Accredited Curriculum

The Department of Counseling programs are accredited nationally by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), the major accrediting body for the profession of counseling.

The School Counseling Program is also accredited by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).

Licensure and Certification

Our program aligns with requirements for:

- California Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) - Clinical Mental Health Counseling Specialization and/or Emphasis
- California Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) - Marriage, Family, Child Counseling Specialization
- California Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC) - School Counseling Specialization
- National Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) - Clinical Mental Health Counseling Specialization
- National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) - All Specializations

Employment Outlook

Our graduates are hired in settings such as public and private K-12 schools, community colleges and universities, community agencies, non profit organizations, residential facilities, family service centers, government agencies, hospitals, and more. Some graduates establish private practice and/or consulting.

Statewide, jobs for counselors are expected to experience strong growth (16.7%) between 2016 and 2026 according to the California Employment Development Department. The employment rate for graduates of our program is exceptional.

Admissions Information

Apply by January 15 for the following Fall semester only.

To be considered for admission into the Counseling Program, you must apply for and be admitted into both Graduate Studies and the Department of Counseling.

Applicant information sessions are held three times each fall (see our website for dates and locations).

Accessibility Statement

The Department of Counseling encourages and supports all individuals with disabilities to apply for and participate in our graduate programs. If you need an alternate format to access this brochure, please contact counsel@sfsu.edu

Need More Information?

For more information about admissions or our program, visit our website: counseling.sfsu.edu

Contact Us:

Department of Counseling
San Francisco State University
1600 Holloway Avenue, Burk Hall 524
San Francisco, CA 94132

Phone: (415) 338-2005
Email: counsel@sfsu.edu
Website: counseling.sfsu.edu

Directions to campus and parking information are available at parking.sfsu.edu.

Graduate Programs in Counseling

- Career Counseling
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- College Counseling
- Gerontological Counseling
- Marriage, Family & Child Counseling
- School Counseling
Our programs train professional, competent, culturally sensitive counselors. We emphasize skill development, a broad conceptual base, an ethical orientation, strength-based counseling, cultural competence, social justice advocacy, and a focus on personal awareness and growth.

Degree Programs and Specializations

Master of Science with 6 specialization options:
- M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- M.S. in Counseling, Career Counseling
- M.S. in Counseling, College Counseling
- M.S. in Counseling, Gerontological Counseling (emphasis only, not CACREP)
- M.S. in Counseling, School Counseling
- M.S. in Marriage, Family, & Child Counseling

Internships and Fieldwork

Experience is the centerpiece of our program. With training agreements at more than 300 fieldsites, we provide students with two years of internship in local schools, community colleges, universities, agencies, healthcare, and governmental agencies. Supervisors are experienced counseling professionals with strong networks in the community.

Onsite Counseling Clinic

1st year of skills training is provided in our in-house training clinic as well as in the field. The Peggy Smith Clinic onsite is run in collaboration with Counseling and Psychological Services.

Courses include 60 units in:

Curriculum for all counseling specializations include foundational, counseling intervention, and professional issues courses.

To support and enhance practical and advanced counseling skills, students enroll in internship courses paired with their fieldwork.

Specialization and emphasis courses provide in depth training in specific settings and counseling specialities as well as prepare for licensure or certification.

SF State makes its instructional materials, including online course materials, accessible to persons with disabilities in order to provide all students with a barrier-free education.

Our Faculty

Our faculty are nationally and internationally known scholars, educators, authors, and researchers in counseling. Experienced in the field as college counselors, career counselors, rehabilitation counselors, clinicians, therapists, and school counselors.

Student and Alumni Organizations

- Counseling Student Association (CSA)
- Chi Sigma Iota (Counseling Honor Society)
- Counseling Alumni Association (CAA)

What Our Graduates Say

"To me SF State’s program is top notch! The faculty were amazing and brought out the best in me. What I loved about the program is how much support is built in which balances out how challenging it can be."

- Justin Wembes, 2014

"The two years of traineeship really helped once I was looking for jobs after graduation as I had an extra year of experience compared to other graduate program graduates. Plus having the extra training really helped with my confidence as a beginning therapist and helped me filter out what kind of supervisors/work environments would be a good fit for me."

- Counseling Alum, 2013

"The program at SFSU is so strong because of the passionate and committed student body and the attentive and giving faculty. The faculty are scholars in their respective fields who also make the time to mentor each student individually. There is no other program with the same mix of intellectual rigor, personal attention, and peer/community support."

- Rachel Fuld Cohen, 2014

"The required hours in the field coupled with classes makes for a wonderful learning experience which surpasses other programs in the area... faculty and staff are very supportive in cultivating you as a professional, rather than just you as a student."

- Erica Asinof, 2014