Alphacrucis University College

COURSE HANDBOOK

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN TRAUMA COUNSELLING

School of Health and Human Sciences

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Overview

Graduate Certificate in Trauma Counselling	Program Director	Sharon Garro
	AQF Level	AQF Level 8 (Postgraduate)
	Qualification	Graduate Certificate
	Subjects	4
	IELTS	7.5
	Languages of Instruction	English
	CRICOS Code	108382F
	ASCED Code	090513
	Accreditation	Self-accredited *(last reviewed 2026)*
	Course Length	Up to 2 years part time. **This course is currently available for part-time study only.*
	Entry Requirements	*https://www.ac.edu.au/awards/graduate-certificate-trauma-counselling/*

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Graduate Certificate in Trauma Counselling is designed to produce graduates who combine clinical integrity, applied trauma-specific competence, and the professional judgement to work safely and effectively with trauma-affected clients across diverse settings. It is intended for practitioners who already hold relevant academic qualifications and a minimum of three years professional experience in counselling or social work, and who are seeking to upskill specifically in trauma-informed and evidence-based trauma counselling practice.

The course draws on Alphacrucis University College's expertise in counselling, social science and its record of educating effective practitioners across a range of contexts. In addition to an introduction to trauma theory, this course focuses on the applied use of evidence-based modalities, structured clinical reasoning, and safe, ethical practice with trauma-affected individuals, families and communities.

Graduates will be equipped to apply this body of knowledge in applied clinical roles, not-for-profit and mission-focused organisations, community service and crisis-response settings, and positions requiring trauma-informed program design or trauma research literacy, as well as being positioned for further postgraduate study in counselling.

Course Structure

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

This course structure applies from Semester 1, 2027.		
The course structure is based on two semesters (13 weeks duration each), part-time. It comprises: • 40 credit points of compulsory core units To qualify for award of Graduate Certificate in Trauma Counselling a candidate shall complete at least 40 credit points, including satisfactory completion of the core units noted below.		
Content of the course of study		**Credit points**
Core Units	SSC440 Trauma Informed Principles (was SSC447) SSC549 Trauma Informed Practice (was SSC548) SSC550 Trauma Informed Counselling I SSC551 Trauma Informed Counselling II	4 x 10
Protocol	Entry - must have AQF 7 or above award in counselling and/or allied health.	

Recommended Course Progression

Based on a full-time study mode

CORE

First Year			
Semester 1		**Semester 2**	
SSC440	Trauma Informed Principles	SSC549	Trauma Informed Practice
SSC550	Trauma Informed Counselling I	SSC551	Trauma Informed Counselling II

Course Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to demonstrate:
• Integrated understanding of key issues, theoretical concepts and practices within trauma counselling;
• Knowledge of various approaches used in trauma counselling within the Christian worldview framework.
Graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to:
• Critically apply knowledge developed for use in trauma counselling;
• Use critical, evidence-based and innovative thinking skills to analyse and synthesise ideas and theories from other disciplines related to trauma counselling;
• Effectively communicate ideas and proposed solutions to peers and general audiences;
• Identify and critically evaluate new developments and scholarship in trauma counselling.
• Articulate appropriate solutions to emerging trauma counselling challenges;
• Evaluate broad conceptual frameworks in trauma counselling;
• Critically and independently apply the knowledge and skills required as a trauma 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-certificate-trauma-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 Certificate in Trauma Counselling Course Progression

Student Name	Start Date	Date Updated

4 CORE SUBJECTS

Subject Code	Pre-Requisite	Subject Name	Notes (Enrolment, exemption)	Credit Points
SSC440	*Nil*	Trauma Informed Principles		
SSC550	*Co-rec SSC440*	Trauma Informed Counselling I		
SSC549	*Nil*	Trauma Informed Practice		
SSC551	*SSC550*	Trauma Informed Counselling II		