**Program in Counseling Psychology**

**School of Social Sciences and Education**

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**Program Description**

The three-year 90-quarter unit Master of Science in Counseling Psychology Program at CSUB trains students to meet the community need for ethical, competent, and adaptable mental health professionals. It is designed to meet the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) statutory requirements, Section 4980.36 of the Business and Professions Code (BPC), for the California License in Marriage and Family Therapy (LMFT) as well as 4999.32-3 for the Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC). Students receive broad training that prepares them for work in diverse and changing settings. The well-trained counselor will understand that:

1. Counseling involves the application of intervention techniques based on the best theory and empirical research available;

2. The counseling relationship is central to effective therapeutic intervention;

3. Counselors creatively use their knowledge, skills, and personal experiences to create an environment where clients can make positive change;

4. Clients’ adaptive and maladaptive functioning is determined by multiple factors including individual, familial and cultural influences; and

5. Training and education in counseling is a lifelong process that begins in graduate school and continues throughout the counselor’s professional career.

The CSUB Counseling Psychology program places a particular value on personal exploration in training and supervision. The curricular objectives of the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology therefore emphasize:

1. A foundation in the theory and research upon which clinical practice is based;

2. Development of self-awareness and relationship-building skills that contribute to strong therapeutic alliances with clients;

3. Experiential learning, through which students learn and practice relevant skills and come to trust their own experience in work with clients;

4. An understanding of and a sensitivity to the effects of diverse individual, familial, and cultural factors; and,

5. Development of skills needed for lifelong learning and continued professional growth.

**Experiential Learning Requirements**

The Master of Science in Counseling Psychology Program is sequentially arranged and includes an emphasis on principles of experiential learning. Students are expected to participate from both counselor and client perspectives in individual, dyadic, and group exercises. Enrollment in the program implies student consent to engage in individual and group experiential learning activities in various courses.

**Ethical and Professional Conduct**

Throughout the program, it is important for students to remember that they are enrolled in a program designed to train professional counselors. The use of case vignettes, live clients, and student experiences are essential to this process. It is, thus, expected that students will conduct themselves as professionals and maintain the confidentiality of all client or student material generated or presented in any program class. A violation of this ethical requirement of confidentiality will result in faculty review of students’ conduct and subsequent progress in the Program.

The Code of Ethics of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) (Principle II and sections 2.1-3) and the American Counseling Association (ACA) Code of Ethics (Section B.1) each stress the importance of confidentiality in counseling relationships. These codes apply not only to licensed therapists, but also to students in the MS Counseling Psychology program who are expected to maintain the confidentiality of all information disclosed by, and related to, both clients and peers in the various experiential activities throughout the program (ACA, F.8.a).

While the preservation of confidentiality is only one aspect of professional conduct, the faculty takes seriously Standard F.5.d of the ACA Code to only endorse for a degree and/or licensure only those candidates that exemplify high standards of ethical and personal conduct; and Standard F.1 a that asks faculty to insure that students are able to provide competent service. We refer to these concepts as pre-professional development in our published literature.

**Pre-Professional Development**

Throughout the program students must provide evidence of the ability to interact competently and ethically with others from a variety of backgrounds. The student must engage in behaviors that:

 demonstrate positive, consistent, and effective contributions to the classroom learning and atmosphere.

 exhibit harmonious and collegial relationships with peers and faculty.

 reflect professionalism and responsibility in areas such as attendance, timely completion of assignments, and attention to regulations and expectations.

Students must also demonstrate by conduct and curricular performance achievement of curricular goals (listed above) appropriate to their progress in the program. Such evidence also may come from practicum and technique- based courses, courses with an experiential focus, or from supervised experiences. Students will be evaluated by the CPFC at each point of reclassification and will be given feedback on their pre-professional development. The Graduate Studies section of the CSUB Catalog describes the procedures for student Appeals and Grievances.

CPSY 651, 661, parts of 672, and 681, 682 and 683 are clinical process classes. These are experiential in nature and require the use of live clients and video recording of sessions. Because of the additional time needed for supervision, and to move people from room to room and to change video recordings, the class schedule may indicate more time than mandated for clinical process classes. CPSY 691, 692, 693, and 698 are field placement courses in service providing agencies. Supervisors will rate student knowledge and skill.

**ADMISSION AND APPLICATION**

Students are only admitted for fall enrollment. For application assistance or questions regarding the acceptability of prerequisite courses, please contact the coordinator, Dr. T. Ken Ishida.

**Application**

The Master of Science in Counseling Psychology Faculty Committee (CPFC) reserves the right to admit those applicants they deem most qualified. Although the university admits international students using standardized criteria for English language competence, the CPFC reserves the right to evaluate students for program admission for oral English mastery needed for effective communication. Students seeking admission to the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology can obtain an application packet from the Psychology Department (DDH-D107, 661-654- 2363). All program-specific application materials must be submitted as a complete package. Application deadlines are also listed on the CSUB Counseling Psychology Program Home Page: http://www.csub.edu/cpsy.

**Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for admission, the student must fulfill the following minimum requirements:

1. A bachelor’s degree from an accredited university. (Students with an international degree must have U.S. equivalency determined.)

2. A 3.2GPA over the most recent 60 semester or 90 quarter units.

3. Completion of all prerequisite courses with a grade of at least a “B-” (grading scale 2.7/4.0):

 a. Introductory statistics.

 b. Abnormal psychology.

 c. Child psychology, developmental psychology (infancy through adolescence), or human development/lifespan psychology (conception through senescence.) (Prerequisite courses must have been completed within five calendar years of intended admission date. A competency examination may be taken to demonstrate currency of knowledge if prerequisites were taken outside the time limit.)

4. Completion of the application packet to the MS in Counseling Psychology Program including official transcripts, a personal statement and three letters of recommendation and three rating forms attesting to suitability and promise.

5. A separate graduate admission to the CSU system. Apply directly at http://www.csumentor.edu.

The CPFC reserves the option to request supplemental documentation and information, including a personal interview, to determine suitability and promise. Students who do not meet minimum requirements for admission to the program may file a petition to the CPFC though the Counseling Psychology Program Coordinator requesting exceptional consideration. Students denied admission may petition the CPFC for a second review. The CPFC reserves the right to make all decisions regarding admission to the program and all decisions are considered to be final.

**STUDENT CLASSIFICATIONS**

The CPFC determines students’ initial classification level prior to admission as well as all subsequent changes in level. At any point of reclassification the CPFC will evaluate academic and pre-professional development.

**Conditionally Classified**

Students who have completed most, but not all of the requirements for admission at the Classified level and show promise of success may be admitted at the Conditionally Classified level. Students admitted at this level who complete all admission requirements or alternate requirements specified in the offer of admission will be moved to the Classified level at the discretion of the CPFC and only if the CPFC determines that the requirements have been completed at a level satisfactory for movement.

**Classified**

Students who successfully meet all of the requirements for admission, as determined by the CPFC will be eligible for admission at the Classified level. Classified graduate students may take any graduate level course meeting the requirements of their Plan of Study as long as the appropriate prerequisites or co-requisites have been met.

**Graduate Candidacy**

Classified level students will be eligible for advancement to Graduate Candidacy after successful completion of all courses in the first year of the program (CPSY 512, 530, 540, 600, 620, 631, 634 and 672). These individuals must have a minimum 3.0 GPA in the Program of Study and have completed the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. (See GWAR under “Graduation Requirements” below.) Students also must have received positive faculty evaluations in pre-professional development. The status of Graduate Candidacy is required for the student to take most of the advanced courses in the Program.

**Requirements for the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology**

To graduate with the MS degree in Counseling Psychology, a student must meet the following requirements:

1. Complete the 90-unit program in accord with the approved Plan of Study. The program includes all courses listed below except CPSY 698 and 699. Please note this program description is subject to change. Please check http://www.csub.edu/cpsy for updates.

2. Be in Good Standing in the MS in Counseling Psychology program, a student must maintain at the end of each term of enrollment a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in courses taken to meet degree requirements and receive satisfactory evaluations of pre-professional development from faculty and field placement supervisors. Students not in Good Standing must formally request permission (and receive written approval) to enroll in additional graduate courses. The CPFC will review the explanations and plans set forth in the petition and make a decision whether to permit continued enrollment and what conditions must be met for a return to Good Standing. (See Scholastic Probation, Academic Disqualification, and Appeals and Grievances paragraphs, Graduate Studies section, *CSUB Catalog*).

3. Be advanced to Graduate Candidacy.

4. Receive an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher for the entire 90-unit program.

5. Not count more than two courses, regardless of the number of units, with grades of “C+” (2.3) or “C” (2.0). Any course with a grade lower than “C” will not count toward graduation.

6. Not count any course at the 600 level with a grade of less than “B-”.

7. Satisfy the CSU Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) as soon as possible in their program (http://www.csub.edu/testing/gwar.shtml). This can be done either by passing or having passed the university- wide GWAR examination or by achieving a grade of “C” or better in approved courses. The English Department is the sole determiner of approved courses and whether writing courses at non-CSU institutions are equivalent.

This three-year course sequence is for full-time students and requires classes four late afternoons or evenings a week and availability two afternoons per week during the second year and 20 hours per week during regular business hours (Monday-Friday 8:00 A.M.-5 P.M.) for agency field placement (Traineeship I, II, & III) during the third year.