

MS IN COUNSELING (MARRIAGE, COUPLE, AND FAMILY COUNSELING)



In Workflow

- 1. GPSE Chair (gcowan@csus.edu)
- 2. ED College Committee Chair (l.banes@csus.edu; b.rivas@csus.edu)
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Approval Path

- 1. 2025-09-16T04:35:26Z
Geni Cowan (gcowan): Approved for GPSE Chair
- 2. 2025-10-20T00:32:35Z
Bita Rivas (b.rivas): Approved for ED College Committee Chair
- 3. 2025-10-20T17:27:00Z
Sarah Jouganatos (sarah.jouganatos): Approved for ED Dean

History

- 1. Mar 24, 2021 by Bita Rivas (b.rivas)
- 2. Apr 29, 2021 by Janett Torset (torsetj)
- 3. Feb 20, 2023 by Bita Rivas (b.rivas)
- 4. Apr 3, 2023 by Janett Torset (torsetj)
- 5. Apr 2, 2025 by Bita Rivas (b.rivas)

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Viewing: MS in Counseling (Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling)

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Changes proposed by: Bita Rivas (223000752)

Academic Group: (College)

Education

Academic Organization: (Department)

Graduate Professional Studies in Education

Catalog Year Effective:

2026-2027 Catalog

Individual(s) primarily responsible for drafting the proposed degree major program:

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
Bita Rivas	b.rivas@csus.edu	916-278-5950

Type of Program:

Concentration

Program Change Type:

Non-Substantive

Is this a pilot program?

No

Delivery Format:

Fully Face to Face

Title of the Program:

MS in Counseling (Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling)

Designation: (degree terminology)

Master of Science

Briefly describe the program proposal (new or change) and provide a justification:

1. Eliminating EDC 238 as the EDC 236 meets the new accreditation requirements for CACREP 2024 more intentionally. 2. Updating program outcomes to better align with new CACREP accreditation standards and corresponding assessment standards and practices. 3. cleaning up language for prospective students in the catalog and admissions language. 4. in having reactivated EDC 236, it is very similar to EDC 238 and we do not have enough enrollment for both and 236 better meets new accreditation requirements.

University Learning Goals

Graduate (Masters) Learning Goals:

Disciplinary knowledge
Communication
Critical thinking/analysis
Information literacy
Professionalism
Intercultural/Global perspectives
Research (optional)

Program Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome
Students will evaluate and apply knowledge of ethical standards of professional counseling organizations and credentialing bodies, applications of ethical and legal considerations in professional counseling, and differentiation of professional roles in various counseling settings.
Students will analyze how heritage, race, gender, ethnicity, beliefs, attitudes, and values impact individuals and families and demonstrate skills to provide appropriate services to diverse populations with the use of theories, techniques, and models.
Students will analyze and evaluate theories of individual and family development across the lifespan, theories of normal and abnormal personality development, and will demonstrate strategies, assessments, and interventions using developmental theories and developmentally appropriate treatment and intervention skills.
Students will evaluate use of theories, models, and approaches for conceptualizing the interrelationships among and between work, mental well-being, relationships, and other life roles and factors.
Students will apply theories and demonstrate essential interviewing skills, use of counseling skills and counseling theories, for case conceptualization and intervention.
Students will evaluate dynamics associated with group process and development and apply theoretical foundations and skills of group counseling and group work.
Students will analyze and use ethical and culturally relevant strategies for selecting, administering, and interpreting assessment and test results and will demonstrate use of assessment results to diagnose developmental, behavioral, and mental disorders.
Students will demonstrate a knowledge of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed research methods, and program evaluation.
Students will analyze use of systems theories, techniques, models, and interventions in case conceptualization and practice provision of treatment to individuals, couples, and families.

Learning Outcomes Display

Course Code	PLO 1	PLO 2	PLO 3	PLO 4	PLO 5	PLO 6	PLO 7	PLO 8	PLO 9
EDC 210		1✓							
EDC 214			1✓						2
EDC 216					1✓				
EDC 218							1✓		
EDC 219					2	1✓			
EDC 231					2		2✓		
EDC 233					2✓				
EDC 244							2✓		
EDC 250								1✓	
EDC 252	1✓								
EDC 260				1✓					
EDC 280					1✓				
EDC 475	2✓	2✓	2✓	2✓	2✓	2	2	2	2
EDC 480	3✓	3✓	3✓	3✓	3✓	3✓	3✓	3✓	3✓
EDC 212									2✓
EDC 234			2	2	2				1✓
EDC 254	2						2✓	2	
EDC 235			2	2	2				2✓

EDC 236									20
EDC 476									30

Will this program be required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?

No

Catalog Description:

Total units required for MS: 60

Program Description

The 60-unit Master of Science in Counseling prepares professional counselors for employment in a variety of settings such as public, private, state, and federal agencies, community mental health centers, behavioral health care centers, and private practice. This degree meets the educational requirements for becoming dually licensed as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) and a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) in the State of California.

Our program is clinically oriented, with didactic and experiential courses, a 100-hour clinical practicum, and 600 hours of fieldwork experience. The program is a full time three-year program and students will take between 9-12 units each fall and spring to complete within the three years. Students are admitted into a cohort and will follow the course sequence designated by their program concentration. The cohort model allows students to advance together throughout their education while building support and connections within their peer group.

Students are encouraged to advance their advocacy and professional experiences through such activities as participation in professional organizations, research, and presentations at the state, regional, and national level; involvement in our Counselor Education Symposium; and/or involvement Chi Sigma Sigma chapter of Chi Sigma Iota locally and nationally. Both leadership and research opportunities are supported through faculty mentorship. The curricular experience is organized around core foundation courses, an intensive on-campus practicum training clinic experience, interpersonal growth experiences, advanced theory and practice courses, and a culminating internship placement.

Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling Concentration

- The Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling Concentration is designed to provide students with all the educational competencies required by the California State Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) for licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC). The program trains professionals to work in a variety of settings, including community mental health centers; behavioral health centers; county, state, and federal agencies; hospitals and private practice; and prepares students to provide psychotherapy in treatment of mental health to individuals, children, adolescents, couples, and families. Emphasis is placed on developmental and preventative concerns from a holistic perspective.

The Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling program at Sacramento State is nationally accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The MS Counseling (Marriage, Couple, and Family) curriculum is also evaluated by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) for LMFT and LPCC licensure. The MS Counseling (Marriage Couple and Family Counseling) curriculum is COAMFTE aligned but not COAMFTE accredited.

Note: For additional information on credentials, see the "College of Education" section of this catalog. For program specific information, see the Counselor Education webpage. Program requirements are subject to change in order to maintain compliance with relevant state and national certification, licensure, and/or accreditation requirements. Interested parties should refer to the current student handbook for up to date program information.

Special Features

- An on-campus Counseling Clinic in the Center for Counseling and Diagnostic Services brings clients from the Sacramento and California community to be counseled by students in the program and provides opportunity for video and audio feedback.
- Internship trainees provide counseling and psychotherapy services in various settings such as local agencies, state affiliated mental health settings, community mental health organizations, behavioral health agencies, hospitals, and non-profit organizations.
- Faculty actively support diversity and focus on multicultural counseling skills throughout the curriculum.
- Classes are offered during the day, late afternoon, and evening.

Admission Requirements: Course prerequisites and other criteria for admission of students to the degree major program, and for their continuation in it.

Admission Requirements

Admission as a classified graduate student in the Master of Science in Counseling program requires:

- A baccalaureate degree;
- Good academic standing at the last college attended;
- A grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in the last 60 semester (or 90 quarter units);

- Completion of the University application materials;
- Completion and submission of all Departmental application materials which include:
 - Application form;
 - Written statements delineated in application, including Personal Statement and Writing Prompt;
 - Copies of transcripts (from all universities and colleges attended);
 - Recommendation Forms;
 - Relevant work experience via a Resume/CV.
- Participation in an In-Person Admission Evaluation, which may include (but is not limited to) interviews, experiential activities, and writing samples.

Selected applicants, based on paper screening of completed applications, will be invited for an In-Person Admission Evaluation via an Interview Day. Decisions for admission into the Master of Science in Counseling program are made based on a comprehensive assessment of **all application materials** and performance in the In-Person Admission Evaluation.

Admission Procedure

The Master of Science in Counseling program accepts applications each fall for admission the following year. The program does not offer spring admissions. Applicants must complete a university application and program supplemental application by the posted application deadline date for the term applying.

For more admissions information and application deadlines, please visit the Office of Graduate Studies website (<https://www.csus.edu/graduate-studies/>).

Prospective applicants, including Sacramento State graduates, must submit one set of official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, other than Sacramento State, to the Office of Graduate Studies either electronically to gradtranscripts@csus.edu or physical transcripts for those institutions that do not send official transcripts electronically can be addressed to:

Office of Graduate Studies
California State University, Sacramento
Riverfront Center, Room 215, MS 6112
6000 J St.
Sacramento, CA 95819

Admission is competitive with a limited number of students admitted each year. At the end of the application and screening period, a program recommendation will be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies for further review. Decisions regarding admission are then emailed to each applicant. Following admission, students are assigned to a faculty advisor who assists with academic advising.

Minimum Units and Grade Requirement for the Degree

Units required for the MS: 60

Minimum Cumulative GPA: 3.0

Advancement to Candidacy

Each student working toward a Master's degree must file an application for Advancement to Candidacy for the Master's degree. The purpose of this application is to provide certification to the Office of Graduate Studies that the student will complete or has completed the necessary requirements and acceptable electives for the Master's degree with a minimum 3.0 GPA. The Advancement to Candidacy application should be filed upon completion of 30 units in the program but typically our students complete this in their final year of our program.

Note: Students must meet the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) before advancing to candidacy. Our EDC 250 serves as our Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) course to advance to candidacy.

The Advancement to Candidacy form is submitted online. Students should complete the relevant form in consultation with their assigned academic advisor. Once the form is endorsed by the student and the advisor, it will be verified by the Department's Graduate Coordinator and then forwarded to the Office of Graduate Studies for final approval. An Advancement to Candidacy must be on file prior to registration for culminating experience (EDC 500) and prior to submitting a Petition to Graduate to the Office of Graduate Studies.

For Counselor Education information please visit the College of Education: Master's Programs Website (<https://www.csus.edu/college/education/masters-programs/>) where you will find the Counselor Education webpage (<https://www.csus.edu/college/education/masters-programs/counselor-education.html>) and under the "Current Students" link, the Forms and Handbooks (<https://www.csus.edu/college/education/masters-programs/current-students.html>) page where you can obtain the Student Handbook. It is highly recommended that students read the Student Handbook.

As defined by policy <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/acadaff/fsm00010.htm>, a change in units constitutes a substantive change to the program. If your changes constitute a substantive change, please refer back to the "Program Change Type" field above to ensure that "Substantive" is selected.

Program Requirements: (If new courses are being created as part of a new program, it will be useful to propose courses first.)

Program Requirements^{1,2}

Code	Title	Units
Required Courses for All Specializations (44 Units)		
EDC 210	Advocacy, Social Justice, and Cultural Foundations in Counseling	3
EDC 214	Dynamics of Human Development	3
EDC 216	Counseling Theory	3
EDC 218	Assessment In Counseling	3
EDC 219	Group Processes in Counseling	3
EDC 231	Diagnosis and Treatment Planning	3
EDC 233	Substance Use and Addiction Counseling	3
EDC 244	Trauma and Crisis Counseling	3
EDC 250	Education Research 	3
EDC 252	Legal and Ethical Issues in Professional Counseling	3
EDC 260	Career Development	3
EDC 280	Counseling Skills Lab	2
EDC 475	Counseling Practicum	3
EDC 480	Counseling Internship	6
Taken twice, 3 units each, over two separate semesters, in order to meet accreditation requirements.		
Total Units		44

¹ Minimum GPA: 3.0

² *Academic Residence:* A minimum of 42 approved semester units in 100-, 200-, and 500-series offerings must be earned in residence at California State University, Sacramento.

Concentration Requirements

Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling (15 units)

Code	Title	Units
EDC 212	Gender and Sexuality in Counseling	3
EDC 234	Seminar: Marriage and Family Counseling	3
EDC 254	Counseling and Psychotropic Medicine	3
EDC 235	Advanced Seminar: Marriage and Family Counseling	3
EDC 236	Couples Counseling	2
EDC 476	Advanced Skills in Marriage and Family Counseling	1

Culminating Requirement (1 Unit)

All students in the M.S. in Counseling program must enroll in EDC 500¹ during their final semester in the program and complete the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE). Students must have an Advancement to Candidacy on file prior to enrollment in this culminating experience.

In order to pass this multiple choice examination, a student must meet the minimum criterion score set by the Counselor Education Program. Categories covered include:

- Human Growth and Development
- Social and Cultural Foundations
- Helping Relationships
- Group Work
- Career and Lifestyle Development
- Appraisal
- Research and Program Evaluation
- Professional Orientation and Ethics

¹ Department petition required the semester prior to enrollment.

For graduate programs, the number of declared undergraduate major and the degree production over the preceding years of the corresponding baccalaureate program:

There is no corresponding baccalaureate program.

Fiscal Impact to Change an Existing Program

Indicate programmatic or fiscal impact which this change will have on other academic units' programs, and describe the consultation that has occurred with affected units:

none

Provide a fiscal analysis of the proposed changes:

n/a

How will the above changes be accommodated within the department/College existing fiscal resources?

it will save money by ensuring full enrollment by reducing number of options.

Will the proposed changes require additional resources?

No

What additional space, equipment, operating expenses, library, computer, or media resources, clerical/technical support, or other resources will be needed?

none

Estimate the cost and indicate how these resource needs will be accommodated:

n/a

Reviewer Comments:

Geni Cowan (gcowan) (2025-09-16T04:35:03Z): The question about changes being accommodated within the department/College existing fiscal resources was not directly addressed. The response mentioned a "course offered." It is not at all clear how the proposed changes to the program will ensure full enrollment for a "course offered."

Key: 490