



Alphacrucis University College

COURSE HANDBOOK

GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF COUNSELLING

School of Health and Human Sciences

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Overview

| | | |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| Graduate Diploma of Counselling | Program Director | Sharon Garro |
| | AQF Level | AQF Level 8 (Postgraduate) |
| | Qualification | Graduate Diploma |
| | Subjects | 8 |
| | Languages of Instruction | English |
| | CRICOS Code | 108381G |
| | ASCED Code | 090513 |
| | Accreditation | Until 2028 (TEQSA) |
| | Course Length | 1 year full-time; up to 4 years part-time |
| | Entry Requirements | https://www.ac.edu.au/awards/graduate-diploma-counselling/ |

COURSE OVERVIEW

Alphacrucis University College is committed to providing academic pathways for students and the purpose of this AQF Level 8 graduate diploma program is to provide an foundational body of knowledge in the discipline area of counselling. This course is an option for students who have not met the requirements for direct entry into the Master of Counselling. The Graduate Diploma of Counselling is designed to produce graduates who embody integrity, professional knowledge and social skills, making a positive contribution to society.

The course draws on Alphacrucis University College's expertise in counselling and record of educating successful community service and counselling practitioners across a range of contexts. This course introduces students to a broad range of counselling technical and theoretical concepts. Graduates will be equipped with writing and research skills to prepare them for further study and will be able to demonstrate an ability to apply a body of knowledge related to applied social sciences in a range of contexts. Graduates will also have developed skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and communication at a postgraduate level.

Course Structure

Note: Contact the Student Support Team for access to previous course version.

This course structure applies from Semester 2, 2023 onwards.

The course structure is based on two semesters (13 weeks duration each), with four subjects taught in each semester. It comprises:

- 80 credit points of compulsory core subjects

To qualify for award of Graduate Diploma of Counselling a candidate shall complete at least 80 credit points, including satisfactory completion of the core subjects noted below

| Content of the course of study | | Credit points |
|---|---|---------------|
| Core Subjects | SSC400 Foundations in Social Science Research Methods ACA401 Faith and Purpose SSC410 Psychology of Emotion and Wellbeing SSC413 Interpersonal Communication Skills SSC521 Foundations of Professional Practice SSC516 Mental Health SSC510 Human Lifespan Development SSC517 Applied Counselling Theories | 8 x 10 |
| Pre-requisites for specific subjects | Pre-requisites are noted on the website . Students must have completed the pre-requisite to enrol in the subject. | |



Recommended Course Progression

Based on a full-time study mode.

Students can track course progression using the template at the end of this handbook.

CORE

| First Year | | | |
|------------|--|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Semester 1 | | Semester 2 | |
| ACA401 | Faith and Purpose | SSC521 | Foundations of Professional Practice |
| SSC400 | Foundations in Social Science Research Methods | SSC516 | Mental Health |
| SSC410 | Psychology of Emotion and Wellbeing | SSC510 | Human Lifespan Development |
| SSC413 | Interpersonal Communication Skills | SSC517 | Applied Counselling Theories |

Course Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to demonstrate:

- Integrated understanding of key issues, theoretical concepts and practices within counselling contexts;
- Knowledge of various approaches used in counselling within the Christian worldview framework.

Graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Critically apply knowledge developed for use in counselling;
- Use critical, evidence-based and innovative thinking skills to analyse and synthesise ideas and theories from other disciplines related to counselling;
- Effectively communicate ideas and proposed solutions to peers and general audiences;
- Identify and critically evaluate new developments and scholarship in counselling.
- Articulate appropriate solutions to emerging counselling challenges;
- Evaluate broad conceptual frameworks in counselling;
- Critically and independently apply the knowledge and skills required as an informed counselling practitioner.



Work Integrated Learning

Work-Integrated Learning may be undertaken through various Professional Practice and Professional Experience subjects at AC. These subjects seek to create a direct linkage between the learning, skills and values engaged in lectures, and the reflection which occurs when these are applied in real-life settings. These work-based training subjects comprise of mentoring and academic assessment in a workplace.

There are no work-integrated (placement) learning components in this course.

Other Course Information

For other course information, such as information on Professional Accreditation and available intakes, visit the course web page:

<https://www.ac.edu.au/awards/graduate-diploma-counselling/>

Useful Links

AC WEBSITE



<https://www.ac.edu.au/>

ACADEMIC CALENDAR



<https://www.ac.edu.au/key-dates/>

HOW TO ENROL



Please see the [Timetable](#) for available subjects and contact [Student Support Team](#) for tailored academic advice before completing the enrolment form.

AC POLICIES



<https://ww1.ac.edu.au/ppm/>

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



Enrolled students will have access to AC's [LMS](#)

FEES



<https://www.ac.edu.au/fees-financing/>

STUDENT FORMS



<https://www.ac.edu.au/forms/>

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES



<https://ww1.ac.edu.au/ppm/graduate-attributes-policy/>



Student Support

The Student Support team are available if you need assistance. Email the team via: studentsupport@ac.edu.au or book a phone or video call via: [Bookings](#)

Phone: (02) 8893 9005

<https://www.ac.edu.au/student-services/>

For disability support please contact dso@ac.edu.au

Course Progression Tracking Template Graduate Diploma of Counselling

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Student: | |
| Student ID number: | |
| Year of commencement: | |

- 8 compulsory core subjects
- For detailed subject information please refer to the [website](#)

8 CORE SUBJECT

| Subject Code | Pre-Requisite | Subject Name | Completed |
|--------------|---------------|--|-----------|
| SSC400 | <i>Nil</i> | Foundations in Social Science Research Methods | |
| ACA401 | <i>Nil</i> | Faith and Purpose | |
| SSC410 | <i>Nil</i> | Psychology of Emotion and Wellbeing | |
| SSC413 | <i>Nil</i> | Interpersonal Communication Skills | |
| SSC521 | SSC413 | Foundations of Professional Practice | |
| SSC516 | SSC110 | Mental Health | |
| SSC510 | SSC110 | Human Lifespan Development | |
| SSC517 | SSC113 | Applied Counselling Theories | |