



Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology, Emphasis in School Counseling

NORTH BAY REGIONAL CAMPUS

1. What degree and credential will I earn in this program?

The 48 unit School Counseling program meets requirements issued by the California State Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) for those seeking a career in school counseling in K-12 schools. Graduates of the program obtain a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree and are eligible for the Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Credential.

2. Can I get the PPS credential without earning the master's degree?

We do not offer this option. All students earn both a PPS credential and M.A. degree.

3. How long is the program? When will the next cohort begin?

This is a two-year, full-time program, including two summers, with admission offered only in the fall semester. The next cohort will begin in Fall 2011, which has an admission deadline of March 1, 2011. Those who enroll in the North Bay Regional Campus Fall 2011 cohort will graduate in Summer 2013.

4. What is the curriculum?

The School Counseling program blends coursework with fieldwork to prepare counselors to work effectively with children, adolescents, parents, and school personnel. Within these parameters, USF's School Counseling curriculum has a strong focus on multiculturalism and social justice.

5. How many courses will I take each semester?

On average, students will take three classes per semester.

6. What is required for the fieldwork component of this program? Where will I complete my fieldwork?

Fieldwork begins in your first semester and continues through the duration of the program. Most students spend an average of one to three days per week at their fieldwork sites. Students may complete their fieldwork in school districts in and around the Santa Rosa area. Students are responsible for finding their own fieldwork placements, though USF will provide contacts for possible fieldwork sites.

7. Is fieldwork paid or unpaid?

Because of California's current demand for qualified school counselors, many students are able to find paid fieldwork opportunities in the second year of the program. Such employment opportunities may be counted toward the program's fieldwork requirement as long as the student applies for a Pupil Personnel Services Internship Credential.

8. When will classes be offered? When will the semester begin?

Classes will be offered on alternating weekends - Friday evening and all day Saturday. The Fall 2011 semester will begin in late August 2011.

9. Can I work full time while I complete this program?

Possibly. Many School Counseling students work full time. However, keep in mind that you will need to have flexibility in your job so you can still complete the program's fieldwork component. You will likely need to commit to 2 days a week at your fieldwork site.

10. What job opportunities are available for graduates of this program? Can I work in a college setting?

Graduates may be employed in public or private K-12 schools, community-based agencies, and as consultants to schools, education programs, and other institutions serving the educational needs of youth. They also may choose to pursue a doctoral degree. This program is not suitable for those who wish to work as counselors in a college setting, as it is geared toward those who want to work as School Counselors at elementary, middle, or high schools.

11. Is it possible to combine the MFT program with the School Counseling program?

No, students must enroll in either the School Counseling or the MFT program. It is also difficult to transfer courses from the MFT program into the School Counseling Program since our courses are approved by the CTC for the PPS Credential.

12. What is required for admission?

A complete application should include the following:

- Admission application with \$55 fee (can apply online or via paper application).
- Two letters of recommendation from professional persons qualified to judge the applicant's suitability for the graduate program.
- A typed current résumé.
- A typed short statement describing professional career goals in counseling children, adolescents, or young adults, as well as personal interest in the program. Describe earlier formal or informal experiences working with children or adolescents.
- Passing scores from the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) - see #13, below.
- Valid teaching credential OR Certificate of Clearance - see #14, below.
- Interview with program coordinator.

13. What tests are required for admission? Is the GRE required?

School Counseling applicants must submit passing scores from the CBEST. For more information on the CBEST, including upcoming testing dates, please visit www.cbest.nesinc.com. The GRE is not required for the School Counseling program.

14. What is the Certificate of Clearance?

Because our students are placed in primary and secondary schools throughout their Master's program, they must have a valid clearance from the State of California. There are two ways to prove this:

- Submit a Certificate of Clearance OR a copy (front & back) of a valid California Basic Teaching Credential OR Emergency Permit. The clearance must come from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) and not from the school district.
- If you do not have a valid teaching credential, you must go through the application process to obtain a Certificate of Clearance from the State of California. The process includes fingerprinting through LiveScan and an application and fee. Instructions are found on the following website: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/how-to-apply.html>

15. What is the application deadline? Should I apply early?

The deadline for Fall 2011 is March 1, 2011. **Students are STRONGLY encouraged to apply early! You may request a paper application or apply online starting in September 2010.** Because we offer rolling admissions, we will review your file as soon as it is complete.

16. How can I pay for my education? Is financial aid available?

Most students apply for, and receive, some type of financial aid. For a list of institutional, state, and federal resources, visit USF's financial aid web site, www.usfca.edu/onestop.

17. Where should I submit my application materials?

Application materials should be submitted to: USF School of Education, Attn: Admissions Coordinator, 2130 Fulton St., San Francisco, CA 94117. If you use the online application, please note that you can upload most supplemental materials online but may have to submit test scores, transcripts and Certificate of Clearance via U.S. Mail.

Still have questions?

Contact Program Coordinator Will Dunn, dunn@usfca.edu.