



Your pathway to becoming a registered **counsellor**

Master of Counselling

Do you like to listen? Do you enjoy being with people? Do you want a meaningful and fulfilling career? Learn to provide professional counselling support through the Master of Counselling Program.

Our fully accredited Master of Counselling Program provides a holistic integrated and evidence-based pathway to becoming a "registered counsellor". This Program will lead you to the acquisition of advanced skills, theoretical knowledge and clinical experience through classroom activities, blended learning and internship placements.

The program specialises in advanced counselling skills and theories, counselling and mental health, counselling and addictions, counselling children and young people, mindfulness based interventions, expressive therapies and solution focussed brief therapy. You will learn the art of assessment and case conceptualization and build a strong ethical framework for practice.

Supervised internships of 200 hours each semester of your final year, take place in a variety of counselling settings. This practical training prepares you for a rewarding professional career as a counsellor and eligibility to join the Australian Counselling Association (ACA), Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia (PACFA), and listing as a "Registered counsellor" on the Australian Register of Counsellors and Psychotherapists (ARCAP).

Career opportunities

The Master of Counselling opens new possibilities for you to work as a counsellor, including private practice, health and human service settings. It will interest you if you want a career change or to fine-tune your existing qualifications by adding a vocational emphasis. If you are already an experienced counsellor, this gives you an academic qualification to formalise years of work and opens pathways to further research, such as through undertaking PhD research.

Admission requirements

A student entering the Master of Counselling will normally be required to hold an approved 3-year degree in Counselling (AQF Level 7) or a Bachelor Degree (AQF Level 7) in other cognate areas as approved by the University.

Entry by non-graduates who have extensive relevant industry experience may be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Head of School, Social Sciences.

Applicants are required to complete an additional personal statement and attend an interview (refer to application form). Interviews for International students on a Student visa will be conducted by Skype.

Applicants must hold a valid Suitability Card (Blue Card), which is issued by the Public Safety Business Agency, prior to commencement. Please see the Blue Card link for further details.

The Master of Counselling offers a limited number of Commonwealth Supported Places

MORE INFORMATION

Contact the International Office
study@usc.edu.au
+61 7 5430 2843

(CSP) as well as domestic fee paying places. Offers for both CSP and fee paying places will be made after the application due date for the program.

CSP will be allocated on the basis of your Grade Point Average in the degree used to meet admission requirements. Applicants falling below the demand-driven cut-off for a CSP may be offered a domestic fee paying place (with the option to access FEE-HELP) subject to capacity limitations. USC reserves the right to offer a small number of CSP to students from ATSI or disadvantaged backgrounds.

Australian citizens, New Zealand citizens and permanent visa holders enrolled in a fee paying place will have the option of applying for a CSP in subsequent semesters if one becomes available. In these cases, the student's current GPA in the Master of Counselling will be used to assess eligibility for a CSP place using the same entry cut-off applied for new CPS entrants during that admission period.

How to apply

To apply for the Master of Counselling, submit the completed application form, personal statement form and referee reports to USC. For more information visit [Application forms](#). International students please visit the [international counselling applications page](#).

Applicants are required to attend an interview (refer to application form). Interviews for International students on a Student visa will be conducted by Skype.

Requirements for placements

You must hold a current Blue Card before starting your first supervised counselling experience. Many agencies also require a Police check in addition to the Blue Card.

Professional recognition

Graduates will be eligible to apply for membership with the Australian Counselling Association (ACA), Associations accredited by the Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia (PACFA) and the Queensland Counsellors Association.

Accreditation

This program is fully accredited with the Australian Counselling Association and the Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Required courses (16) 192 units

COU700 Expressive Therapies: Counselling with the Creative Arts

COU701 Advanced Counselling Skills 1: Interpersonal Processes

COU702 Professional Development 1: Clinical Practice

COU703 Internship 1

COU704 Internship 2

COU705 Professional Development 2: Grief, Loss and Trauma

COU706 Counselling Children and Young People

COU707 Counselling and Mental Health

COU708 Counselling and Addictions

COU709 Solution Focused Therapeutic Approaches

COU750 Ethics and Reflective Practice

COU751 Mindfulness-Based Interventions and Group Work

COU754 Research Project A

COU755 Research Project B

COU781 Pluralistic Couple and Family Counselling

SCS725 Advanced Social Research

Note: Program structures are subject to change. Not all USC courses are available on every USC campus.