

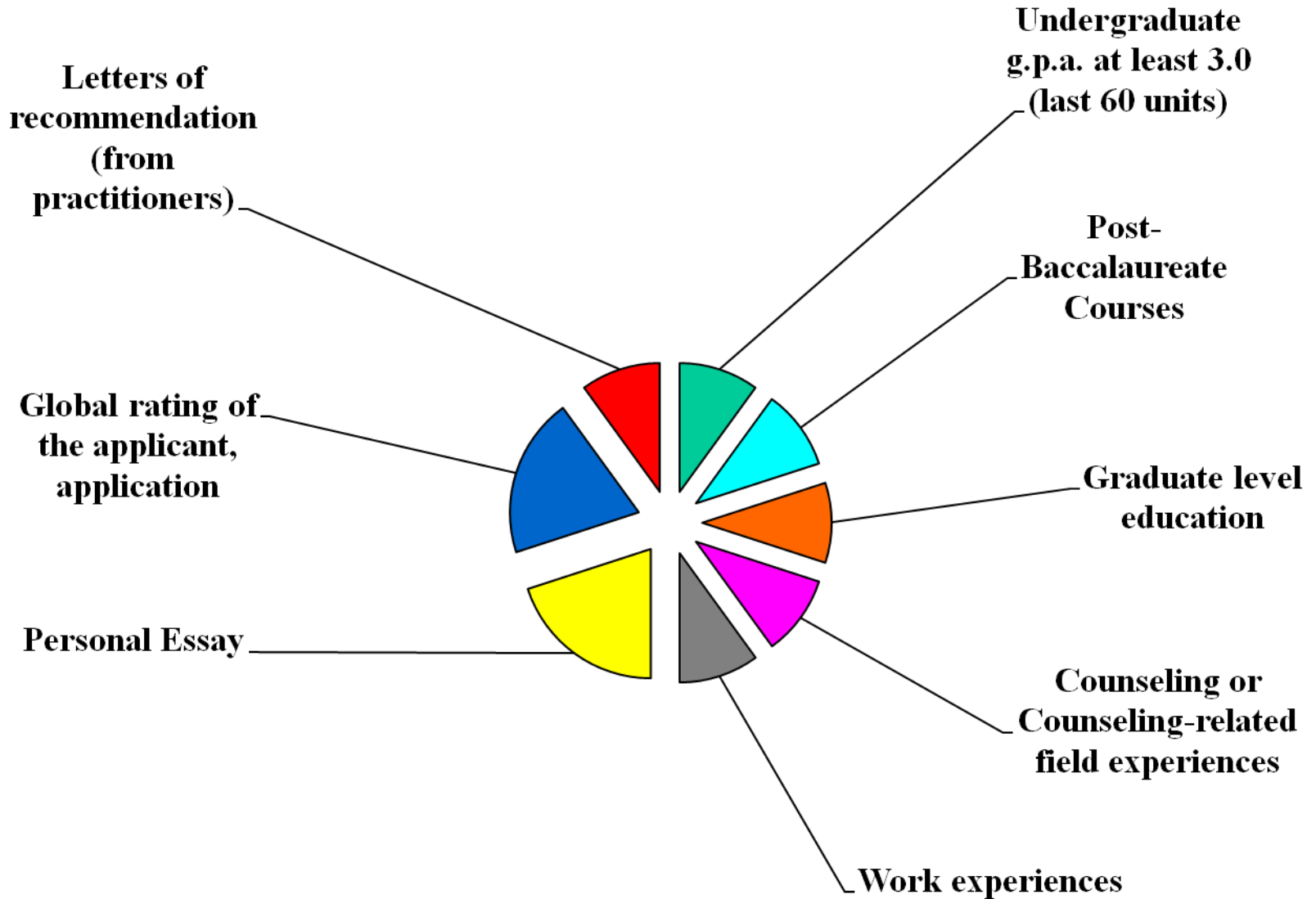
San Francisco State University  
Department of Counseling  
Applicant Orientation

# 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



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](http://counseling.sfsu.edu) if you need answers.
- Always check your application packet for answers.