Alphacrucis University College

COURSE HANDBOOK

GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF COUNSELLING

School of Health and Human Sciences

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Table of Contents

Overview 2
Course Structure 3
Recommended Course Progression 4
Course Learning Outcomes 5
Work Integrated Learning 6
Other Course Information 6
Useful Links 7
Student Support 8

Overview

Graduate Diploma of Counselling	Program Director	Sharon Garro
	AQF Level	AQF Level 8 (Postgraduate)
	Qualification	Graduate Diploma
	Subjects	8
	IELTS	7.5
	Languages of Instruction	English
	CRICOS Code	108381G
	ASCED Code	090513
	Accreditation	Self-accredited *(last reviewed 2026)*
	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

The Graduate Diploma of Counselling is designed to produce graduates who can apply foundational knowledge and skills in the discipline area of counselling for students. 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 counselling practitioners across a range of contexts. The course introduces students to a broad range of counselling technical and theoretical concepts from a Christian worldview. 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 across a range of contexts. Graduates will also have developed skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and communication at a postgraduate level.

Graduates of the Graduate Diploma of Counselling may find employment in a range of professional and educational contexts, not-for-profit and mission-focused organisations, and positions that require research skills and critical thinking.

This course also allows flexibility for students who may wish to start with a shorter postgraduate course before committing to a Master level program or for students who need to exit the Master program earlier than intended.

Course Structure

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

This course structure applies from Semester 1, 2027 onwards.		
The course structure is based on two semesters (13 weeks duration each), with four units taught in each semester. It comprises: • 80 credit points of core units To qualify for award of Graduate Diploma of Counselling a candidate shall complete at least 80 credit points, including satisfactory completion of the core units noted below		
Content of the course of study		**Credit points**
Core Units	ACA401 Faith and Purpose SSC400 Foundations in Social Science Research Methods SSC410 Psychology of Emotion and Wellbeing SSC413 Interpersonal Communication Skills SSC510 Human Lifespan Development SSC517 Applied Counselling Theories SSC521 Foundations of Professional Practice SSC522 Ethical and Professional Issues	8 x 10
Pre-requisites for specific units	Pre-requisites are noted on the website. Students must have completed the pre-requisite to enrol in the unit.	

Recommended Course Progression

Based on a full-time study mode

CORE

First Year			
Semester 1		**Semester 2**	
ACA401	Faith and Purpose	SSC510	Human Lifespan Development
SSC400	Foundations in Social Science Research Methods	SSC517	Applied Counselling Theories
SSC410	Psychology of Emotion and Wellbeing	SSC521	Foundations of Professional Practice
SSC413	Interpersonal Communication Skills	SSC522	Ethical and Professional Issues

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 must be undertaken the college co-ordinated School Professional Placements. 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 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

Appendix 1

Graduate Diploma of Counselling Course Tracking

Student Name	Start Date	Date Updated

8 CORE SUBJECTS

Subject Code	Pre-Requisite	Subject Name	Notes (Enrolment, exemption)	Credit Points
SSC400	*Nil*	Foundations in Social Science Research Methods		
ACA401	*Nil*	Faith and Purpose		
SSC410	*Nil*	Psychology of Emotion and Wellbeing		
SSC413	*Nil*	Interpersonal Communication Skills		
SSC510	*Co-rec SSC410*	Human Lifespan Development		
SSC517	*SSC413*	Applied Counselling Theories		
SSC521	*SSC413*	Foundations of Professional Practice		
SSC522	*SSC413*	Ethical and Professional Issues		