

**SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING  
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COUNSELING  
SPECIALIZATION/ EMPHASIS IN CAREER COUNSELING**

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**The Field of Career Counseling**

Career Counseling is the grandparent and cornerstone of the field of Counseling. It began in 1909 with Frank Parson's book, *Choosing A Vocation*, and has grown into a discipline that helps people enter and navigate the world of work. Career counselors provide life-career planning counseling and coaching; career assessment; program development and consultation; group counseling; educational and occupational information; job development and job placement; ability to identify and develop employment opportunities; help clients develop job search skills; provide services to employers and prospective employees. Career counselors may be licensed in the State of California as Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCC) provided they have completed specified coursework, supervised clinical practice and licensing exams. In addition, The Registry is a professional listing of career counselors in California and establishes professional standards and protects consumers through awareness and information.

**The Career Counseling Program at San Francisco State University**

The Career Counseling program at San Francisco State University is one of only nine programs in the United States that are accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

The Career Development model that is the focus of the Career Counseling program provides a full integration of personal and career counseling. SF State is one of the only programs nationwide that has ventured into this often uncharted territory. The Career Counseling program prepares graduates to have expertise in career counseling and programs for high schools, colleges, universities, private career counseling and consultation, private industry and public agencies. This program blends expertise in career counseling with interpersonal development and family dynamics. Issues such as work and family balance, career and life goals, workplace conflict, employment rights, healthy workplace, job search strategies, and the emotional aspects of career change are covered in the curriculum. The program is dedicated to the highest standards in general counseling and career counseling skills. SF State is among only three programs in California that provide the majority of the coursework necessary for licensure. Graduates who are interested in providing holistic career counseling and addressing the range of issues that affects clients' lives and work may be interested in working toward eligibility for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC). The diversity of the Department of Counseling as well as its emphasis on social justice, advocacy and multicultural competence distinguish it from other programs.

**Admission to the Career Counseling Program**

The department and the university have a Fall admit program; candidates for admission to the program must apply by January 14 for the following Fall semester. Applications must be received by the department by January 14 in order to be accepted for admissions review. Prospective students can attend an orientation session which provides information on the application process. The program application is available for download<sup>1</sup> on our website at [www.counseling.sfsu.edu](http://www.counseling.sfsu.edu) (see Prospective Students link to the left of our Mission Statement).

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<sup>1</sup> The Department of Counseling program application download link is available on our website starting early August and is removed after the application deadline.

It is recommended that students applying to the program have some experience (paid or volunteer) related to counseling. Undergraduate courses in business, marketing, human relations, assessment, and psychopathology are very useful in preparing for this graduate education.

The Master's program is a 60 unit program including core courses in general counseling and specialized courses in career counseling such as career development theory, advanced career counseling techniques, job placement, and computer utilization. Students have hands-on learning opportunities through fieldwork internships and practica where students work in college and university career centers, high school advising offices, outreach programs, and non-profit agencies. Students typically complete the program in two to three years, although some students choose to extend that due to work and family balance. It should be noted that for those contemplating a part-time program, it is necessary to have a flexible work schedule.

### Curriculum

The Department of Counseling has four prerequisites to its program: (1) Theories of Personality (at SFSU, PSY 451), (2) Developmental Psychology (at SFSU, PSY 431), (3) Psychopathology (at SFSU, PSY 452), and (4) Counseling 690 - The Field of Counseling, which may be taken in the first semester in residence. **All foundation psychology classes should be taken prior to enrollment in the program.** Applicants who wish to begin certain classes before learning whether he or she has been accepted into the program may do so through Open University on a space available basis. (See enclosed brochure.)

<u>Program</u>		<u>Units</u>
Coun 700	Theories of Counseling	3
Coun 702	Developmental Foundations for Counselors	3
Coun 703	Psychological Foundations for Counselors	3
Coun 705	Practicum and Internship	2
Coun 706	Interviewing Process	3
Coun 715	Assessment in Counseling	3
Coun 720	Career Counseling	3
Coun 721	Computer Applications in Counseling	3
Coun 727	Advanced Career Counseling	3
Coun 735	Counseling Practicum and Fieldwork	2
Coun 736	Advanced Counseling Process	3
Coun 738	Alcohol and Substance Abuse	2
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 in Counseling	3
Coun 858	Couples and Family Counseling	3
Coun 859	Counseling aspects of Sexuality	2
Coun 890	Integrative Counseling	3
Coun 891	Case Studies and Internship	3
Coun 892	Internship	4
Minimum Total		60

## **Life as a Career Counselor after Graduation**

The job market for graduates of the program is varied and expanding. In the San Francisco Bay Area, graduates work in organizations such as San Francisco State University, community colleges like City College of San Francisco, private colleges like Stanford University, University of San Francisco and Golden Gate University, as well as others. Graduates are also employed in private service agencies such as Positive Resource Center, 40 Plus, Alumni Resources, and Jewish Vocational Services. Some Career Counseling graduates work as college advisers, student support service counselors, international student advisers and outreach counselors.

The largest growth industry in the field of counseling, and specifically career counseling, is in private practice of career counseling as well as employment agencies. As increasing numbers of people change careers over their lifetimes, they seek out career counseling to assist in life planning decisions. Further, recent economic upheaval has resulted in large numbers of people seeking employment assistance. In addition, career counselors will be called upon to help retirees plan further educational and career goals. This allows for the field to interface nicely with mental health counseling, gerontological counseling and rehabilitation counseling.

Students are prepared in areas of life and career planning, client evaluation through utilizing psychological tests, program development and consultation, group counseling including job club development and vocational exploration groups, utilization of educational and occupational information, job development and job placement. Current students are also introduced to the new field of School to Work (STW) counseling and its relationship to school counseling in the secondary schools, vocational-technical schools and community colleges.

Graduates can complete the majority of the coursework needed to become eligible to sit for the licensure exam as well as the National Counselor Examination to be certified by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).. There are also two national professional organizations that career counselors join. The National Career Development Association (NCDA) and the National Employment Counselors Association (NECA), both divisions of the American Counseling association (ACA). In addition, the California Career Development Association (CCDA) and the Bay Area Chapter of CCDA include many alumni and students of SF State's Career Counseling Program).

The faculty in the Counseling Department at San Francisco State University are very proud of the Career Counseling program. In addition to extensive teaching experience, career counseling faculty have worked in community college counseling, private practice, non-profit career centers, and university career centers. They have also served in leaderships positions in top professional associations. We are delighted to learn about your interest and look forward to answering any questions that you may have. For more information about the program, please contact Dr. Rebecca Toporek at [rtoporek@sfsu.edu](mailto:rtoporek@sfsu.edu).

### **For Further Information Contact:**

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