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

NSW VIC QLD WA SA TAS

COURSE HANDBOOK

Alphacrucis University College

MASTER OF COUNSELLING

Table of Contents

Overview 2
Recommended Course Progression 4
Course Learning Outcomes 5
Work Integrated Learning 6
Other Course Information 6
Useful Links 7
Student Support 8
Appendix 1 9

Overview

Master of Counselling	Program Director	Sharon Garro
	AQF Level	AQF Level 9
	Qualification	Master Degree
	Subjects	16
	IELTS	7.5
	Languages of Instruction	English
	CRICOS Code	108386B
	ASCED Code	090513 Counselling
	Accreditation	Self-accredited (last reviewed 2026) 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	*https://www.ac.edu.au/awards/master-counselling/*

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Master of Counselling is designed to produce graduates who can apply integrated technical and theoretical concepts in a counselling context from a Christian worldview, as well as embody integrity, professional knowledge and social skills to make a positive contribution to society. The Master of Counselling provides a core of counselling theories and updated developments in the field, alongside professional application of skills. Graduates will acquire writing and research skills and demonstrate an ability to apply a body of knowledge in a range of contexts. In addition, graduates will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills with a high level of personal autonomy and accountability.

Graduates of the Master of Counselling may find employment in a range of professional and educational contexts, not-for-profit and mission-focused organisations, counselling positions, community service-orientated positions, and positions that require research skills and critical thinking. This course will prepare students for further study through a scaffolded program of research skills and methods. Graduates may also progress into one of AC's Higher Degree Research (HDR) programs. Students can exit the Master of Counselling after one year with the Graduate Diploma of Counselling or Graduate Diploma of Arts, or after one semester with the Graduate Certificate of Wellbeing Studies or Graduate Certificate in Arts.

Course Structure

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

This structure applies from Semester 1, 2027		
The course structure is based on four semesters (13 weeks duration each), including: • Core Units — 140 credit points • Elective – 10 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 units noted below.		
Content of the course of study		**Credit points**
Core Units	ACA401 Faith and Purpose SSC400 Foundations in Social Research, Writing, and Methods SSC410 Psychology of Emotion and Wellbeing SSC413 Interpersonal Communication Skills SSC510 Human Lifespan Development SSC516 Mental Health SSC517 Applied Counselling Theories SSC521 Foundations of Professional Practice SSC522 Ethical and Professional Issues SSC535 Culturally and Socially Diverse Practice SSC536 Cognitive Behaviour Theories and Therapies SSC531 Solution Focused Therapy and Positive Psychology, or SSC532 Narrative Therapy SSC500 Professional Practice - Counselling SSC519 Professional Accountability	14 x 10
Elective	10cp SSC 400 level or above	1 x 10
Capstone	SSC580 Independent Research Capstone OR RES501 Research Project (20cp: 10cp Capstone and 10cp Elective)	1 x 10
Rules of Progression	140 cp core, 10 cp elective, and 10 cp capstone unit.	
Other protocols of the course	Students must have the appropriate police checks and/or approvals for working with children before they may undertake professional placement units.	
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	ELECTIVES	CAPSTONE

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
Second Year			
Semester 1		**Semester 2**	
SSC516	Mental Health	SSC500	Professional Practice - Counselling
SSC535	Culturally & Socially Diverse Practice	SSC519	Professional Accountability
SSC536	Cognitive Behaviour Theories & Therapies	SSC531 or SSC532	Solution Focused Therapy and Positive Psychology or Narrative Therapy
	SSC Elective (400 level or above)	SSC580	Independent Research Capstone

Course Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to demonstrate:
• advanced and integrated understanding of key issues, practices, scholarship and recent developments within the specialisation of counselling;
• knowledge of general research principles and methods, and advanced knowledge of specific research approaches used in counselling;
• 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.
Graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to:
• evaluate, synthesise and critically engage the theoretical knowledge in the counselling contexts;
• analyse and synthesise counselling approaches and develop skills and strategies (including technologies) in counselling practices;
• design and implement an action research project which examines a complex problem or issue using appropriate counselling methodologies and theories;
• communicate effectively complex ideas and proposed solutions to peers and general audiences;
• identify and critically evaluate new developments of research and • scholarship in counselling.
• articulate new questions or issues and apply the knowledge and skills developed in the counselling field to develop appropriate solutions;
• work independently, responsibly and with the level of professionalism expected of an expert in the counselling field;
• design and implement a major research project to advance personal and professional development;
• 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.

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 at least 100 hours of placement, including 40 client contact hours.

In addition to placement in the Alphacrucis Wellbeing Centre, students may be required to find additional placement organisations in consultation with the placement manager.

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 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

Master of Counselling Course Progression

Student Name	Start Date	Date Updated

Core Subjects

Subject Code	Pre-Requisite	Subject Name	Notes (Enrolment, exemption)	Credit Points
SSC400	*Nil*	Foundations in Social Research, Writing, and Methods		
SSC410	*Nil*	Psychology of Emotion and Wellbeing		
SSC413	*Nil*	Interpersonal Communication Skills		
ACA401	*Nil*	Faith & Purpose		
SSC510	*SSC410*	Human Lifespan Development		
SSC521	*SSC413*	Foundations in Professional Practice		
SSC522	*SSC413*	Ethical and Professional Issues		
SSC517	*SSC413*	Applied Counselling Theories		
SSC535	*SSC413*	Culturally and Socially Diverse Practice		
SSC516	*SSC410*	Mental Health		
SSC536	*SSC521*	Cognitive Behaviour Theories and Therapies		
SSC531 or SSC532	*SSC521*	Solution Focused Therapy and Positive Psychology, or Narrative Therapy		

Elective (1 x SSC unit)

Final Subjects

SSC519	*SSC522*	Professional Accountability (Group Supervision)		
SSC500	*SSC522*	Professional Placement (100 hours)		
RES580		Independent Research Capstone		