

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING
MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN COUNSELING
CONCENTRATION: MARRIAGE, FAMILY & CHILD
COUNSELING (MFCC/MFT)

The Field of Marriage and Family Counseling. The Masters of Science in Counseling, Concentration: Marriage, Family & Child Counselor offers you the opportunity to become a licensed marriage and family therapist in California. Marriage, family and child counselors work in a variety of settings related to the delivery of mental health services: family service agencies, community mental health centers, youth divergence projects, hospice, domestic violence prevention programs, substance abuse treatment programs, and the like. Marriage and family counselors are usually direct service providers in agencies and other settings. With experience, many counselors undertake supervision and program management responsibilities. Private practice is also an option. Graduates are also eligible to practice as mental health counselors in over 30 states upon passing a national exam (National Board of Certified Counselors), provided they meet the other requirements of that state.

Admission to the Marriage and Family Counseling Concentration. We are a fall admit program, which means you must submit a completed application by the January deadline for the following fall semester. Applications must be received by the department by the deadline in order to be accepted for admissions review. All prospective applicants are encouraged to attend an orientation session, which provides information on the application process. Please visit our website at counseling.sfsu.edu for information regarding admissions procedures, requirements, and to obtain a program application.¹

It is necessary to apply to both the Department of Counseling and to the university. Visit the Graduate Studies website at www.sfsu.edu/~gradstdy for instructions on how to apply to the university.

Students entering this concentration need a good grounding in personality theory, human growth and development, normal and psychopathological variants of behavior, and the human services field. This may be acquired by taking undergraduate prerequisite courses in these content areas, and in having direct, related experience working with people in relevant settings.

The Program of Marriage and Family Counseling. The program is dedicated to the highest standards of pre-professional training available. The primary purpose of the Department of Counseling is to train competent, professional, culturally sensitive counselors. The Department of Counseling is one of the largest in the nation, with over 30 full and part-time instructors. The Department of Counseling is accredited by CACREP, certifying that it meets national standards.

The Master's of Science in Counseling Concentration: Marriage, Family & Child Counseling is a 60-unit degree program. The marriage and family curriculum, in addition to a core group of classes, includes a series of specialized courses in the diagnosis and treatment of relationship and family dysfunctions, special issues and techniques related to sexuality, substance abuse, child development, and techniques of couple, relationship, and family interactions. In addition, several clinical practicum

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

courses are devoted to the special case management and clinical issues of working in marriage and family counseling settings.

A substantial part of the learning process is experienced through fieldwork in two different, academic-year field placements and a series of concurrent small group practicum courses where clinical skills are taught. Students, in collaboration with the Fieldwork Coordinator, select placement sites (mental health clinics, hospitals, community agencies, schools, etc.) where they will have an opportunity to work with clients, obtain supervision, and participate in peer group and professional consultations. In this activity, students practice their skills, observe the dynamics and nature of the clinical process, and further develop special interests within marriage, family and child counseling.

Ordinarily, a student taking a full time program can finish in two years. Some take classes in the summer and some complete the program part-time over a longer span of time. 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) Lifespan Developmental Psychology (at SFSU, PSY 431), (3) Psychopathology (at SFSU, PSY 452), and (4) COUN 690 – Field of Counseling. **All foundation Psychology courses should be taken prior to enrollment in the program.** Applicants who have met the prerequisites and who wish to begin certain classes before hearing whether they have been accepted into the program may do so through Open University on a space available basis. (See the enclosed brochure.)

Program	Units
COUN 700 Theories of Counseling	3
COUN 702 Developmental Foundations for Counselors	3
COUN 703 Psychological Foundations for Counselors	3
COUN 705 Fieldwork Traineeship	2
COUN 706 Interviewing Process.....	3
COUN 715 Assessment in Counseling	3
COUN 720 Career Counseling.....	1
COUN 735 Fieldwork Traineeship	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 827 The Consultation Process	1
COUN 833 Social and Cultural Foundations in Counseling.....	3
COUN 857 Law and Ethics in Counseling.....	3
COUN 858 Couples and Family Counseling I	3
COUN 859 Counseling Aspects of Sexuality	2
COUN 860 Couples and Family Counseling II	3
COUN 861 Seminar on Child Treatment.....	3
COUN 890 Integrative Counseling.....	3
COUN 891 Case Studies and Internship	3
COUN 892 Fieldwork Traineeship	4
Elective	1
Total.....	60

Meeting Licensing Requirements in California. Upon completion of the MS in Counseling: Concentration Marriage, Family & Child Counseling degree, the student can apply to the Board of Behavioral Science (BBS) for registered intern status. This enables the student to continue to accrue supervised clinical practice hours needed for licensing (a total of 1,300 hours can be accrued while a fieldwork trainee is in the graduate program). At the present time a total of 3,000 hours of supervised practice are required. When 3,000 hours have been completed, the intern can apply to the BBS to take a written examination. After passing the written examination the candidate must pass an additional examination. At that point, having completed all of these requirements, one is issued an MFT license. Licensees must also accrue 36 hours of continuing education hours every two years to maintain their license.

Contact the BBS and request information regarding the licensing process by writing to their address at 400 R Street #3150, Sacramento, CA 95814-6240, or calling 916-445-4933; 916-322-4910. You can also access information from their website at www.bbs.ca.gov.

We thank you for your interest in our MFCC/MFT program.

For Further Information Contact:

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Co-coordinators

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