



La Sierra
UNIVERSITY

MASTER OF ARTS
IN COUNSELING
MASTER'S DEGREE ONLY

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELING
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
4500 RIVERWALK PARKWAY
RIVERSIDE, CA 92515

MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

This is an elective program, which may stand alone as a *M.A. in Counseling* degree (with an option to work towards becoming a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor) or be used to work towards an *Ed.S. in School Psychology* and fulfill the first year of this two year program (with an option to work towards becoming a School Psychologist with a *PPS Credential in School Psychology*). If wanting to work towards a *PPS in School Counseling* at the master's level, the University has a collaboration with the University of California at Riverside (i.e., the extension program) to assist in this process. This report discusses just the M.A. in Counseling as a stand-alone degree.

WHAT KIND OF A CAREER CAN SUCH A DEGREE OFFER?

Under appropriate licensed supervision, counselors can work in a variety of settings to include mental health centers/clinics, psychiatric hospitals, social service agencies, government bodies/agencies, and private practice settings. Counselors are often involved in such areas as intake assessment evaluations, crisis intervention, individual and/or group counseling, individual/group testing, and/or research. Such a degree, however, may be of interest to higher education counselors, residence hall supervisors, classroom teachers, administrators, and youth workers.

The requirements below, along with the requirements listed for the Educational Specialist in School Psychology, are the requirements for the State PPS Credential in School Psychology. A student does not need to pursue a State PPS Credential in School Psychology to earn a Master of Arts, Counseling degree.

PREREQUISITES:

Legal/Health Clearance

The absence of any conviction for a felony or any communicable or contagious disease, which would prevent the student from teaching or performing other certified services, must be attested to. Students should apply for state criminal clearance immediately following admission to any of the state credential or licensure programs.

Department Interview

A preadmission interview and writing test are to be scheduled when possible with at least two faculty members in the Department of School Psychology and Counseling who will evaluate the applicant's expressiveness, commitment, values, cultural affirmation, and professional attitudes. When admission is granted without a prior interview, an appointment must be made with the department chair during the first few weeks of residence before program approval. Continuation in the program is contingent upon a satisfactory rating by the interviewers.

Prerequisites

Lifespan Development	EDPC 524	3 units
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Applicants who are lacking any of the above prerequisite coursework may be admitted to the program with the understanding that the deficiencies must be removed at the earliest possible date prior to entry to advanced practicum or fieldwork. If taken at the graduate level, credit thus earned may be used for degree purposes if all other program requirements are met. Undergraduate-level units are not applicable to the Master of Arts degree.

THE PROGRAM:

The program includes all of the coursework and fieldwork listed below. Some individuals may require more than the minimum 45 units because of particular interests or the need to remove prerequisite deficiencies as listed above and below. For course description, please check [La Sierra Academic Bulletins](#).

REQUIRED CORE (15 UNITS):

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|-------------------------------------------|------|------|---------|
| • Educational Organization and Leadership | EDAD | 524* | 3 units |
| • Curriculum Planning | EDCI | 514* | 3 units |
| • Methods and Materials of Research | EDRS | 504 | 3 units |
| • Counseling Theories and Techniques | EDPC | 561 | 3 units |
| • Faith and Learning | EDCI | 512 | 3 units |

* *EDAD 524* can be replaced with *EDAD 540 Personality and Philosophical Aspects of Leadership* whereas *EDCI 514* can be replaced with *EDCI 545 Brain Research and Learning* at a student's discretion.

CONTENT SPECIALIZATION (30 UNITS):

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|------------------------------------------------|------|------|---------|
| • Education and Career Planning | EDPC | 554 | 3 units |
| • Counseling Practicum | EDPC | 562 | 3 units |
| • Group Theory and Procedures | EDPC | 564 | 3 units |
| • Community Agency Counseling | EDPC | 568* | 3 units |
| • Dynamics of Personality | EDPC | 607 | 3 units |
| • Advanced Counseling Theories | EDPC | 655 | 3 units |
| • School Psychology and Counseling Ethics | EDPC | 573 | 3 units |
| • Intervention Methods and Consultation | EDPC | 666 | 3 units |
| • Seminar: Individual and Cultural Differences | EDPC | 694A | 3 units |
| • Psychopathology | EDPC | 631 | 3 units |

* *Units not applicable to school psychology credential but needed for the M.A. in Counseling degree.*

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. At the conclusion of their program, a *passing* score must be obtained on a departmental comprehensive exam (for **M.A. in counseling** students whether they are working towards an LPSS or not). If students are moving on to the school psychology program, a departmental exam will not be needed. Students instead, will need to pass the PRAXIS in school psychology in order to be awarded their *Ed.S. in School Psychology*. The University must receive a satisfactory score at least four weeks prior to graduation or the issuance of a diploma. Early registration for the test is essential.
2. A satisfactory showcase portfolio is required.
3. If a student wants to pursue an *Ed.S. in School Psychology* after the *M.A. in Counseling* is completed, he or she may opt to obtain field practice hours required for the master's degree in a school versus a community counseling setting. If such a school placement is desired, then certain requirements must be met. The student needs to: a) apply for field practice six weeks prior to placement, b) obtain a certificate of clearance from the state (fingerprint clearance), b) secure a TB clearance, and c) achieve a passing score on the *California Basic Education Skills Test (CBEST)*. Again, these requirements are only for individuals moving on to an *Ed.S. in School Psychology*. For students wanting to become a school psychologist—these requirements must be met before the second year of their programs.
4. Application to the School of Education Credential Office (sgallego@lasierra.edu) for a denomination or state PPS credential, if eligible.