Welcome!

This PowerPoint presentation is a general orientation to the application process at SFSU’s Department of Counseling. The Topics Covered:

• About our department and programs
• About the application
• FAQs
Wholistic Admission Criteria

- Letters of recommendation (from practitioners)
- Undergraduate g.p.a. at least 3.0 (last 60 units)
- Post-Baccalaureate Courses
- Graduate level education
- Counseling or Counseling-related field experiences
- Work experiences
- Personal Essay
- Global rating of the applicant, application

For details on each application requirement, review the program application instructions carefully
Wholistic Admission Process

• We consider everything. No single data point causes someone to be rejected.
• However, the Personal Essay is given significant weight in the final analysis.
• Lower than 3.0 GPA? Then you must have other outstanding strengths (i.e., field experiences, very strong writing, solid letters of recommendation).
• Perfect 4.0 GPA? Then you must also have other outstanding strengths.
Review Process

• Teams of two faculty members independently review groups of files.
• The teams reconcile independent decisions, and send recommendations to the coordinator.
• Interviews may be required, but not always.
• The coordinator makes the final decision, based on the recommendations of the teams.
What’s Missing?

GRE. Why?
Pre-Admission Writing Assessment

• The Written Analytical section of the GRE is used to determine whether to place applicants in a graduate writing class.

• Score 4.0 or higher = no writing class required.

• Score below 4.0, then students must take COUN 714, Writing for Counselors in the summer or fall.

• GRE scores are not considered for admission. However, GRE scores must be included in your program application packet.
Complete Admission Package

- Division of Graduate Studies Application (online)
- Department of Counseling Program Application (download)
- Résumé
- Unofficial or Official Transcripts (with degree listed)
- Copy of GRE scores
- Evidence of or plan for prerequisites
- Personal essay
- Two letters of recommendation (must use forms included in program application packet)
- Verification of volunteer experience (must use form included in program application packet)
- Pay program and Graduate Studies application fees
- In-person interview (if required by a program)
Letters of Recommendation

• Cannot be from friends, acquaintances, parents whose children you watched, and other personal connections.

• Ideally letters from people who have directly and professionally supervised you in a school, clinical, rehabilitation, and other counseling-related settings.

• Letters from professors are helpful, especially if they directly supervised you. The more contact the professor has had with you the better.
The Path to a Rejected Application

- Submit an incomplete or late program application.
- Turn in loose material. Everything must be together and submitted by application deadline.
- No application fee.
- No online graduate division application.
- Perform poorly in Dept of Counseling Open University graduate level classes.
• Always go to counseling.sfsu.edu if you need answers.
• Always check your application packet for answers.