MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH
COUNSELING

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling program prepares counselors to
tackle the wide array of intersecting psychosocial, cultural, vocational
and systemic circumstances that are barriers to the health, wellness, and
quality of life of those served. Clinical Mental Health Counseling students
are trained to work with some of the most vulnerable, marginalized
communities who experience disabling health and behavioral health
conditions that are often complicated by histories of poverty, trauma,
homelessness, substance abuse, oppression, and criminal justice
involvement. Students entering our program are social-justice oriented,
embrace difference and inclusion, exhibit a desire for ongoing self-
examination, and are expected to continually work towards cultural and
disability competency.

Trained through a biopsychosocial and pluralistic lens, students are
oriented towards conceptualizing clients’ multiple, intersecting identities,
contexts, vulnerabilities, and assets, using contemporary classification
systems relevant to today’s practicing counselor. Students learn and
apply a broad spectrum of traditional and post-modern theories and
modalities, including the Mental Health Recovery Model, and are
expected to integrate health promotion, wellness, and evidence-based
practices into their work. Our program strives to graduate students who
are not only therapeutically skilled and culturally competent counselors,
advisors, and clinical case managers, but who also understand and
challenge the political, sociocultural, and systemic factors that negatively
impact the health and well-being of our clients, their families, and their
communities.

Students graduating from the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program
work in a diverse range of community-based health and behavioral
health organizations, agencies serving particular populations (e.g.,
LGBTQ, Transition Age Youth, College Students, Older Adults),
or persons with specific conditions or circumstances (e.g., substance
abuse, homelessness, HIV/AIDS, and other health or behavioral health
conditions), county behavioral health agencies, hospital-affiliated
programs, educational settings, state and federal institutions, and private
practice. Graduates meet all the academic and pre-degree fieldwork
requirements for the California Professional Clinical Counselor License
(LPCC) as set forth in Section 4999.33 of the Business and Professional
Code for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors. To become an LPCC,
graduates must obtain 3,000 post-graduate hours under a qualified
supervisor, and pass the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor
Examination (NCMHCE) and the California Law and Ethics Exam. Please
refer to CALPCC for more information. Clinical Mental Health Counseling
graduates are also positioned to become a Nationally Certified Counselor
(NCC) and a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC).

Other Content

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 and electives according to their area of
specialization. Two-year fieldwork placements are required in two
different settings. The department works collaboratively with over 150
community agencies that provide service and training opportunities
for our students. These agencies 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 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. Throughout the program, students’
course schedules may involve daytime, late afternoon, and evening
classes. Classes are offered fall and spring semesters (rarely offered
in the summer and not available online). Students must expect that
their personal and work schedules will need to be sufficiently flexible to
accommodate fieldwork requirements and department class schedules.

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:

1. Complete the GRE General Test\(^1\), paying particular attention to the
Written Analytical Section of the GRE. See note below. International
students are required to complete the TOEFL (see International
Application Submission information at grad.sfsu.edu/content/
international-application-submission)
2. Complete Cal State Apply application.
3. Submit the Cal State Apply application by January 15.
4. International students applying to the program should see
International Application Submission information for additional
requirements (grad.sfsu.edu/content/international-application-
submission)

Prerequisites
Prior to enrolling for classes, an applicant must successfully complete
three undergraduate prerequisites with a grade of C or better: theories
of personality/counseling, development through the lifespan, and
a psychopathology course. A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0
in the last 60 units is required for admission to the program. Paid or
volunteer experience working with people is an important factor for
admission. Selection of students is based on academic as well as
personal background.

COUN 690 is a prerequisite for all students except those specializing
exclusively in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. This course should
be taken prior to admission into the program or can be taken the first
semester in attendance. Students must earn a grade of B or better.

Access to Counseling Courses Prior to Admission
Applicants may take, on a space-available basis, and by permission of the
instructor, any of the following courses through Open University.

Students shall not take any courses numbered 700 or above and count
them toward their SF State bachelor’s degree; however, SF State students
may indicate on their graduation application that they wish to have these

\(^1\) The GRE is optional for current SF State students.
courses applied to their graduate work if taken in the final semester before graduation. Completion of these courses does not guarantee admission into the program.

Written English Proficiency Requirement
Level One
All applicants must successfully demonstrate writing proficiency with a score of 4.0 or better on the Analytic Writing section of the Graduate Record Examination (TOEFL score will be used for international applicants). This must be taken prior to applying to the program. The score must be submitted in your application package. 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:

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 and electives according to their area of specialization. Two-year fieldwork placements are required in two different settings. The department works collaboratively with over 150 community agencies that provide service and training opportunities for our students. These agencies 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 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. Throughout the program, students' course schedules may involve daytime, late afternoon, and evening classes. Classes are offered fall and spring semesters (rarely offered in the summer and not available online). Students must expect that their personal and work schedules will need to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate fieldwork requirements and department class schedules.

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:

1. Complete the GRE General Test¹, paying particular attention to the Written Analytical Section of the GRE. See note below. International students are required to complete the TOEFL (see International Application Submission information at grad.sfsu.edu/content/international-application-submission)

2. Complete Cal State Apply application.
3. Submit the Cal State Apply application by January 15.
4. International students applying to the program should see International Application Submission information for additional requirements (grad.sfsu.edu/content/international-application-submission)

¹ Please note: Your GRE scores will not determine our recommendation to either admit or deny you admission to our program. We will review the Analytical Writing score so that we may determine your writing needs before you enter the program. Those who do not meet the minimum writing expectation, that is a 4.0 on the Analytical Writing Section of the GRE General Test, upon admission will be required to take a writing course, HSS 700. Refer to www.ets.org/gre for all GRE and GRE test related questions.

Prerequisites
Prior to enrolling for classes, an applicant must successfully complete three undergraduate prerequisites with a grade of C or better: theories of personality/counseling, development through the lifespan, and a psychopathology course. A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 units is required for admission to the program. Paid or volunteer experience working with people is an important factor for admission. Selection of students is based on academic as well as personal background.

COUN 690 is a prerequisite for all students except those specializing exclusively in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. This course should be taken prior to admission into the program or can be taken the first semester in attendance. Students must earn a grade of B or better.

Access to Counseling Courses Prior to Admission
Applicants may take, on a space-available basis, and by permission of the instructor, any of the following courses through Open University.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COUN 690</td>
<td>Field of Counseling I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 700</td>
<td>Theories of Counseling and Psychotherapy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 702</td>
<td>Developmental Foundations for Counselors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 703</td>
<td>Psychological Foundations for Counselors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students shall not take any courses numbered 700 or above and count them toward their SF State bachelor’s degree; however, SF State students may indicate on their graduation application that they wish to have these courses applied to their graduate work if taken in the final semester before graduation. Completion of these courses does not guarantee admission into the program.

Written English Proficiency Requirement
Level One
All applicants must successfully demonstrate writing proficiency with a score of 4.0 or better on the Analytic Writing section of the Graduate Record Examination (TOEFL score will be used for international applicants). This must be taken prior to applying to the program. The score must be submitted in your application package. 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COUN 705</td>
<td>Counseling Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 706</td>
<td>Counseling Skills and Process</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 736</td>
<td>Advanced Counseling Process</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 890</td>
<td>Integrative Counseling and Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 891</td>
<td>Case Studies and Internship Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Clinical Mental Health Counseling
— Minimum 60 units

### Required Courses (60 units)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COUN 700</td>
<td>Theories of Counseling and Psychotherapy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 702</td>
<td>Developmental Foundations for Counselors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 703</td>
<td>Psychological Foundations for Counselors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 704</td>
<td>Biopsychosocial Aspects of Health, Behavioral Health, Aging, &amp; Disability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 705</td>
<td>Counseling Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 706</td>
<td>Counseling Skills and Process</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 715</td>
<td>Assessment in Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 736</td>
<td>Advanced Counseling Process</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 720</td>
<td>Career Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 737</td>
<td>Psychopharmacology in Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 738</td>
<td>Addictions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 741</td>
<td>Crisis Counseling for Counselors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 794</td>
<td>Seminar in Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 811</td>
<td>Group Counseling Process</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 833</td>
<td>Social and Cultural Foundations in Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 857</td>
<td>Law and Ethics for Counselors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 870</td>
<td>Professional Issues, Clinical Case Management and Systems of Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 890</td>
<td>Integrative Counseling and Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 891</td>
<td>Case Studies and Internship Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 892</td>
<td>Culminating Experience for Counselors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>