



Alphacrucis University College

# COURSE HANDBOOK

## MASTER OF COUNSELLING

*School of Health and Human Sciences*

Alphacrucis University College Ltd

ACN: 072 747 187  
ABN: 13 072 747 187  
RTO: 90525

TEQSA: PRV12006  
CRICOS: 00958A

Mail  
PO Box 337 Parramatta 2124

Phone  
1300 228 355

Email  
[info@ac.edu.au](mailto:info@ac.edu.au)

NSW VIC QLD WA SA TAS

# COURSE HANDBOOK



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## MASTER OF COUNSELLING

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### Overview

<b>Master of Counselling</b>	Program Director	Sharon Garro
	AQF Level	<a href="#">AQF Level 9</a>
	Qualification	Master Degree
	Subjects	16
	Languages of Instruction	English
	CRICOS Code	108386B
	ASCED Code	090513 Counselling
	Accreditation	Until 2028 (TEQSA) Australian Counselling Association (ACA) Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia (PACFA)
	Course Length	2 years full-time; up to 4 years part-time.
	Entry Requirements	<a href="https://www.ac.edu.au/awards/master-counselling/">https://www.ac.edu.au/awards/master-counselling/</a>

### COURSE OVERVIEW

The Master of Counselling provides a core of counselling knowledge and professional application and provides training which emphasises vocational application as counsellors. The course draws on Alphacrucis University College's (AC) expertise in social science and record of educating successful community service practitioners across a range of contexts. The course will prepare students for further study through a structured program of independent research culminating in the integrative research project. Graduates will have writing and research skills and be able to demonstrate an ability to apply a body of knowledge in a range of contexts. Graduates will also have developed skills in research, critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and communication.

Graduates of this course are eligible to seek recognition as registered Counsellors in Australia. Graduates of the Master of Counselling may find employment as counsellors across a range of professional and educational contexts, not-for-profit, and mission-focused organisations, or in chaplaincy positions, community service-orientated positions, and positions that require research skills and critical thinking.



### Course Structure

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

#### This structure applies from Semester 1, 2023

The course structure is based on four semesters (each of 13 weeks duration), including:

- Core Subjects — 120 credit points
- Specialisation – 30 credit points
- Research — 10 credit points

To qualify for award of Master of Counselling a candidate shall accrue an aggregate of at least 160 credit points, including satisfactory completion of the core subjects noted below.

Content of the course of study		Credit points
<b>Core Subjects</b>	SSC400 Foundations in Social Research, Writing, and Methods ACA401 Faith and Purpose SSC410 Psychology of Emotion and Wellbeing SSC413 Interpersonal Communication Skills SSC510 Human Lifespan Development SSC521 Foundations of Professional Practice SSC516 Mental Health SSC517 Applied Counselling Theories SSC522 Ethical and Professional Issues SSC535 Culturally and Socially Diverse Practice SSC519 Professional Accountability SSC500 Professional Placement	12 x 10
<b>Specialisations</b>	<b>Professional Practice Specialisation</b> 1 x Counselling Theory and Therapies unit*, such as: SSC531 Solution Focused Therapy and Positive Psychology or SSC536 Cognitive Behaviour Theories and Therapies 2 x SSC electives	3 x 10
<b>Capstone</b>	RES500 Independent Guided Research	1 x 10
<b>Rules of Progression</b>	120 cp core, 30 cp specialisation, and 10 cp capstone subject.	
<b>Other protocols of the course</b>	Students must have the appropriate police checks and approvals for working with children before they may undertake professional placement subjects.	
<b>Pre-requisites for specific subjects</b>	Pre-requisites are noted on the subject outline. Students must have completed the pre-requisite to enrol in the subject.	

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### 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		SPECIALISATION		CAPSTONE	
First Year					
Semester 1			Semester 2		
SSC400	Foundations in Social Research, Writing, and Methods	SSC521	Foundations in Professional Practice		
SSC410	Psychology of Emotion and Wellbeing	SSC517	Applied Counselling Theories		
SSC413	Interpersonal Communication Skills	SSC510	Human Lifespan Development		
ACA401	Faith & Purpose	SSC516	Mental Health		
Second Year					
Semester 3			Semester 4		
SSC535	Culturally and Socially Diverse Practice	SSC519	Professional Accountability		
SSC522	Ethical and Professional Issues	SSC500	Professional Placement		
SSC	<i>Therapy subject</i>	SSC	<i>Elective</i>		
SSC	<i>Elective</i>	RES500	Independent Guided Research		



### Course Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to demonstrate:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• advanced and integrated understanding of key issues, practices, scholarship and recent developments within the specialisation of counselling;</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• knowledge of general research principles and methods, and advanced knowledge of specific research approaches used in counselling;</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• advanced and integrated understanding regarding the planning, implementation, assessment and reporting of counselling activities consistent with a Christian worldview and appropriate to the demands of the counselling context.</li></ul>
Graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• evaluate, synthesise and critically engage the theoretical knowledge in the counselling contexts;</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• analyse and synthesise counselling approaches and develop skills and strategies (including technologies) in counselling practices;</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• design and implement an action research project which examines a complex problem or issue using appropriate counselling methodologies and theories;</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• communicate effectively complex ideas and proposed solutions to peers and general audiences;</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• identify and critically evaluate new developments of research and scholarship in counselling.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• articulate new questions or issues and apply the knowledge and skills developed in the counselling field to develop appropriate solutions;</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• work independently, responsibly and with the level of professionalism expected of an expert in the counselling field;</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• design and implement a major research project to advance personal and professional development;</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• comply with professional codes of ethics and regulations which impact on the ability to work in counselling contexts and keep abreast of changes in the legislation and practice applicable to the specific counselling context.</li></ul>



### 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 instruction, academic assessment and a placement in a workplace for each subject.

To qualify for the award of the Master of Counselling, a candidate will complete both a professional placement subject (100 placement hours) and a professional accountability subject.

### 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/master-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](mailto: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](mailto:dso@ac.edu.au)



### Course Progression Tracking Template

#### Master of Counselling

<b>Student:</b>	
<b>Student ID number:</b>	
<b>Year of commencement:</b>	

For detailed subject information please refer to the [website](#)

Subject Code	Pre-Requisite	Subject Name	Completed
<b>SSC400</b>	<i>Nil</i>	Foundations in Social Research, Writing, and Methods	
<b>SSC410</b>	<i>Nil</i>	Psychology of Emotion and Wellbeing	
<b>SSC413</b>	<i>Nil</i>	Interpersonal Communication Skills	
<b>ACA401</b>	<i>Nil</i>	Faith & Purpose	
<b>SSC510</b>	SSC410	Human Lifespan Development	
<b>SSC521</b>	SSC413	Foundations in Professional Practice	
<b>SSC516</b>	SSC410	Mental Health	
<b>SSC517</b>	SSC413	Applied Counselling Theories	
<b>SSC535</b>	SSC413	Culturally and Socially Diverse Practice	
<b>SSC522</b>	SSC521	Ethical and Professional Issues	

**Specialisation** (*one elective must be a therapy unit*)

SSC	<i>Therapy subject</i>	
SSC	<i>Elective</i>	
SSC	<i>Elective</i>	

**Final Subjects**

<b>SSC519</b>	SSC522	Professional Accountability (Group Supervision)	
<b>SSC500</b>	SSC522	Professional Placement (100 hours)	
<b>RES500</b>		Independent Guided Research	