

Master's of Science in Counseling FAQ

Is there an evening/ online EPSY program?

All three of our M.S. in Counseling programs are full-time, face-to-face programs. The programs offer courses in a defined cohort sequence during fall, spring and summer terms, during the day, evening, and on some weekends.

Can I apply to more than one program?

No, at the point of submitting your Department application, you can choose only one program for application during that recruitment period.

What is the difference between the School Counseling and School Psychology programs?

SCHOOL COUNSELING

The specialization in School Counseling authorizes the candidate to perform the following duties:

- Develop, plan, implement, and evaluate a school counseling and guidance program that includes academic, career, personal, and social development.
- Advocate for the high academic achievement and social development of all students.
- Provide schoolwide prevention and intervention strategies and counseling services.
- Provide consultation, training, and staff development to teachers and parents regarding students' needs.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

The specialization in School Psychology authorizes the candidate to perform the following duties:

- Provide services that enhance academic performance.
- Design strategies and programs to address problems of adjustment.
- Consult with other educators and parents on issues of social development and behavioral and academic difficulties.
- Conduct psycho-educational assessment for purposes of identifying special needs.
- Provide psychological counseling for individuals, groups, and families.
- Coordinate intervention strategies for management of individuals and schoolwide crises.

How can I get a PPS Credential if I already have a Master's Degree?

In order to receive a Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Credential in School Counseling/School Psychology at CSU East Bay, candidates will need to complete the *entire* MS in Counseling program regardless if a candidate already has a Master's degree. The program will not accept any transfer units from other programs.

You can consult the Commission on Teacher Credentialing website (www.ctc.ca.gov) for other institutions in the area that may have PPS credential-only programs. San Francisco State University (www.sfsu.edu) and Saint Mary's College (www.stmarys-ca.edu) in Moraga both offer Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Post-Master's Credential-Only options in School Counseling and School Psychology. Please contact the school directly for more information regarding their programs.

What happens if I can't make it to one of the prospective student orientation meetings?

Prospective applicants are invited, but not required, to attend Information Sessions. However, it is in the best interest of the applicant to attend the orientation as information will be shared about the application and interview process, and questions will be answered about pre-requisites and class schedule by one of the Program Coordinators.

What is the admission process?

Students are admitted once annually to commence studies during Fall Semester. Students are encouraged to attend a program orientation prior to submitting an application. Information about orientation dates and additional program descriptions, including a program handbook, can be viewed on the Department website. The programs are rolling admissions. Applications are reviewed upon submission and interviews are scheduled and conducted until all spaces are filled.

Students applying to our program should follow the university and departmental admissions procedures, including the submission of:

- The University Application (CSU Mentor).
- The Departmental Application (available online on the department website).
- Transcripts
 - **University:** Official transcripts from *all* previous institutions
 - **Department:** Official bachelor's degree transcript. Prerequisite course transcript may be unofficial.
- Three academic/professional reference letters. (*If possible, at least one recommendation should be from a faculty. Reference letters from family members or personal therapist will not be accepted.*)
- A personal statement to address: (1) why you are choosing this professional career, (2) experiences that have lead you to this point, and (3) what you want to learn or further develop in the program that will help you toward you professional goals.
- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score report.
- The California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) score report
(School Counseling/School Psychology options only)

What are the different application deadlines or Rounds?

The three deadline dates (or Rounds) are to ensure applications are submitted early enough for review. The earlier the application is submitted, the better. Interviews will start to be scheduled after the Round 1 deadline. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and once spaces are filled, applications are no longer reviewed.

What's the difference between the University and Department application? Why do I have to apply to both?

An applicant must file a University application to make sure they are eligible for Graduate admission. Once deemed eligible for graduate admission, some departments require additional requirements and others do not. That is why some departments request a supplemental application and others do not. Different programs have different requirements and specific documents they require as part of their admission process.

Can it be any Bachelor's Degree?

YES, you can apply with any Bachelor's Degree, however, all program prerequisites must be completed prior to starting your program.

Is there a GPA requirement?

The minimum GPA for the Department is 3.0. The University has a minimum GPA requirement of 2.50.

Is a GRE score required? Can I use my score from last year for this year's applications?

YES, you are required to take the GRE regardless if you already possess a post baccalaureate degree. The GRE (Graduate Record Examinations) is a standardized test taken by students who are applying to postgraduate programs in the US and in some other parts of the world.

We will accept GRE scores taken within the last five years.

What is the minimum score for the GRE and where can I take it?

There is no minimum score for the GRE to guarantee admission in to the MS in Counseling program. The GRE will be used as an assessment tool to determine a prospective candidate's qualification for entry in to the program. For more information on GRE registration and test dates, please visit their homepage at www.gre.org.

What are the prerequisite courses and where they can be completed?

All of the prerequisite course (or equivalent courses) can be taken at any regionally-accredited institution, via face to face or online.

Marriage and Family Therapy:

- STAT 100 (Elements of Statistics and Probability)
- PSYC 381 (Psychopathology)
- PSYC 340 (Developmental Psychology)
- PSYC 350 (Personality Psychology)

School Counseling/MFT:

- STAT 100 (Elements of Statistics and Probability)
- PSYC 381 (Psychopathology)
- PSYC 340 (Developmental Psychology)

School Psychology/MFT:

- STAT 100 (Elements of Statistics and Probability)
- PSYC 370 (Psychological Measurements) OR PSYC 491D (Research in Developmental Psychology)
 - This is an introduction to the development, norming, and standardization of tests. A research methods course is different and does not meet this prerequisite.
- PSYC 412 (Learning Theory)
- PSYC 381 (Psychopathology)
- PSYC 340 (Developmental Psychology)

Shadowing Opportunity

It is strongly encouraged that prospective applicants learn more about the Marriage Family Therapy, School Counseling, or School Psychology programs by visiting the Professional Organization's website:

- American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT): www.aamft.org
- American School Counseling Association (ASCA): www.schoolcounselor.org
- National Association for School Psychologists (NASP): www.nasponline.org

In addition, contact a local school or community health agency and ask to speak with a Marriage Family Therapist, School Counselor, or School Psychologist to learn more about the profession. This additional information will help in writing the statement of purpose for the application and may be a point of discussion at the interview.

Why is there an interview process?

The purpose of an interview is to allow the department faculty to meet you and get to know the person apart from the application.

When and how will I be notified about an interview for the program?

Not all applicants will receive an interview. Applicants selected to be interviewed may be notified for interview scheduling within 6-8 weeks of applying, but may be contacted as late as June. Interviews are scheduled until the program is full.

WST- Writing Skills Test

The California State University system requires all students to demonstrate writing competency at the university level in order to receive a baccalaureate or master's degree.

You will need to satisfy the University Writing Skills Requirement (UWSR) in order to receive a degree from CSUEB unless you are exempt by one of the following criteria:

1. If you have previously satisfied the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement at CSUEB or at another CSU campus, CSUEB will accept official certification of completion if the entire requirement, as specified by that CSU campus, was satisfied and you were a matriculated student at the time.
2. If you have graduated from any one of the CSU campuses; unless it is noted on your transcript that your USWR was not satisfied.
3. If you received an essay score of **4.5 or higher** on the **GMAT or GRE** or an essay score of **53 or higher** on the **CBEST**.
4. If you pass the Writing Skills Test (WST) at CSU East Bay.
5. If you pass a first-tier writing course and possibly a second-tier writing course (if needed).

What is the EPSY program schedule?

The M.S. in Counseling programs are full-time, two/three year cohorted programs.

Marriage and Family Therapy:

Year 1: Classes: Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 8:00pm and some weekend courses
Fieldwork: None

Year 2: Classes: Wednesdays and Thursday from 10am to 8:00pm and some weekend courses
Fieldwork: Can be 12 – 20 hours per week depending on site schedule.

School Counseling/MFT:

Year 1: Classes: Tuesday, Wednesday (some) and Thursday ranging from 10am to 5:00pm/8:00pm and some weekend courses
Fieldwork: 2-3 days per week (School Day)

Year 2: Classes: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday ranging from 10am to 5:00pm/8:00pm and some weekend courses
Fieldwork: 2 days per week; 1 day in Community Counseling Center (at CSUEB)

School Psychology/MFT:

Year 1: Classes: Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 7:00pm, Wednesday from 12:00pm to 6:00pm and some weekend courses
Fieldwork (Volunteer): 1.5-2 days per week; 1/2 day in Community Counseling Center

Year 2: Classes: Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 6:00pm and some weekend courses
Fieldwork (Pre-Intern): 2-3 days per week; Optional Community Counseling Center

Year 3: Classes: Tuesday Afternoon/Evening – Meeting with your University Supervisor for group supervision on campus
Fieldwork (Internship): 4-5 days per week (Full-Time)

Please note: The schedules listed above are general timeframes based on previous years' schedules. The schedules are subject to change.

Is there any advisor that I could speak to about the program?

If you have general questions regarding admissions requirements for the programs, you can contact the Educational Administrative Office (510.885.3011/mseducation@csueastbay.edu). For more specific questions regarding the programs you can contact the program coordinator:

Marriage Family Therapy: Dr. Nancy Deatruck nancy.deatruck@csueastbay.edu)

School Counseling/MFT: Dr. Zachary Pietrantonio (zachary.pietrantonio@csueastbay.edu)

School Psychology/MFT: Dr. Oanh Tran (oanh.tran@csueastbay.edu)

How do I obtain my 3000 hours experience towards the MFT license? Do I have these hours before I get accepted?

You will not need to have these hours prior to entering the MS in Counseling Program. While enrolled in a MS in Counseling program, candidates gain hours as an MFT Trainee at department approved sites or the Community Counseling Center on the CSUEB campus. Upon graduation, the pre-licensure must register with the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) as an MFT Intern in order to accrue the remaining post-degree hours of supervised experience towards the licensing requirements.