

MASTER OF COUNSELLING

AWARD SUMMARY

CRICOS 114821D

AQF Level 9 Masters

Entry Requirements	An AQF 7 Bachelor Degree in any discipline, OR A postgraduate qualification (AQF 8 or above) in counselling, 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 designated coursework coordinator. At the interview the applicant will be required to demonstrate a suitable degree of mature life experience.
Duration	1.5 years full-time, or up to 4 years part-time
Attendance Type:	Full-time, part-time
Delivery Mode:	Online, face-to-face, or multi-modal
Structure	108 credit points (12 units), selected upon the basis of 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 Master of Counselling provides students with advanced professional skills for counselling ministry and for pastoral and spiritual formation. It nurtures the formation of professional identity and vision suitable for individual and relational counselling. The course equips graduates to engage in supportive and intensive therapies with psychological competence and theological congruence.

Outcomes

Graduates will have added extensive transferable knowledge and skills in counselling to enhance their professional work:

Knowledge

Graduates will possess:

- advanced understanding of the theories, processes, and strategies of counselling;
- an integrated level of theoretical and experiential knowledge of supervisory leadership and management structures;
- an understanding of research principles and methods applicable to counselling studies and its practice.

Skills

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

- demonstrate expert counselling skills and practices across a range of clients;
- analyse critically, reflect on and synthesise counselling knowledge to identify, reflect and act on complex client contexts;
- interpret and transmit counselling knowledge, skills and ideas through coherent and sustained counselling practice to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Applications of Knowledge and Skills

Graduates will possess the ability to:

- apply knowledge and skills to initiate and plan counselling interventions;
- apply critical self-evaluation and theological reflection to their practice of counselling;
- apply professional practice in counselling with a range of people in a wide variety of contexts including multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural environments.

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS for the Master of Counselling

1. Admission to Candidature

- 1.1 An applicant for admission to candidature for the Master of Counselling will:
 - 1.1.1 Hold a three-year AQF 7 counselling award or equivalent, such as the SCD Bachelor of Counselling, OR
 - 1.1.2 Hold a postgraduate qualification (AQF 8 or above) in Counselling, such as the SCD Graduate Certificate in or Graduate Diploma of Counselling (which are nested pathways into the MCouns); OR
 - 1.1.3 Hold a three-year AQF 7 award in any discipline other than counselling, OR
 - 1.1.4 Hold an AQF 8 Vocational Graduate Diploma in Counselling (or equivalent), OR
 - 1.1.5 Qualify for professional entry as determined by the Student Support and Administration Committee, AND
 - 1.1.6 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 advise to recommend.
- 1.3 In exceptional cases an applicant may be admitted as a candidate for a Master of 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 Master of Counselling program is made to the Registrar of the appropriate Member Institution offering the program.

2. Course Structure

2.1 The Master of Counselling requires the completion of 108 credit points (12 units)

2.1.1 Where an applicant enters the award under provision 1.1.1 or 1.1.2, the twelve units shall include:

- i. Six compulsory units (54cps) unless provision 2.2 applies.
 - C8101 Human Development and Counselling
 - C8145 Pastoral Counselling: Grief, Loss, and Trauma
 - 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
 - C9242 Advanced Counselling Practicum
- ii. Six units selected from the approved list of units in Schedule A.
- iii. Where a student wishes to pursue further higher degree research, then it is recommended that 27cp of the units taken in (ii) above include C8190 Research Methodology (9cp) and C9298 Research Essay (18cp)

2.1.2 Where an applicant enters the award under provisions 1.1.3 or 1.1.5, the twelve units shall include:

- i. Twelve compulsory units (108cps) unless provision 2.2 applies.

First, the units required for the Graduate Certificate in Counselling must be successfully completed:

- C8100 Theory and Practice of Pastoral Counselling
- C8104 Fundamentals of Counselling Theories and Practice
- C8106 Fundamentals of Psychology
- And one from
 - C8101 Human Development and Counselling
 - C8105 Advanced Counselling Theory and Practice I
 - C8154 Relationship Counselling

Then the remainder of the following units:

- C8101 Human Development and Counselling
- C8105 Advanced Counselling Theory and Practice I
- C8145 Pastoral Counselling: Grief, Loss and Trauma
- C8154 Relationship Counselling
- C9222 Solution Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) and Positive Psychology (PP)
- C9223 Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Dialectical Behaviour Therapy
- C9225 Counselling for Mental Health and Wellness
- C9229 Ethical Professional Issues in Pastoral Counselling
- C9242 Advanced Counselling Practicum

2.1.3 Where an applicant enters the award under provision 1.1.4, the unit shall include:

- i. Five compulsory units (45cps) unless provision 2.2 applies.
 - C8101 Human Development and Counselling
 - C9222 Solution Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) and Positive Psychology (PP),
OR
 - C9260 Narrative Therapy, Trauma and Growth
 - C9223 Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Dialectical Behaviour Therapy
 - C9229 Ethical and Professional Issues in Pastoral Counselling
 - C9242 Advanced Counselling Practicum
- ii. One Elective unit (9cps) drawn from the list of Level 9 units in Schedule A.

2.2 Where a student may have already completed a compulsory unit (or its equivalent) in another award, then it is to be replaced by a unit from the list in Schedule A.

3. Period of Candidature

3.1 The period of candidature for the degree shall normally be 1.5 years (3 semesters) full time and up to 4 years (8 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 Master of 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 54 credit points in the Master of Counselling.
- 6.2 Candidates entering the Master of Counselling with a Vocational Graduate Diploma of Counselling (or equivalent) will receive a maximum of 54 credit points of credit.
- 6.3 Specific credit may be granted for units deemed to be equivalent by the Student Support and Administration Committee. Application for non-specific credit maybe considered for elective (non-compulsory) units only.
- 6.4 Credit for Recognised Prior Learning may be granted subject to a successful application.

7. Exit Points

- 7.1 Students enrolled in the Master of Counselling may exit with the Graduate Certificate of Counselling or the Graduate Diploma of Counselling provided they have met the requirements of the relevant award.

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 forthwith to the Council of the Sydney College of Divinity.

Schedule A

- C8100 Theory and Practice of Pastoral Counselling
- C8101 Human Development and Counselling
- C8102 Pastoral Counselling in Ministry
- C8103 Psychology and Leadership
- C8104 Fundamentals of Counselling Theories and Practice
- C8105 Advanced Counselling Theory and Practice I
- C8106 Fundamentals of Psychology
- C8121 Group Processes
- C8136 Pastoral Counselling: Marriage and Family
- C8145 Pastoral Counselling: Grief, Loss and Trauma
- *C8150 Child and Adolescent Counselling
- C8153 Human Sexuality in the Helping Professions
- *C8154 Relationship Counselling
- *C8156 Family Counselling
- C8166 Wellbeing and Resilience for People Helpers
- C8170 Fundamental Principles of Pastoral Supervision
- C9222 Solution Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) and Positive Psychology (PP)
- *C9223 Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Dialectical Behaviour Therapy
- *C9225 Counselling for Mental Health and Wellness
- C9229 Ethical and Professional Issues in Pastoral Counselling
- C9242 Advanced Counselling Practicum
- C9243 Pastoral Counselling: Addiction
- C9260 Narrative Therapy, Trauma and Growth

- B9209 Trauma Hermeneutics
- P9224 Working and Caring in Mental Health
- P9225 Spiritual Care in Cases of Grief and Loss
- P8175 Professional Supervision Practicum
- T8147 Suffering and Hope: Theological Reflections
- X8190 Research Methodology
- X9298 Research Essay (18cp)

*New Unit to be added to curriculum