

**San Francisco State University**  
**Department of Counseling**  
**Master of Science in Counseling**  
**Specialization/ Emphasis in School Counseling**

School Counseling is a program of professional specialization concerned with assisting students in public and private schools (grades PK-12) with effective counseling, guidance programs, and services that are designed to meet students' academic, personal-social, and career needs. The program is intended to expose students to both didactic and experiential learning. The program's focus is on children and adolescents becoming functional in a learning environment with both prevention and intervention strategies presented.

**The Program at San Francisco State University.** The program is dedicated to the highest standards of pre-professional training available. The primary mission 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 School Counseling Program is fully accredited by CACREP, certifying that it meets national standards.

The program may be completed in two years with full time attendance, or may be taken on a part-time basis. The program can be characterized in the following manner:

- The School Counseling curriculum is a specialization within the Department of Counseling with all of the required coursework being offered through this Department.
- Fieldwork is an integral part of the two-year program and is both a requirement of the SFSU Master's Degree in Counseling and the requirements of the State of California for the Pupil Personnel Services Credential in School Counseling.
- Ordinarily, a student taking a full-time program can finish in two years. Many 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.
- The size of the program has been intentionally kept small in order to maintain a quality program. The student to faculty ratio is about 13:1, which encourages a rich learning environment.
- We actively recruit students from diverse backgrounds into our program.
- We are a Fall admit program with a mid-January deadline each year. . Please refer to our website at [www.counseling.sfsu.edu](http://www.counseling.sfsu.edu) for more information and to download the program application.<sup>1</sup>
- Applicants must also apply to the university. Please visit the Graduate Studies website at [www.sfsu.edu/~gradstudy](http://www.sfsu.edu/~gradstudy) for instructions on how to apply to the university. The deadline to apply to the university is also January 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Applicants wishing to begin certain classes before learning whether he/she has been accepted into the program may do so through Open University on a space available basis. See the enclosed brochure.

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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.

- Graduates will be recommended for a PPS Credential in School Counseling to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing upon completion of all credentialing requirements.
- Students may combine the School Counseling program with other additional emphases. For those considering a mental health practice in CA, it is recommended to fulfill the requirements of the MFCC degree and then add the emphasis of School Counseling.
- Graduates are eligible to take the National Counselors exam (NBCC) the last semester in attendance. This certificate is recognized in over 30 states as a practitioner's certification (not in California).

**Curriculum.** The program consists of 60 units. Much of the core coursework is generic in nature and common to all counseling majors. In addition, the School Counseling specialization/emphasis has three professional seminars. Practical experience in the field of school counseling is integrated with academic study throughout the program. During the first year, each student spends a minimum of 12 hours per week in supervised practice in a school setting. In the second year, this increases to a minimum of 16 hours per week in supervised fieldwork in a different school placement. 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) COUN 690 - Field of Counseling, which may be taken in the first semester in residence. It is best to take pre-requisite courses **prior to enrollment in the program.**

<i>Program</i>	<i>Units</i>
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 716 Structural Elements for School Counseling .....	3
COUN 717 Functional Elements for School Counseling .....	3
COUN 718 Professional Issues for School Counseling .....	3
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 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 Fieldwork Traineeship .....	4
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>60</b>

**Job Outlook**. Enrollment in PK-12 public and private schools is soaring. The trend is expected to continue . California is the first in a list of states that will be affected, with a projected increase of 33.1%. The number of school counselors now is 83,000, an increase of 69.4%, which is up from 49,000 in the early 1970s, and is increasing at a higher rate than school principals (33%) and school teachers (43%). (*Projections of Education Statistics to 2006*, U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics.)

The Department of Education notes that 190,000 teachers have to be trained and hired to teach this exploding population, and that the hiring of school counselors will correspond.

**For Further Information Contact:**

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