



GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN COUNSELLING

AWARD SUMMARY

CRICOS 114819J

AQF Level 8 Graduate Certificate

Entry Requirements A three-year AQF 7 award or equivalent in any discipline, OR

Qualify for professional entry on the basis of their work, life, and ministry experience, AND

Demonstrate a suitable degree of mature life experience, including self-awareness, a capacity to relate to others and an understanding of ethical behaviour. Admission also requires a selection interview with a coursework coordinator. At the interview the applicant will be required to demonstrate a suitable degree of mature life experience.

Duration 6 months full-time, or 2 years part-time.

Attendance Type: Full-time, part-time.

Delivery Mode: Online, face-to-face, or multi-modal.

Structure Four units (36 credit points), the selection of which is dependent upon admission criteria.

English Proficiency Applicants whose entry qualifications were obtained in an institution where English is not the language of instruction normally require a minimum IELTS (or equivalent) score of 7.0 in all bands of the test.

Admission Students should contact the Registrar of the teaching college for enrolment and fee details.

Graduate Profile and Rationale

The Graduate Certificate in Counselling is designed for those who hold an undergraduate AQF 7 qualification and who wish to pursue a graduate qualification in counselling to enhance their professional work. Graduates will be equipped with advanced theoretical knowledge and practice – based counselling skills.

Outcomes

Graduates will have added particular transferable knowledge and skills in counselling to enhance their work in Christian ministry and mission:

Knowledge

Graduates will possess:

- specialised theoretical and technical knowledge related to the practice of counselling which are transferable to a variety of complex client contexts;
- an understanding of the principles of inquiry and methods applicable to counselling theory and their application to real-world counselling practice.

Skills

Graduates will demonstrate specialised cognitive and technical skills in counselling, so that they are able independently to:

- review and synthesize counselling information and identify and reflect on complex client contexts;
- think critically and evaluate complex ideas related to the care of clients;
- demonstrate an understanding of theoretical concepts in the Pastoral Counselling sub-discipline;
- transmit counselling knowledge, skills, and ideas to a variety of audiences.

Applications of Knowledge and Skills

Graduates will possess the ability to:

- make high level, independent judgments related to a range of issues pertaining to counselling theory and practice.

Articulation to Other Awards

Students who satisfactorily complete this award will be eligible to gain entry to the following SCD awards:

- Graduate Diploma of Counselling
- Graduate Diploma of Child, Youth and Family Counselling
- Graduate Diploma of Counselling (Mental Health)
- Graduate Diploma of Relationship Counselling
- Graduate Diploma of Spiritual Wellbeing
- Master of Counselling

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS for the Graduate Certificate in Counselling

1. Admission to Candidature

- 1.1 An applicant for admission to candidature for the Graduate Certificate in Counselling will:
 - 1.1.1 hold a three-year AQF 7 counselling award or equivalent, such as the Bachelor of Counselling; OR
 - 1.1.2 hold a three-year AQF 7 award in a discipline other than counselling; OR
 - 1.1.3 qualify for professional entry as determined by the Student Support and Administration Committee; AND
 - 1.1.4 satisfactorily completes a pre-enrolment interview with a relevant course advisor.
- 1.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of this regulation the Student Support and Administration Committee may require an applicant to demonstrate fitness for admission as a candidate for this degree by carrying out such work and/or sitting for such examinations as the Student Support and Administration Committee may determine.
- 1.3 In exceptional cases an applicant may be admitted as a candidate for a Graduate Certificate in Counselling if the applicant submits evidence of other academic and professional attainments to the Student Support and Administration Committee.
- 1.4 A Candidate for the award shall be designated as full-time or part-time. A student is designated as full-time if enrolled in 27 credit points or more in a semester or part-time if enrolled in less than 27 credit points per semester.
- 1.5 In general, no candidate for the award may be concurrently enrolled in any other undergraduate or postgraduate course within the Sydney College of Divinity or any other tertiary institution, unless approval has been granted by the Academic Board.
- 1.6 Applicants whose entry qualifications were obtained in an institution where English is not the language of instruction normally will be required to demonstrate competency in English by an IELTS (or equivalent) result of 7.0 in all bands of the test and may be required to attend such English language courses as prescribed by the Sydney College of Divinity.
- 1.7 Application for enrolment in the Graduate Certificate in Counselling program is made to the Registrar of the appropriate Teaching Body offering the program.

2. Course Structure

2.1 The Graduate Certificate in Counselling requires the completion of 36 credit points (4 units).

2.1.1 Where an applicant enters the award under provision 1.1.1,

i. Four units selected from the approved list of units in Schedule A.

2.1.2 Where an applicant enters the award under provisions 1.1.2 or 1.1.3,

i. Three compulsory units (27 cps)

- C8100 Theory and Practice of Pastoral Counselling
- C8104 Fundamentals of Counselling Theories and Practice
- C8106 Fundamentals of Psychology

ii. One elective unit (9 cps) from the approved list of units in Schedule B.

3. Period of Candidature

3.1 The period of candidature for the degree shall normally be 6 months (1 semester) full time and up to 2 years (4 semesters) part-time.

3.2 In certain circumstances the Student Support and Administration Committee may grant extensions to the period of candidature.

4. Leave of Absence

4.1 The Student Support and Administration Committee may grant leave of absence from the Graduate Certificate in Counselling. The period of leave shall not be counted as part of the period of candidature for the degree.

4.2 The period of leave shall normally be one semester after which a candidate may apply for a further period of one semester or will be required to complete candidature.

5. Assessment

5.1 The assessment of course units shall be in the manner approved by the Academic Board in line with the College's established guidelines.

5.2 Students may be required by the Academic Board to present themselves for oral examination.

5.3 Academic and non-academic misconduct will be penalised in accordance with the regulations of the Sydney College of Divinity, whose stipulations are rigorous.

6. Credit and Recognised Prior Learning

- 6.1 A candidate may seek credit up to a maximum of 18 credit points in the Graduate Certificate in Counselling.
- 6.2 Specific credit may be granted for units deemed to be equivalent by the Student Support and Administration Committee. Application for non-specific credit may be considered for elective (non-compulsory) units only.
- 6.3 Credit for Recognised Prior Learning may be granted subject to a successful application.

7. Progress to Further Awards

- 7.1 Students who complete the Graduate Certificate in Counselling may articulate into one of the following awards of the Sydney College of Divinity:
 - Graduate Diploma of Counselling
 - Graduate Diploma of Child, Youth and Family Counselling
 - Graduate Diploma of Counselling (Mental Health)
 - Graduate Diploma of Relationship Counselling
 - Graduate Diploma of Spiritual Wellbeing
 - Master of Counselling

8. Saving Clause

- 8.1 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Academic Board of the Sydney College of Divinity may, in any case in which it may deem it appropriate to do so, vary, dispense with or suspend any requirement or prescription by these regulations, and report forth with to the Council of the Sydney College of Divinity.

Schedule A

(For students entering award under Provision 1.1.1)

- C8101 Human Development and Counselling
- C8104 Fundamentals of Counselling Theories and Practice
- C8105 Advanced Counselling Theory and Practice I
- C8106 Fundamentals of Psychology
- C8145 Pastoral Counselling: Grief, Loss and Trauma
- C8150 Child and Adolescent Counselling
- C8154 Relationship Counselling
- C8156 Family Counselling
- C8166 Wellbeing and Resilience for People Helpers
- C8153 Human Sexuality in the Helping Professions
- C9222 Solution Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) and Positive Psychology (PP)
- C9223 Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Dialectical Behaviour Therapy
- C9229 Ethical Professional Issues in Pastoral Counselling

Schedule B

(For Students entering award under Provision 1.1.2 or 1.1.3)

- C8101 Human Development and Counselling
- C8105 Advanced Counselling Theory and Practice I
- C8154 Relationship Counselling