Welcome
Cohort 4 Graduate Students

This is the next part of your journey as you prepare for the challenging career of a professional counselor....
...In the Fall, you will begin to undergo extensive education and training toward earning a 60 unit M.S. Degree in Counselor Education

Unwritten Rules About Succeeding in Graduate School
Graduate v. Undergraduate

- 9-13 semester units considered full-time status at the graduate level ......whereas 12-15 semester units is full time for undergraduates
- The expectation is that students will be self-sufficient and independent
- Advising should be used primarily as a time to discuss academic plans/academic interests, not to negotiate special requests
- Grad students should exercise good judgment in and outside of the classroom
Characteristics of an Effective Counselor

- Openness & Flexibility in Novel Situations
- Positive Attitude
- Cooperativeness
- Willingness & Ability to Use Feedback
- Awareness of Impact on Others
- Ability & Willingness to Deal with Conflict
- Willingness to Accept Personal Responsibility
- Ability to Express Feelings Effectively & Appropriately
General Information

- Students may not earn credit towards their degree for a course in which they earn a grade of B- or below.
  - Grades are important in graduate school; however, learning is not about regurgitating information and cramming to pass an exam. It’s about mastering information, thoughtful and analytical analysis, and applying theory to practice.
- You don’t need to write a Master’s Thesis in order to pursue a doctorate degree.
- As an EDC graduate student, it is important to be in communication with faculty, conduct yourself in a professional manner in and outside of class, show an interest in class topics/discussions (i.e., strive toward becoming a “future contributor”), as opposed to someone focused only on one’s own needs/interests.
- Some of the most important skills for counselors are:
  - The ability to seek new information
  - Flexibility
  - Openness to changing your mind and your views
  - Doing what’s best, not necessarily what’s most convenient
  - Integrity and Ethical Conduct both in and outside of counseling sessions
Academic Faculty Levels

- **Full-Time “Tenure-Track” Faculty**
  - Holds either a Ph.D., Psy.D., or Ed.D.
  - Hired to teach, advise students, conduct research, serve the college, university, and community

- **Part-Time/Adjunct Faculty**
  - Hired as part-time faculty to teach one or more classes
  - Typically hold Master’s degree, sometimes Ph.D., and may hold some form of licensure or credential
As in any professional program, it is important to develop positive relationships with faculty and classmates.

- Faculty sometimes play a key role in helping you secure fieldwork and employment opportunities
- Classmates will serve as collaborators and sometimes references in the field, as well

Obtaining employment in the field of Counseling is primarily through referrals:

- Therefore letters of recommendation and references are critical to finding a position

If you do not develop positive relationships with faculty in our department, you may be jeopardizing future employment opportunities.

Class participation is highly valued in graduate school.

Meeting with faculty advisors during regularly scheduled office hours about academic topics is highly valued.
How to Address Student Concerns

- If you have a problem that needs to be resolved, follow the steps below:
  1. If the problem is about a class issue, first meet with the class instructor to attempt to resolve the problem
  2. Schedule an IN-PERSON meeting with your faculty advisor (Make sure you are aware of office hours) if you are unable to resolve the problem using step 1
  3. Make an appointment with the specialization coordinator if you are unable to resolve the problem using step 2
  4. Make an appointment with the Graduate Branch Chair if you are unable to resolve the problem using step 3
  - In some cases, the Chair may refer to the Dean’s Office to resolve your problem. It’s important that you do not contact the Dean’s office without the Chair’s approval and/or knowledge.

- If you need assistance from the Graduate Branch Office, be patient, as they help many students throughout the day
- If you have a concern about another student, schedule a meeting with the program coordinator
Asking a Faculty Member to Serve as a Reference

- You may send an email or leave a phone message, but only to schedule a face-to-face meeting (ideally during office hours) to discuss the possibility of a letter of reference, NOT TO REQUEST THE LETTER.

- Ask the faculty member “Would you feel comfortable writing a positive letter of reference for me?”

- If you need a reference letter, you need to supply a current copy of your résumé to the reference.

- Provide the reference with a minimum of 2 weeks notice to write the letter. Requests received later than 2 weeks prior to the end of a semester will not be granted.
Student Accountability

- When in doubt, do not go by what you hear from others in passing...
- Check the Student Handbook & verify information with your faculty advisor
- Routinely check your email for updates and announcements
- Keep all correspondence that you receive from both EDC & OGS in a file
- You are required to read & be familiar with the EDC Student Handbook located on the College of Education Web site
- You are responsible for keeping informed of all deadlines and due dates throughout your program of study
  - Missing deadlines can impact matriculation and graduation.
How to Get “Off-Track”

- Behaving in an unprofessional manner with instructors, classmates, and office staff.
- Not following established procedures, including missing required departmental deadlines or not following the required course sequence.
- Sharing information with other students when the assignment indicated not to.
- Completing assignments in a manner not reflective of a graduate student
Personal Counseling and Informed Consent
Clarifying Degrees in Our Counseling Field

- Ph.D. in Counselor Education (NCC certification eligible; LPCC license eligible)
- Ed.D. in Counseling (NCC certification eligible; LPCC license eligible)
- Psy.D. in Counseling Psychology (Psych. license eligible)
- Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology (Psych. license eligible)
- M.S. in Counseling
  - Career Specialization (NCC certification-eligible; LPCC license-eligible)
  - MFT Specialization (NCC certification-eligible; LPCC license-eligible; MFT license-eligible)
  - School Specialization (NCC certification-eligible; LPCC license-eligible; PPS Credential-eligible)

- LPCC & MFT licenses are regulated by the State of California BBS
  - BBS regulations for licensure eligibility & CACREP accreditation means that faculty have less flexibility to meet individual student needs
Students take EDC 290 in their final semester, where they take the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE).

- If you pass the CPCE, you are eligible to graduate
- The National Counselor Examination (NCE) covers the same 8 sections as the CPCE, but is a separate exam that can only be taken after graduating from our program.
  - If you pass the NCE you are eligible to be a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC)
The BBS is responsible for consumer protection through the regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT) and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCC)

To be hired as a counselor in CA, you don’t need to be licensed in California if you are working under the auspices of a school, college, university or other public organization and are limiting your “scope of practice” to “Counseling,” and not practicing “Therapy” or “Clinical” work

If you are conducting “therapy” you need to be a licensed as an MFT or LPCC

As the holder of a Counseling degree, it may help with job prospects if you are a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC) (passing the National Counselor Exam (NCE) or, depending on the job, are an LPCC

MFTs will need to pass a law and ethics exam, California MFT exam, and earn 3,000 post-degree supervised hours
  • Some of the 3,000 hours may be earned while earning your M.S. degree

LPCCs will need to pass a law and ethics exam, the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Exam, and 3,000 post-degree supervised hours
  • None of the 3,000 hours may be earned while earning your M.S. degree
A Sampling of Counselor Education Alumni – Where They Are Now

Jennifer Smith, School Counselor, Greer Elementary School

Edward Tracy, School Counselor, Howe Avenue Elementary School

Maria Cook, School Counselor, Korematsu Elementary School

Lovedeep Purewal, School Counselor, Marysville Charter School

Thavone Vongphakham, School Counselor, Renewal Virtual Academies

Adam Freas, Career Counselor, Sac City College

Armando Oseguera, School Counselor, Davidson Middle School

Daisy Carmona, Career Developer, San Joaquin Office of Education

Linsey Vanzant, MFTI, Aegis Medical

Becky Hurley, MFTI, Diogenes Youth Services

Bianca Soriano, School Counselor, Encina Preparatory High School

Ken Times, Career Counselor, Sac City College
A Sampling of Counselor Education Alumni – Where They Are Now

Dr. Kenyatta Jones, University of California, Los Angeles

Lanisha Redic, School Counselor, Lincoln High School, Stockton & Ed.D. Candidate at California State University, Stanislaus

Dr. Crystal Martinez, Tribal TANF program, Graduated with Ed.D. from CSUS in May 2013

Dr. Virgil Moorehead, Psy. D. at Wright Institute

Paolo Soriano, EOP Counselor, CSUS Full Circle Project

Tara Mann, Family Court Counselor

Lynn Bohecker, Candidate for Ph.D. in Counseling at Idaho State University

Pali Gill, Candidate for Ph.D. in Counseling at Oregon State University, CSUS Adjunct Professor

Shannon Wells, Career Counselor & Co-Op Coordinator, CSUS Career Center

Alyssa Soboleski, Ed.D. Candidate at the University of San Francisco

Jennifer Lidster, School Counselor, Dublin Unified School District

Veronica O’Campo, MEAP Coordinator

Jenny Thao, School Counselor, Colonial Heights Elementary and Middle School
Breakout by Specialization

Career and School: Folsom Hall 1049
MFT: Folsom Hall 1050 (stay)