester units in 100-, 200-, and 500-series offerings must be earned in residence at California State University, Sacramento.

Concentration Requirements

Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling (15 units)

| Code | Title | Units |
|--|--|-------|
| EDC 212 | Couple Counseling: Gender, Power, & Sexuality | 3 |
| EDC 234 | Seminar: Marriage and Family Counseling | 3 |
| EDC 254 | Counseling and Psychotropic Medicine | 3 |
| EDC 476 | Practicum in Marriage and Family Counseling | 1 |
| EDC 238 | Professional Issues in Marriage Couple and Family Counseling | 2 |
| Elective: Select ONE of the following 3-unit courses: EDC 272 or EDC 242 | | |
| EDC 272 | Counseling Children and Youth | 3 |
| EDC 242 | Play and Art in Therapy with Children | 3 |

Culminating Requirement (1 Unit)

All students in the M.S. in Counseling program must enroll in EDC 500¹ during their final semester in the program and complete the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE). Students must have an Advancement to Candidacy on file prior to enrollment in this culminating experience.

In order to pass this multiple choice examination, a student must meet the minimum criterion score set by the Counselor Education Program. Categories covered include:

- Human Growth and Development
- Social and Cultural Foundations
- Helping Relationships
- Group Work
- Career and Lifestyle Development
- Appraisal
- Research and Program Evaluation
- Professional Orientation and Ethics

¹ Department petition required the semester prior to enrollment.