

# Master of Science in Counseling

---

The M.S. in Counseling is a professional program to prepare students for a successful career in the counseling profession. The program's emphasis in postmodern praxis and commitment to social justice sets the tone of preparing counselors who can respond to complex issues in a variety of settings. The degree offers two concentrations, one in Professional Counseling and one in School Counseling, each being 60 units as a stand alone degree. Students who complete the appropriate concentration within the degree can apply to the California Board of Behavioral Sciences to become Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCC). Coursework in the appropriate concentration prepares students to become counselors in grades K-12 through applying for the California Pupil Personnel Services School Counselor Credential (PPS). Students may also elect to combine concentrations, as core courses overlap, for a total of 72 semester units.

## Admission to the Program

In addition to the general requirements of the university, specific requirements for admission to classified graduate status are:

1. Attend a Counseling Program information meeting (meeting schedule can be found on the program's website);
2. Submission of an Admissions Portfolio following criteria and guidelines provided at the orientation meeting. Portfolios will be evaluated according to the Counseling Program portfolio rubric. Students will be notified as to the status of their application to enroll in COUN 6220. A completed portfolio contains:
  - a. Admission to CSUSB Graduate Studies;
  - b. Application and current vita/resume;
  - c. Transcripts of all higher education coursework;
  - d. GPA of 3.0 or higher from all previous undergraduate/graduate work;
  - e. Written Personal Statement;
  - f. Three positive recommendations from persons having knowledge of applicant's counseling potential (forms provided by program);
  - g. Evidence of current negative TB test;
  - h. Evidence of CTC clearance or possession of a valid California teaching credential;
  - i. Upon completion of the above requirements, the student's file will be reviewed by an admission committee composed of at least three members of the Counseling faculty. Students will be notified about the result of their application and invited to enroll in COUN 6220.
3. Completion of COUN 6220 with a grade of "B" (3.0) or better.
4. Students who do not meet admissions criteria will be notified of their deficiencies.

## Advancement to Candidacy

In order to be formally advanced to candidacy a student must have:

1. Completed 12 semester units of coursework with a grade point average of 3.0 ("B"), to include COUN 6220, COUN 6221; COUN 6222.
2. Complete COUN 6220 with a B or better.
3. Meet graduate writing requirement that is housed in COUN 6221 with a passing grade as specified in course syllabus.
4. Filed an approved graduate program plan for completion of the degree. This must be prepared in consultation with a program advisor and approved by the program coordinator.

## Requirements for Graduation

1. A minimum of 60 semester units of graduate-level work, with a minimum of 42 units completed in residency at this university. Students pursuing the dual concentration must complete a minimum of 49 units in residency;
2. A minimum of 20 semester units of credit taken after a student has been advanced to candidacy for the degree;
3. A grade point average of 3.0 ("B") in course work taken to satisfy the degree requirements, including a minimum of a "B" in COUN 6220, and COUN 6224, and no grade below a "B-" (2.7) in all other courses in the program;
4. The graduation writing requirement is met either through demonstrated competence by a passing grade on the writing assignment housed in COUN 6221 as specified in course syllabus or the completion of an equivalent course, GRE score of 5.0 or higher on the writing portion, publication, or masters degree as outlined in the graduate writing waiver form and approved by the program coordinator & graduate studies dean
5. Comprehensive examination, culminating experience, and/or through completion of a Master's degree project;
6. Completion of a graduation requirement check;
7. Any additional requirements not cited above and listed in the requirements for a Master's Degree listed in Graduate Degree and Program Requirements.

The comprehensive examination is designed to test the student's knowledge of the field of counseling. The examination is a standardized national exam, the Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE). The student will take the examination during their final term. The student must be advanced to candidacy at least one semester before taking the comprehensive examination. The student must complete a graduation check with the Office of Records, Registration and Evaluations before permission to take the examination can be granted. Students who do not receive a passing score may petition the program coordinator to retake the examination. Students who do not receive a passing score the second time must petition the Dean of Graduate Studies to retake the exam. Approval to retake the examination may be, at any time, contingent upon completion of additional designated courses.

A Master's research project can be reported in the form of a paper, which could include other media. The project proposal and the project must be approved by the student's advisor and one other professor in the College of Education and submitted in an approved format. Further information is available in the Graduate Thesis and Project handbook available through the Graduate Studies Office. Students who elect to complete a project are not required to take a comprehensive exam.

## Degree Requirements (60-69 units)

COUN 6220	Introduction to Counseling	3
COUN 6221	Introduction to Research & Evaluation	3
COUN 6222	Law & Ethics in Counseling	3
COUN 6224	Advanced Counseling	3
COUN 6226	Conflict Resolution	3
COUN 6227	Counseling Theories	3
COUN 6229	Socio-Cultural Counseling	3
COUN 6230	Human Development in Counseling	3
COUN 6231	Group Counseling	3
COUN 6232	Career Counseling	3
COUN 6233	Practice Based Placement (Must be taken for a minimum of 6 units and a maximum of 12 units in consultation with advisor)	6
COUN 6237	Appraisal	3
<b>Culminating Experience (0)</b>		<b>0</b>

### Concentration (21-30)

Students must satisfy the requirements of one of the concentrations 21-30 listed below.

<b>Total Units</b>	<b>60-69</b>
--------------------	--------------

## Culminating Experience (0 units)

Students must choose one of the following:

COUN 6980	Comprehensive Examination	0
COUN 6960	Master's Degree Project	0
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>0</b>

## Concentrations (21-30 units)

### School Counseling Concentration (21 units)

(Program Code: CSCC)

COUN 6223	Learning Theories	3
COUN 6225	Systems Consultation	3
COUN 6240	Professional School Counseling	3
<b>Electives (Choose 4 of the following) (12)</b>		<b>12</b>
COUN 6228	Addictions Counseling	
COUN 6235	Crisis and Trauma Counseling	
COUN 6236	Psychopharmacology	
COUN 6239	Family Counseling	
COUN 6238	Aging, Death & Grief in Couples & Families	
COUN 6241	Gender & Sexuality	
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>21</b>

### Professional Counseling Concentration (21 units)

(Program Code: CPCC)

COUN 6228	Addictions Counseling	3
COUN 6235	Crisis and Trauma Counseling	3
COUN 6234	Diagnosis	3
COUN 6236	Psychopharmacology	3
COUN 6239	Family Counseling	3
COUN 6238	Aging, Death & Grief in Couples & Families	3
COUN 6241	Gender & Sexuality	3
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>21</b>

### School and Professional Counseling Dual Concentration (30 units)

(Program Code: CSPC)

COUN 6223	Learning Theories	3
COUN 6225	Systems Consultation	3
COUN 6240	Professional School Counseling	3
COUN 6228	Addictions Counseling	3
COUN 6235	Crisis and Trauma Counseling	3
COUN 6236	Psychopharmacology	3
COUN 6239	Family Counseling	3
COUN 6238	Aging, Death & Grief in Couples & Families	3
COUN 6241	Gender & Sexuality	3
COUN 6234	Diagnosis	3
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>30</b>