

Instructions for the MS in Counseling Program Application

Applicable for All Four Concentrations:

- (a) Career Counseling; (b) Marriage, Couple, & Family Counseling [MCFC];
(c) Rehabilitation Counseling; and (d) School Counseling**

Thank you for your interest in our MS in Counseling Program. In applying to our program, you are applying to ONE of the four concentrations. Detailed instructions are below -- **Please read carefully.**

(A) Overall Admission Process

- Students are admitted to our program for Fall semester each year – **there are no Spring or Summer semester admission applications.**
- The admission portal through [CSU apply](#) opens on October 1, 2024 (6am PST).
- The deadline for applications to all MS in Counseling Program concentrations closes on **January 13, 2024 (9pm PST). No late applications will be reviewed for admission.** Application review begins after this deadline – no early or rolling decisions are available.
- The admissions screening process is a holistic review, assessing content in the following areas: knowledge, skills, and professional dispositions.
- The admission process includes two components:
 - 1) *Primary Screening: Submission and Review of the Application Through CSU Apply*
 - The initial screening reviews the submitted materials for completed applications.
 - Applicants will then be notified via email by early February as to whether or not they will be moving to the secondary screening process.
 - Please add the following email addresses as safe senders for any email used as part of the application process: coe-counselored@csus.edu; coe-grad@csus.edu; & grad_admissions@csus.edu
 - 2) *Secondary Screening: Interview Day*
 - Interview Day includes an interview, group activity, and in-person writing prompt.
 - This is an in-person, all-day event and there are no alternative dates or virtual options. **Applicants must attend** in order to be considered for admission.
 - This year's event will be on **February 28, 2025 (all day)** – PLEASE RESERVE THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR
- Admitted applicants will then be notified during March through May – more details will be presented at the Interview Day event.

(B) Minimum Admission Requirements

Admission as a classified graduate student in the MS 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 (90 quarter) units taken (no matter which institution or combination of institutions you attended)

(C) Admissions Procedures – Required Documents for Application

Note: ALL written statements must follow APA 7 formatting and be uploaded as PDF files.

All applicants, including Sacramento State graduates, must submit the following:

1) Concentration-Specific Written Statement:

- *Formatting Minimum Requirements:*
 - APA 7 format, 2-4 pages double-spaced response, including a title page.
 - At least five APA citations, and an APA reference page
- a) The writing prompt below is intended for the program to assess your writing and research abilities, how you construct and organize your paper (APA), content, and knowledge of the counseling profession. It is not to assess or identify expertise in the field. **When answering the question below, please speak to the work and concepts of the concentration to which you are applying.**
 - In your application for MS in Counseling, discuss the importance of considering intersectional identities in wellness, prevention, assessment, and intervention within counseling. Explain how your understanding of intersectionality enhances counseling approaches for individuals and systems. Explore the role of the wellness model in addressing intersectional identities; include its influence on prevention strategies, assessment techniques, and intervention methods compared to other mental health professions. How does this holistic approach promote social justice within the counseling practice?

2) Resume/CV - Relevant Work Experience

- Please provide a resume/CV that includes your professional, related professional, and/or volunteer experiences. If applicable, include any honors, awards, research, or other achievements as appropriate. Please upload the file in PDF format.

3) Personal Statement

- Please share your goals regarding why you want to become a professional Counselor, including your interests, community engagement, and abilities that are leading you to apply for a graduate program in counseling. How do you see your strengths and areas of growth in potentially attaining these goals? What factors have led to your consideration of professional counseling, specializing in career/marriage couple and family/rehabilitation/school counseling, as opposed to other helping professions (e.g., psychology, social work, etc.) (2-3 pages).

4) Recommendation Form Information (2 Required)

- We are requesting that you provide two recommenders. You will provide their contact information and a recommendation form will be sent to them directly.
- These recommenders should be from an individual who has observed your knowledge, skills, or professional dispositions in a professional capacity and/or supervisory relationship. Please do not include personal references, we are requesting professional references. For example, someone who has overseen your work as an Instructor, Professor, or a Supervisor at your place of employment.

5) Unofficial Transcripts

- You must upload (as PDF format) one set of unofficial transcripts from **ALL** colleges and universities attended – this includes any institutions where additional or non-degree-earning credits were earned.
- If admitted, you will be contacted for official copies of transcripts by the Office of Graduate Studies.