Australian University College of Divinity

GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF COUNSELLING

AWARD SUMMARY

CRICOS: 114820E

Nomenclature: GradDipCouns

AQF Level 8 Graduate Diploma

Entry Requirements	An AQF 7 Bachelor Degree in any discipline; OR A postgraduate qualification (AQF 8 or above) in counselling; OR Qualification for professional entry on the basis of work, life and ministry experience; AND Demonstrate a suitable degree of mature life experience, including self-awareness, a capacity to relate to others and an understanding of ethical behaviour. Admission also requires a selection interview with a designated coursework coordinator. At the interview the applicant will be required to demonstrate a suitable degree of mature life experience.
Duration	1 year full-time, or 3 years part-time.
Attendance Type	Full-time, part-time.
Delivery Mode	Online, face-to-face, or multi-modal.
Structure	72 credit points (8 units), selected upon the basis of admission criteria.
English Proficiency	Applicants whose entry qualifications were obtained in a institution where English is not the language of instruction normally require a minimum IELTS (or equivalent) score of 7.0 with no score below 6.5 in all bands of the test.

Exit Points

Students enrolled in the Graduate Diploma of Counselling may exit with the Graduate Certificate of Counselling provided they have met the requirements of the award.

Enrolment

Students should contact the Registrar of the relevant Member Institution for enrolment and fee details.

Graduate Profile and Rationale

The Graduate Diploma of Counselling is designed for those who hold an AQF 7 or above qualification in any discipline who wish to pursue a graduate qualification in counselling to enhance their professional work. Graduates will be equipped with advanced theoretical knowledge and practice-based counselling skills.

Outcomes

Graduates will have added particular transferable knowledge and skills in counselling to enhance their work in Christian ministry and mission:

Knowledge

Graduates will possess:

- specialised theoretical and technical knowledge related to the practice of counselling which is transferrable to a variety of complex client contexts;
- an advanced understanding of the principles of inquiry and methods applicable to counselling theory and their application to real-world counselling practice.

Skills

Graduates will demonstrate specialised cognitive and technical skills in counselling, so that they are able independently to:

- review and synthesize counselling information and identify and reflect, and act on complex client contexts;
- think critically and evaluate complex ideas related to the care of clients;
- demonstrate an understanding of theoretical concepts in the Pastoral Counselling sub-discipline;
- transmit counselling knowledge, skills and ideas to a variety of audiences.

Applications of Knowledge and Skills

Graduates will possess the ability to:

- make high level, independent judgments related to a range of issues pertaining to counselling theory and practice.

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS for the Graduate Diploma of Counselling

1. Admission to Candidature

1.1. An applicant for admission to candidature for the Graduate Diploma of Counselling will:

1.1.1. hold a three-year AQF 7 counselling award or equivalent, such as the SCD Bachelor of Counselling, OR

1.1.2. hold a postgraduate qualification (AQF 8 or above) in Counselling, such as the SCD Graduate Certificate in Counselling, OR

1.1.3. Hold a three-year AQF 7 award in any discipline, OR

1.1.4. qualify for professional entry as determined by the Student Support and Administration Committee, AND

1.1.5. satisfactorily complete a pre-enrolment interview with a relevant course advisor

1.2. Notwithstanding the provisions of this regulation the Student Support and Administration Committee may require an applicant to demonstrate fitness for admission as a candidate for this degree by carrying out such work and/or sitting for such examinations as the Student Support and Administration Committee may determine.

1.3. In exceptional cases an applicant may be admitted to candidature for a Graduate Diploma of Counselling if the applicant submits evidence of other academic and professional attainments to the Student Support and Admission Committee.

1.4. A Candidate for the award shall be designated as full-time or part-time. A student designated as full-time if enrolled in 27 credit points or more in a semester or part-time in less than 27 credit points per semester.

1.5. In general, no candidate for the award may be concurrently enrolled in any other undergraduate or postgraduate course within the University College or any other tertiary institution, unless approval has been granted by the Academic Board.

1.6. Applicants whose entry qualifications were obtained in an institution where English is not the language of instruction normally will be required to demonstrate competency in English by an IELTS (or equivalent) result of 7.0 in all bands of the test with no subtest below 6.5 and may be required to attend such English language courses as prescribed by the University College.

1.7. Application for enrolment in the Graduate Diploma of Counselling program is made to the Registrar of the appropriate Member Institution offering the program.

2. Course Structure

2.1. The Graduate Diploma of Counselling requires the completion of 72 credit points (8 units).

2.1.1 Where an applicant enters the award under provision 1.1.1 or 1.1.2, the eight units shall include:

i. Four compulsory units (36 cps) unless provision 2.2 applies
- C8101 Human Development and Counselling
- C8145 Pastoral Counselling; Grief, Loss, and Trauma
- C9222 Solution Focused Brief Therapy (SBFT) and Positive Psychology (PP)
- C9229 Ethical Professional Issues in Pastoral Counselling

ii. Four elective units (36 credit points) taken from the Schedule below.

2.1.2 Where an applicant enters the award under provision 1.1.3 or 1.1.4, the eight units shall include:

i. Eight compulsory units (72 credit points) unless provision 2.2 applies
- C8100 Introduction to Counselling Skills
- C8101 Human Development and Counselling
- C8105 Counselling Theories and Practice
- C8106 Fundamentals of Psychology
- C8143 Addictions Counselling
- C8145 Pastoral Counselling: Grief, Loss and Trauma
- C9225 Counselling for Mental Health and Wholeness
- C9229 Ethical and Professional Issues in Pastoral Counselling

2.2 Where a student may have already completed a compulsory unit (or its equivalent) in another award, then it is to be replaced by a unit from the list in the Schedule below.

3. Period of Candidature

3.1. The Period of candidature for the degree shall normally be 1 year (2 semesters) full-time and up to 3 years (6 semesters) part-time.

3.2. In certain circumstances the Student Support and Administration Committee may grant course extensions.

4. Leave of Absence

4.1. The Student Support and Administration Committee may grant leave of absence from the Graduate Diploma of Counselling. The period of leave shall not be counted as part of the period of candidature for the degree.

4.2. The period of leave shall normally be one semester after which a candidate may apply for a further period of one semester or will be required to complete candidature.

5. Assessment

5.1. The assessment of course units shall be in the manner approved by the Academic Board in line with the University College's established guidelines.

5.2. Students may be required by the Academic Board to present themselves for oral examination.

5.3. Academic and non-academic misconduct will be penalised in accordance with the Policies and Regulations of the University College, whose stipulations are rigorous.

6. Credit

6.1. A candidate may seek credit up to a maximum of 36 credit points in the Graduate Diploma of Counselling.

6.2. Specific credit may be granted for units deemed to be equivalent by the Student Support and Administration Committee. Application for non-specific credit may be considered for elective (non-compulsory) units only.

6.3. Credit for Recognised Prior Learning may be granted subject to a successful application.

7. Progress to Further Awards

7.1. Students who complete the Graduate Diploma of Counselling may articulate into the Master of Counselling award of the University College.

8. Exit Points

8.1. Students enrolled in the Graduate Diploma of Counselling may exit with the Graduate Certificate of Counselling provided they have met the requirements of the award.

9. Saving Clause

9.1. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Academic Board of the University College may, in any case in which it may deem it appropriate to do so, vary, dispense with or suspend any requirement or prescription by these regulations, and report forth with to the Council of the University College.

SCHEDULE

C8100 Introduction to Counselling Skills

C8101 Human Development and Counselling

C8105 Counselling Theories and Practice

C8106 Fundamentals of Psychology

C8145 Pastoral Counselling: Grief, Loss and Trauma

C8150 Child and Adolescent Counselling

C8154 Relationship Counselling

C8156 Family Counselling

C8166 Wellbeing and Resilience for People Helpers

C8170 Fundamental Principles of Pastoral Supervision

C8143 Addictions Counselling

C9222 Solution Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) and Positive Psychology (PP)

C9223 Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Dialectical Behaviour Therapy

C9225 Counselling for Mental Health and Wellness

C9260 Narrative Therapy, Trauma and Growth

B9209 Trauma Hermeneutics

P9224 Working and Caring in Mental Health

P9225 Spiritual Care in Cases of Grief and Loss

Version	**Date and Governance**	**Changes**
1.0	7/12/2022 Academic Board	Approved
2.0	9/10/2023 Academic Board	CRICOS approved (CRICOS date 23/1/2024) and unit schedule changes
3.0	4/3/2024 Academic Board	IELTS admission requirements update